



But!

Little things. little words. can change everything. Such is the case with the little word. "BUT."

by Tara Kelley, Director of Disability Ministries

Jahsin is a young man who has an intellectual disability and occasionally aggressive behaviors that can be challenging at home and at school. The first night Jahsin came to Bible club with his mom, after some initial conversation about needs and details, we calmly said, "See you at 7:45." Mom looked surprised and replied, "BUT—are you sure you're okay without me?" We said she was welcome to stay, BUT we have the staff to serve Jahsin and would be delighted to do so. Mom sat in her car in the parking lot for the hour and 15-minute club, waiting for an emergency "Come back now!" call. BUT no such call was made. At 7:45 she came in asking, "Was Jahsin okay? Did he hit or kick anyone or anything?" No...Jahsin had been *fine*! She was happy, BUT also a little (pleasantly so) surprised. In the months following, Jahsin returned with his mom, BUT she no longer stayed in the parking lot waiting for a phone call. She left to go shopping or to have coffee with a friend. "BUT if I leave?????" was no longer a concern. Recently, Jahsin's mom came, greeted the staff, got Jahsin his nametag, signed him in, gave him a hug, said goodbye and headed for the door. On her way out, she looked back at us and, with emotion filling her voice, said, "That just made me feel like a normal mom."

BUT that's what we do! God allows us to provide a place of teaching the Truth of God's Word and disciple individuals in an environment that *fits* their unique needs. As we hear about an individual's or family's inability to attend church—yes, church—because a child's behaviors or special needs were "too distracting, too difficult to handle, too distressing for the other children..."—or even being asked to leave church, OUR DOORS ARE OPEN. BUT wait... ***We Don't Have Doors Of Our Own...Yet!***

And therein lies the challenge. While we are grateful for places opening their doors to us for ministry, the challenges of using those facilities are increasing as the number of individuals we serve, and their needs, are increasing. Environmental factors over which we have no control escalate behaviors. Most places are not built with attentiveness to the way the slightest sound can reverberate off walls or floors, magnifying it to an intolerable level for someone with ADHD or Autism. Those who thrive on routine where small changes can trigger unwelcomed behaviors struggle when we are asked to meet in a different room. In that unfamiliar environment, they never sit down for the lesson, spending their time pacing in the back of the class because, "This is not my classroom!" Most churches are not accessible to people using a wheelchair or with mobility challenges, so finding a new meeting location is not an option. This summer at Handi*Camp, we had to make changes that prevented us from serving everyone we would like to serve. Why? We have no camp facility with space to grow! We had to recommend to new families, "Do not apply for camp this year. We have no room."

We share these challenges so you are aware that the H*VMI Ministry Center project is not just a wonderful dream. It has become a need. Parents in our support groups *need* a place to meet. Our Bible clubbers *need* a chapel and



classrooms they can come to knowing the factors we explained earlier will be right for them! Our Handi*Campers *need* dorms to sleep in. We *need* a kitchen and a dining hall where we can prepare and serve meals. We *need* a place to do ministry. We *need* to finish the H*VMI Ministry Center, and the time is now! We *need* to make big strides forward, and we *need* your help.

Construction is underway—and we believe the incredible, quick progress is a direct answer to prayer. BUT, with building progress comes expenses. The *only* thing holding us back from completing the project and being able to have all our ministries (Grief, Disability, Training) on site in 2024 (including our 50th summer of Handi*Camp!) is finances. We look to and trust Him to be the One to provide. He can do that directly, BUT there are many examples in Scripture of God's people being asked to be part of His answer. 1 Chronicles 29 lays out the plan for how the temple would be built—through God's people! No *one* person had *all* the resources. BUT together—WOW! Look out! God was going to do it *through* His people, working together, to construct something that would amaze everyone. That temple would be used as a place of learning and worship; and to bring glory to God.

¹⁴ "But who am I and who are my people that we should be able to offer as generously as this? For all things come from You, and from Your hand we have given to You. ...¹⁶ LORD our God, all this abundance that we have provided to build You a house for Your holy name, it is from Your hand, and everything is Yours. ¹⁷ Since I know, my God, that You put the heart to the test and delight in uprightness, I, in the integrity of my heart, have willingly offered all these things; so now with joy I have seen Your people, who are present here, make their offerings willingly to You." 1 Chronicles 29:14, 16-17 (NASB)

We realize we are not building a temple! BUT we are building a place of worship, teaching and training. From the start, the H*VMI Property and everything that was to be built upon it were dedicated to the Lord. It is His. The ministry is His. The people who will be served there are His. **The need for this project is GREAT as H*VMI serves families in need according to our God-given**

mission. However, apart from HIS People, HIS Purposes, HIS Glory and HIS Plan—we would not be here and there would be no need. God has given us a burden for people facing life's challenges. He has also grown the ministry in ways where the most effective way to continue that work is at our own place. Please consider joining us in spreading the word about this project to help meet this need that will in turn be used to impact the lives of those affected by disability or grief.

Please be creative on how you can help (*see the box below for creative ideas*)...and please be watching for the answer that will be, "BUT GOD did it!" **Thank you!**

How You Can Help

- Ask your church or a business if you can put out a "pickle jar" for donations (our first donations were collected in a pickle jar on our check-in table at Handi*Camp)—or to take a one-time special project offering.
- Hold a "by donation" car wash.
- Plan a bake sale or sub sale.
- Invite Family and friends to join you in holding a Yard Sale.
- Spread the word via Facebook, linking them to our website Property Page, (hvmi.org/project-purpose-need) and ask each of your friends to post... and their friends to post...

