



# WADE

Volume 1, Issue 1, Jan. 2007

# *a minute!*



from all of us at  
the Wade Center!



## YEAR IN REVIEW: Last year was a year of beginnings

After purchasing the former Wade School building in the summer of 2005 and performing critical renovations to the building for only six months, the Wade Center began full-scale operations in 2006.

Looking back, it's hard to believe we've come so far so fast. The year was packed with exciting news.

### Rock of the Ages

The year began with a bang. A local group of artists performed "Rock of the Ages" at the Summit Theatre and raised thousands of dollars that helped us begin the year strong.

### Shott Grant

The momentum only increased when we received a large grant from the Hugh I. Shott, Jr. Foundation. That money helped us purchase and install heating and cooling units for each classroom.

### Adopt a Room

Although funds for heating were in place, there still was a lot of work left to do in each of the 20 classrooms and larger meeting areas.

Local individuals and organizations stepped up to the plate



Last year began with our biggest fundraiser ever, "Rock of the Ages" (below). This and several grants allowed for all major renovations to be completed, including heating the building (above).

to help out through our "Adopt a Room" program.

Our infant nursery was adopted by C.L., Emma, Bea and Nancy Cruise. Bland Street United Methodist adopted a computer lab. And the Appalachian Artist Association fully stocked our art room.

### Phillip Morris' Makeover

In the summer of 2006, Phillip Morris brought in 140 of its employees, along with over \$10,000 for an action-packed day of remodeling. They added new playground equipment, painted murals on our walls, installed adjustable height basketball goals and more.

### Diversion Program

Even though we were making a lot of improvements to our facilities last year, that did not mean that we delayed the start of programs for children and youth. Early in 2006, we began our first attempt to help rehabilitate juveniles who had been convicted of minor crimes.

These young people were required to come to Wade, where they attended character building and health education classes and completed community service projects.

Other initial programs included Tuesday Tutoring and Sunday Day Camp.

### YouthWorks

Wade's large facility exploded with activity over the summer, when the national missions organization YouthWorks moved in on the ground floor.

Hundreds of teens participated in community improvement projects through this program.

### Summer Camps

Upstairs, our classrooms were busy as well. Our summer camp combined fun and learning in an all-day adventure for students in grades 1 through 8.

### Afterschool Program

Building on that momentum, we began an afterschool program in the fall. During these important hours, children ate snacks, received help with homework, learned in our computer lab and played in our gym.

### Boys and Girls Club

We also began evening meetings in the fall with the goal of giving children a place to belong and learn life skills.

### Adult Computer Classes

Partnering with Workforce West Virginia, we quickly filled two classes with adults who wanted to learn basic computer skills.

### Health Classes

Through partnerships with Bluefield State College's nursing department, we began offering regular health classes. The goal was to help students make better decisions about drugs, sexually transmitted diseases, cleanliness and other issues.

The WVU Extension office also offered a class at Wade to help diabetics learn to eat healthier.

### Van Donated

In the fall, two Bluefield natives read of our need for a van and came to the rescue. Danny and Lecia Smith provided the funding for a new van that is now being used to pick up children for the afterschool program.

Many other supporters helped us out in 2006 as well by helping us purchase computers for our labs. Many also participated in our "adopt a student" program that helped cover the programming costs for either summer camp or afterschool.

## WADE'S NEW YEAR'S WISH LIST:

- **Afterschool Volunteers** – As the number of children in our programs continues to increase, we will have openings for more volunteers in all areas. Please call us if interested.
- **\$15/Month Partners** – Can you or your church youth group or Sunday School class adopt a child at Wade for \$15 per month to cover afterschool costs for that child? Please consider becoming a regular supporter in 2007.



**50 cents a day**  
{ pocket change }

You can't change the world with \$15/month, but you can make a difference in one local child's life.

Visit [wadecenter.com](http://wadecenter.com) or call 323-3777 for more information.

