

FROM THE DESK OF  
*Dorsey Johnson*  
DIRECTOR

I don't like to use the word "desperate," but that's how it is. There are teenagers waiting right now. Read on...

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[name]  
[address 1]  
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[city, ST zip]

Dear Friend,

- \* Do you remember how your own eyes gleamed when you let go of the back of your son's bike, and his wobbly peddling became steadier and steadier?
- \* Do you remember guiding his hands the first time he held a hammer, or pushed a lawn mower, or swung a golf club?
- \* Do you remember the swell in your heart the first time someone at a restaurant or store complimented you on how polite and well-mannered your children were?

If you're a parent, you understand. Especially if you're a father.

You understand the satisfaction, the joy—the pride—of teaching your children, sharing your life skills with them and watching them succeed.

Maybe those feelings are why you got involved with Cary Christian Center in the first place. You recognized that "breaking the cycle of poverty" is not just a financial transaction.

*It's a legacy you leave.*

That sense of legacy is probably what drew Rich Leck to this ministry. He had heard Dr. Boelens (our founder) speak about poverty and unemployment in the Delta, and Rich couldn't ignore the images in his mind of young men standing around without skills, without a trade.

Without a purpose.

Rich Leck wanted to change that image. He had skills he wanted to share—he was a master woodworker, proud of his craftsmanship.

So Rich and his wife Winefred came from California to Cary for two months that spring, and Rich offered a woodworking class. Only three young men showed up, and only one of those stuck with it, which may sound like small potatoes.

But those small potatoes are an incredible harvest!



(continued)

Phil Griffen was that one young man. He spent a week in the classroom with Rich Leck, and then began applying his learning. The older man and the younger man spent time together, hovered over tools, covered in shavings and sawdust, carving out a future.

Thinking back on their time in the woodshop, Rich Leck recalls, "Phil was a young man who stuck with it and applied himself. He asked questions. He took instruction. He worked hard." It was gratifying for Rich to see Phil get better and better with each new project.

When someone told Phil about a job opportunity at a lumber yard in Vicksburg, Phil asked Mr. Leck to write him a recommendation. Rich was happy to do so.

*The older man and the younger man  
spent time **TOGETHER**,  
**HOVERED** over tools,  
**COVERED** in shavings and sawdust,  
**CARVING** out a future.*

Not only did Phil get the job, he worked there for eight years. Already in his second year he was promoted to foreman! And with the influence and respect he earned, he was able to make opportunities for nine other young Cary men who were looking for work.

Phil appreciates the woodworking skills Rich Leck shared with him, but just as important were the life lessons. "I learned three things," he says, "1- Being on time for work is important. 2- Doing the job right the first time will save you headaches. 3- Being courteous to people will take you a long way in life."

That's the legacy one man left in the life of another, through Cary Christian Center.

That's the legacy you share. Because you understand what's *involved* in changing a life.

Rich Leck is 87 years old now. He still blesses people with his woodworking skills—creating, fixing, and occasionally teaching. But I wonder if any of the blessings he shares have had as much impact as the investment he made in Phil Griffen. Phil Griffen is not only a skilled tradesman and a valuable employee, he's also a husband and father.

*Is that the kind of impact you want to have? We can't do it without you.*

Maybe you'll be like Rich Leck and visit the Delta in person, investing in people here one-on-one. We'd love that!

Or maybe you'll invest from a distance, and simply enclose your check and mail it back today. We'd love that too.

Either way, we look forward to one day sharing the stories of the lives you've changed!

*Dorsey*

Dorsey Johnson, Director

**P.S.** I've enclosed a card with this letter that you can use to tell us what kind of impact you'd like to have. Could you mail it back to me before you go on vacation? As one of our supporters, you may ask, "How are you doing—really doing—financially?" Truth is, we are down. We are praying about areas to cut back, and we are tightening up everywhere we can. Please send a gift, so we can keep reaching our "Phils"!