

HopeTree Family Services

CARING TIMES

Fall 2014

Graduation

Five more HopeTree Academy students earn their degrees.

Legacy of a Lifetime:

Don Bradley's Era of Change.

The Life of Riley

An amazing life restored.



Academy Graduation



Five HopeTree Academy students now have the skills and knowledge to take their place in society.

Page 4-5

Legacy of a Lifetime



Former Executive Director Don Bradley led the Agency in new directions with old style compassion.

Pages 6-7

The Life of Riley



Riley has a personality and work ethic all his own.

Page 13

Helping Hands



We can be thankful enough for the volunteers who have made tremendous improvements to our Salem campus.

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HopeTree Family Services provides residential care to at-risk youth as well as adults with developmental disabilities. All children are treated the same regardless of ability to pay. No discrimination will take place on the grounds of race, color, sex, or other classification protected by law. All children will have equal access to nutritious meals in accordance with federal law and USDA policy.

The Developmental Disabilities Ministry shall develop, carry out, and regularly monitor policies and procedures governing discrimination in the provision of services to adult residents with developmental disabilities. HopeTree Family Services shall comply with all state and federal laws, including any applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 USC 2101 et seq.), prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, ethnicity, age, sex, disability, or ability to pay.

School Days

A Message of Hope

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven...”

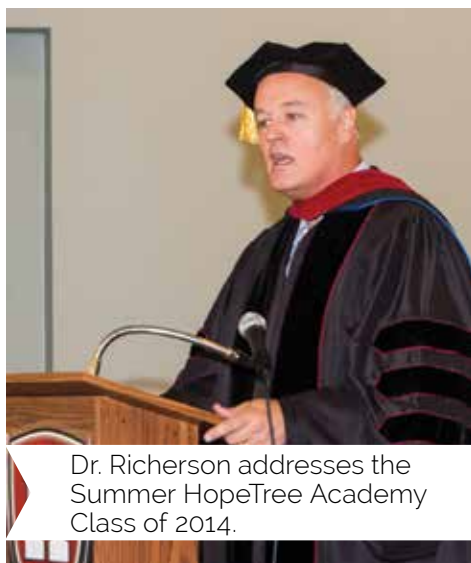
Ecclesiastes 3:1

Solomon urges us to grow in wisdom and understanding. HopeTree takes this to heart and provides year-round alternative and special educational services. As a result, we usually have two graduation ceremonies a year; one in June and a second in December. This year, five students completed their studies over the summer, leading to an additional ceremony in mid-August.

These events are tremendously important in the lives of our students.

They are also important in the life of our ministry.

It is rewarding to witness these proud young men and women receive their diplomas. From my vantage point near the podium, I can see the joyful expressions on the faces of their



Dr. Richerson addresses the Summer HopeTree Academy Class of 2014.

family, guardians, and friends in attendance. I share their joy knowing that we have fulfilled the mission you have charged us to perform.

I also know that by providing a first-rate education now, these young men and women have the tools necessary to create better lives for themselves and their children in years to come.

Thank you for your on-going support of the valuable education our students receive. Without you, they could not learn the greatest lesson of all; they are loved by a God who will never forsake them.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen W. Richerson".

Dr. Stephen W. Richerson
President & Executive Director

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Editor.....Mark Early
Graphic Designer.....Erin Cooper

Academy Awards Five Diplomas

HopeTree Academy

Five more young adults now have the education they need to forge ahead with their plans to begin a career, obtain technical training, or further their education.

The HopeTree Academy Summer Class of 2014 received their diplomas on August 15 in a ceremony attended by many proud family members in addition to staff and residents.

HopeTree's Education Consultant, Dr. Tommy Barber, delivered the keynote address. He congratulated the graduates on their hard work, then reminded them that a great of number of changes lay in store in the coming years. Fortunately, they are now equipped to face those changes, thanks to their education at the Academy. They have "learned how to learn," Barber said.

After proudly walking across the stage to accept his diploma, Carlos* beamed about the changes he would soon make in his life.

