

SUNSHINE

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Methodist Children's Home
Offering Hope Since 1890



In Memoriam: Dr. Karyn Purvis

On April 12, 2016, Dr. Karyn Purvis passed away at the age of 66. As the director of the Institute of Child Development at Texas Christian University, her contributions to child development research and trauma-informed care had a tremendous impact on many around the world. She was a great friend to Methodist Children's Home and her loss is felt by many in our ministry.

Methodist Children's Home partnered with TCU's Institute in 2010 to implement trauma-informed research into its every day care. Dr. Purvis and Dr. David Cross worked closely with MCH executive management and staff to train and mentor them as they learned valuable tools to help children who have experienced trauma.

Dr. Purvis was a child development expert, an advocate for children, an author and highly respected developmental psychologist. She was also a mother of three boys and grandmother to nine at the time of her death.

She won several awards during her career including the Heroes in Healthcare Award in 2006 along with Dr. Cross, awarded by the Dallas Business Journal; the T. Berry Brazelton, M.D. Infant Mental Health Advocacy Award; the James Hammerstein Award to honor those who have displayed outstanding dedication to children in need; and received the title of Distinguished Fellow in Adoption and Child Development from the National Council on Adoption.

"If I have planted, and farmed the soil well, those who come after me, and after them and after them, will be wiser and more well-equipped and more able to continue our mission, which is not rhetoric for our Institute," Dr. Purvis once said. "We truly are learning to change the world for children."

Tim Brown, MCH president/CEO, said Dr. Purvis's legacy as a gifted "child whisperer" will leave an indelible mark on MCH.

"Methodist Children's Home, along with countless families and colleagues around the world, was blessed by the leadership of Dr. Karyn Purvis. Her passion for working more effectively with 'children from hard places in life' inspired and energized

us all. Those who were blessed to know her personally certainly loved her deeply, respected her for all she was, and we are grateful for all she taught us about ourselves."

Brown noted that her legacy will live on at MCH in many ways through the training she pioneered, but also through the approach MCH is taking to provide the ideal environment for youth to live and grow.

"Many of the elements incorporated into our new campus home, such as a sensory room, LED lighting, common spaces, and even color selections came about because of our work with Dr. Purvis," he explained.

"As we continue to learn more about how to use the knowledge she shared for healing and good, I will personally miss her friendship, presence, depth of passion and ongoing encouragement to do more for children and families," Brown said. "We are better people, a better ministry, and more capable of offering lasting hope and healing because of the gifts and insights that she shared with us."



Top Photo: Dr. Purvis, pictured with MCH president Tim Brown, became a trusted friend and advisor to Methodist Children's Home. **Bottom Photo:** MCH staff received training from Dr. Purvis and Dr. Cross to implement TBRI techniques.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Tim Brown

Methodist Children's Home offers hope to children, youth and families through a nurturing, Christian community.

In the pages of Sunshine magazine and in much of our organizational material, we frequently give examples of how we "offer hope" to the children, youth and families we serve. This life-changing directive is the heartbeat of our ministry. Looking at the entirety of our mission statement, it is important to note that it is the setting of a nurturing,

Christian community that helps make this great work possible.

What exactly is a nurturing, Christian community?

The concept is actually taken from the statement of social principles of the United Methodist Church, which states (in part): "The community provides the potential for nurturing human beings into the fullness of their humanity. We believe we have a responsibility to innovate, sponsor and evaluate new forms of community that will encourage development of the fullest potential in individuals. ... We therefore support social climates in which human communities are maintained and strengthened for the sake of all persons and their growth."

That description sums up so well what we pursue at MCH as we teach and model healthy relationships, forgiveness, hope and healing. It is also reflected in the literal brick-and-mortar setting in which we care for the youth at MCH. Much thought is put toward the homelike environments we provide for those we serve and with this in mind we recently celebrated the ribbon-cutting ceremony for a new state-of-the-art home, the first new home built on our campus in more than 50 years.

This home addresses the needs of children and youth who come to us today, and those who will come in the future. This home also incorporates new features which we have learned about through our 126 years of experience and our research partnership with the Institute of Child Development at TCU. These include design elements, lighting, a family-like setting, and safety, which current research tells us are more therapeutic for children who have experienced some form of trauma in their past.

This new home has been named the Dr. Jack Kyle and Evelyn Daniels Home in honor of the life, passion and leadership of MCH's eighth president and his wife. (Read more about the ribbon-cutting on p. 24.)

It is our hope that future generations of children and staff will be inspired by the legacy of promise, passion, trials, triumphs, service and dreams of the Daniels and also the faithful friends and supporters of MCH like you who help sustain our ministry of offering hope through this nurturing, Christian community called Methodist Children's Home.

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WATCHING OVER OUR CHILDREN

A Day in the Life of MCH Home Parents



Debbie and Steve Callison have served as home parents on the Waco campus for more than 11 years.



Vicki and Randy Thomas are home parents at the Boys Ranch where they have served for more than seven years.



“ They must first act as ‘shock absorbers’ to boys and girls who have been torn loose from their former lives...they must help heal wounds that cannot be seen on the surface...they must be a pattern for persons as young lives mature...they must have careful hands and **careful hearts**, listening with tenderness to every wistful sigh and every joy-filled laugh. The role of the home parent extends to the depths of human personality and to the breadth of **all-encompassing love**. ”

- A timeless truth on the significance of home parents from Sunshine, March 1958

It's 4:30 a.m. and Randy Thomas is already starting his morning at the Edwards East home on the Methodist Children's Home Boys Ranch. It is his time to wake up slowly, have some coffee and think about the day ahead. His wife, Vicki, is next to wake up as they get ready to take care of their bustling household of teenage boys. The boys in the house may not be their own children, but they are nonetheless a "family," as any of them will tell you.

