



Religion Youth Education

CELEBRATING \$1 MILLION IN CHARITABLE GIVING

Prison Ministry Dedicates Rye Children's Room

TABOR CITY - Research studies show that children of prisoners face many obstacles, and they need adult role models to give them guidance and stability.

A new ministry center in southeastern North Carolina is helping in the effort.

Citizens from throughout the region participated in a festive dedication ceremony for the Matthew 25 Center, a 5,160 square foot facility built to provide overnight accommodations for family members visiting inmates at the nearby Tabor Correctional Institution, and other prisons.

Burnett Coleman, a retired banker who led the fundraising drive, explained the purpose of the center in three words - "maintaining family relationships." He promised that children who stay at the center will receive love, support, and Christian hospitality.

A 9-year dream was fulfilled with the formal opening, and the event attracted media outlets from North Carolina and South Carolina. The Tabor-Loris Tribune published a front page article, complete with four color photos. The headline proclaimed, "With Prayers and Persistence, Matthew 25 is Open."

In appreciation for the Rye Foundation and its \$10,000 gift to the project, the children's activity room has been formally dedicated as the Rye Children's Room. The brightly-colored space contains Bibles, books, and board games.

According to Coleman, the Center welcomed many families during its first months of operation. "Thanks to generous and caring individuals, our mission is being fulfilled," he said.

One of Rye's top priorities is to encourage children who have a parent or step-parent incarcerated. Funding has been provided for similar projects in Taylorsville, Burgaw, and Winston-Salem.



Open for Business - The spacious Matthew 25 Center offers overnight lodging for families who are visiting inmates in southeastern North Carolina.



Dedication Day - Children and adults enjoyed reading books in the sparkling new Rye Children's Room. Shown are (top photo) Greta Williford and her daughter Lilly, along with (bottom photo) brothers Lawson and John Hudson Richardson.

All-State Choir Benefits from Scholarships

BUIES CREEK - Over the years, the Rye Foundation has contributed thousands of dollars in scholarship funding for the Baptist All-State Youth Choir.

Last summer, those investments were apparent to all who attended the 55-voice Choir's "down east tour."

Following three days of rehearsals at Campbell University in Buies Creek, the Choir performed on campus and at concerts in Wilson, Butner, Oxford, Greenville, Fayetteville, and Raleigh.

During the previous year's tour, the itinerary included Lincoln, Huntersville, Morganton, Greensboro, and Winston-Salem.

Now in its 21st year, the Choir is chosen by audition and has been led for the past 12 years by its talented coordinator, Phil Campbell. "Over 1,000 students have participated in the All-State Choir," said Campbell. "Many of them are now serving in full-time ministry, and countless others are using their musical gifts in schools across the state."



Sound of Music – For 21 years, the All-State Choir has thrilled audiences across North Carolina.

They have performed in Duke Chapel and aboard the Battleship USS North Carolina, as well as in retirement homes, prisons, and churches throughout the state.

Each year, a theme is selected and becomes the focal point of daily Bible study and devotions. Last summer, the theme verse was Mark 10:45, which says, "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."

As the All-State Choir prepares for its 22nd season of concerts, Campbell said the future is bright. "Our students are exposed to great music," said Phil, "and just as importantly, they make new friendships with other teenagers who share their love of music."

Leaders of the Rye Foundation are thankful for the opportunity to provide scholarships for this special organization.



Butler Chapel – After the concert at Campbell University, Phil Campbell visited with Caroline Talbert (left) and his daughter, Laura Roach.

Funding Spotlight: Brighter Days Camp

MOUNT AIRY - One of the Rye Foundation's recent philanthropic gifts is helping children who are grieving the loss of a sibling, parent, or grandparent.

Counselors and ministers help the children to express their feelings, and then share the great news that God wants them to enjoy "brighter days" in the near future.

Last summer, a total of 40 boys and girls participated in the Brighter Days Children's Grief Camp. Sponsored by Mountain Valley Hospice, the innovative and upbeat camp included sessions held in Wilkesboro, Lowgap, and Mount Airy.

Every day featured significant time for reflection, writing, singing, and praying. Campers wore tee shirts with Bible verses from Ecclesiastes 3:1 and 3:4. That passage of Scripture talks about the seasons of life, and promises that there is "a time to weep and a time to laugh."

A delegation from the Rye Foundation attended a Celebration of Life service held in the Surry County town of Dobson. Several children shared about their camp experiences, both through their music and poetry.

A moving and emotional moment occurred when each child released a balloon, and reflected upon a special memory of their loved one.

Leaders of the Rye Foundation are thankful for the opportunity to provide hope and healing to these special children.



Hope and Healing – At the Brighter Days Camp, every child is grieving the loss of a sibling, parent, or grandparent.

7 Lasting Lessons from the Polio Campaign

By J. Warren Steen

Several years ago, Rotary International launched a strategic and worldwide campaign with an ambitious goal: to eliminate and eradicate polio from the face of the earth.

At that time, there were still over 350,000 cases each year. Great progress was achieved in the intervening years, and when my friend Darryl Head asked me to serve as local chairman of the David Richards Memorial Polio Campaign, it was easy to say yes.

Serving in this volunteer role helped to reinforce several lessons that continue to be extremely beneficial in our faith-based philanthropy at the Rye Foundation. Here are seven of them.

1. **Paint a picture of the overriding need.**

Maybe you already know the history of polio. Over 1.5 million people were killed before Dr. Salk invented his life-saving vaccine in 1955.

By 1979, the disease had been eliminated in the United States. Yet, the rest of the world experienced thousands of cases each year. In 1985, Dr. Sabin launched Rotary's global campaign by personally administering his oral vaccine.

