



JUNE 2006 UPDATE LETTER

Dear Friends of the Wade Center,

We have a lot of exciting news to pass along that just can't wait until the publication of our next newsletter! Summer is proving to be a very busy time, as our top floor hallway is now filled with sounds of children in summer camp each morning. Workers continue to renovate the middle floor, preparing the computer lab and computer classroom for use. And the ground floor is doubling as housing for summer mission teams that visit our area each week.

For the next few minutes, join me as we take a tour of these areas. Take a quick peek at all that's going on at Wade this summer!

TOP FLOOR – SUMMER CAMP

Each morning at 8 a.m., first through eighth grade students begin a full day of fun and learning at Wade. Each morning starts with educational activities led by certified instructors. These teachers help students prepare for their next year of school, and even more, they work to inspire a love for learning.

At noon, all classes enjoy lunch together in the Wade Café. Then, in the afternoons, they have the chance to play basketball, soccer, football and many other sports. The kids have been using Wade's newly renovated playground and will also take several field trips to local swimming pools and other points of interest.

Weekly summer camps will last through the week of August 14. We are running at full capacity right now and want to thank many of you who helped us get the word out!



MIDDLE FLOOR – RENOVATION

The middle floor of Wade is also busy with activity. Thanks to the Hugh I. Shott, Jr. Foundation, we have been able to purchase and install heating and cooling units for each individual classroom. From the picture to the left, you can see the enormity of the task!

This hard work will pay off for the fall, when our computer lab, computer classroom, art room and tutoring rooms will be fully equipped for use. It's exciting to see the progress in these rooms, and it is even more exciting to picture them filled with students again!

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GROUND FLOOR—MISSION TEAMS

We've been working very hard on the ground floor as well. To the right, you can see workers finalizing repairs (including new windows) in preparation for summer.

This floor contains four classrooms and two large bathrooms that are will be used by YouthWorks this summer. Each week, mission teams of about 70 students each will come to Bluefield from all over the country. They will do community improvement projects, using Wade as home base. After summer, we plan to use these rooms to house church youth groups on ski or rafting weekends.



As you can tell, we have a lot of forward momentum right now. We are growing and expanding quickly. Two of the areas I am most excited about are the **computer lab** and **computer classroom**. As a "tech-guy" myself, I know the importance of being computer savvy to fare well in the job market. We want these two rooms to be a place where kids can learn to use the Internet in a safe and productive way. We will have age-appropriate educational software like Encarta available. We will teach classes in computer basics, Microsoft Office and even advanced applications like Adobe Photoshop. The possibilities are almost endless.

We've been fortunate to find a great deal on computers for these rooms. **For \$100, we can buy Pentium III computers** with monitors, keyboards and mice. In addition, they come with most of the software we need pre-installed. If this is something you believe in, please consider making a one-time tax-deductible gift of \$100 to allow us to purchase a computer for our lab.

We also need your help with our **summer camp**. As I mentioned before, we are running at capacity. We are currently putting people on a wait list, which is something we wish we did not have to do. We want to expand, but our costs are exceeding tuition received. **We have accepted more children who need scholarships than we have scholarships available to cover.** We never want to turn anyone away, especially those who need our help the most, but we will have to do just that unless we receive more scholarship donations. Would you consider donating a \$150 scholarship so a child can attend our camp?

We realize that there are a lot of ways you can spend \$100 or \$150 today. In most cases, you get an immediate reward – something in return. However, when you give to Wade, the reward is an investment in the next generation and in the future of your own community. Please consider doing that today!

Sincerely,

Bill Whitt

Creative Arts & Media Director