



The Vashti Voice

Healthy families, healthy communities.

From Our Executive Director

Summertime Transitions

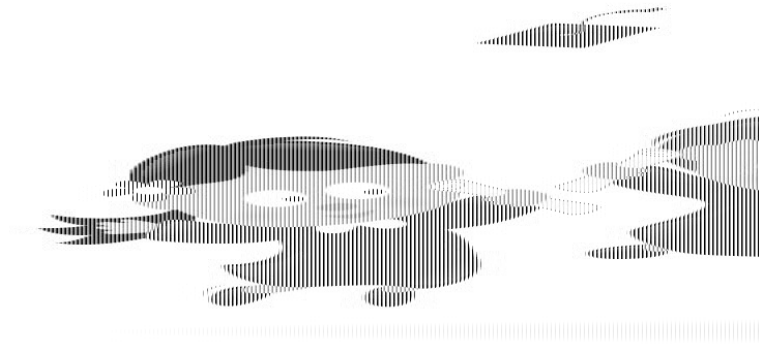
As we transition from spring to summer here at Vashti, we reflect on some of the successes of our youth. We had two of our youth graduate from Thomasville High School, both wonderful kids who worked hard to get there. One of them is a young lady who was accepted to SEVEN different colleges, graduated with honors, and was a member of the Odyssey of the Mind Academic Team. In the fall she'll be attending Valdosta State University, and we could not be more excited for her as she transitions into this next phase of her life. We had another young lady who in the spring auditioned for the Thomasville Music and Drama Troupe, became a member, and performed in the spring show. Several staff and all of her cottage mates attended and were happy to support her. She came up to me afterwards and told me she was so thankful for having had that opportunity. When asked if she had performed in front of anyone before, she answered yes, she said she would sometimes accompany her dad to his Alcoholics Anonymous meetings and sing to the group.

There are several more instances of great things our kids are doing. It's also important to recognize the effort and people it takes to provide the safe and nurturing environment for our youth at Vashti. I am so thankful for the dedicated staff who make certain that the youth make it to school, practices, and doctors' appointments as well ensuring they are fed and clothed. I deeply appreciate our Vashti mentors, who play a vital role in cultivating positive relationships for our children. These individuals volunteer their time to be on campus and an encouraging force to our kids. I am also grateful for the support from our community, whether it be from individuals, churches, businesses, or service clubs, its make me very proud to be part of an organization that is so widely supported by our incredibly giving community. It is in that vein that that we look forward to summer at Vashti, and having the kids do what kids do during the summer. So we'll be taking trips to the movies, theme parks, spending time at the pool, and having grill outs on our campus. It takes a village to provide this environment for our children and I thank you for being a part of our wonderful, loving, spirit-filled village.

1 Peter 3:8 Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble.

Blessings,
Elijah

Congratulations to Our Graduates!



We are incredibly proud to congratulate two of our youth for graduating from Thomasville High School this year! The future for these two are looking bright - one is headed to Valdosta State University to begin her college career, while the other is planning on joining the United States Armed Forces.

Your support of Vashti gives us the resources we need to make sure that all of our youth can leave us with a future brighter than the sun. If you'd like to send your own words of encouragement to our graduates, send an email or card to our offices to the attention of 2017 Graduates.

Email: lizw@vashti.org

Mail: ATTN: Class of 2017, 1815 E Clay Street, Thomasville, GA 31792

It Takes a Village

Meet Adante.

Adante spent a little more than a year with us and, as with most of us, looking back with 20/20 vision gives him more insight into who he is and what he needed in order to succeed.

"I was at Vashti for a little over a year, and attended the Scholars Academy. Being here helped me realize the behaviors I needed to change to ultimately better myself in the long run. This experience has helped shape me into the person I am today. The staff here are truly blessings in disguise. I may not have realized it then, but I do now."

Adante has just finished up his freshman year at Valdosta State University, majoring in Sports Management. We couldn't be more proud.



Preserving Your Legacy

Summer is a time for us to spend time with our loved ones and reflect on our life and the impact we will leave on the world. Remember us in your will and help us continue to keep God as our cornerstone as we serve children and families in need.

For more information on how to leave your mark at Vashti, call Susan O'Neal at 226-4634.

Easter Concert at Vashti

Our concert was a resounding success! We had fabulous music, a fantastic MC, and great treats from The Mix. Our youth and staff, along with friends from the community, were able to enjoy an afternoon on our front lawn listening to Mike Mobley preach the Gospel in between announcing our performers. We got to enjoy Brian Morgan and Austin Falconer from Thomasville First Methodist, MC Campbell, and Moving Forward Concert Choir all in one show. So awesome! Thank you to all of our performers and guests for joining us in this glorious afternoon! For more pictures of the event, visit our [Vashti Center Facebook page](#).



