The Servant

A Look Back at 2011

JANUARY 2012

Christian Churches Disability Ministry
The Christian Churches Disability Ministry has just experienced one of the most exciting years I have ever known. At the same time, it has been the most exhausting. I will put forth my best effort at capturing the entire year in this short article. I will remember the year 2011 as seeing more people touching the lives of our ministry than I could ever have imagined.

The year began as Our Board of Directors stepped out in faith by making the decision to move forward with a new 7500 square foot home during a time when construction should have been impossible with our economy in the tank. But the building was framed and enclosed in two weeks, thanks to the Jack Ballard Church Builders. Over 60 men, women, and children worked hard on this building that would eventually be a home to 10 adults with developmental disabilities. This shows what God’s people can do when they serve Him together. We asked our brothers and sisters in Christ to give sacrificially so we would not have a huge mortgage on our new home. The result was amazing and we give God our praise as the Holy Spirit guided us all. We are up and running and even though we went over our budget by a small amount, we are only $23,000 shy of paying for the building.
Moving day was an experience in itself. Unfortunately, the date had to be moved twice due to local and state inspections. I had to miss the big day as I was scheduled for a speaking engagement in Pennsylvania. However, once again our friends stepped up to the plate and hit a homerun. The move was done in hours instead of days, and our residents began to enjoy a safer and more comfortable home.

When our dedication day arrived, excitement filled the air. We shared stories, spent time touring the facility, heard from our residents, and even a few tears of joy were shared by some rough and tough men who built the building.

Although the entire year was focused on building, we had 11 groups from five churches consisting of 242 people who helped clean, remodel and update Riverwood 1 and work on our grounds. People who come and help CCDM on short term mission trips are truly touched. One of our House Managers was first introduced to Riverwood through a mission trip. Bart Jones, one of our Directors, began his involvement with CCDM on a mission trip. And the most exciting thing I have ever heard was when one person who served us this past year said, as they were chaperoning on a trip to the zoo, “after you’re with them a while, you forget they have a disability.”

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When you add to all of this the city-wide Prom of the Stars where over 1,000 people with disabilities come together to experience the joy of sharing in eating, laughing, singing and dancing; the thrill of victory at the Blount County Special Olympics, and many other activities, you begin to realize the responsibility we have to serve others and how great our God is by providing us with this opportunity. I have often heard it said, “The joy we receive in serving is much greater than even the joy of those being served.”

I want to close this review by saying how God has blessed me with people who care about people. Our staff at CCDM give their all to serve our residents. All the people who nailed, built door jambs, carried a piece of wood, served a meal, cleaned a sidewalk or a closet did it because they cared. The many people who gave financially did it not for glory but as a response to God’s calling. I thank you and I give God all the glory for the incredible things He has done. Now, let’s start it again in 2012!
It is amazing how many clichés you remember throughout a lifetime. You know those little sayings that always have interesting meanings. Some are known throughout the world while some seem to have an origin close to the family.

Some of the more widely known are: “don’t rain on my parade,” “he stole victory from the jaws of defeat,” or “she’s the hostess with the mostess.” One from my dad was “plan the work, work the plan.” Then from my mother, when I asked her if she had seen my socks, “I don’t know, I don’t wear them.” (That one may not be meant as a cliché.) But there is one I want to address today: “The proof is in the pudding,” which means the end result is the real thing.

This year has begun with some definite hurdles for our CCDM family. One of our house managers was severely injured in a freak accident over the holidays. Christy, one of our residents, was diagnosed with breast cancer; and Stacey, another resident, lost his father on New Year’s Day.

When difficult times touch your home, how do you handle it? Even though Philippians 4:6 tells us not to be anxious about anything, I must confess I was a little apprehensive as to how our residents would react to these situations. The response to these hurdles reveals a lot about who we are. PLEASANTLY, they were incredible! The residents were all very supportive of everyone who was suffering. Christy told Rhonna, our Director of Residential Services, “that I am not going to worry because that is your job.” Stacey’s response to his father’s passing was, “Dad is now in heaven with Mom.”

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Philippians 4:6

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The Proof is in the Pudding — concluded

I thought to myself, why were these responses so calm? It was not because our residents have a disability and cannot grasp the severity of the situation, we know they understand. But it was a reality check that our staff teaches encouragement, and when we have difficult times, God is there to provide His special love and care.

So when people ask you what we do, please tell them we provide more than a place for adults with disabilities to call home; we are God’s voice to them as they experience life. And if they ask “How do you know?”, tell them, “The proof is in the pudding.”

Please continue to lift us up in your prayers as we all will be supporting Christy through this difficult life experience and pray for Christy as she faces this challenge.

Our Residents' Birthdays

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>7th</td>
<td>Christy M.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>10th</td>
<td>Scott F.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27th</td>
<td>Kim J.</td>
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</tbody>
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Thank you for remembering our residents on their birthdays! They do appreciate the cards that you send.

Please mail your cards to our residents at:

**Riverwood Campus**  
3123 Pride Road  
Louisville, TN 37777
## Gifts to Remember

**Given by:**

- Dale and Dianne Sikes
- Buddy Britt
- Peggy McCord
- Buddy Britt
- Peggy McCord
- Jack and Dot Pickett
- Bill McLendon
- Dr. & Mrs. Gilbert Rannick & family
- Peggy McCord
- Tom & Phyllis Hendrickson
- Lou and Peggy Martin
- Hellen Kelly
- Jim and Mary Witt
- Peggy McCord
- Don and Pat Sherwood

**In memory of:**

- Jack and Charlotte Ballard
- Norma Crumbley
- Dorothy Harris
- Vanessa Mathis
- Louise Morris McLendon
- Gib Rannick
- Trae Rittenberry
- Shari Sprauls
- Tony Stallings
- Cornelia Whitten
- Ab & Fylma Witt
- James Wood
- Joyce Woolf
- Vanesa Mathis
- Peggy McCord
- Jack and Dot Pickett
- Louise Morris McLendon
- Gib Rannick
- Lou and Peggy Martin
- Hellen Kelly
- Jim and Mary Witt
- Peggy McCord
- Don and Pat Sherwood

## Gifts to Honor

**Given by:**

- Bill and Nancy Bassett
- Josh and Mandy Adkins
- Ann Arrington
- Jack and Dot Pickett
- Gene and Shirley Wigginton
- First Christian Church,
  Johnson City, TN
- Missionary Society/Poplar Springs
  C of C, King, NC
- Mortons Gap Christian Church
- Paul and Suzie Greene
- Mary Helen Sandefur
- Wayne and Ida Spangler
- Cecil and Catherine Hallman
- Mary Witt

**In honor of:**

- Julie Bassett
- Dorothy Merriman
- Jim and Norma Pierson
- Jim Pierson
- Glenna Sandefur
- The Jack Ballard Church Builders
- Riverwood Staff & Residents
- Jim Witt
200,000 miles and still running...barely.
We are seeking a new or gently used 15 — passenger van.
All donations will be greatly appreciated.