

Getting children back on track in school and life



Nick is making big strides thanks to Minnick school

Just one short year ago, things were looking pretty bleak for Nick*, a bright eight-year-old who loves to read. After spending a successful year in 2007-08 at the Wytheville campus of Minnick Education Centers learning how to compensate for attention deficit and other challenges, his home situation deteriorated and his behavior started deteriorating as well.

Nick spent last year in a residential facility healing from that trauma, returning not to his mother's home, but to live with his grandparents. This fall when he came back to Minnick, the staff helped him deal with feelings of abandonment and worked with his grandparents to come up with appropriate consequences to help him behave. Nick still needs help in managing his frustration and anger, but he is making big strides. Now in third grade and working at or above his grade level, there is a good chance that he will return to his home school prepared to take his place next to his classmates.

This fall the three Minnick schools in Wytheville, Roanoke and Harrisonburg opened with 155 students. MEC staff works with educators from 24 localities to give children the individualized instruction and counseling that they need to be successful in school—and life. LFSVA also strengthens families, helps individuals adopt from foster care and in the U.S., recruits and trains foster parents, supports those who are grieving and offers services for older adults. Thank you on behalf of those we serve.

**Name has been changed for privacy.*

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LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SOUTHERN SEMINARY



Deanna Scheffel
Class of 2012



Grateful thanks from a future pastor

“I give thanks to God that the Holy Spirit has inspired the Virginia Synod to provide financial support for the education of its future pastors through the United Lutheran Appeal. The contributions you make help alleviate the day-to-day concerns of the seminary so the focus can be on creating a nurturing environment for the education and formation of future pastors for the church. I feel blessed to be attending the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, a seminary rich in academics and spiritual formation, which is also strongly connected to communities such as the Virginia Synod. Thank you for being a part of our community of faith through your support and prayers.”

The gratitude expressed by Deanna Scheffel, a member of Our Saviour Lutheran Church in Warrenton, Virginia, represents the appreciation of all the students gathered in Christian community at Southern Seminary.

Contributions made through ULA, says President Marcus Miller, “are the source of unrestricted money that helps the seminary to pay light bills, salaries, buy books for the library, maintain the buildings and grounds, provide student services, and much more. These are not glamorous projects but necessary for the functioning of the seminary. You are indeed a blessing to all of us here, and I thank you.”

The seminary community is deeply grateful for its long-standing relationship with the Virginia Synod, and for the Synod's faithful financial support.

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