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www.champion.org
info@champion.org

Center Advocate

An irregular publication of the Indian Creek Valley
Christian Family & Children's Center
2166 Indian Head Road Champion, PA 15622

724-455-2122 South Campus

724-593-9200 North Campus

Mark Your Calendars!!!



It's not too early to start
planning for these
exciting events!

www.champion.org/development/fundraisers

Benefit Auction

Friday, April 13, 2012

[Accepting donations of
items valued at \$50 or more]

Alloutpraise!

Saturday, July 21, 2012

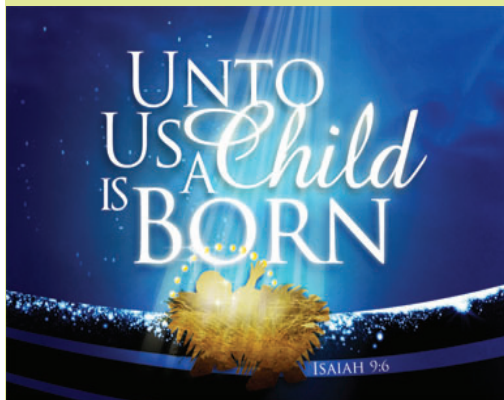
www.alloutpraise.com

Golf Benefit

Donegal Highlands
Golf Course

Saturday, October 6, 2012

*"Today in the town of
David, a Savior has
been born to you; He
is Christ the Lord."
- Luke 2:11*



Thirty years and counting....

by Barb Skinner, Co-founder and Development Director

We are in a season of HOPE! Hope because God sent His only Son JESUS to earth so that we can be reconciled to Him! And hope for financial resources here at the Center so that we can move forward in ministry! We are so thankful for all those that supported the annual fund before and during the banquet in November! We are \$26,000 short of meeting this year's goal- will you help us?

We are celebrating thirty years in ministry! It is truly a miracle and a testimony to Jesus Christ! Praise the Lord! When the Lord called us to step out in faith, many people thought the Center would never make it! But God gave the vision and He has provided to fulfill the mission. The pearl is the symbol for 30 years of wedding anniversaries and I thought it was a good analogy for the Center as well. From an irritation, the oyster, layer upon layer, creates a beautiful pearl. We can say that despite the hard things that happen, the Lord is creating, layer upon layer, something wonderful here in the ministry!

continued on next page...

We need your email addresses!

If you have an email, and you have not been receiving emails from us, can you let us know? Keeping in touch by email is much easier and more cost effective. We only send two or three newsletters a year so don't miss out on updates. Just email info@champion.org and we will make sure you are on the mailing list.

Champion Christian School Enrolling Now!

North Campus in Donegal
Preschool / 5th - 12th Grades

South Campus in Indian Head
Preschool / K - 4th Grades

**Free Bussing from Connellsville, Mt. Pleasant, Somerset,
Rockwood, Ligonier, and Uniontown School Districts**

Don't know much about
Christian education?
Check out the CCS webpage to
learn more about why it might
be the right choice for you!

Call Now for Your
FREE DVD & Tour

Financial Aid Available!

www.champion.org/ccs

Center calendar online at www.champion.org/calendar

Thirty Years and Counting...continued from previous page

When I think over the last thirty years, I mostly think of all the people that the Lord brought together at the Center. Many have devoted their lives to serving full time here. Some have served or have been connected for a season, and that is no less important. The Lord has used all of us in some way or another. Whether you have come to a work day to paint and hammer, donated equipment or supplies, participated in a fundraiser, or given financially to meet the bills, we can all rejoice in the work that the Lord has done! Thank you all! We love you and you mean so much to us! We believe He has much more in store for us to do.

We had a wonderful time at the annual fund banquet in November, raising over \$89,000 in pledges and donations! The 'pearl' was our theme, and from the invitations, the beautiful decorations, to the delicious dinner served by Champion Christian School students, the Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) did a wonderful job helping to plan and coordinate the event. The choir and worship team blessed us with their music and Merle shared some next steps for the Center. Another \$35,000 has been donated since that time and we only need \$26,000 to meet our annual budget. Will you pray for us and, if the Lord would lead, include the Center in your end-of-year giving. If you couldn't make it to the banquet and would like a copy of the dvd, please call or email and we will make sure you get one. We will also be posting a link to the banquet dvd on our main webpage: www.champion.org/ccs/video/2011annualbanquet. Your gifts and pledges will help so much!

