



WADE

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a minute!

Wade: Always "New and Improved"

By Brian Checchio
Executive Director

We've only just begun!

This month, we will begin our second school year of programming, and I am excited about all the "new and improved" activities on the horizon.

It is my goal to always focus on improving existing programs and adding new ones in order to address the spiritual, physical, emotional and intellectual needs of children and youth in our community.

New Diversion Program

This year, we will offer a diversion program for students who find themselves in trouble with the law. The program will focus on character development, self-esteem expansion and be-

havioral modification through weekly meetings and mentoring relationships.

New Parenting Classes

Also new this year will be a program for parents that will reward their effort to learn practical parenting and household skills.

Extended After-school

One of our largest areas of expansion is in our after-school program, which will last until 8 p.m. this year. Called "Believe and Achieve," this program is designed to help children and teens discover their skills and talents. We hope this will foster a healthy sense of identity and provide a source of inspiration and hope as they look toward their future.

We will offer homework

help and recreation, followed by a family-style dinner and workshops in the evening. You'll find more details inside our newsletter.

New Food Program

Plans are underway to make sure our students have healthy food to eat on the weekends by sending home a backpack of groceries on the last day of after-school each week.

New Funding Sources

The changes to after-school are made possible, in part, by a grant from the United Way. We are proud to be a new participating agency and are thankful for their support.

We are also thankful for your support. Your prayers, volunteer hours and financial contributions are what keep us moving forward. Please consider supporting us financially this new school year.

We will also need many volunteers to staff our "new and improved" programs. We need families who will eat dinner with our students at after-school, volunteers who will buy food for our backpack program, teachers and helpers who will staff our weeknight clubs and chaperones for all our events.

There is certainly a place at the Wade Center where you can use your God-given gifts to serve Him and help others. Why not visit us online today to get started?

WORTH
1,000
WORDS:



Johnston Chapel adopted our music room, preparing it for use in our extended after-school program.



Cole Chevrolet sponsored a swimming party at the Elks Club at the end of summer camp.



Several summer mission teams helped with renovations and community improvement projects.



Wade's expanded after-school program lasts until 8 p.m. this year, allowing us to keep kids off the streets in the evenings, offer a home cooked dinner and allow them time to explore their talents and abilities.

For more pictures and video of recent activities at Wade, visit www.wadecenter.com.

A WORD FROM THE STAFF: After-school program expands!



Jon Shell directs Wade's newly expanded after-school program, "Believe and Achieve."

We are very excited about our after-school program, "Believe and Achieve."

Last year, after-school ended at 5:30 p.m. This year, we have extended the program to 8 p.m. We still focus on homework help and recreation in the early part of the day, but in addition, we now also offer evening workshops and clubs. These times are designed to help students learn new skills and discover what they are passionate about in life.

The new hours also allow us to serve a family-style dinner, which not only provides healthy nutrition but also healthy interaction with caring adults. The students and adult mentors play board games around the dinner table, talk about the topic of the day and focus on developing good manners and communication patterns.

Each day has a different focus. On Mondays, each student will choose a club activity designed to build confidence and self-esteem as they are given opportunity to

develop skills in basketball, tennis, art, music and more. Tuesday, we focus on skills development. On Wednesdays, we incorporate a spiritual component with a Bible focus. And Thursday evenings are dedicated to the literacy component through book clubs.

With the help of a full-time Ameri-Corp volunteer and partnerships with Bluefield State College and Bluefield College, we are now able to focus more attention on those who need help improving their reading skills.

Lives will be changed as a result of this new program. We are confident of that.

Months of planning have gone into the development of Believe and Achieve, and we are so excited to finally get the program running. All the details can be found on our Web site. We hope you will take some time to learn about the program and how you might help.

We need volunteers to teach the skills workshops, mentors to eat dinner with students and chaperones to supervise recreation time. And more than ever, we need your regular financial support. We can't do it without you!



At the heart of Believe and Achieve are new skills workshops in the evenings. Students will have the chance to learn how to play musical instruments, edit a video documentary, create works of art, play tennis and learn many other skills.



NEWS IN BRIEF:

- Dr. Charles E. Gabe gave the Wade Center a 2000 Chrysler mini-van. We use the van for short in-town trips.
- Steve Sarver donated free tennis lessons at the Sedgewood Courts to our summer camp students.
- Our worship service can now be heard on WGTH radio 105.5 FM, Sunday nights at 6 p.m., and seen on the Two Virginia's CW, Fridays at noon.
- Philip Morris is returning again this fall, with over 30 employees and \$10,000 to help us improve our facility.

WADE'S WISHLIST

- **Dinner Parents** – commit to eating dinner once a week with a specific age group at after-school.
- **Dinner Helpers** – help serve and clean up after dinner
- **Workshop Leaders** – share your skill with the children of after-school
- **Chaperons** – support our staff by being another adult presence in the room as you build relationships with students
- **Book Club Leaders** – teach children to love reading in Thursday night book clubs
- **Bible Teachers** – teach or help with games, crafts or supervision at Wednesday night Bible clubs
- **Funds** – give a one-time gift or become a regular monthly giver. Funds are critically low now, and as we expand after-school this fall, the need is greater than ever.