Members of the Moving Forward Concert Choir.



Members of Palmyra United Methodist Church Albany enjoying the afternoon.



Chelsea from The Mix-Thomasville serving up yogurt with a smile!

We Need YOU!



It's summer time! And that means that it's time for our youth to enjoy all the awesome fun summer has to offer.

During the summer months, we love for our youth to have as many adventures as possible - theme parks, swimming, movies - all the fun stuff kids like to enjoy while taking a break from school.

Our activities budget is not the only account that sees the impact, but also our food budget. With our youth home during the summer, meal costs will rise, equaling to \$350 per day. Have you seen a teenager eat? Where does it all go?!

Here at Vashti, we want to make sure we can provide not just the best care for our youth, but the chance to be a kid. Activities for the summer are sourced from our operating budget and/or our Heart and Soul Fund. If you'd like to help our youth have the best summer ever, [click here](#).

For a full needs list, [click here](#).

If you're looking for other ways to give to Vashti, we have opportunities for child sponsorship by you, your youth group, prayer group, Sunday School class, or church - even your book club! Our mentoring program is also a chance to build healthy and productive relationships with our residents. Both programs are a tremendous benefit to not just the child, but also to those who are involved. It's a way to actively pray and support a child in our residential program.

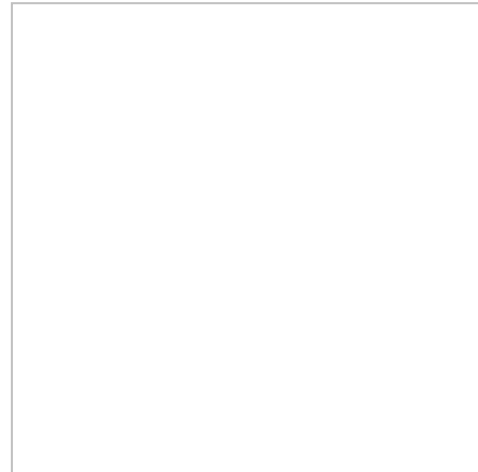
Our Quarter In Pictures



Musicians Austin Falconer and Brian Morgan of [Thomasville First Methodist](#) at the Easter Concert.



[Kiwanis Club](#) Treasurer Roy Long presents Executive Director Elijah Miranda with a donation of over \$1000.



During [Hand on Thomas County](#) Volunteer Week, we delivered cookies to some of our great volunteers, including Thomas County Federal.

Our favorite [Dodie](#) brought flowers and flower pots for our girls to decorate and enjoy!

Dinner on the Bricks 2017

Mark your calendars! It's time to start thinking of what your table theme will be at this year's [Dinner on the Bricks](#).

Dinner on the Bricks is our annual fundraiser, but it's really our annual party! This year we'll be in Thomasville's newest attraction - the amphitheater.



Tables will go on sale beginning August 1. If you'd like to sponsor a table, contact Susan O'Neal at susano@vashti.org or (229)226-4634.

[Donate Now](#)

A Word from Our Chaplain

For the last 9 years we have gone to the beach with my wife's family. We have certain things



Pastor Shane speaking at the Pastor's Breakfast.

we always do, as we seek to build memories together. We'll get ice-cream after successfully completed Christmas card pictures or crab hunting on the beach. One thing in recent years has been putting a puzzle together. Usually it is more difficult puzzle with 1000 or more pieces. The last few years all of the grandchildren have helped in the process which means by the end of the week we seem to end up with at least one piece missing. Thus the beautiful picture remains unfinished. This year most of the children are older and we needed their help to finish, (especially since we had to wait out Tropical storm Cindy). For some reason many

of the pieces ended up losing the cardboard backing, so when we looked closely at the finished picture you could tell there was a problem

As I watched everyone work on the puzzle this year, I kept thinking about our walk with God. Sometimes we too are missing some pieces, or maybe have had that which makes us stable pulled away. Our children here at Vashti certainly have missing pieces in their lives. I was reminded that love never fails. 1 Corinthians 13, says that love never fails and never gives up. Only God can fill those missing pieces in our life with a love that has no end.

My prayer is for us to learn to walk in God's perfect love, and let him fill us with his spirit so that there are no missing pieces in our lives.

Where are your missing puzzle pieces? How are you completing your picture?

In Him,
Shane Lovvorn, Chaplain

With God as our cornerstone, we foster healing, hope, and transformation to empower and promote resiliency in children, families, and communities in Georgia.



Vashti is in a covenant relationship with the United Methodist Women national office.