"This was a great opportunity for me. I am very grateful. Now I can



Christian Education Director Adele Henderson hugs an Academy graduate.

serve in the military," Carlos said.

His classmate, Sharon*, likewise was proud of her accomplishment, but went even further in expressing her appreciation and affection for HopeTree Academy.



“I wish I could have attended here an entire year. I know I would have grown even more as a person. My life would have been awful without HopeTree. I wouldn’t have encouraging teachers to help me out. I would have a lot of anger in me right now,” Sharon said.

Carlos and Sharon transferred to HopeTree Academy for the summer term to complete graduation requirements they were not able to fulfill at their former schools.

Like Carlos, Sharon has a specific goal in mind. Roughly a week after earning her high school diploma, she enrolled in the Culinary Arts program at Virginia Western Community College. She and her brother plan to open a restaurant together. She will concentrate on the baking while her brother does the rest of the cooking.

“I’m a terrible cook,” she says.

HopeTree congratulates all the graduates of the Class of 2014.



President & Executive Director Dr. Stephen Richerson addresses the audience.

If you would like to support HopeTree's ongoing effort to provide the highest quality education to Residential and Day Students alike, please visit HopeTreeFS.org to make a secure online contribution, or use the reply envelope in the center of this publication.

The child you help today becomes the adult who strengthens our society tomorrow.

* Because we respect the privacy of the youth in our care, we have used different names to share this actual story.

Upcoming Events

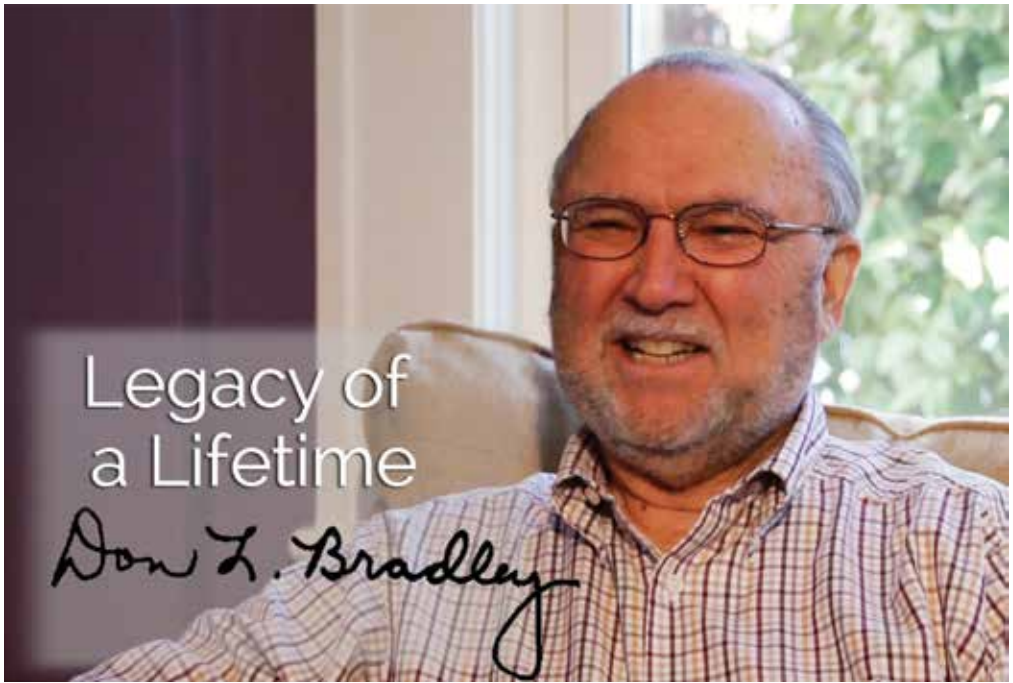
Brunswick Stew

Saturday, October 11th
12:00 - 2:00 pm

Join us for a delicious, hot bowl of authentic Brunswick Stew on HopeTree's main campus in Salem. Please do not miss this great afternoon of family fun as we say 'Thank You' to our friends, neighbors, and the community.

