



**The Still Place**

FOR FAMILIES WITH SERIOUSLY ILL CHILDREN



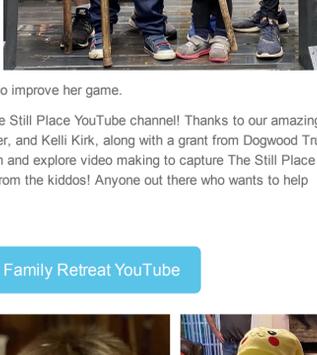
## Happy Fall! Happy Halloween! October has been chocked full of oh so many treats!

### Open for Fun!

Donned with masks and social distancing, we opened our doors again on September 22 to welcome The Richards family all the way from Cali!

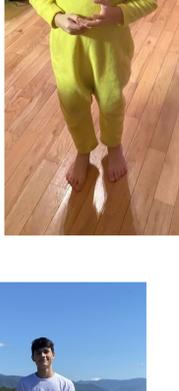
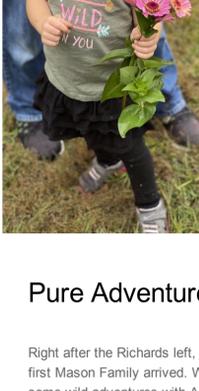
They had their suitcases filled with love and joy that exploded into The Still Place when they unpacked. What an amazing family! All of our little visitors will be glad to know that their brilliant IT Unicorn Daddy, Ronnie, hooked up the Wii and all the video equipment! Now if we could just keep track of the remotes!

Dr. Dawn and Nicholas made their first YouTube Video. Click on the link below to check it out! It's a little rusty, but Dr. Dawn promises to improve her game.



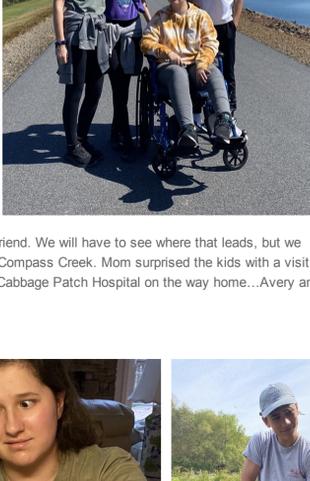
While you are at it, subscribe to The Still Place YouTube channel! Thanks to our amazing volunteer Eddie Hales, Kayla Tucker, and Kelli Kirk, along with a grant from Dogwood Trust for equipment, we are ready to learn and explore video making to capture The Still Place Family memories with direct input from the kiddos! Anyone out there who wants to help raise your hand!

[Richard Family Retreat YouTube](#)



### Pure Adventure!

Right after the Richards left, the first Mason Family arrived. We had some wild adventures with Ava's new wheels, making it to Anna Ruby Falls, the Chatuge Dam, and Still Water Landings Farm. Thanks to Julie Shaw from Sunrise Yoga for an amazing restorative yoga session right at The Still Place in front of the fireplace on a chilly Saturday morning. Ava said it was way better than any Physical Therapy session. Sometimes we forget how good it feels to get our bodies stretched out on the floor. They noticed Gnomon was a little lonely, so they found him a little girlfriend. We will have to see where that leads, but we think a little love is in the air beside Compass Creek. Mom surprised the kids with a visit to the one-of-a-kind, weirdly wonderful Cabbage Patch Hospital on the way home...Avery and Tacey, the legend lives on!

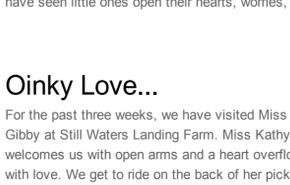


### Our Happy Flying Boys!

Then, Dr. Dawn's Flying Mason Boys arrived! So much joy and movement popped out of that car. We had non-stop fun with flying frisbees, buzzing Yellow Jackets picnicking with us at Jack Rabbit, hiking barefoot (guess that's called nature bathing these days), talking bean

bags, swinging high, and horseback riding. We also enjoyed sweet moments of talking, watching Mulan, and having little conversations with the emerging Julian and his family. Julian suffered what is essentially a stroke from a ruptured Arterio-Venous Malformation at 10 months of age. Now six, he is just now starting to have conversations with his mom, write his name on the chalkboard, and draw characters as he watches cartoons.

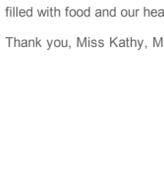
October is AVM awareness month. Along with 2 other TSP conquerors, Larsen and Shelby, these three kids have had to learn everything all over again from walking, talking, and finding their way again in the world. Such determination never ceases to amaze us!