Additional promotional materials (posters, digital formats for use on social media, etc.) can be found at:

hvmi.org/reachthegoal



from Kyle Robinson,
Executive Director



H*VMI's goal is to have the Ministry Center Office and Site work completed AND fully paid for by our 50th Anniversary Month—October of this year. That is just a few months away!

We are asking **you** to share this project with others, and be part of **inspiring others to donate \$50 to the Ministry Center Project in celebration of H*VMI's 50th Anniversary.** Consider sharing with your church; your business or a business you patronize; and your family, friends, neighbors or small group members. John Heywood famously said, "Many hands make light work." That concept was not new when he said it! Ecclesiastes 4:9 says, "Two are better than one..." **If everyone who receives this mailing donates \$50 and you find at least ten people to donate \$50, TOGETHER we will meet this goal!** Any monies received after this portion of the project is paid for will go toward the next portion of construction—the camp/retreat facilities.

Please see the box to the left for some creative ideas for engaging others in helping to meet this goal—and in turn blessing those we serve!

Visit

HVMI.ORG/reachthegoal to:

- **LEARN** who we are, who we serve, and the purpose for this project.
- **FIND** progress updates, pictures, and information on how you can help us spread the word even further!
- **GIVE NOW ONLINE**
- OR -
- Return this slip with your gift payable to H*VMI/Property, PO Box 122, Akron PA 17501.
- Call our office at 717.859.4777.
- Text **GIVE** to 717.210.4759.
- SCAN the QR code



Please complete the following:

I/We received this slip from:

Name(s) _____

City, State _____

I/We will pray weekly until the total property project goal is met.

I/We would like someone to CONTACT ME/US about this project.

I/We believe in H*VMI's mission and want to bless you and those you serve by being part of the 50/50 Challenge. Here is my/our gift of: _____

\$50 by your 50th Anniversary (10/2023)

Other \$ _____

Please PRINT:

My/Our Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

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- Please bill my credit card:
 Visa MasterCard Discover AmEx



I/We would like to join with you as partners in reaching the goal:

I/We will Pray Weekly until the total property project goal is met.

I/We would like someone to CONTACT ME/US about this project.

I/We plan to pass on the "SHARE SLIPS" to others who may be interested in this project.

I/We believe in H*VMI's mission and want to bless you and those you serve by being part of the "50-50 Challenge."

Here is my/our gift of:

\$50 by your 50th Anniversary (October 2023)

Other \$ _____

▲ Credit Card No. _____

▲ Exp. Date (MM/YY) _____ ▲ Security Code _____

▲ Signature _____ ▲ Date _____

▲ Name (If giving by credit card, please print your name as shown on the card.) _____

▲ Street or PO Box _____

▲ City _____

▲ State _____ ▲ Zip _____

▲ Phone _____

▲ Email _____

Please complete information above, cut off and return to address below. We need your name for receipting purposes. Thank you for providing an envelope.



H*VMI • PO Box 122, Akron PA, 17501

JULY 2023



H*VMI Upcoming Events

Visit hvmi.org/upcoming-events

or call our office at 717.859.4777 for details or to RSVP.

- August 5** **Disability Ministry All-Family Picnic**
(Bible Club, PIP and Handi*Camp)
Akron PA
- August 26** **BASIS Picnic** (for bereaved parents)
Akron PA
- September 14** **Annual Charity Golf Outing**
Tanglewood Manor Golf Club, Quarryville PA
- September 30** **All-Family 50th Birthday Party for H*VMI**
H*VMI Property, Akron PA
- October 14** **50th Anniversary Luncheon Celebration and Office Dedication/Open House**
Yoder's Banquet Center, New Holland PA/H*VMI Property, Akron PA



Prayer

- For God's abundant provision for the finances to continue building until ALL Ministry Center buildings are complete, even in time for our 50th summer of camp in 2024.
- For effective ministry planning and implementation for the 2023-2024 year, especially in the midst of transitions, including the office move.



Who?

H*VMI is a Christian ministry of compassion seeking to spread the Gospel and to bring God's Hope and Truth to the people we serve.

What?

Construction of a Ministry Center specially designed to meet the needs of those we serve.

Why?

Never having had facilities of our own, H*VMI's growing ministry needs a permanent place to continue and expand parent support groups, retreat programs, camping programs for people with disabilities, discipleship Bible clubs, and training services.

How?

With partners like you joining us in reaching the goal through our

"50-50 Challenge"

a \$50 donation by H*VMI's 50th Anniversary (October 2023).

The BIGGER Challenge:
Share this project (hvmi.org/reachthegoal) and inspire others to join you in making a difference!

We look forward to God's provision for this project in a way that can ONLY be explained by,

"God Did It!"



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H*VMI's "50-50 Challenge"



Tear Off the panels to the left to share with others.



H*VMI Vision Statement

H*VMI provides support, programs, resources and training so the people we serve may be included as growing and serving members of the Body of Christ.

Ministry Center Progress



April 3



May 4



May 5



June 7