## THANKS TO RECENT CORPORATE DONORS:

- George M. Cruise Foundation
- Frank L. Smoot Charitable Foundation
- 1912 Charitable Foundation
- Eastern Vault Co.
- Skewes Family Foundation
- Goodykoontz Drug Store, Inc.
- Center Presbyterian Church (McMurray, Penn.)
- Cornwell Bireley Family Trust
- Foot Pain Associates
- Hugh I. Shott, Jr. Foundation
- Radiation Oncology Management, LLC

## PLANS FOR 2007: This year to feature expansions

We want to build on what has been a tremendously successful year! Rather than simply looking back on how far we've come, we're also pressing ahead to expand in 2007.

### New Literacy Program

After almost a year of helping children prepare for success in school, our leadership is more convinced than ever of the great need for targeted literacy instruction.

Many of the children currently participating in Wade's programs read at a grade level far below what is expected for children their age. To address this problem, we are taking steps to begin an evening literacy program that will allow children already attending Wade's afterschool program to get extra help in this important area.

Students will come for an hour per week for individual instruction and attention. We believe that being able to read and write well is the foundation for success in many other areas.

Through this new program, it is our goal to move beyond offering homework help and to start providing students with the specific skills necessary to succeed in school and in life.

### Expanded High School and College Ministry

In 2006, we began coffee-house ministries. While our first attempts to serve middle and high school students through this program have reached some young people, we have plans to reach many more students in 2007.

Daniel and Hannah Walters will head up our newly energized youth division. They will provide focused attention and creative programming for this age group. They say they feel called by God to serve youth full-time at the Wade Center and are currently raising 100 percent of the sup-

port needed for their salaries.

We expect our focus on youth in 2007 will attract teens from all over the Greater Bluefield area. These expansions will help us meet our goal of giving students of all ages safe and structured activities and the ability to form relationships with caring adult mentors.

### Summer Camp Changes

In order to provide additional opportunities for education, our Super Summer Camps will include instruction in language arts, science and math this year.

As part of this expansion of our hugely successful program, one classroom for each subject will be furnished with appropriate educational materials, creative hands-on learning stations and posters.

The children will rotate through each classroom in the morning and then be led in structured recreational activities and field trips in the afternoon.

The purpose of our summer camp is to help students in grades 1 through 8 get ahead in school and prepare for their next



This year's summer camps will provide education in language arts, science and math.

year of education.

### Second Chance Enterprise

If funding allows in 2007, we hope to expand by adding a unique program that will help young people returning from prison find jobs.

Statistics show that re-arrest rates are higher for those who lack job training and are unable to find employment.

Wade hopes to help recently incarcerated individuals learn specific jobs such as pressure washing and auto detailing. After three months of employment, participants will have references and a work history that will enable them to find permanent employment and avoid falling back into the cycle of crime.

Visit [wadecenter.com](http://wadecenter.com) to learn more about all our programs!



Meet our new youth staff, Daniel and Hannah Walters. We interview them in a special video on the News page at [wadecenter.com](http://wadecenter.com).

# IN THEIR OWN WORDS...



We do really cool stuff, and we get to make a lot of friends here.

Britnie Hall, 5th



We have tutors that help us with our homework... It's very fun!

Dwayne Moore, 9th



We eat and do our homework and read and come down here and play.

Richie Perry, 5th



My favorite thing to do is go in the gym and play because we have lots of fun.

Titiana Joyce, 5th



I like going to the computer lab mostly because I don't get to go there at school that much.

Raven Patterson, 7th



It's really changed my life more than I've ever thought about changing theirs... I know that God's

blessed me so that I can be a blessing to other people, and this is just a great way that I can show my gratitude to God and thanks for everything that he's done for me.

Chad Arnold, Volunteer



My passion is kids, and here at Wade, I get to use all the talents God has given me to work with kids and

bring them closer to God. And also, community is very important, and Wade offers a great community for kids and everyone who comes. I love it here, and it's helped me grow in God a lot!

Natalie Lampert, Volunteer



I enjoy cooking the food for the kids and making special things for them, and God has really blessed me!

Susan Buckland, Volunteer

Watch video of these interviews and more on the "About Us" page of our Website!



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## WHAT'S NEW ONLINE

- A slideshow of recent photos.
- Video from our computer labs and an interview with new staff.
- Online ticket sales for our concerts.
- A new paperback book by Bill Whitt.
- The ability to schedule monthly donations & more!

[wadecenter.com](http://wadecenter.com)