Host Your Own Event!

Passionate about HopeTree? Consider hosting a Hope Event! You organize the event, and we'll help with the details. Contact the Advancement team at (540) 389-2112 to get started!



It was an intriguing employment offer. The job involved working with people, required some travel, and offered the chance for advancement. However, taking the job Don Bradley was contemplating in May 1969 involved a pay cut. When his wife, Jenny, asked if he thought he would truly enjoy the work, he quickly replied that he would.

“Sounds like a no-brainer to me. You take the job,” she said.

“Believe me, it was the best decision as far as employment was concerned, I ever made,” said Bradley, former Executive Director of HopeTree Family Services.

Bradley began his 33 year career with HopeTree as a social worker. He helped at-risk young people learn to find themselves in the Agency’s Residential program. He placed at-risk youth with foster parents so they could experience a loving home environment. He oversaw adoptions that carefully paired nurturing parents with children who needed that nurturing most of all.

“I was able to find good Christian homes for children...and knew I was helping families who had wanted a child for years. I was able to help make their dream come true,” Bradley said.

“If we can keep one person out of a life of crime, then what we’ve done has been worth the cost.”

After earning a Master's Degree in Social Work, Bradley was promoted to Assistant Executive Director and soon after took the helm of the Agency as the Executive Director. During the next 16 years, HopeTree experienced an unprecedented growth and expansion of programming.

“Anyone in this type of work knows nothing ever stays the same...because people are constantly changing,” explains Bradley.

An Emergency Care component was added to the Residential Care program. Foster Care and Adoption were updated. HopeTree Academy (then known as The Gus Mitchell School) was established to serve on-campus residents. The Wilderness Outdoor Opportunity Discovery School opened in Craig County, and the Developmental Disabilities Ministry was created. (*The Bradley Home in Abingdon is named in his honor.*) Bradley's vision that fostered such a complex expansion of services comes from a simple idea.

“I just see a need to work with families to make this a better society; to make this a better country,” Bradley explained. “I used to say, if we can keep one person out of a life of crime, then what we've done has been worth the cost.”

Bradley retired from HopeTree in 2003, but remains active in the



community through a wide range of volunteer activities.

You can meet Don Bradley yourself by visiting [HopeTreeFS.org](https://www.HopeTreeFS.org). Look for the video icon.



A Little Help....

We recently updated our Residential Care program to include a more structured therapeutic activity period during the day for our at-risk youth. Our goal is to create an atmosphere where all the residents can work on their socialization skills and gain a better sense of what many of us would call 'family time'.

To that end, we need to have on hand a wide variety of games, crafts, and activities for residents to engage in. If you, your church group, or friends would like to contribute any of the items listed below, please contact:

Donna Kummer
DonnaK@HopeTreeFS.org
(540) 389-5468

Wii Games

Exercise type games (*ie.* Zumba, Yoga, Sports, etc.)

DVD or Blue Ray

Exercise videos: Zumba, Yoga, P90X, Insanity, Jazzercise, Dance, Yoga Mats or a large area rug

Card Games

Skip-Bo, Uno, Phase 10, Rook, Multiple Decks of Playing Cards

Board Games

Life, Clue, Monopoly, Risk, Apples to Apples, Scattagories, Scrabble, Yahtzee, Sorry, Trouble, Checkers, Chess

Art Supplies

Scrapbooking Paper
Crazy-Cut Scissors
Notebooks or Legal Pads
(for journals, keeping score during games, sketching, etc.)
Crotchet supplies (Yarn and crotchet hooks),
Knitting supplies (*Yarn and knitting needles*)
Adult coloring books
Paper

...Does a Lot of Good.



“I just want...
a place to be me.”

HopeTree Foster Care provides the training and support *you* need to be the foster parent *they* need.

Call (540) 444-0556 or (804) 201-9006 today to learn more about becoming a foster parent.