The boys follow a set schedule in the Edwards East home. The mornings begin with daily chores after they are awake and dressed. The boys are responsible for cleaning up their rooms and then come together in the living room for a daily devotional before breakfast. After a prayer, they make sure to give "Ms. Vicki" a hug before piling into separate cars for school. Vicki takes some of the boys to off-campus schools while Randy takes most of the boys to the MCH School on the Waco campus.

Meanwhile, over at the Waco campus, Steve Callison begins his day in the Prothro home, where he and his wife Debbie care for as many as 12 teenage girls at a time. Steve makes his way down the stairs and begins to cook breakfast for slow-moving, sleepy girls getting ready for school. At 8:20 a.m., they all load up into the passenger van and head to school.

The children in these homes come from all types of backgrounds and situations. They are all dealing with their own challenges, but are showing resiliency as they overcome their past and move forward at MCH. As home parents at MCH, the Thomases and Callisons see them on their best days, at their worst lows and celebrate their successes just as a parent should.

Being a home parent is a job that requires couples to work as a team to live in the house

with the children and provide them with daily care, support and a positive role model. Home parents are charged with the task of finding a way to reach these children and help them to heal and grow into successful adults.

A home parent is responsible for teaching daily life skills, solving problems and managing the house. They work under the supervision of a unit manager in 24-hour shifts of seven days on, seven days off, rotating shifts with two other home parents.

At the Boys Ranch, home parents have their own apartments where they can live without having a separate residence for their off days, although the Thomases chose to also keep their house in Waco. On the Waco campus, home parents currently have their own rooms but must leave during the off-days. However, in the newly completed Daniels Home on the Waco campus, home parents will be able to stay as they do at the Boys Ranch.

Home parents have the opportunity to build close relationships with the children. They are there when the children arrive and feel scared and anxious about their new environment. They are there when a child is facing a tough decision or upset after a negative experience with a peer or family member. They provide structure for children as well as nurture and strive to find a good balance of the two. Tim Brown, MCH president and a former home parent, said this role is the "heart and soul of our organization."

"It takes special people to fulfill this delicate role in an effective way," Brown said. "They have to take on parental roles without usurping the parents. Home parents are the people that make our environment 'family-like' and normal. They are charged with gaining and building a trusting relationship with the child or youth that



One of the boys' favorite activities at the Boys Ranch is to go fishing with Mr. Thomas during their spare time.

allows that trust to be passed on to other staff throughout the organization. They need to have the ability to offer safety and support as well as predictability, firmness and fairness in their interactions with each student in their care."

The Call to Serve

The Thomases have been home parents at the Boys Ranch for more than seven years. Married for 13 years, they have two daughters and six grandchildren. Before MCH, Randy worked at the juvenile detention center while Vicki worked in customer service.

Their family had struggles in the past, and Vicki recalls God leading them through the challenges and giving them a desire to serve in a new way. One day, Randy was looking through the paper and saw an ad for home parents at another childcare institution. Two weeks after applying they were hired and moving out of town along with their two daughters.

"We felt there was more God wanted us to do," Vicki said. "God was telling me, 'I saved your children. Now it's time for you to help some of mine.' It is my calling."

When their grandson began having medical issues and needed to be closer to the children's hospital in the Dallas/Fort Worth area, the family decided it was time to head back home. It was through this change that the Thomases eventually found a new place to serve out their calling through Methodist Children's Home.

The Callisons have been home parents at MCH for more than 11 years. Debbie was very familiar with the ministry because her grandparents also served as home parents, and she spent a lot of time on the campus as a child. The couple has two sons and a daughter and four grandchildren.

Before MCH, Steve was working 80 hours a week in the auto parts industry while Debbie worked in a quilt shop. They rarely saw each other due to their schedules and one day Debbie decided they needed a change.

"It's like something just said, you need to go there," Debbie said.

They filled out an application with MCH and two weeks later they were working in a home on the Waco campus. They were first assigned to a boys home and also served at a transitional living



house for girls before landing at Prothro, where they have been ever since.

Building a Nurturing Home

The job of a home parent is similar to the role of a regular parent. While there may be an enjoyable silence in the home after the children leave for school, throughout the day home parents may need to run a child to a doctor's appointment, talk to the school about any issues, run errands for the house or care for a sick child. Once the children are out of school, home parents provide transportation for youth who have jobs off-campus, athletic practice, cheerleading or other extracurricular activities. They are also responsible for taking the children shopping and planning group outings for dinners, theme parks, or other fun events.

The youth come together for dinner around the dining table at Prothro and in the dining hall at the Boys Ranch. After dinner is "down time" when everyone can watch television, focus on their studies, play games, hang out in their rooms or complete their chores before bedtime.

Throughout the comings and goings of the day, the Callisons and Thomases find ways to build relationships with the children in their home. The couples share a common philosophy on how to start out their relationships with their children when they first enter the house.

"Everyone comes in with a clean slate," Vicki said. "We will let go of the past and move forward. This is your present and your future."

The Thomases feel that giving everyone a fresh start and letting them know right away what their expectations are has helped them to run an effective, loving home.

"We tell them you are going to grow into a productive, successful man," Vicki said. "By the time you leave, you will have character and carry yourself with pride. We do not disrespect in this house, whether it is with staff, peers or out in the world. If you continue to give respect, you will get it back."



Above: Throughout the day, home parents are responsible for picking youth up from school, taking them on errands, and also have opportunities for fun activities in the evenings.



Miranda Traylor, unit manager for the Edwards East home, said the Thomases have helped to provide a stable environment for the boys at the Ranch.

"The Thomases have been essential in helping maintain structure, setting expectations and providing supervision to the boys in their home," she said. "They have worked to build strong relationships with them and strive to teach the boys the lessons necessary for them to reach their full potential."

"The Thomases are valued home parents and I appreciate all of their hard work and effort to make our boys successful," she added.

