



# Church Hill Activities & Tutoring

Opening Homes, Transforming Lives, Rebuilding Communities



## “Thanks..., no really, thank you”

I was blindsided by these words just a few days after Thanksgiving. They came from the most unlikely place, my 17 year old son Tamon. Through the midst of the season and taking stock of all the things that have happened in his life, he decided to stop for a moment and say ‘Thanks’. However, he didn’t want me to get the impression that he was doing this out of the mere formality of saying ‘thank you’. He says those words all the time. So, he added the ‘... no really, thank you’ with a very serious look on his face to bring the point home. When someone does something for us, we usually respond automatically with those words. However, my son taught me a lesson in true gratitude. I have realized that my ‘thank you’ can often be a mere formality. You see, we are scared to offer authentic gratitude, because a real ‘thank you’ assumes a real ‘need’. My son wanted me to understand that I had done things for him that he would never be capable of doing by himself. He had real ‘needs’ that I had

met. In the same fashion, all of us at CHAT want to say, “Thanks... no really, thank you!” We confess that without you none of this would be possible. Without your financial investments, we would never be able to take these kids on trips and offer them a glimpse of worlds they have never encountered. Without the investment of your time, we would never be able to have one on one tutoring with so many kids. Without your prayers, we would never be able to get through to kids hardened by the streets of Richmond. Yet, year after year, we do all of these things. And it is because of you. In my heart, I would love to take credit for all of this and just offer you the usual ‘thank you’. However, I am going to follow my son’s example and be honest. So, from all of us at CHAT, “Thanks... no really, thank you!”

*Percy Strickland*  
 Founder and CEO

### An Unexpected Gift

At tutoring a 6 year old student came up to me with a dollar in his hand and said “Chris this is for you.” I asked him, “Where did you find this?” assuming this dollar must certainly not be his and that he probably found it lying around the Strickland’s house. He said it was his and so I told him to keep it for himself. He replied, “Chris this is my dollar but I want you to have it for being my friend.” Although of seemingly small value, this gift that I had a hard time receiving was of incredible worth. This small act was a reminder of just how much tutoring and activities are valued here at CHAT.

*Chris Whiting - Executive Director*

⇒ Thanksgiving Party who served turkey and the fixings to over 250 people.

⇒ Volunteers who came to tutor and serve CHAT’s 50 youth each week during the Fall 2008 season.

### SPECIAL THANKS

⇒ Ed and Debby Read and MCV CMDA for organizing a youth event for CHAT at UTurn.

⇒ Alexandra Spitzer for sponsoring a trip for the Little Tykes to the Pumpkin Patch.

⇒ Mark Newlen and the Collegiate middle school tennis team for hosting a CHAT group for lessons.

⇒ Volunteers for CHAT’s

Tennis Lessons at Collegiate



## At Work in Nehemiah's Workshop

For most CHAT participants a screwdriver and a saw have little purpose. At Nehemiah's Workshop students are learning new life skills that teach them how to conduct basic home repairs with that screwdriver and other tools. For their first project, students learned the difference between a nail, screw, and a bolt and used this knowledge to build personalized toolboxes. Enthusiasm runs high among CHAT participants

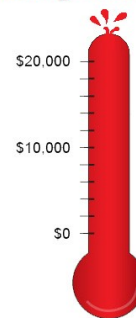


for a chance to fill the four to six spots per week at the workshop. "Is it my turn yet?" and "I want to go again" are some common quotes we hear from students thinking ahead to Wednesday night's workshop. A big thanks to Tom Widmer, pictured above helping Monique, a CHAT volunteer in charge of coordinating volunteers and projects at Nehemiah's Workshop.

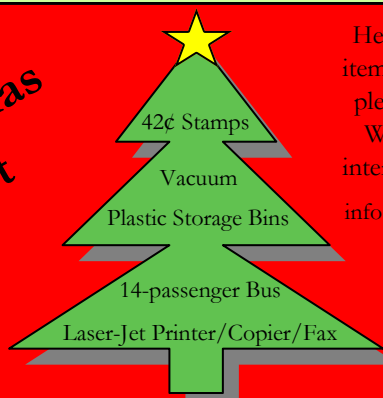
## Matching Gift Update

In November we informed you of a dollar for dollar matching gift challenge of up to \$20,000. We are excited to announce that CHAT has met this challenge! The response has been great and is an encouraging sign of the community's strong support in the work of CHAT. December is another great opportunity to support CHAT financially as Third Presbyterian Church has offered a \$5,000 matching gift to support our need for a new 14 passenger bus. Please indicate **matching bus funds** if you are interested in giving toward this need.

### Matching Gift Challenge!



## CHAT's Christmas List



Here is a wish list of items that are of need, please contact Chris Whiting if you are interested in donating. [info@chatrichmond.org](mailto:info@chatrichmond.org)

Check out other ways to donate online at [www.chatrichmond.org/donate](http://www.chatrichmond.org/donate)

## "P is for Paper" at Little Tykes

What words can you think of that start with the letter "P"? Ten Little Tykes, CHAT participants between the ages of 4 and 7, answered with paper, pencil, and prayer. During Bible time the students heard the story of the Prodigal Son and ate snacks consisting of pickles, peanuts, and pineapple. Can you see the theme here? At CHAT's Little Tykes tutoring, each week is themed with a letter. The Little Tykes listen to a Bible Story, read books with a

mentor, and complete a craft with materials all themed around the **letter of the week**. Many people may not be aware that with the addition of Little Tykes tutoring, CHAT now serves over 50 youth on average per week at two separate tutoring sites. A big thanks to the **Strickland's** for re-opening their home for tutoring and **Ashley Hall**, a weekly CHAT volunteer and mastermind behind the planning of Little Tykes.

Little Tykes Together at the Pumpkin Patch



CHAT

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