



Church Hill Activities and Tutoring

Opening Homes, Transforming Lives, Rebuilding Communities



Performing at the 4th Annual "I Have A Dream" Event

DREAMING MY DREAMS WITH YOU

For 9 years, the community that comprises CHAT has been living and working with the youth of North Church Hill. Quite frankly, it amazes me. We celebrated with a birthday party for CHAT at a local roller-rink and our annual "I Have A Dream" Event. In preparation for this event, many of our kids get a chance to articulate their future hopes. They give voice to their dreams. This year, I was reminded of a song by the band 'Cranberries' that I sing to my children as a lullaby. Here is the portion of the chorus:

*"It's out there, If you want me, I'll be here
I'll be dreaming my dreams with you
And there's no other place that I'd lay down my face
I'll be dreaming my dreams with you"*

This song reminds me that dreams don't exist in a vacuum. When that dream is spoken and shared, it be-

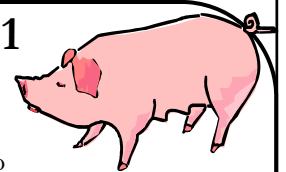
comes something different. It ceases to be one person hoping for something. It transforms into a goal that an entire community works tirelessly to see come to fruition. This is what we do at CHAT. We dream dreams with kids. If our students want to become nurses, doctors, lawyer, teachers, or just hold down a job, we dream alongside them. We whisper to students that those opportunities are indeed out there and that we will be present alongside them to see those dreams come true. At CHAT, we would like to thank you as well. When you support us through prayers, financial support and service, you dream those dreams with us. Personally, my dream is that these kids will be given the skills and character to be able to transform our very broken community. Thanks to you, my dream gets closer to being realized with every year that we are here.

Percy Strickland - Founder and CEO

Coming This Spring

1. **Week of March 6th** - hosting ODU/U of R college workgroups
2. **Week of March 13th** - hosting VCU college workgroup
3. **Thursday, March 31st** - Church Hill Academy Open House
4. **Week of April 17th** - Partnership with New Hanover Presbyterian Church to host Spring Break Day Camp
5. **Wednesday, April 27th** - Nehemiah's Workshop hosts 3rd annual Pine Wood Derby Contest

HOG ON THE HILL 2011



On Saturday Jan 29th CHAT hosted its 2nd Hog on the Hill pig roast. Homemade slaw, hush puppies, desserts and pig were served to a large crowd including a wide variety of volunteers, neighbors, youth, staff, Board Members, and friends of CHAT. CHAT asked for a suggested donation of \$10 per plate with proceeds benefiting our Street Leader program, but wanted all to enjoy the food and fellowship regardless of whether one was able to donate. We received a couple donations well in excess of \$10 but there was one donation that was particularly valuable to CHAT. A parent of an older CHAT student happened to be walking past the event and could not avoid stopping by for a sandwich and conversation. Later this parent returned with a \$1 bill to give to CHAT. "Thank you for all you do," he said genuinely. "I'm sorry I don't have more to give." We gladly accepted his dollar, and assured him that we were very appreciative of it. Indeed, we believe that his gift did not go unnoticed by our Father in heaven. We thank the Lord for these little glimpses of His kingdom at work in our midst.

Nehemiah's Workshop At Work

Nehemiah's Workshop is a ministry of CHAT that gets youth involved in woodworking. Every week a team of youth pairs up with adult volunteers to complete various woodworking projects such as bird feeders, tool boxes, stilts, lamps, and more.

The workshop has tasked some of the older students with more advanced projects including picnic tables, corn hole sets, and bookshelves. **This past September Nehemiah's Workshop received an order for 25 picnic tables from Third Presbyterian Church for the Pump Road site, including both adult and**



Final product delivered to Third Presbyterian Church Pump Road site on Jan 22, 2011



Patrick in front of the bookshelves built for the pastor's offices at Third Presbyterian Church

children's tables.

Four high-school boys were selected and hired by CHAT to complete these tables. Every Saturday since September the boys have been working alongside volunteers to construct these tables. After

sixteen Saturdays of hard work, the tables and delivery have been completed. And the work has not stopped here! This opportunity has been such a success in helping develop our older males that we are continuing our Saturday operations at the workshop. We continue to receive requests for adult and children's tables and have plans to develop more products and work for the youth.

The Workshop is particularly grateful to Third Presbyterian Church for their financial support of the program, the work commissioners, and Third members who volunteer to work with the youth at the Workshop, including Andy Burgess, Matt Maio, Chad White, David Clarke, Garrett Augustine, Arthur McCray, Travis Garthaffner, and

STUDENT DEVELOPMENT AT THE ACADEMY

As we begin the second semester, I am humbled and excited by the growth in Church Hill Academy students. Three small changes have brought about an energetic and focused school atmosphere, and true student motivation.

- 1) Each student has a **mentor who meets with them twice a month**, and comes to school once a semester, to build relationships, and in turn to build character.
- 2) The students' sense of ownership over school atmosphere is higher than ever, as **teachers and students meet in small groups to plan field trips, fund-raisers, and Bible story skits**. They then present their ideas at Friday morning Worship.
- 3) We have implemented a new program called **'Advocate huddles'**. Twice a quarter students receive transcripts, their current grades, and a 'graduation worksheet'. Graduation course requirements are listed, and students work with a teacher



Briana Cary (9th Grade) with her mentor, Sophonie



CHA students and teacher Amy Callaway on a field trip to the Gloucester Institute

and students work with a teacher (their advocate) to determine the courses they need to graduate. These students are taking responsibility for their education and developing a determination to do what many urban youth do not- receive, a high school diploma.

The fruits of these changes are palpable. I smiled with one parent who told me, "I'm so excited! I hear my child talking on the phone about *homework* with friends!" Students that struggled with attendance last year are no longer missing school. Students who struggled with respect are learning humility and focusing on taking control over their behavior. The Lord is changing hearts, and changing the lives of these youth. I am excited to see what the rest of the school year will bring.

- Caitlin Barnes

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