



HIGHLIGHTS NEWSLETTER | NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2023



## MEET OUR STUDENTS

"Daddy?" This is usually one of the first words out of Chris's mouth in the morning. Chris is a man that thrives on schedule. He likes to know first thing in the morning who is taking care of him that day, and if his favorite class, Speech Class, will be running. Chris is in the D-Boys group, for which I am privileged to be the child care worker.

Chris is nonverbal, but he has a language of his own that is made up of many different sounds. He is very capable of getting his point across, whether it's with sounds, hand motions, or both.

After breakfast, we head down the hallway to say good morning to everyone and check the schedule to see which classes are running for the day. After that Chris puts the boys' shirts away in their cupboards. He does several other small tasks throughout the day as well, like getting the lids for the pitchers for juice break and helping set the tables for lunch. One of his favorite things to do is feed the goats and sheep in the barn. Another favorite part of his day looking at his books for about 45 minutes while I clean out the cooler.

Chris also has a great sense of humor. I have been blessed many times when he pointed something out or said or did something that was funny and then just sat there and laughed.

Chris is also a very loyal man. It takes some time to build trust with him, but once you've earned it, you have it. Chris has taught me a lot about trust and that worrying about things great or small does not help. If we put our full trust in God, he will carry us through.

"Trust in the lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding." Proverbs 3:5

Cowan Martin | D-Childcare | Shinnston, WV

# **EVENTS**



PARENTS APPRECIATION WEEKEND Sept 8-10



ANNUAL PICNIC Sept 19



APPLE FESTIVAL October 10



FAREWELLS
~Lydia Troyer, Shaylyn Miller - Sept 14
~Kylie Martin, Gina Yoder - Sept 29
~Chadwin Miller, Josiah Yoder,
& Alicia Hochstedler - Oct 27



ADMISSIONS
Dwight Weaver - Oct 19



STAFF CHORUS PROGRAMS
Oct 15 - Pike Mennonite Church

Oct 18 - Faith Mission Fellowship

Oct 22 - Slanesville Community Mennonite Church

# **GROUP SPOTLIGHT**



COWAN & THE D-BOYS

STUDENT QUOTE:

"I was going to ask you: do you have any plans?"~Jolan Mast

# **PHOTOS**





















### PARENTS APPRECIATION WEEKEND

Parents Appreciation Weekend is one of the most exciting and enjoyable events here at FMH for the staff and parents alike. It's a wonderful time of hanging out with your parents, relaxing, and chatting with other staff's parents. This year was no exception.

Friday evening brought many excited parents and staff together to kick off the weekend. After eating and socializing awhile there was introductions. We learned each other's names and some interesting facts about our families.

Saturday morning dawned bright and clear. By 8:45 many of the parents and staff were gathering at the park pavilion for coffee and cinnamon rolls. At 9:30 the remaining folks arrived and a delicious brunch was served. Following breakfast one of the fathers shared lessons he has learned during his various experiences in service. It was very practical and inspiring.

Around noon we gathered on the ball field to watch the traditional softball game with staff girls playing against their dads. It was very thrilling to watch, and much encouragement in the form of hollering from the staff guys kept things quite entertaining. In the end the girls







won by a solid margin. The rest of the afternoon consisted of several more ball games as well as an opportunity for staff to give their parents a tour of the staff houses.

Saturday night was the much-anticipated banquet. Staff and parents dressed up formally and took pictures together before entering the barn for an evening of good food and fellowship. After-dinner entertainment included several songs from staff guys and staff girls, as well as story time with Director Hosea Troyer. All in all, it was a most enjoyable evening for everyone.

Sunday morning everyone went to church. Some went a little early to experience the children's chapel. During the Sunday school period the staff sang five songs. After church we headed up the hill to the barn to enjoy a final meal together. With that, Parents Appreciation Weekend 2023 was over.

We current staff are also grateful to the former staff who came back and worked the floor for us, giving us the privilege of spending the whole weekend with our parents. We are also blessed and thankful for the support and prayers of our parents as we serve.

Joshua Swartzentruber | B-Childcare | Chesapeake, VA



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# NEW STAFF PROFILE

Toyce Shirk
MARTVILLE, NY
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ADAM & NANCY

# **FAREWELL THOUGHTS**

When I came to Faith Mission Home, little did I know what actually lay ahead. Looking back over my time here, I have seen the Lord work in so many areas of my life and also in others, and I wouldn't trade my experiences for anything. I once heard it said that trying to do things in our own strength is not living in faith. Through my past experiences, I have learned that as a child of God we must learn to fully rely on our Creator for everything that we need.

It is beautiful to see what happens when people from so many different backgrounds and cultures come together for the same cause to form a strong team that can do great things. I have been so blessed by the teamwork here at FMH, and I have learned that choosing to see the good in others creates a strong

team that brings honor and glory to God.

As I step away from Faith Mission Home, my heart overflows with joy and gratitude to God for providing strength for the journey. My life has been very blessed and enriched through my time of service.

Sheila Peachey | C-1 Childcare | Lewisburg, PA