Thank you for being partners with us to advance God's kingdom, to educate and equip young men and women, and to provide healing and support to families.

On behalf of our Center Board of Directors, Faculty and Staff, we pray you have a blessed Christmas season! And that "the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the HOPE to which He has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and His incomparably great power for us who believe." Ephesians 1: 18 - 19

May God Bless You,

Barb

Curb Appeal as part of our Annual Fund Campaign this year

Throughout the last few years, economic difficulties, increased financial aid need, and a decrease in giving have put a lot of pressure on the Center. Despite this, our leadership groups have indicated a critical need for us to work on our facilities and allocate some resources to improving both of our campuses. We have identified this as our Curb Appeal Campaign.



Our goal is to obtain donations designated to increase our curb appeal and functionality of the Center. We are looking for donations of materials and labor as well as financial support for projects such as sidewalks and curbs by the North Campus main building, repairing driveways and roads, planting more trees along Harr Soccer Field, landscaping improvements, and several other practical items. This campaign may be for you! Mark "Curb Appeal" on your gift if you are interested!

Pictured are the newly planted 25 foot trees along the edge of the Harr Soccer Field at the North Campus in Donegal. Many thanks to our donors and the trustees for all their work on this project.

Preschool

Champion Christian Preschool is truly a flurry of growth, learning, fellowship, and encouragement this year! We began the year with an amazing group of parents, children, and staff. We want to take a moment and welcome Miss Danah Skinner to the program as our part-time preschool teacher working along with Miss Jen Pizer, head preschool teacher. She is doing a wonderful job! It is an exciting year as we plan new events and outings. The preschool students enjoyed a trip to the Schramm Farms Pumpkin Patch where they experienced, hands-on, how a farm operates, how pumpkins grow, and how produce is supplied to grocery stores. What an amazing time we all had. The looks in the children's eyes as they explored and chose a pumpkin was priceless. We've enjoyed many fall walks, visits from various community workers, and special craft activities which were provided by many of the parents. It truly has been a wonderful year. We love that our parents are team players and are investing in the activities at the Center and in preschool. We are encouraged and blessed with a family body that has become focused on ministering at Champion.

Beyond the trips, new staff, and renewed parent involvement, Preschool has also seen growth in our facilities. We have had storage areas built and maintained, and equipment painted. It really has been exciting to watch as things have progressed. The Lord is working in our plans, staff, and parents to grow a program that is planting the word of God each and every day into the lives of little ones who will grow up to serve the Lord. It is amazing to see how the Lord is working in the hearts and lives of everyone here at the Center and Champion Christian Preschool and we can sense the Lord's presence.

Overall, Champion Christian Preschool is bustling with learning, growth, and God's love. The children are settling in and real learning is happening. We're writing our names, learning letters and letter sounds, and learning how to work with one another. The classrooms are full of artwork and wonder each day. What a truly exciting place to be! God is working in mighty ways.

Miss Jen Pizer, Head Preschool Teacher

Miss Danah Skinner



Christian Community Coach Bus Trips

Ride with us to the March for Life on Monday, January 24th to Washington, D.C. Please reserve your spot early. Students younger than 7th grade must have a parent or responsible adult along. Transportation per person is \$25 and \$50 per family.

Upcoming trips

"Jonah" at the Sight and Sound Theatre in Lancaster, PA
Creation Museum near Cincinnati, Ohio
Billy Graham Library & Samaritan's Purse in Charlotte, NC
Women of Faith in Pittsburgh
Call Jill at 724-455-2122 ext. 100

Church Bible school planners...

As you plan your summer activities, please keep in mind that Champion Christian School provides FREE lunch, supper and/or snacks for area churches for Bible Schools, clubs or other gatherings. These nutritional meals are provided through the Federal Summer Food Service program to children aged 18 and under of any school district or any income level. Call 724-455-2122 ext. 100 and ask for Jill Sharlock, Food Service Director for more information or to register.

Elementary and Discovery

We have several students enrolled in the Discovery Program this year, which works one on one with students that have identified learning differences. The techniques we use with the students are designed to help strengthen specific deficit areas of learning. The instructor or educational therapist receives training through the National Institute of Learning Development. If you would like more information about this program, please contact Mrs. Lane through the school office.