Visit wadecenter.com today to sign up to help!

EVENT SPOTLIGHT: New events shed light on poverty

By Hannah Walters
Missions & College Dir.

Mother Teresa once said "We think that poverty is only being hungry, naked, and homeless. The poverty of being unwanted, unloved and uncared for is the greatest poverty."

I couldn't agree more. But how are we reaching out to those who are unwanted, unloved and uncared for? Do we even know where to start?

I believe Jesus set the example for us in spending time with societies unwanted, unloved and uncared for during his day. He spent time with the sick. He associated with tax collectors. He forgave a woman who had been caught in an act of sin. He chose fishermen to be his disciples when he could have had scholars from a synagogue.

Let's be honest... Jesus did crazy things. I love that about Him!

Some people might say the Wade Center does crazy things. After all, the Wade Center exists to reach out to Bluefield's unwanted, unloved and uncared for. On a daily basis we spend time pouring ourselves into kids who most of society has already written off. Some of our kids have already had a brush with the law. Some have had babies. Some have dabbled in drugs. It

breaks your heart to hear about these sad situations. But what breaks my heart even more is that people tend to look at these kids as if they have lost their chance... as if they won't ever amount to anything.

Most people have no idea what these children face on a daily basis. And I believe that you can't work to solve a problem you don't understand.

That is why we are offering two



Visiting mission teams come to work on our facility but leave with a better understanding of how to help the poor.

new events – mission trips and poverty simulations.

Mission Trips

The Wade Center offers mission trip opportunities year-round. Visiting mission teams spend mornings completing minor repairs and construction projects in our facility. In the afternoons, mission groups assist with our after-school program. Some groups find them-

selves playing basketball, helping a child catch up on their schoolwork or just being a listening ear for a child who is having a hard day. We believe mission trips can change lives of both the children and the missionaries.

Poverty Simulation

This fall, we are also beginning to offer poverty simulation weekends. This experience teaches people in unique and creative ways about how poverty affect over 1.4 billion people in our world. These people live without the basics necessities to survive, and this growing problem is an issue we can no longer ignore. We are challenging people to give up one weekend so that they can gain a better understanding of the issues of poverty and get a glimpse of what being poor is really like.

We hear sad statistics about poverty, but most of us have a hard time truly understanding how it affects those within its grasp. Poverty simulation weekends have the potential to open people's eyes and change their lives.

I believe Jesus loves the unwanted, unloved and uncared for. And I believe He has called us to do the same. Through these two new events at Wade, we hope He gives us understanding and motivates us to make a difference!

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: Summer camp wraps up

Our summer camps were filled to capacity this year. Over 80 children enrolled, with 30 more on the waiting list.

Our classrooms became interactive learning centers. Some students learned about geography by becoming travel agents. Others learned about science by becoming doctors. Still others focused on writing skills by becoming journalists!

After being served lunch, the children enjoyed recreation and field trips until 5 p.m. every weekday.

We were able to offer this camp for free, thanks to the giving of people just like you!



A large part of the mornings were spent working to improve students' reading skills. We concentrated on this area because reading and writing well are foundational to other educational areas and success in life.

Students: "We're leaders, not statistics"

By Daniel Walters
Resource & Youth Dir.

Our youth face many problems today, but I believe, with all my heart, that encouragement and reward for good choices is the best medicine for turning around students who are struggling.

The majority of the students I work with are from single-parent homes, and a few are living with foster families. They have been the victims of rape, neglect and marginalization for their entire lives.

The things they have witnessed are horrendous. They have been the first-hand witnesses of brutal domestic violence and even murders.

They have not made the best life choices so far, but

they refuse to let that define them. We believe in them, and we want to give them the opportunity to overcome the tremendous odds stacked against them.

Not Victims Any Longer

We wanted to combat the sense of entitlement that is so prevalent among the poor in America by showing these students what real poverty was like around the world. Our hope was that as God began to break their hearts for the needy, it would inspire them to act within their own community to bring about change. We did this through Biblical teaching, Acts of Random Kindness (A.R.K.), global outreach and local service projects.

The results were incredible, as our students came to-

gether to feed over 6,700 Sudanese refugees through their volunteer work at Heaven Sent Ministries and clothe 1,800 local residents, Katrina victims and third world families by their work with the Bluefield Union Mission and other local agencies!

Not only did they make an impact on the world this summer, but they were also impacted by what they were able to accomplish as a group. We were able to witness them bloom and grow throughout the course of the summer as they began to see themselves as world changers instead of teen statistics.

People around the community began to take notice as well when the local paper put our story on the front page. The cool thing about all of this is that our "bad kids" have really become community leaders.

Plans for Fall

We have big plans in place this fall for teens in our after-school program. But we need your help to make it happen.

Could you volunteer your time to help us continue changing lives? Contact us today to find out how. You'll be glad you did!



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Youth Director, Daniel Walters, and his wife, Hannah, lead a group of middle school students through Tiffany Manor. The mission on this day was to complete a "random act of kindness" by telling mothers that they are appreciated and giving them a rose. We have found that although many teens have made poor life choices, they are motivated to make positive changes for themselves and others in need.