The Callisons also believe strongly in a "fresh start" for the youth in their care. They said they have learned to deal with some of the more challenging behaviors and found a way to connect with several

girls who were moved to their home from other homes on campus.

"I don't want to have a preconceived notion about what somebody else thinks this child is like," Debbie said. "We want to form our own opinion."

"We're not going to take any of these kids that come to us and try to make them something they're not," Steve said. "We're going to accept them for who they are no matter what they've done in the past."

Lasting Lessons

The Callisons feel they have been successful in building relationships due to their ability to give the girls a voice. When there are conflicts or someone breaks the rules, the Callisons will try to determine why the child did what they did and feel that using the incident as a teaching moment is more valuable than handing out threats or punishment.

"It gives us an opportunity when we have issues to show them the proper way to handle it," Steve said. "Most kids don't have adults who will teach them the right thing. A lot of people may want to blame the kids, but they just don't know how to handle things."

"Ninety percent of the kids we deal with are here for reasons that aren't their fault," Debbie added. "You have to respect them before they will respect you."

She said it is also crucial to have a foundation of trust with the girls in order for them to feel comfortable coming to you for help.



"We try to be as open and honest as we can because so many of them have been lied to enough in their life," she explained. "I try to be as straightforward as I can be. We want them to know we'll be honest with them."

Steve and Debbie want the girls to come and talk to them about their issues. They make a point to talk to each girl at some point in the day. Steve also realizes he fills a special role in the house as a male role model that many of the girls don't have in their family lives.

In relating to the girls in their care, Steve noted, "If you can't be strong and loving, you can't do this job."

He said Debbie also provides the girls with a strong female role model by showing leadership at the house.

"That's what we want these girls to be like when they leave here," he said. "We don't want them to be run over. We want them to be in charge of their lives because so many of them have been run over before they got here."

Debbie continued, "We want them to see that it is OK to be independent. It's OK to stand up to someone. You don't have to be hit on. You don't have to be walked on. You don't have to be used and abused. That's not the way your life has to be. It's OK to stand up."

In addition to respect and discipline, home parents also model healthy marriage relationships for the youth.

"As a home parent couple, you need to be comfortable with each other and have the ability to communicate differences with each other in private and allow children to see you as a couple as well as an individual," Brown said. "They need to see you share responsibilities, work out a division of labor, love and respect each other without being too personal about your own issues or relationship with each other."

The girls in Prothro feel close to the Callisons and have responded well to their example.

"They feel more like parents than staff," said Rumor, a resident since April 2016.

"It feels like we're a family," said Sky, a resident since March 2016. "I've learned what real parents are supposed to look like."

Bethany Parrott, unit manager for the Prothro home, said she feels blessed to have the Callisons in her home and said each makes a special effort to connect with the girls.



Facing page: While Randy and Vicki Thomas make sure and have fun with the youth in their care, their schedules also involve taking the boys shopping for clothes and shoes, when needed, and taking care of maintenance of their agency vehicles. **Above:** Vicki Thomas fills up at the van at the Ranch in the morning before transporting the boys to school.

“Steve and Debbie are loyal home parents who see their role as an opportunity to change lives,” she said. “They use their individual gifts to make the house feel like a home and provide each student with a sense that they are part of a family. They put in the extra effort to develop a relationship with each child on campus and truly treat the girls in their house as if they were their own children. Together Debbie and Steve are positive role models who instill hope into each youth that comes into their care.”

The Thomases also do their best to prepare the boys for the outside world by helping them to learn from mistakes and deal with their feelings. Vicki said she strives to pay attention to the boys’ moods and seek them out if they seem as if something is bothering them.

“We teach them that it is OK to share emotions and it’s OK to cry,” she said. “If we let our emotions out that way, we are less likely to let them out with our fists.”

Na’Keldrick, a resident at the Boys Ranch since 2015, said he had anger issues before coming to MCH and got into a lot of fights. When his mother passed away, his anger got worse and he said he began hanging out with a bad crowd. But he began to build a strong relationship with the Thomases and has become a leader in the house.

“They are like family. They have brought me a long way,” he said. “Ms. Vicki makes me talk. She taught me to let go and to not hold a grudge.”

The Thomases also inspire a spiritual foundation for the boys and encourage them to participate in mission trips and camps during the summer. They hope it leads to a strong faith they can carry with them when they leave.

“I try to prepare them to be out there and be successful, to have jobs, respect and life skills,” Randy said. “I try to also teach them their lives will be better with God, to accept Him and let Him be there for you.”

The house started a prayer circle each night before bed where the boys are welcome to join in or sit close by to listen. This effort has had a strong impact on several of the boys who did not previously have a relationship with God.

Jose, a resident since March 2016, came to MCH after having trouble with the law. He was a gang member and spent most of his time on the streets. After expressing his desire to change, he came to MCH.



Each night before dinner together, the Prothro home gathers in prayer to give thanks.

“The first couple of days were hard,” he said. “I wasn’t used to the environment and I had an anxiety attack.” Vicki prayed with Jose and helped him through that time and soon after he joined their nightly prayer circles.

“Each time I feel closer to God,” Jose said. “At first I didn’t trust anyone, but now I trust my unit to the point where I trust them like family. My communication with God, when I talk to Him, it’s like He’s right next to me. At night when I pray, He’s right next to me. My mom is proud of me since I came here and now we have good communication.”

Rewards Over Hardships

Being a home parent has its share of highs and lows. Not only are they able to see the triumphs when they reach a child, but the Thomases and Callisons must also learn to trust in God when a child is released.

“This isn’t a job,” Vicki said. “I don’t look at it as a job. This is my extended family. I wouldn’t treat them any differently than my own kids.”

They said one of the most rewarding parts of the job is to hear from youth after they have left and see the impact of their investment.

Throughout their time, Debbie has made an effort to remember every child that has come through their doors by maintaining a list of names. The couple also hung up in the entryway of Prothro a photograph of every girl that has graduated while living there.

