

EASTERN CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S RETREAT

700 Mountain Ave, Wyckoff, NJ 07481
201-848-8005 * www.eccretreat.org

December 2015

And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou has found favour with God. And, behold thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. Luke 1:30-33 KJV

Dear Friends of ECCR,

In the coming weeks, we will remember the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ during the Christmas season. With the new year dawning, this special season provides an opportunity to not only look forward but to look back at the past year and consider all that has transpired. As 2015 comes to a close, we reflect and are thankful for the progress that the Eastern Christian Children's Retreat has made over the past year. We also look forward to 2016 with excitement and anticipation for what lies ahead. Our residents at ECCR will celebrate this Christmas season with family and friends, with our dedicated staff and in the comfort of an organization that is committed to providing individuals with disabilities a place to call home.

The mission of ECCR has remained strong and clear since our original groundbreaking of the Bushman Building in 1972. Our residents continue to receive the care they require and need. As envisioned by our founders – “an opportunity for each individual, according to their hopes and needs, to achieve personal growth and a meaningful life.”

Now, a new groundbreaking initiative is taking place and we remain steadfast in our calling to work side by side with our residents and families.

Several years ago we received notice from the State of New Jersey that our residents will be required to live in homes within our communities. This mandate involved high level planning to ensure that our residents will continue to receive compassion, comfort, and care in their new homes. Today, we are witnessing our residents enjoying the benefits of their new homes, including private bedrooms, which is a first for many!

As we look back on 2015, we are thankful that the Lord has provided a way to meet the demands placed on us as an organization. We also appreciate all those who have stood with ECCR as we launched a historic effort to raise \$1 million towards the establishment of new group homes for many of our residents. During 2015, we cut ribbons to open our new Wyckoff and Waldwick group homes, which now house 11 of our residents. These homes have been supported by our **Building Our Future...Commitment, Compassion, Community Capital Campaign**. As we build and complete two additional homes in Hawthorne and Allendale we are pleased to share with you that we have received tremendous gifts of support from our Board, ECCR families, community leaders, friends and private foundations. To date, we have raised over \$800,000 toward our \$1 million goal; we know the finish line is near.

We invite you to join us in completing this important campaign. We ask you to stand with us, our residents and families, and consider a personal pledge of \$2,500 over a three to five year period. Your commitment will have an impact on the present and future of ECCR as we navigate new waters and transition our residents to community living.

Enclosed is a brochure detailing our efforts as well as a pledge envelope that may be returned to ECCR. We welcome your participation and thank you for all you have done and continue to do for ECCR.

The new year holds great promise for our residents. We wish the same for you and your family.

Wishing you Christmas Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John H. Prol, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

John H. Prol, Jr.
President, Board of Directors