HOPETREEFOSTERCARE.ORG

Honors & Memorials

The following contributions have been given to HopeTree in **honor** or in **memory** of someone who has touched lives.

Children's Ministry Honors
April 1 - July 31, 2014

Angle, Theriel C.

Mr. H. Glenn Angle

Brown, Pauline T.

Mrs. Helen T. Williamson

Casey, Maxine A.

Ms. Betsy B. McClearn

Ms. Ellen E. Byrd

Gascon, Lucas J.

Mr. Bruce Haymans

Mr. Christopher Haymans

Mr. Joseph Haymans

Hamrick, Ector L.

Ms. Jane T. Greenwood.

Mr. & Mrs. William C. Payne, Jr.

Hash, Lois S.

Mr. & Mrs. Atwood Huff

Mrs. Betty D. Hall

Hux, Stephanie

Mr. & Mrs. David B. Hux

James, Olivia N.

Mr. & Mrs. Herman L. Allen

Lingafelt, Phillip R.

Mr. & Mrs. Charles R. Lingafelt

Lunsford, Janet

Ms. Mabel Moore

Memorial, Lidice

Mr. Michael J. Boyd

Nunn, Alison A.

Mr. Christopher Haymans

Mr. Bruce Haymans

Mr. Joseph Haymans

Peters, Ardella A.

Mr. Joseph Haymans.

Mr. Bruce Haymans

Mr. Christopher Haymans

Rader, Julia H.

Ms. Beverley J. Coleman

Rudge, Alicia M.

Mr. Joseph Haymans

Mr. Bruce Haymans

Mr. Christopher Haymans

Slusher, Nancy J.

Joy Sunday School Class

Stephenson, Doris B.

Ms. Charlotte E. Whitley

Thornton, Linus

Mr. & Mrs. Carl R. Thornton

Thornton, Matthew

Mr. & Mrs. Carl R. Thornton

Veterans Museum, Oconee

Mr. Michael J. Boyd

Walker, Linda H.

Mr. John M. Crockett

Children's Ministry Memorials
April 1 - July 31, 2014

Abbott, Ida S.

Bundy's Chapel Baptist Church

Adams, Wanda

Mr. & Mrs. Jerry A. Farmer

Allen, Carol M.

Mr. & Mrs. Herman L. Allen

Allport, Sandra D.

Ms. M. Frances Martin-Falanga

Mr. & Mrs. Neil S. Bachman

Joseph White Insurance Agency, Inc

Mr. & Mrs. H. Braxton Allport, Jr.

Angle, Lucille

Mr. H. Glenn Angle

Austin, Helen

Mr. Ollie W. Pickral

Binns, Cancis

Lower Rapidan Baptist Church

Mrs. Audrey J. Jenkins

Ms. Jane I. Barrell

Mr. Newton A. Graves

Brown, Eugene C.

National Association of Letter Carriers

Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Ellis

Brown, Clarence W.
Hall Community Services, Inc.

Carswell, Bill
Mrs. Mary B. Ferrell

Carwile, Nancy W.
Ms. Charlotte E. Whitley

Clark, Albert
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry A. Farmer

Coleman, Jean H.
Ms. Beverley J. Coleman

Cooper, Goldie
Berean Sunday School Class

Craver, Mary E.
Mr. & Mrs. Gregory L. Kessel

Davison, Eugene
Mr. & Mrs. Harry C. Davison

Dickens, Eugene C.
Mrs. Gene D. Soyars

Everett, Debbie
Mrs. Janelle S. LaBouve

Fishback, Bonner F.
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Fishback

Fletcher, Jean
Friendship Class

Garnett, Margaret D.
Mrs. Janice T. Ashley

Gills, George W.
Ms. Deborah Gail Corell

Gore, H. C.
Mr. & Mrs. John Swanson

Gupton, Bobby J.
Mr. & Mrs. Presley Thompson

Harris, Joseph E.
Mrs. Helen P. Harris-Smith

Hurd, Paul
Mr. & Mrs. Michael B. Hurd

Johnson, Charles B.
Mr. & Mrs. Charles B. Johnson, Sr.

