Celebrating Reasons for Hope

In this first week of Advent, we share reasons for hope. Hope lives because of Christ. Hope lives because of His followers and their faithfulness. Hope lives because others hear the call to be generous with their lives and their gifts. Hope lives even in the midst of a year filled with challenges and changes. Today, we choose to live in hope.

Hope in Bishop, Virginia

Alexander Memorial UMC in Bishop, Virginia had $56 in the church’s bank account last year. Today, the church is meeting needs in its community, serving in mission, and others across the connection are joining in to help. $40,000 has arrived from 140 donors in the last two months to support the small congregation’s feeding and caring for its community.

Paul Bowman, Holston Foundation president, personally delivered a check for $2,000 from the Foundation to support the ministry and served alongside the congregation. Churches from across Holston and beyond have generously given too. The generosity to the Tazewell County, Virginia church and the commitment of its members is an example of how we can all do more when we do it together. Read The Call’s full story here

Hope in Ingenuity

Last year, the Holston Foundation was awarded the Foundation of the Year award from the Association of Fund Raising Professionals Greater Smoky Mountain Chapter. This year, the Holston Foundation nominated Camp in the Community’s director, Whitney Winston, for the first-ever Ingenuity Award. Whitney won the Ingenuity Award for her commitment to making sure children experienced camp in a new way despite the pandemic. Whitney and Camp in the Community went above and beyond to change their ministry to adjust to new challenges. In fact, they served more kids in more places in 2020 than ever before! Camp in the Community is also sharing Advent kits with campers so that they can experience Christmas in a new way too. Learn more about Camp in the Community

Whitney and other East Tennessee non-profit award winners are featured in a recent documentary about how non-profits responded to the coronavirus crisis. Watch the documentary here Watch Whitney’s interview at the 22:19 mark in the video.
Hope in Rocky Top, Tennessee

Rocky Top, Tennessee is home to a large homeless population, and Rocky Top UMC and First UMC in Knoxville are partnering together to help feed the homeless and others in the community. The Holston Foundation awarded Coronavirus Emergency Response Grants to both Rocky Top UMC and First UMC Knoxville to support the increasing needs for their food pantry and meals for the homeless. From The Call:

Amazing ministry happening at Rocky Top United Methodist Church! About 85 families fed and supplied today and every last Sunday of the month ... 35 food-insecure senior citizens get free lunches delivered every Wednesday ... 180 random meals fed so far this month to the homeless, who knock on the church door whenever they see a car in the parking lot ... All this with a handful of maybe 10 church members and a partnership with First Knoxville United Methodist Church! Amen. Watch a video update of the ministry from The Call

For more information about the Holston Foundation or leaving a legacy, contact president Paul Bowman.
Holston Foundation Strategic Plan Survey

The Holston Foundation is working toward a new strategic plan to help us better serve churches, ministries, and those with generous hearts. One part of the strategic planning process is a survey that invites participants to share their thoughts regarding the Holston Foundation’s mission, services, communication, impact, and more. As a partner of the Holston Foundation, you may receive an email later this week with a link to the survey, which should take less than 15 minutes to complete. Please consider taking a few minutes to share your input to help us best serve you, your church, ministries, and others if you receive a survey.

Year-End Gifts

Can you offer hope through a financial gift? Do you want to give the gift of stock to your church or favorite ministry? The Holston Foundation can process your gift for free and 100% of the sale of the stock will go to your church or favorite ministry. This is one of the many ways the Holston Foundation serves as a partner in stewardship for churches and generous givers. If you’re a leader in your church, help us spread the word and include stock as an option for others to give as a year-end gift. Download stock gift form

Considering how to make a year-end gift? Have a confidential conversation with Paul Bowman, Holston Foundation president, to discuss how to maximize your gift to support the ministry or church you’d like to support.

Questions? Contact the Holston Foundation at 865-680-8124. We're open and ready to serve!

Holston Foundation Gives $150,000 to Holston Camps

The Holston Foundation gave $150,000, the largest gift in its history, to Holston Conference Camp and Retreat Ministries to be divided equally among the five camps. The gift supports their Together for Tomorrow fundraising effort. Read the full story from The Call

Meet with the Holston Foundation

The Holston Foundation continues to meet with church leaders, committees, and donors during this time either in-person or virtually. The Foundation can even help host your committee meeting online. Reach out to Paul Bowman to set up a meeting in the ways you are most comfortable today.