



Hunter McCray of Supply, NC, grandson of Hester McCray, and Linda Thomas of Bolivia, NC, daughter of Mrs. McCray, pose by a portrait of Mrs. McCray that was added to Boys and Girls Homes *Leadership Wall* at the April 18, 2009 trustees meeting.

Boys and Girls Homes Trustees recognize Hester McCray for service as Interim President

The trustees of Boys and Girls Homes of North Carolina recognized Hester McCray for her service as Interim Executive Director at their April 18, 2009 meeting by unveiling a portrait that will hang in the fellowship hall of the Leamon Rogers Memorial Chapel alongside those of past Executive Directors/Presidents of the Homes.

Hester McCray came to Boys Home in 1958 to support her husband R.N. “Rube” McCray in his efforts to grow the agency into a viable institution for change for children suffering from abuse, neglect, or who were “otherwise on-the-street.” She served alongside her husband in ministering to the hundreds of young men who came to the Homes.

One of those young men was Jerry Parrish - the first Boys Home resident to graduate from high school and who went on to a distinguished career, became a wonderful husband, father, and grandfather, serve as a member of the Homes' Board of Trustees and lead as its Board Chairman from 2000-2002.

At the April 18 trustee's quarterly meeting Parrish spoke about Mrs. McCray, who became Interim Executive Director following her husband's death in November 1972, and what a difference she made to him and the other boys who lived at the Homes during that period. "What a wonderful person she was! She taught me many things including how to hold a fork, fold a napkin, and behave at a sock hop! She was our surrogate mom to those of us who didn't have a mom. Mrs. McCray was proud of the boys who lived here but more importantly, she wanted them to be proud of themselves!"

Another of those young men was Tom Simmons of Boiling Springs Lakes, NC, a retired educator who now serves as Vice Chairman of the Homes Board of Trustees and Chairman of the Trustees' Executive Committee. Simmons noted that "Mrs. McCray also was very special to me. She did many wonderful things, involving me in the choir, teaching me skills that would be helpful in life, believing in me, and encouraging me to believe in myself. I am delighted that the many good things she did for the Boys Home boys and the service she gave the Homes is being recognized. She is truly deserving!"

McCray, now deceased, served as interim director until the employment of Les Craft in December 1973. She was also first chairman of the Lake Waccamaw Depot Museum that was headed up by the Woman's Club of Lake Waccamaw. McCray was honored by the trustees with the unveiling of her portrait that now hangs among those of other past directors/presidents of the Homes that include: A.D. Peacock, her husband R.N. "Rube" McCray, Lester R. Craft, Stuart Sherman, Bill Thompson, Jr., and Becky Wray. Hester and Rube had three children; Nancy, Linda and Bill. In attendance for the recognition were their daughter Linda Thomas and her husband Bob and a grandson, Hunter McCray.

Boys and Girls Homes President Gary Faircloth noted that "Until this day the portraits of our former leaders hanging on the wall here in the fellowship hall were only of men but there were many women who were very active in the work of this Home in making a difference for children. Today we unveil the portrait of a lady who was very special in the history and leadership of this home. We are proud to recognize her service."

Boys and Girls Homes welcome visitors to the campus and particularly to the Leamon Rogers Memorial Chapel. For additional information telephone 910-646-3083.