Johnson, Pauline
Mrs. Peggy J. Johnson

Johnson, L. P.
Mrs. Peggy J. Johnson

Jones, Henry
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen T. Vinson
Mr. & Mrs. Harvey P. Dunn

Jones, Louise
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen T. Vinson
Mr. & Mrs. Harvey P. Dunn

Jontz, Virginia
Mrs. Gene D. Soyars

Joyner, Esther M.
Mr. Burton L. Joyner, II

Keller, Florence H.
Ms. Elizabeth K. Bruton

Keller, Marion
Ms. Elizabeth K. Bruton

Lee, T. E.
Rev. & Mrs. Paige A. Young

Lisk, Delanie L.
Mr. John P. Zacharias

Long, Elsy
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry A. Farmer

Marston, Donnie B.
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry A. Farmer

Martin, Oneida
Mr. James C. Martin

Minter, Irene
Mr. & Mrs. John G. Mizell, Jr.

Moncure, Withers
Mr. & Mrs. Carlton D. Beach

Montgomery, Joyce L.
Mr. John L. Montgomery, Jr.

Myers, Edgar R.
Mrs. Joyce D. Myers

O'Beirne, Phyllis
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald M. Kimberlin

To recognize someone who has impacted your life, complete the form on the reply envelope included with this magazine and return it to the Advancement Department along with your gift.

Ms. Betty P. Phifer
Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin M. Fewell

Overcash, Marvin
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Campbell

My Parents
Mr. & Mrs. Edgar W. Knight

Painter, Nancy
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry A. Farmer

Pape, Betty
Mr. Wilbur S. Morris

Pearson, Irma
Ruth Bible Sunday School Class

Pollard, Jennifer M.
WMU

Ms. Kathie L. Jones
Mrs. Betty B. Jackson

Pope, David E.
Mrs. Mildred Arrington

Porter, Peggy J.
Anonymous Individual
Mr. & Mrs. David W. Wilson
Mr. & Mrs. Raifu Durodoye, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Scott Cooper
Mrs. Donna Lohr Weinz
Mrs. Jan Clayton
Mr. & Mrs. Mark A. Early
Ms. Ellen E. Byrd
Ms. Betsy B. McClearn

Rader, Katherine F.
Ms. Julia H. Rader

Roberts, June
Joanna M. Owens Sunday School Class

Shirley, Irene J.
Mrs. Verne E. Massey

Smith, James B.
Mr. De Witt F. Burgess

Soyars, Charlie K.
Mrs. Gene D. Soyars

Stewart, Joan
Dr. & Mrs. Ray P. Goude, Sr.

Stout, Rosemary
Ms. Beatrice G. Wallace

Tobin, Robert
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry A. Farmer

Vaughan, Robert D.
Berean Sunday School Class

Vinson, Lotie H.
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen T. Vinson

Vinson, Milton T.
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen T. Vinson

White, Anna R.
Dr. Alpheus L. White

Wilson, Esther
Mr. & Mrs. Bill M. Gentry

Wilson, Thomas
Mr. & Mrs. Bill M. Gentry

Developmental Disabilities
Ministry Honors
April 1 - July 31, 2014

Alphin, Connie B.
Mr. & Mrs. Duane W. Royal

Childrey, Jeanne
Mr. Rodney J. Hale

Green, Stephen
Ms. Charlotte E. Whitley

Hamrick, Ector L.
Mrs. Catherine I. Cumbie

Hylton, Gail S.
Mr. & Mrs. William C. Tignor

Jackson, Betty Lou
Mrs. Joyce R. Forcke

Walker, Bonnie
Mr. Rodney J. Hale

Walker, Michael
Ginter Park Baptist Church

Watllington, Sam
Mrs. Eloise B. Price

Developmental Disabilities
Ministry Memorials
April 1 - July 31, 2014

Binns, Cancis

Ms. Inez Q. Jenkins

Burgess, DeWitt T.