### Lydia Wins Youth Video Contest!

Lydia Steudle won our Youth Video Contest. She used her old school camera to create a video that captures a child's view of The Still Place retreat from travel to returning home. Congrats, Lydia, and keep up the good work!

[Lydia's Video](#)



### Ch..ch..changes...

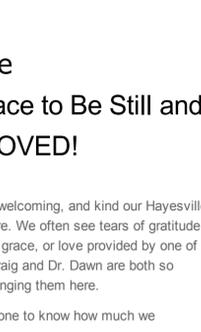
Sadly, we said goodbye to the fabulous Kelli Kirk this month as she returns to her planned retirement and enjoyment of her grandchildren. She transformed the organization with her administrative gifts. Thankfully, she is sticking around as a volunteer!

Happily, we quickly welcomed Heather Creamer as our new combined Director of Operations and for now, Program Director! Heather jumped right in joining Dr. Dawn and Dr. Craig on all of our wild adventures. Heather has so many gifts from leading choirs, managing a large recreational property, hosting large events, to managing daycares. But her superpower is joyful love and connection to kids. Already, we have seen little ones open their hearts, and joys to her.

### Oinky Love...

For the past three weeks, we have visited Miss Kathy Gibby at Still Waters Landing Farm. Miss Kathy welcomes us with open arms and a heart overflowing with love. We get to ride on the back of her pickup truck as we visit her pig families, piglets, chickens, and greenhouses. We always leave with our basket filled with food and our hearts filled with happiness!

Thank you, Miss Kathy, Mr. Keith, and Mr. Andrew!



## Hayesville Definitely the Best Ever Place to Be Still and Know You are LOVED!

Over and over again, our families express how loving, welcoming, and kind our Hayesville community of businesses, churches, and volunteers are. We often see tears of gratitude as parents and kids describe a moment of connection, grace, or love provided by one of our vendors, business supporters, or volunteers. Dr. Craig and Dr. Dawn are both so grateful to the Hayesville community and to God for bringing them here.

Just this month, all this happened. We just want everyone to know how much we appreciate all of our local spontaneous support!

Our volunteers packed up 40 WE STILL CARE boxes that were sent to all of the families that had to be cancelled or rescheduled due to COVID-19.

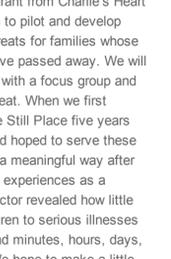
Dr. Dawn went in to Just Stitchin', our local quilt shop, to get a little help on Dr. Craig's holiday surprise. Rosie Mashburn, the owner and her staff, loaded her down with beautiful quilts for The Still Place and our families. What a talented and loving crew!

Then, as we were hiking on Chatuge Dam, we bumped into Julie Shaw, owner of Sunrise Yoga Studio. She graciously agreed to come out and do yoga with us a few days later.

Pam Roman from the Clay County Chamber of Commerce came over to our office and facilitated filming a segment for local internet TV spot.

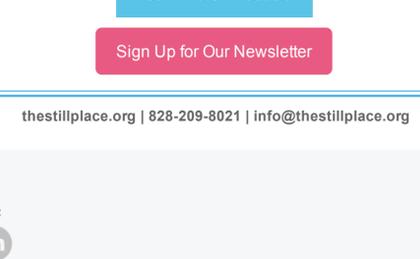
Someone delivered a box to the wrong office, and when we delivered it to Polished, they offered to donate pedicures!

And then, Pharus group agreed to help recruit Kelli's replacement and a new Program Director. And all this just in October! Thank you everyone for loving our Still Place Families so well!



### charlie's heart foundation

We were privileged this month to receive a grant from Charlie's Heart Foundation to pilot and develop special retreats for families whose children have passed away. We will be starting with a focus group and Mom's retreat. When we first started The Still Place five years ago, we had hoped to serve these families in a meaningful way after Dr. Dawn's experiences as a hospice doctor revealed how little sustained support is out there for families who have lost their children to serious illnesses of all types. We have now unfortunately witnessed firsthand the sad minutes, hours, days, months, and years of pain and sorrow the entire family endures. We hope to make a little difference in the lives of these precious families. Thank you, Rebecca and Michael, for making Charlie's Heart a healing force in the world.



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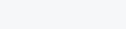
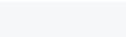
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