

Boy Notes from Rich MacDonald



Rich MacDonald
Program Coordinator

Being with our boys all year gives us a special opportunity to really tune into their lives and help them deal with growing up in productive ways. We've watched the news at night and discussed the issues, asking for opinions without telling the boys what they should think. A boy was squinting while looking at the tv so we scheduled an appointment with the optometrist who prescribed glasses, then we helped him pick out the frames and tried to convince him that he looks smarter with them on, and that girls really DO pay attention to boys who wear glasses. Then we bought a hard case to protect the lenses and we have a spare pair ready to go because we know he'll leave them on the bus at some point - because he's a boy!

At Bible School, one boy had trouble spelling the word "here", so we picked up some flash cards and practiced with them regularly - first verbally then writing them down...which led to choosing a book and reading it a little at a time. As a parent who understands how important it is for our children to be able to read, is there anything more exciting for us than asking our child how he likes his book and hearing an unexpectedly breathless, 10 - minute dissertation about the characters and their struggles against all odds?

And if we manage to have this conversation around other boys who get a little interested too, maybe one of them picks up a book and gets to describe how Old Yeller didn't come home one night, which might lead to another boy reaching for a book too...

It's our privilege to make the most of these little things and try to help our boys understand their real value. And we really appreciate the financial help, services, and "in kind" contributions from our faithful donors that make it possible.

Rich



Christmas On The Mountain

A Wonderful Event!

Christmas this year was a time of joy as three of our boys were placed in permanent homes by the State. We're delighted to have been a part of their transition and we wish them the best. This is what we do!

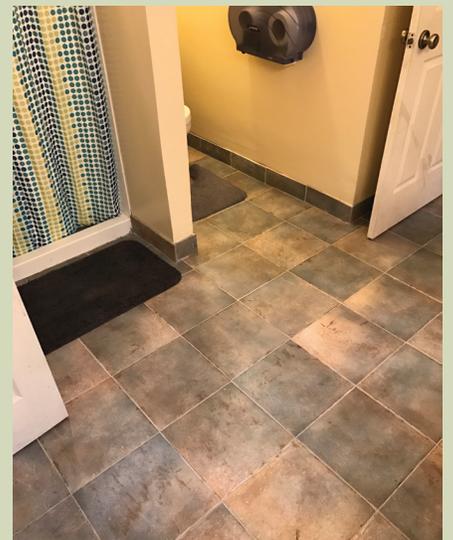
The Mountain Top Board joined the boys for a special dinner and opening of presents. Holiday gifts and food were donated by Eagles Way Life Center (Calhoun), the OBK Christian Motorcycle Coalition, the 3% Motorcycle Group, Westside Church (Rocky Face), and our Board of Directors, among others.



Special Thanks!

The new floor, shower and drywall work on the bath between two boys rooms in Dogwood. Special thanks to Mt. Vernon United Methodist, Marietta Tile Services and Tops Galore Inc.

We are starting similar work on a second bath this month.

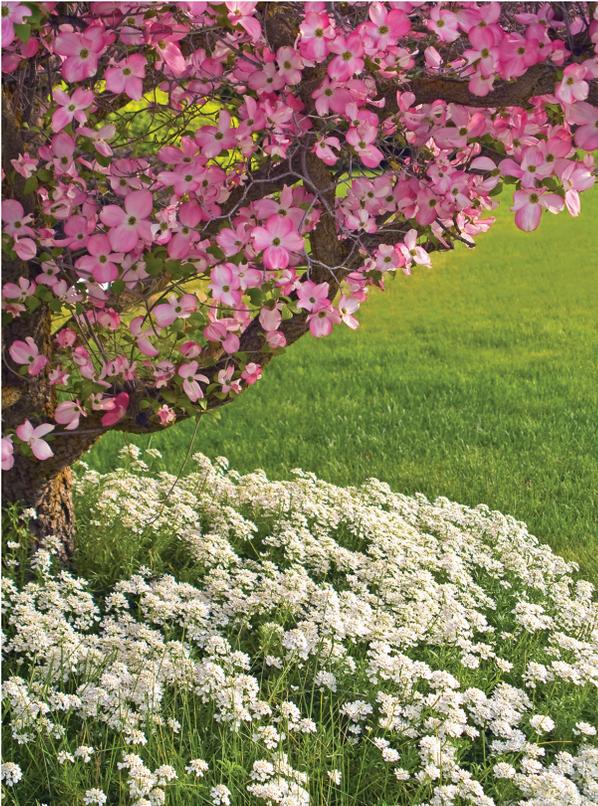


OUR NEXT CHALLENGE

PAVE THE PATH!



An old plan of the site with contour lines showing the steep hills and the approximate location of the **Dogwood Lodge**



Our gravel drive, cut in the side of the mountain on the way up to Dogwood Lodge, has been a concern and an extra expense for years. It's roughly 1400 feet long and traverses up and down over a hill. Erosion keeps washing out the gravel surface and creating significant potholes. The ruts are beating up our vehicles causing extra maintenance cost. We have monthly gravel fill and grading expenses.

The Board of Directors has ordered the engineering work to determine the design and costs to blacktop the road. We expect to have those plans in April.

A significant recent bequest will give us a strong start on fund-raising for the project. Look for more details in the next newsletter

HELP US TELL OUR STORY

Let us know if you would like Gary Stout to present the Mountain Top story to your group. Please contact Gary at 706-397-8223 or email gstout@mountaintopboyshome.org.



MOUNTAIN TOP BOYS HOME

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Outback Steak House (Dalton)

Outback Steakhouse in Dalton recognized four of our boys with delicious dinners. Two boys made Honor Roll and two had significant grade improvements.



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