“In this job, you may never think that you made a connection,” Debbie said. “But then a child calls and that’s when you know you’re accomplishing something. Some of the toughest girls are the ones you hear from the most and talk to the most after they leave.



Members of the Prothro house will move into the new Dr. Jack Kyle and Evelyn Daniels Home.

“It’s an emotionally challenging job,” she said. “I like to fix things and I get emotionally attached and take on a lot of the hurt. But the relationships I’ve made, I wouldn’t trade them.”

“There’s been days I’ve wanted to quit and days she’s wanted to quit,” Steve admitted. “But then you go home and you think about it and you’ve just got to come back. The kids keep us here. I can’t imagine not coming back here every seven days. This is probably the best job I have ever had.”



Above: The Callisons have been successful at building healthy relationships with girls in their home.

“We believe that relationships, especially healthy ones, are the key to offering healing, support and hope to wounded and distrustful youth who have every reason to be distrustful of adults because of past experiences. We cannot expect to be helpful and effective unless those staff we put in closest proximity to our children and youth are very capable of care, protection, compassion, challenge, and trust; and they also have the natural ability to offer each of these qualities consistently on a day-in and day-out basis in a loving manner.”

**- Tim Brown
MCH President/CEO**

BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF SUPPORT

"THIS PROGRAM HELPED ME TO **DEFEND MY SON**. HE HAS A RIGHT TO KNOW THAT THERE'S PEOPLE **THERE TO HELP**."

MCH Family Outreach in El Paso is making a difference through community partnerships



Only a year ago, Lidia Saucedo and her son Alex were in a very different place. While today they are able to hug, laugh and joke with each other, at one time they were barely speaking and living in a heartbreaking situation. Thirteen-year-old Alex rarely left his room of blacked-out windows. He was headed down a dark path emotionally. He was in constant conflict with his mother, who had become overwhelmed with her son's behavior while also dealing with her own depression.

Alex had a broken relationship with his father, and he and his mother were struggling to connect. He was suffering and had aggressive meltdowns when he became frustrated or upset. His mother had reached the point where she had given up.

When Alex entered middle school, he began refusing to go to school. They tried home school but pretty soon, Alex refused to participate. Saucedo received a subpoena from the local truancy court, but with no support, their issues soon returned. After a year of Alex not attending school, Saucedo received a second subpoena from the court. But this time a new judge had taken office and the courts provided families with resources to assist them with their issues. It was then that their lives began to turn around.

Saucedo began group therapy, but said it wasn't the right fit for her. She was a private person and didn't feel comfortable sharing her feelings to the group. She needed a different option and found MCH Family Outreach, who partnered with the court beginning

in February 2015. She was assigned to case manager Gabriela Del Castillo in August 2015. Through MCH Family Outreach, case managers are able to work one-on-one with families in their homes on a weekly basis.

"Nobody had to know what we were talking about," Saucedo said. "If I was upset, I could just voice it to Gaby and she would come talk to me."

At first, Del Castillo said due to Saucedo's depression, she forgot about appointments. But when they would meet, they began to take small steps.

"She's very upfront," Del Castillo said. "She will speak her mind. We had an immediate connection. We're here to support and to guide. You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make it drink. She was ready for it. She did the work."

Using MCH's Nurturing Parenting curriculum, Saucedo was able to see the connection between her own childhood and how it was affecting her behavior with Alex and her older two daughters who lived outside the home.

"When you are able to connect the dots, you see things from a different perspective," Del Castillo said. "Nurturing Parenting is such a nonjudgmental curriculum. She would take the lessons and try them with her children. Now she responds differently in situations. When you know better, you do better."

Del Castillo was able to work with Saucedo on the importance of touch, something that Saucedo was uncomfortable with at first. However, she overcame her anxiety and was able to put her hand on Alex's back when she walked by him, or reach out for his arm when they spoke. Also, Del Castillo helped Saucedo learn how to react differently during arguments and give her children space to allow time to cool off instead of lashing out toward them. She said these small changes have made an enormous impact on her family.

Alex also found a new doctor who was able to diagnose his behavior issues and provide proper medication. He slowly began home schooling and little by little, rejoined the classroom at his middle school. Today he is able to attend classes in school full time, and Saucedo is proud of his progress.

Saucedo and Alex have built a bond, and she has learned how to better handle his problems and help him to work through his emotional challenges.

"This program helped me to defend my son," Saucedo said. "He has a right to know that there's people there to help. I have learned to advocate for him because not everyone will. He's trying. He's come a long way. I have learned through this that I have to be sensitive to his needs and defend my son."



Left: El Paso case manager Gabriela Del Castillo (in blue) was able to help Lidia Saucedo and her son Alex find a way to connect and rebuild their relationship.



Zahire Gonzalez-Villa, left, works with Teresa Torres and other North Loop Elementary staff to offer parenting education classes.

Such a dramatic change in a family's life was possible through the partnership of MCH Family Outreach with the truancy court. This partnership began after the newly elected judge heard about the services through connections in the community. Zahire Gonzalez-Villa, director of MCH Family Outreach in El Paso, and her staff have made an effort to hand out business cards and volunteer to make presentations about their services throughout the community.

"You have to do the legwork," Gonzalez-Villa said. "By building relationships in the community, that's how you get to know families and then get to know other families."

Methodist Children's Home is able to reach families throughout Texas and New Mexico through its MCH Family Outreach locations. El Paso has been very successful in building partnerships in its community in order to increase its impact, according to Kelly Smith, program administrator for the Western region of MCH Family Outreach.

"Zahire is well connected in the El Paso community with services for families and children," Smith said. "When she identifies a like-minded organization or association, she approaches with the intent of developing a relationship between her team and theirs in order to better serve the families who count on us for support."

"Partnerships in these communities are important to our mission," Smith continued. "They increase awareness through the development of relationships and help us find the families who need our services. Also, these partnerships or collaborations facilitate our ability to help families get connected in the community so they can meet their needs self-sufficiently."