The Elementary students are very excited about our new computer lab at South Campus. The technology department has finished installing our 15 new desktop computers in our computer lab. Miss Skinner has been working with students in their weekly computer classes for grades K-4. Students have also been practicing and taking their weekly spelling lessons/tests on a computer program called Spelling City. Teachers are regularly taking advantage of our subscription with Discovery Education to supplement lessons by streaming videos over the internet and using the classroom projectors. We are also quite excited about having the new I-Pad and Kindles we have checked out from the Intermediate Unit.

A winter bird feeding station will be set up as part of the 'Birdsleuth' grant received by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. The students will be learning to identify birds of our area and participate in an educational research study.

Please keep Mrs. Ann Mathews in your prayers.
We welcome Mrs. Sarah Hayes to help in Kindergarten until Ann returns.

Mrs. Belinda Lane, Principal and Lead Administrator
Mrs. Kathy Foor
Mr. Tim Sprinkle
Mrs. Ann Mathews



CCS Community Visit Days
Tuesday, January 17 & February 7, 2012
4-7 P.M.
both North Campus in Donegal and
South Campus in Indian Head

It's FREE!!!

**Kindergarten
Readiness Seminar***

Tuesday, January 17th, 2012
7 P.M. South Campus in Indian Head

*No matter where you are
planning to send your child
*Discuss milestones & ways to
help prepare your child

Kindergarten Visit Day*

Thursday, February 2, 2012
&
Friday, February 3, 2012

from 9:30 to 11:30 A.M.
South Campus in Indian Head

* For any child who will
turn 5 before 12/31/2012

To Register for any
of these events,
call 724-455-2122

Middle School

This is yet another exciting year in our program. Everyday we find ourselves entwined in the lives of vibrant young leaders who are eager to learn and find answers to the countless questions on their minds. What a privilege to work with each one of them!

Enrollment shot up this year beyond our expectations. Our focus on educating each student entails a tailored curriculum that engages students and keeps them excited for the next day of school. It is a happy and successful environment for not only our students but for their entire family as well. A time of miraculous development, it is a journey we travel through together as students, parents and teachers.

We recently had a very interesting science lesson. Students were able to see first hand a team drilling for a core sample 250 feet below the ground surface at our North Campus property. Students observed the power of hydraulics and how core samples are taken at ten feet at a time. They held a 6 inch drill bit made of industrial diamonds. They also saw fossils and layers of clay, limestone, and coal from the core sample that was taken that day. Coal in our area is actually from the Lower Kittanning Coal Beds. The team showed our students how they pump water from a stream to lubricate the drill (which turns at 1,300 rpms) and remove the residues from drilling.

We look forward to all the special events we will be doing this year. Sports (soccer and basketball as a part of the Southwest Christian Athletic Conference), music programs, academic competitions such as the spelling bee and speech meet, Bible festival, science fair, field trips, guest speakers, etc. keep middle school an extremely lively place. At the end of this year, we'll be traveling to Hebron, Kentucky to see the Creation Museum and Wright Patterson Air Force Base.



Mrs. Sharon Pasquarette, Principal

Mr. Dean Pizer

Mr. Tim Sprinkle

VFW Awards

Donegal VFW Chapter #6743 recently hosted the 'Patriot's Pen' and 'Voice of Democracy' contest in area schools. The 'Patriot's Pen' contest is open to students in sixth through eighth grade. This year's theme was, "Are you proud of your country?" All students that participate receive awards.

The 'Voice of Democracy' contest is open to students in ninth through twelfth grade. Students wrote about this year's theme, "Is there pride in serving in our military?" and then created an audio record of their presentation. Mallory Pasquarette received first place for her essay. Her entry will go on to be judged at the district and perhaps the state level. These awards were presented to the students by Chapter Commander and Ladies Auxillary.



High School

Champion Christian High School's program got into full swing this fall with a wonderful retreat at the Laurelville Mennonite Camp. Students and staff had two days of spiritual and recreational fellowship getting to know one another or renewing old friendships.

Those Middle School and High School students who participated in the summer readers program enjoyed a reward of a day rafting on the Youghigheny River. This was the first time many of the students had been in white water. Soccer season has come and gone and now we are full swing into basketball. We are excited to have more international students coming from China and Korea for the second semester in January.

Some of our students had an opportunity to participate in the Model United Nations conference at Westmoreland County Community College. Students are given a country to represent and play the role of that country's representative to try to resolve issues facing the world. This program has been around for almost as long as the UN itself.