2. **Make it memorable, like the "PAIN countries."**

Health officials discovered that almost every new case of polio originated in either Pakistan, Afghanistan, India, or Nigeria. A marketing guru suggested we target our efforts at these "PAIN countries."

3. **Personalize the appeal.**

At the local kick-off event, polio survivor Peter Laroche shared his testimony of contracting polio as a child. This is known as "putting a face on philanthropy."

In an unforgettable speech, Peter told about his numerous surgeries and his daily struggles in walking with a pronounced limp. Then he concluded with these words: "I consider myself one of the lucky ones, because many others did not survive."

4. **Share success stories.**

Charles Allen traveled from his home in Randleman to India, where he participated in National Immunization Day. During a one-day blitz, over 74 million children received the polio vaccine, guaranteeing that they would never contract the disease.

During a moving and emotional talk, Charles recounted his experiences on that life-changing trip. He personally went to schools, ball fields, and hospitals.

5. **Train future leaders.**

On that memorable trip to India, Charles was accompanied by his granddaughter Emily. Can you imagine the impact of that trip on her world vision?

6. **Understand the value of partnerships, especially with Bill Gates.**

In Rotary, there are 35,000 clubs around the world. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation agreed to match every gift from every club on a 2-for-1 basis. So far, none of their checks have bounced.

7. **Remember to say "thank you" to every supporter.**

Everyone needs to feel appreciated, and it is crucial to express gratitude to each member of the team.

Now, here is the great news. Our local campaign surpassed its goal, and sufficient funds were raised to provide the vaccine to 37,000 boys and girls around the world.

Globally, tremendous progress has been made since the days of 350,000 cases each year. During the past year, a total of 51 new cases have been reported, and all of these were in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Someday soon, I hope and pray that we can announce the wonderful news that polio has been eradicated.



J. Warren Steen is president of the Rye Foundation in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. In addition to serving as Chairman of the David Richards Memorial Polio Campaign, he was also the Founding Chairman of the Parents Council at the UNC School of Medicine. A graduate of Wake Forest University, he has served on the Board of Directors for the school's Deacon Club.

In Loving Memory

This issue is dedicated to the following individuals, who supported the Rye Foundation through their encouragement, prayer support, and financial gifts.

Marcus B. Crotts

Winston-Salem, NC

Lucy Richey Dorr

Petersburg, VA

J. C. Faw

Wilkesboro, NC

Sheryl Shoaf Greenwood

Kernersville, NC

W.R. O'Neal

Clayton, NC

Leaving a Legacy

Rye Promotes Ray Bryan Award With \$100,000 in Giving

A significant and statewide award from the Rye Foundation is helping to perpetuate the legacy of long-time supporter Ray Bryan of Goldsboro.

Each year, the Ray Bryan Award is presented to a children's charity which is "making a life-changing impact on North Carolina children." The award is a memorial to Bryan, a noted businessman and philanthropist who died in 2016 at the age of 84. One of Rye's most generous supporters, he served as an Honorary member of the board of directors.

Each recipient receives \$25,000 to enhance and expand their programming for children. To date, a total of \$75,000 has been distributed to three organizations.

Warren Steen, the President of the Rye Foundation, explained the significance of the annual award. "Ray believed strongly that God has a plan for every child," he stated. "The award brings honor and recognition to an organization which is at the forefront of providing needed services in a Christian setting."

This year's recipient is Camp Cale. Located on the banks of the Perquimans River in Hertford, the camp opened in 1961. A new initiative is aimed at identifying and training "leaders of tomorrow."

Camp director Matt Thomas said the students came from a 5-county region and included participants from Manteo, Hertford, and Elizabeth City.

A year ago, the winner was The Refuge, a camp located on 135 acres in the Greene county town of Ayden. During an on-site tour, Rye leaders were impressed to learn that 23 Eagle Scouts have completed projects at the camp.

Another recipient will be announced soon, and the life of Ray Bryan will once again be remembered.

One final question: what kind of legacy do you plan to leave?

News and Notes

Estate Planning Tip from Mike Wells

Forsyth County attorney Mike Wells writes a popular column for the Winston-Salem Journal. Recently, he wrote about the importance of reviewing and updating beneficiaries listed on insurance policies and retirement accounts. Of course, our supporters are encouraged to include the Rye Foundation in their estate planning and Christian stewardship.

A Day with Dr. Gary Chapman

Best-selling author Dr. Gary Chapman spoke recently to a large gathering of community leaders at a civic club meeting in Winston-Salem. Nationally known and respected for *The 5 Love Languages*, he encouraged attendees to "replace grumbling with gratitude." Warren Steen delivered the invocation at the event.

Web Site Features Media Coverage

Our user-friendly web site contains a listing of media outlets that have publicized Rye philanthropic projects. Newspaper and magazine articles have come from Cary, Hertford, Elizabeth City, Greenville, and Winston-Salem.

"Champions for Children Day" Hits Milestone

Since its formation, the Rye Foundation has organized an annual event that features face-to-face meetings with leaders of children's charities. These sessions are a great way to learn about trends, funding needs, and partnership opportunities. Following the latest event, a total of 120 organizations have traveled to Winston-Salem to make formal presentations.

Site Tours Planned

Friends and supporters are always welcome to view Rye philanthropy "up close and personal" by participating in on-site tours. Trips to evaluate children's needs have been held in King, Dobson, Buies Creek, Middlesex, Catawba, Black Mountain, and New Bern.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Rye Foundation is to make a life-changing impact on children by providing grants in the areas of religion, youth, and education.



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