Along with truancy court, MCH Family Outreach in El Paso has formed partnerships with several public schools, Communities In Schools, Rio Grande Safe Communities Coalition and has partnership agreements currently pending with the Boys and Girls Club as well as a local housing authority.

Communities in Schools is an organization whose mission is to bring resources to children in order to provide a "community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life." The Rio Grande Safe Communities Coalition is operated by the El Paso County Hospital District through a grant from the Texas Department of State Health Services in order to encourage community mobilization focused on changing policies and social norms in order to reduce and prevent drug abuse and underage drinking.

During the 2015-16 school year, MCH staff in El Paso taught parenting classes in eight schools in three school districts. The classes run in 10-week sessions and are open to any parent at the school. The school liaisons and counselors promote the classes through signs, emails, direct phone calls and other methods.

Gonzalez-Villa recently taught a class at North Loop Elementary School and had positive feedback from the participating parents as well as the North Loop partners. It was the first year the school offered the classes.

"We want (MCH Family Outreach) back next year," said Teresa Torres, home liaison for North Loop Elementary. "We saw a difference in parents in the way they were communicating with their children."

"Zahire was very down-to-earth as a teacher," said Rosa Linda Oaxaca, counselor at the school. "She wasn't preaching to them. She gave examples from her own family."

Through the parenting classes, parents learn about the development of the brain and how it affects behaviors. Parents are also provided with tips and techniques for getting children involved in everyday chores and activities in order to teach them lessons. They also receive advice on discipline, the importance of maintaining a consistent schedule, and encourage playing with children in order to build a stronger bond.

Areli Alarcol, a mother of two, attended the classes after seeing it listed on the school events calendar. She

said she had attended parenting classes before but felt this particular class was the best.

"I'm more patient and tolerant," Alarcol said. "I wanted my children to be perfect, so it was constant fighting. When I backed off, it has given me more peace. I'm not as strict. My husband works out of town so I had to be the authority and it was overwhelming for me. I put pressure on myself that things had to be perfect. But now that I've backed off, it has made a big difference."

Gonzalez-Villa said she teaches her students that "self-care is the key to nurturing." She said she allows for time each week for parents to relax, have a cup of coffee and talk to each other.

"I felt like I was the only parent going through struggles with my kids," Alarcol said. "But in class, you see that you're not the only one."

MCH Family Outreach has been able to bring positive changes to families that may not have otherwise known about the services thanks to partnerships in the community. These changes can have a lasting impact and, as seen through Saucedo and Alex, completely transform lives and restore families.

"Our mission is hope," Gonzalez-Villa said. "With Lidia, she had lost hope. She was so down but she found hope and now she's a completely different person. You can't change the past, but you can move forward." •



Above: Juan Martinez attends the parenting classes to find ways to be a better parent to his 8-year-old son.

Below: The North Loop parenting class celebrates the completion of the course with a party at a local restaurant.



Methodist Children's Home adds office to New Mexico



Q&A with Kimberly York, Director of MCH Family Outreach in Las Cruces

Kimberly York, Director for the MCH Family Outreach office in Las Cruces, N.M., has hit the ground running since she was hired at the end of May to launch services in our second New Mexico location. As the office space is being finished up, York has been spending her time learning more about MCH programs, spreading the word about our services and networking in the community to form valuable partnerships.

Las Cruces is located around 45 miles from MCH Family Outreach in El Paso, where York spent a lot of time preparing. York said the welcoming staff in El Paso have been a blessing to her as she begins her journey with MCH Family Outreach.

Q: What is your professional background?

A: I have been in the field of clinical social work for a little over 20 years. I have extensive experience working with children, youth and families from hard places. I have an undergraduate degree in social work from Capital University in Columbus, Ohio, and two master's degrees from Case Western Reserve University in social administration and nonprofit management. I also founded a nonprofit organization named SO WHO Enterprises, which is an acronym that stands for Serving Others While Helping Ourselves. I consider it to be my ministry that encourages youth professionals and caregivers to develop a healthy balance between service to others and their own self care.

Q: What attracted you to this position opening a new office of MCH Family Outreach?

A: This position is aligned with my personal and professional values. At this point in my career, having sound leadership is very important to me. I would rather see a sermon than hear one. MCH intentionally takes good care of its staff, that's huge for me. While it fits with everything else I have been doing professionally, it is also an opportunity for growth for me because I had never utilized Trust-Based Relational Intervention or Circle of Security techniques.

Q: What makes Las Cruces unique?

The overall culture of Las Cruces is very unique. While it is home to a large Hispanic and Mexican population, it is becoming more attractive to people from other cultures. A lot of retired people migrate to Las Cruces for its cozy lifestyle. It is also a unique community with regards to family structure – for example, it is common to see three to four generations living in one household. As a result of its expansion, the city and its people are becoming more progressive.

Q: What are some ways you see MCH Family Outreach making an impact in Las Cruces?

I definitely see that we can provide wrap-around services for families that don't qualify for traditional services. For instance, some families may not qualify for social services because of their income. Ironically, many out-of-pocket service expenses prove to be too expensive for them. To me, the unintended consequence is these families tend to get overlooked and fall through the cracks. I appreciate that we will be able to look beyond those barriers and offer free services to families that don't require the more intensive services, but still could benefit from some support. Kinship caregivers are a perfect example of this. Additionally, we won't have to compete with other services in the area because we are designed to be an extension of supportive services. For example, some agencies only provide services for children ages 0-5. Beyond the limit of those resources however, a lot of caregivers may still need support. We will work closely with referring agencies to ensure a seamless transition for those families to MCH programs.

Q: What are you looking forward to the most in working with the community of Las Cruces?