We also participated in a rally to encourage PA House of Representatives to vote for the School Choice bill passed by the PA Senate and had the opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C. for an ACSI sponsored World Concerns Conference. Several of our students along with other students from the greater Pittsburgh area attended, and as a result became more knowledgeable about how Christians should help address world problems. They were able to learn from some of the most well known leaders in the nation on this subject.



Westinghouse sponsors ten different sessions for students interested in the sciences. Students must apply and be willing to sacrifice Saturdays in order to qualify for this opportunity. It is a chance for Champion Christian students to take a look at a variety of scientific disciplines and decide a possible career path after high school.

We are pleased to announce CCS Senior Neil Brant was named a Comended Student in the 2012 National Merit Scholarship Program. Neil placed in the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students taking the PSAT/NMSQT.

Mrs. Gloria Kerin, Principal
Mrs. Rachel Brant
Miss Clyntell Black

In addition to all of the CCS teachers and substitutes, we wanted to mention our other wonderful staff that keep the Center running smoothly : Mrs. Amanda Wingrove-Financial Aid and Human Resources, Mrs. Marlene Harding-Accounting, Mrs. Jill Sharlock-Food Services Director and Athletic Director, Mrs. Jen Roberts-Accounting, Mrs. Wendy Sinsley and Mrs. Colleen Zelasko- Food Services, Miss Brittney Grimm-Administrative Assistant, Mr. Mark Sharlock-Head Driver, Pastor Randy Winemiller-Head Mechanic, the entire transportation department of mechanics and bus drivers, Pastor Joe McCarty-Technology Department, all of our maintenance crew, Mrs. Barb Skinner- Development Director, & Mr. Merle Skinner, Executive Director.

At our North and South Campus **25,000 volumes of library resources** are available for your use. Our annual library work day is slated for Saturday, February 4 from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M.
Many new books were added from our recent book fair!
Search the library online at www.champion.org/library

Technology

Over the past year and a half, the technical department at the Center has made a number of steps forward in upgrading the Center's capabilities to prepare for future growth. These improvements range from network infrastructure to servers to desktops. We have been able to utilize equipment donations, monetary donations, as well as E-rate money, to meet these technological needs.

Through the E-rate program, the Center has deployed a brand new web server and mail server. These included additional security and archiving features, as well as web-based mail accessibility. We have also been able to upgrade our file servers and one of our proxy servers from modified desktops to RAIDed blade servers.

On the network front, the Center now has a direct fiber connection between campuses and to the garage which increases the bandwidth and stability of inter-campus communications. We have also retired all of our Windows 2000 machines and completely replaced the lab at North. This has greatly increased the quality of our student's experience in the lab.



Additionally, replacement computers for the lab at South have been purchased and are currently being configured for deployment there. These labs were upgraded because of the generosity of parents, alumni, and other friends of the Center.

The Center continues to move forward and we are looking at refining existing areas of technology as well as moving into new areas such as online course delivery and video capabilities.

Pictured are Elementary students learning how to make powerpoint presentations in computer class.

A BIG THANK YOU to our EITC sponsors!! (Educational Improvement Tax Credit)

www.champion.org/development/eitc

Armstrong Cement & Supply Corporation
Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Company
C.A. Curtze Company
Employers Medical Access Partnership
F&B Bank of Western PA
First National Bank of PA
Greensburg Beverages, Inc.
Laurel Highlands Total Communications

Leeper Lumber Co.
Leukhardt Enterprises, Inc.
Ohiopyle Prints, Inc.
Rittenhouse Bus Lines, Inc.
Synergy Group, Inc.
Somerset Trust Company
Verizon Pennsylvania
Wheeler Brothers, Inc.

Businesses: If you are not a sole proprietorship and want to redirect your PA corporate tax dollars to help local families - check this out!
www.champion.org/development/eitc or call Barb at 724-455-2122 ext. 104

... Annual Fund and Banquet Update...



www.champion.org

Champion, PA 15622

2166 Indian Head Rd.

Christian Family & Children's Center

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Alloutpraise!

Saturday, July 21, 2012

Advanced
sale tickets only
\$15 for groups
of 10 or more!

Headliners:

Aaron Shust

"My Hope Is In You"
"My Savior, My God"
"To God Alone"

Special activities
and reduced price
for children!

Jason Gray

"I Am New"
"More Like Falling In Love"
"Remind Me Who I Am"



Also: Zach Ellsworth, Sanctified, One Destination
and other local Christian artists

www.alloutpraise.com