



WESLEY HOUSE COMMUNITY CENTER RECEIVES BIG HELP FROM A SMALL CONTRIBUTOR

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Knoxville, Tennessee (January 26, 2010) – Wesley House Community Center (“Wesley House”) recently received a very helpful donation from an unlikely humanitarian. The good Samaritan, small of stature and listing her two favorite things as “visiting Nana and going to Chuck E. Cheese’s,” is none other than 6-year-old Natalie Vaughn. The donation: 2,300 juice boxes to be used for Wesley House’s after school programs.

Natalie attended a WISE (Wellness in Senior Education) luncheon where she overheard that Wesley House had a need for juice boxes. Seeing no reason that she shouldn’t be able to help, despite her age, Natalie approached her pastor at Norwood United Methodist Church, and arranged to speak before the entire congregation to ask for the church’s help.

Natalie is no stranger to giving. Parents Phil and Sharon Vaughn began bringing her along to serve at KARM (Knox Area Rescue Ministries) when she was five. Last year after leaving for the day, Natalie saw the same people she had served earlier walking down the street, in the cold, with nowhere to stay. “It broke my heart,” she said. Because of this experience, Natalie took the initiative to collect blankets for the Lost Sheep Ministry and would later hand them out personally.

Natalie first heard about Wesley House’s need in early December. In only a month’s time, by mid-January, Natalie and Norwood United Methodist had collected 2,300 juice boxes to be donated. Already planning her next charitable act, Natalie told Executive Director Richard Gibson during the drop-off, “When you get down to 20 juice boxes call us, we’ll get you more!”

About Wesley House and How to Help

Wesley House is the second oldest charity in Knoxville. Founded in 1907 by the Methodist Women, the center operated a childcare center for mothers who worked at Brookside Mills. In the 1940s, Wesley House became a National Mission of the United Methodist Church to minister

to families in impoverished areas. Today, Wesley House conducts tutoring sessions, operates a learning center, provides a summer enrichment program, and offers a series of performing arts and cultural activities for at-risk youth in grades 1-5. Wesley House also offers an ongoing educational and social program for senior citizens, focusing on both physical and mental well-being. Wesley House primarily serves the Mechanicsville, Lonsdale, and Beaumont neighborhoods.

For more information on how to follow Natalie's example and help out, visit Wesley House on the web at www.wesleyhouse.com. Wesley House maintains a running list of needs on the Wish List page under "Get Involved."

See attached photo

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