A: In the nonprofit sector, being able to offer free services can be a challenge. Too often, valuable family support programs and services get cut due to decreased or complete loss of funding. We are blessed to be able to tell committed families that we are here to support them and it's not based on grant funding. We look forward to building strategic alliances with existing service providers to strengthen families in Las Cruces. We are grateful that the Las Cruces community is greeting us with open arms. •

Methodist Children's Home puts down roots in Killeen

Q&A with Amanda Volker, Director of MCH Family Outreach in Killeen

The furniture is in place and the paint is dry in the office, and Amanda Volker, director of one of the newest MCH Family Outreach offices, is busy making connections in Killeen and surrounding communities. Killeen is strategically located amongst several Central Texas communities that are home to a population of more than 300,000, made even higher with the population of nearby Fort Hood. Although the Killeen office will initially offer the Nurturing Parenting program, Volker said Family Solutions and the Grandparents As Parents Program (GAPP) will be added as the staff grows.

Q: When did you know social work was the career path for you?

A: I joined the U.S. Army in 2001 and served as an Army medic for five years. During my first deployment – to Iraq in 2003 – I would go to different towns and work with community clinics where we would share ideas, collaborate and assist in their local work. I learned a lot about culture and community and also learned that I really wanted to meet people where they are. That, I found out, is community social work. I knew I had found my calling and that is what I pursued after I got out of the Army in 2006.

Q: What attracted you to this position opening a new office of MCH Family Outreach?

A: My husband is in the military so we have moved around a lot in the last 10 years. This means that I have only been able to stay in a position for 1-2 years. Since my husband will retire from the military next year in Texas, we have been settling into this community. I wanted to find a place to put down roots with an organization that allowed me to expand my skills in community social work and empower people. When I saw the posting for the position and researched MCH, I knew I had found what I was looking for. As for opening a brand new office – well, I love a challenge!

Q: What makes Killeen unique?

A: Our location is great. The town started as a railway hub so we have easy access to bigger cities while still maintaining a "hometown" feel. The military base brings in wonderful diversity and gives the community a sense of patriotism and national identity. We also have fantastic recreational resources here with our lovely Stillhouse and Belton lakes and surrounding trails.



Q: What are some ways you see MCH Family Outreach making an impact in Killeen?

A: There is a wonderful social infrastructure here for us to connect to on Fort Hood as well as Killeen, Copperas Cove, Harker Heights, Belton, Temple, and other surrounding cities. I'm looking forward to building new networks with these wonderful people, organizations and resources to enhance services and support our community. I think it serves me well to have a military background, as I know the "talk." Hopefully that will open doors for us as we connect with military families.

Q: From a local perspective, what is the significance of being part of a larger organization with the history of MCH?

A: MCH really walks their talk. For 126 years MCH has been fulfilling their mission and staying true to their core values. To be associated with and to work from such a platform of integrity really informs our work at a local level. It allows us to meet people where they are with compassion, competence, integrity, and respect, which allows us to serve in the best possible manner. •

New MCH Family Outreach offices in three locations

While Methodist Children's Home enjoyed a busy summer opening new MCH Family Outreach offices in Killeen, Texas, and Las Cruces, N.M., a new office in the Bryan/College Station area will be fully operational in the late summer/early fall. Bryan/College Station's progress and new director will be profiled in the next issue of Sunshine magazine.

MCH Family Outreach, Bryan
4001 E. 29th Street
Suite 108
Bryan, TX 77802

MCH Family Outreach, Killeen
3202 South W.S. Young Dr.
Suite 104
Killeen, TX 76542

MCH Family Outreach, Las Cruces
230 S. Alameda St.
Suite 201
Las Cruces, NM 88005

PLAYING FOR A HERO



"IT TOOK A LOT, BUT I DON'T THINK WE LIVED IN FEAR OF HIM DYING. WE JUST HAD TO **LIVE AS IF HE WAS HEALTHY.**"

As a new high school football season approaches, the reputation of MCH's six-man football program is buoyed by the memory of last season's exciting playoff run that culminated in a second-place finish in the Texas Christian Athletic Fellowship championship game.

While most of the players' runner-up medallions are probably stuffed in a sock drawer or hanging from a doorknob, there's one boy who won't leave home without wearing the medal. And it's not even his.

"Grayson will want to wear that medal every day," said MCH head football coach and athletic director Matt Rodgers of his 3-year-old son. "Even when we go someplace like a Baylor basketball game, he'll have to have it on. Wherever we go, he'll say, 'I have to get Rah-Rah's medal!'"

"When we lost the state championship (last season) they gave a medal to each player," Rodgers explained. "And they had one for Rhett. On the back it says 'To our littlest champion. Presented to Rhett Rodgers.' That really meant a lot to us."

"Rah-Rah" is Grayson's name for Rhett, his little brother born in July 2014 with serious complications. Rhett passed away in January 2015. Sarah Rodgers, Matt's wife, described the beginning of what would be a tumultuous and trying year for the young family.

"During routine pregnancy checkups we discovered Rhett had stopped growing at 30 weeks," said Sarah. "Once I got to 36 weeks and he still had not been growing, they decided it was a good time to deliver him."

Rhett was diagnosed with Dandy-Walker Syndrome, a rare congenital brain malformation. He weighed just 3 pounds, 2 ounces at birth. The early birth actually saved his life, Sarah explained.

"One of the doctors in the NICU said Rhett might not have even made it a few more days past that if we had not induced early," she said. "That was hard to wrap our minds around. He was so tiny."

For the first month of his life, Rhett had to stay in the hospital in Temple, Texas, as several other complications were discovered and treatments were explored.

As the Rodgerses began to look into treatments, they transitioned to a hospital in Houston the first week of September. Despite anticipating needing to be there for just a few days, they were soon given more somber news. It was discovered that Rhett also had an extremely rare genetic issue with no cure.

"For three or four weeks we just didn't know anything," Matt said. "We didn't know what the answer was because we didn't know what the problem was."

