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December 5, 2008

Dear Friend,

Your faithful support of the Wade Center has made 2008 a very exciting time in the lives of many area families. In fact, so many things have happened that I couldn't possibly talk about them all in a single letter. So, on the back of this page, you'll see the "Fast Facts of 2008." You should also find enclosed a letter from one of our students, expressing what the Wade Center has meant to her... in her own words.

As you get ready for the holidays, let me ask you to consider a year-end contribution to the Wade Center. I know that things may be difficult in our current economy. Yet your donation – big or small – will keep us moving forward in addressing the spiritual, physical, emotional and intellectual needs of children and youth in our community. Your investment in today's young people will pay huge dividends in the future and help our children become productive, contributing members of society.

It is my hope that the Wade Center will make a difference in our community for years to come. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Brian A. Checchio
Executive Director

In the heart of the community,
with the community in our heart.

FAST FACTS

...FROM 2008



- Our **after-school program**, “Believe and Achieve,” continues to grow. Area educators report a vast improvement in our students’ behavior. Since we monitor report cards, we know that grades are improving. We are very excited to announce that every student who has been enrolled in our after-school program for two years is now **reading on grade level!**

- Wade’s **Super Summer Camps** were **filled to capacity!** Students spent three hours a day in the classroom keeping their study skills strong while enjoying an afternoon full of games and activities.
- Our first summer of **hosting mission teams** was a great success, with 11 church groups from as far away as Alabama and Ohio living in our facility. They worked throughout the community completing **home repair projects for people in need** and helped with our summer camp program. Most of these groups have already signed up to return in 2009.
- Wildfire, one of our **first programs designed for high school students**, has grown like... well, wildfire! Over 60 students now gather for a time of music, teaching and fellowship.
- A grant from the Hugh I. Shott, Jr., Foundation provided funds to renovate our **auditorium**. As a result, our after-school students have been treated to **concerts** and/or presentations from Chris Sligh, Bluefield College’s choirs, Re:Creations, Inhabited, the Drop In Rock Out Tour, J. Frazee and Hudson.



- A grant from the Finish Line sports apparel company provided the funds to upgrade our **outdoor basketball courts**. AEP installed outdoor lighting for us, so this summer, weekends should be filled with outdoor basketball events.
- The City of Bluefield has made funds available from a state grant they’ve received to prepare part of our parking area for a **skateboard park**. With the help of the Downtown Merchant’s Association, we hope to be able to build a first-class skate park by spring.



- Thanks to the generosity of Cole Chevrolet, our **kitchen facilities** now allow us to serve hot, well-balanced meals to all of our children. We have begun a catering business as well, hoping to generate funds for the Wade Center while providing a service to our community.
- A grant from Youthworks! will allow us to begin **Second Chance Enterprises** in January. Those who direct this innovative program will open several service businesses to generate funds for the Wade Center and hire those who need a second chance at employment. A new welding/machinist training program is also in the works for the new year.