Mr. De Witt F. Burgess

Burgess, Geneva B.

Mr. De Witt F. Burgess

Hunt, Alma F.

Mrs. Linda G. Minter

Lane, Adam W.

Mrs. Merilene D. Paciulli

Lewis, Charles A.

Mrs. Lucille L. Sloan

Lewis, Harry L.

Mrs. Evelyn L. Lewis

Lewis, Vera C.

Mrs. Lucille L. Sloan

Parrish, Orene A.

Ms. June P. Perkins

Service Locations

HopeTree Family Services provides a wide range of services for at-risk children and youth from locations in:

- Chester •Craig County
- Henry County •Salem

HopeTree's Developmental Disabilities Ministry provides services for adults with intellectual disabilities in the following locations.

- Abingdon •Blue Ridge
- Chase City •Farmville
- Fredericksburg •Martinsville
- Richmond •Salem
- Virginia Beach

For more information on the services available in these locations, how to support those services with your contributions or volunteer efforts, or gain access to those services, please visit HopeTreeFS.org, or call:

(804) 545-1202 (Richmond office)
or
(540) 389-2112 (Salem office)

Connect With Us

We're social, are you? Connect with us and get all the latest and greatest updates, photos, videos and content to help you stay informed and in-the-know about what we're up to. It's a great way to show your support and share our mission with your network of family and friends. See you online!



A photograph of a man swimming in a pool, viewed from above. The water is a vibrant turquoise color, and the man's arms and legs are visible as he moves through the water. The title 'The Life of Riley' is written in a large, red, cursive font in the upper right corner of the page.

The Life of Riley

Developmental Disabilities Ministry

One of the amazing blessings that comes with conducting the Developmental Disabilities Ministry is meeting people like Riley.

Riley does not merely 'live' in the Abingdon's Bradley Home. He invigorates the atmosphere with the force of his personality, impacting every person there. He joined the Bradley Home a decade ago and endeared himself to residents and staff alike the moment he walked in the door.

"Riley is very energetic. He is not a 'sit-still' kind of person. His laugh will fill the house. He's helpful to residents and staff. He'll do anything he's asked to do," said DDM Associate Director Glenda Pollard.

"He's a nice guy, a great gentleman, and a hard worker," said Riley's house mate David.

"We all like to feel like we have a purpose. We do things that matter. That's what drives Riley. He wants to learn new things that he's never done before," Pollard said.

Thanks to Riley's outgoing personality and his work ethic, he is on the verge of gaining competitive employment in custodial work.

"I love my job. When I get paid, I'll put my money in the bank," he said.

While Riley's earlier life was beset with obstacles, he now sees only a bright future ahead.

"Once I got here, all my troubles were over. I love it here."

Hear Riley tell his story a HopeTreeFS.org.
Look for the video icon.





Sprucing Up the Place

Volunteer Impact

Several groups of wonderful volunteers have recently donated their energy and effort to making some much needed improvements on our Salem campus.

A group of volunteers from Branch Banking & Trust Company performed a major makeover for the kitchen, dining room, and common area of Evans Cottage in June. In addition to the labor, BB&T graciously provided new cabinets, paint, and new porch furniture.

Catholic HEART spent a week with us enhancing the landscaping around

some of the cottages and painting the interior of Robertson Cottage. This energetic group also performed many other tasks around campus that might not have been completed otherwise.

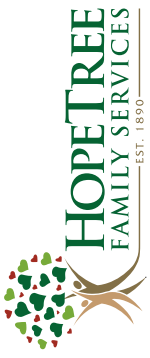
If you would like to provide some volunteer time, call Julia Durodoye at (540) 389-2112 or e-mail JuliaD@HopeTreeFS.org



You can see the results of BB&T's hard work at our website: HopeTreeFS.org. Look for the video icon.

Members of the Catholic HEART work group take a breather during their July visit to campus.





PO Box 849
Salem, VA 24153



The men of the Bradley Home enjoy a good laugh.