

Center Advocate

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An irregular publication of the Indian Creek Valley Christian Family & Children's Center

The 'home stretch' of our largest project ever!

Every runner knows what we mean by being in 'the home stretch'. Especially after a long run or a marathon, the athlete is pressing through exhaustion and looking forward to crossing the finish line. Spectators are lined up along the race course and cheering on the runners. Can you imagine it?

Building the gym/wellness center has been a two and a half year marathon for us! We can see the end but need your help to finish strong! We have felt your prayers. Many have already donated to the project. Volunteers have literally given months and years of their lives to make this a reality. Everyone is tired but exhilarated at the same time. This is the biggest project that we have taken on in the 43 years of the Center's history. And, we know that it isn't about the building itself, but about seeing the gym/stage/wellness center being used for God's glory!



We recently held a ribbon cutting ceremony when we dedicated the building in November. It was a wonderful time of celebration and praising the Lord!

Pictured are from left to right: from the Mountain Laurel Chamber of Commerce, Deanna Richter, President, and Stefanie Cramer,

Executive Director; from the Christian Family & Children's Center, Dr. Allyn Ricketts, Vice President, and Roy Laux, President; Jack Mathews gym project coordinator; Trevor McCalmont, Champion Christian School Athletic Director; Pastor Randy Winemiller, President of the Laurel Mountain Ministerial Association; Dave Lohr, Fayette County Commissioner and Center Advisory Board member; Nate Nevala, District Chief of Staff for US Representative Guy Reschenthaler; Dr. D. Merle Skinner, Center Executive Director and Barb Skinner, Center Development Director.

As we enter the final months of this year, we reflect on the incredible journey we've taken together. God has blessed us with an amazing staff and generous friends who have supported our mission. Every day God is using the Center to provide hope and healing to so many people. Praise the Lord! **THANK YOU** to everyone that has contributed financially and through giving time and talents to develop this new state-of-the-art facility. In addition to the gymnasium, this space will host high-quality Christian concerts, events, and theatrical productions while promoting health and wellness in our community.

Pictured below is the beautiful hard wood floor in the gym.

Many of you have asked how you can help us finish the year strong.

Here are three impactful ways to make a difference:

1. **Capital Campaign:** We have raised almost 1.34 million dollars and met our initial goal to build the building itself. However, the final projected cost with contents is closer to \$1.6 million dollars. We still need to raise over \$250,000 to reach this milestone. Your support can help secure this amazing facility for future generations.

2. **EITC Participation:** If you live in Pennsylvania, pay PA state taxes, and haven't yet participated in the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program, now is the perfect time! You can choose to donate part or all of your tax liability to the Center, provide financial aid to help families choose Champion Christian School, **AND** get 90% of that donation back in a tax credit! It's a simple way to support families in our community. Please consider this easy way to leverage your state tax dollars. [Learn more about EITC on a recent podcast](#) at www.champion.org/podcasts.



Pictured is the front lobby area of the Gym/Wellness center lit up at night.



3. **General Fund Contributions:** A gift to our general fund allows us to continue providing enriching Christian experiences for families in our community. Some of you may be interested in how to make a difference beyond this lifetime. Listen to our Board president discuss legacy giving on a recent podcast. www.champion.org/podcasts

If the Lord is laying it on your heart to include the Center in your end of year giving here is how you can donate. To give by credit card, go to our secure site www.champion.org/donate. Many donors have chosen to set up their donations to recur monthly. To do that you will be prompted to set up a user and then you can select the amounts and times you want your donations to go through. Checks can be made out to: Christian Family & Children's Center and mailed to 2166 Indian Head Rd Champion, PA 15622. Some donors have set up recurring donations through their own bank payment systems. If you choose to do that, please note either capital campaign or general fund on your gift.

So, as we are in the 'home stretch', can you help us reach the finish line? Together, we can make a lasting impact for the Lord. Your donation, no matter what size, will bring us one step closer to providing a facility where our community can thrive in both physical and spiritual wellness. We will continue to focus our efforts on using each dollar wisely to ensure that the Center will continue educate, equip and engage the world for Christ for years to come!

May God bless you!

Christian Family & Children's Center Staff and Leadership

Educating...Equipping...Engaging the World for Christ!

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Christian Family & Children's Center
2166 Indian Head Rd.
Champion, PA 15622
www.champion.org
info@champion.org