During this time, Sarah stayed with Rhett in Houston while Matt, preparing for his third season as football coach at MCH, burned up the roads between the two cities.

"We had MCH football games on Friday, so I'd drive to Houston on Saturday, then drive back to Waco for Monday and Tuesday then back to Houston for a couple of days and before coming back to Waco to get ready for the next game," Matt said.

Despite the reality that they would lose their son, the Rodgerses understood they had been given a gift – the gift of time with their son that they might not otherwise have had.

"When we found out in September what his diagnosis was, it didn't hit us all at once, but the grieving process started well before he was gone," Matt said. "There were a few instances along the way where we had to go back to the ER or he stopped breathing at our house. We didn't know if this was it; if this would be the last time we had with him. But it never happened all at once, but over a gradual process over several months."

"It took a lot, but I don't think we lived in the fear of him dying," Sarah said. "We just had to live as if he was healthy."

Although Matt had every reason to take a pass on the MCH Bulldogs' football season and turn coaching duties over to his assistants, the thought was never entertained.

"I shared with the team what I was going through during that time; they knew I was going through a hard time," he said. "But it was important to me to be there as much as I could, just so they had someone who wasn't absent or quitting on them."

Sarah supported the decision. Noting that many of the children who come to MCH "have challenges that no child should have, watching Matt being around them and serving as an example and showing them they can be a part of a team, inspire others to want to be better and be about more than themselves was life-giving," Sarah said.

Through the 2014 season and into the next spring following Rhett's passing in January, Matt continued to be open about his story with the youth at MCH. Not surprisingly, in preparing for the 2015 season, there was talk among some players to "win for Rhett and Coach Matt."

"We had kids this past season who had been with us the previous season and knew about what we went

"IT'S IMPORTANT TO **HAVE A RELATIONSHIP** WITH THE KIDS OUTSIDE OF WHATEVER THE ARENA IS THAT WE ARE COMPETING IN."

through," Matt said. "It meant a lot to hear the kids, or whoever, say Rhett's name. Regardless of the situation, but especially here at MCH, it meant that some of the things we were teaching and preaching and coaching was actually getting through.

"When these young men move on, it would be nice to think that perhaps when they're older and have a family and face challenges, that they might look back on these two seasons and remember getting some guidance and encouragement about getting through life's challenges," he added.

Matt said the championship run in 2015 was special because the players gelled and delivered a unified "team-first" approach.

"The successful teams we have had are the ones that didn't care about individual success or honors," Matt said. "They cared more about the team and the people standing next to them. The year we went undefeated several seasons ago, at one point we were ranked in the Top 10 in the state out of 240 teams. That's how the 2015 team played as well.

"It can be tough to get kids to buy into the idea of caring for other people when maybe they've never been part of a team, or maybe no one has ever cared about them before," he added. "They are used to just surviving and looking out for themselves."

The line of separation between heaven and earth has blurred for the Rodgers family with the experience of losing a child. Along with the young people they encounter at MCH, Matt and Sarah say they will also continue to tell Grayson about the life and inspiration of his brother.

"We will never not talk about Rhett," Matt said. "We have two children now, not one. We remember him for his bravery and all that he went through. Grayson

will continue to learn about that and learn that Rhett mattered, and he matters too."

"Grayson won't remember Rhett like we remember him, but he knows his name," Sarah said. "He said recently 'Rah-Rah is my hero.' He loves his little brother, and he knows where he is. He knows he was sick and had to go to the doctor a lot. I want him to know his brother was a brave little boy."

According to Matt, serving as coach and athletic director at MCH has meant getting to know youth in a deeper way. Matt said he understands that the way he presents himself on a daily basis can make a difference in the life of a young person at MCH – athlete or otherwise.

"For me, it's important to have a relationship with the kids outside of whatever the arena is that we are competing in," he said. "If all I did was present the authoritarian figure of 'do what I say because I'm the coach,' it wouldn't be as effective as getting into their lives and caring for them.

"It's important that the kids see me outside of athletics – at the school, or having lunch with them in the homes. That's so beneficial to be a part of their lives. At times of the year like summer when we aren't in athletics, I may drop by and play video games with them just to be in their space and their lives.

"There's a saying that kids 'don't care how much you know until they know how much you care,'" he said. "It's really true and it plays a huge role in relating to the kids here."

Having a successful season like the 2015 playoff run is motivation to practice hard and field another competitive team, but Matt said he knows there is much more at stake.

"Most kids are at MCH because of things they've



Matt and Sarah Rodgers say their brief time with Rhett was made even more special because Rhett obviously responded to them when doctors said he might be blind and deaf. "He responded to our voices and watched things," Sarah said, including storytime with Grayson (inset).

been through which aren't the greatest in the world," he said. "This is the most traumatic event I've been through, but I think everything that happened [with Rhett] has really put life and high school drama into perspective. I think I am able to be more compassionate and forgiving than I may have been before; more understanding and not caught up when a kid acts out towards me, but rather more able to focus on him and his long-term success."

Matt said he keeps his perspective as a coach by asking "does what I'm doing set them up for success later, whether this is graduating from high school, going to college, being a better spouse, father or mother ... a better person with better ideas of what their future can look like.

"I want to always live life in a way that makes Rhett's story and his life worth it," Matt said. "However that may look – whether it's sharing Rhett's story or using it as motivation to make it through a difficult day or helping kids here see value in their life."

As "Coach Matt" and the MCH Bulldogs kick off their 2016 football season on Aug. 26, cheered on by fans and family, there will be a little boy cheering along who undoubtedly will have a medal around his neck.



Coach Matt hopes his leadership and the impact of athletics will have an impact on the young people far beyond their time at MCH.



Coach Matt Rodgers leads players to make an impact on the field, but says his interaction with them off the field is even more important.

METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME

CLASS OF 2016

TRANSITION SERVICES

Congratulations to our students who earned their high school diplomas this year! MCH had 31 students graduate from the Methodist Children's Home School, one student from Meyer High School at Rapoport Academy, and two graduates in our foster care program.

MCH School			
Lizbeth A.	Kelli Gates	Jeffrey Osborne	Seleehom Yisihak
Skylar Brinegar	Vanessa Geurin	Dacne Pacheco	Hawa Zackey
Alyssa Cook-Drawn	Yasmine Glenn	Vincenzo Parcell	Rapoport Academy
Jennifer Del Toro	Justice Guthrie	D'Andre Ramos	Ashley Burris
Jhamorie Durr	Christian Hamilton	Quentin Spaulding	MCH Foster Care
Kiyana Faulk	Ra'shan Hardin-Johnson	Mikayla Stanford	Rae Gutierrez
Austin Ferguson	Destiny Harris	Apryl Thomes	Aaron Napier
Brandon G.	Nefretiri Jackson	Jorae Vasquez	
Daesha Gary-Glasper	Miguel Lechuga	Maegan Wells	
	N'Dea McClora	Micheal W.	

SELEE HOM

EMBRACING OPPORTUNITY



At the age of 14, Seleehom left Ethiopia in search of a better life. Her father sent her to live with her aunt in the United States. However, her aunt soon became overwhelmed with supporting Seleehom and her cousins and needed help. She knew that Methodist Children's Home could provide her niece with more opportunities than she would be able to and decided it was the best solution.

Not only was she in a new country, but now Seleehom (called "Sally" by her MCH family) faced living with people she didn't know in an unfamiliar place.

But she said the staff and girls in her new home were friendly and quickly helped her to feel at home. She became involved as the manager of the girls' athletic teams and excelled at the MCH charter school.

"Sally is an exceptional team manager, student and young lady," said Lindsey Fortner, athletic coordinator. "Sally has a great work ethic and is always willing to go above and beyond what is asked of her. She models the MCH Core Values every day and is a positive role model. I am confident that Sally will accomplish her goals and do great things in the future. Her wonderful personality along with her desire to be great and pursuit of excellence will take her very far."

During her junior year, Seleehom began dual credit courses and acquired 30 hours of college credit. She

graduated in May 2016 on the distinguished plan and represented her class as valedictorian. Although she is excited to leave MCH for college, she said she will miss the place she has called home for the last several years.

"I'll definitely miss the community environment," she said. "Living in a house with 10 girls taught me how to live with others. I'll miss the staff. They helped me grow and had a tremendous impact on my life even though they may not realize it."

Seleehom plans to attend the University of Texas at San Antonio in fall 2016 to major in psychology with a minor in biology. She said the MCH Transition Services staff have been by her side as she has applied for college, made housing arrangements, found scholarships, and prepared for the next stage in her life. She said she appreciates all the ongoing support she receives from MCH and is excited about a fresh start in San Antonio where she can work to fulfill her dream.

"I would love to be a pediatrician," Seleehom said. "I love kids. I want to be a fun pediatrician so that kids want to come to me."

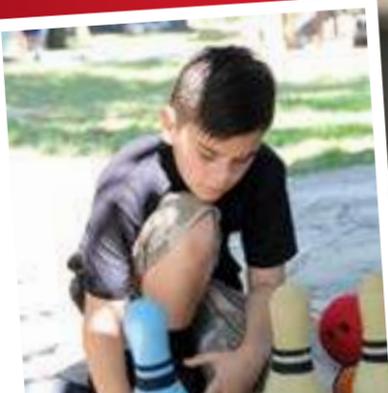
Throughout her time at MCH, Seleehom grew from a shy young girl who had a hard time trusting others into a resilient, confident young lady. She was able to embrace the support and opportunities at MCH in order to reach her full potential and strive for a prosperous future. •



Left: Former University of Texas football star Vince Young shares a motivational message with the MCHS graduates. **Right:** MCHS class valedictorian Seleehom Yisihak (top) and salutatorian Maegan Wells deliver speeches to their fellow graduates. **Below:** The MCHS graduation ceremony was held at First United Methodist Church of Waco on May 27, 2016. •



2016 SUMMER FUN!



RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY



Dr. Jack Kyle Daniels cuts the ribbon for the new home named for him and his wife, Evelyn.

New home named for former resident turned president

On Friday, June 17, 2016, Methodist Children's Home celebrated its new residential home with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. It is the first home built on the Waco campus in more than five decades.

The new home is named the Dr. Jack Kyle and Evelyn Daniels Home. Daniels served from 1978-2003 as the eighth president of Methodist Children's

Home. Daniels first came to MCH in 1937 at age 2½, having been recently orphaned along with his six brothers and sisters. He was raised at MCH and graduated from Waco High School in 1952.

"Dr. Daniels and his wife Evelyn are hallmarks of Methodist Children's Home," said Tim Brown, president/CEO of MCH. "There is no one who has



had a better front-row seat to the growth and progression of this ministry than Dr. Jack. It is fitting that this new home be named for this great couple."

In addition to attending the celebration of the new home which will bear his and his wife's name, Daniels owns the unique distinction of having celebrated other significant milestones in the history of MCH. He was a resident in 1940 during MCH's 50th anniversary and in 1965 during MCH's 75th anniversary, he served as chaplain and assistant to the administrator. In 1990, Daniels served as president during the 100th anniversary and most recently he greeted attendees in October 2015 at MCH's 125th anniversary celebration.

The Daniels Home is the first component of a broader capital campaign in which state-of-the-art homes will be built to better meet the needs of the youth served by MCH. The home will feature a number of elements drawn from TBRI and evidenced-based training and will house 8-10 youth in an open layout to facilitate interaction between staff and youth while also allowing for more supervision. Two apartments at each end of the home will allow home parents to stay on campus while they are off-duty.

The Daniels were joined at the ribbon-cutting ceremony by administration and staff of MCH, its board of directors, benefactors, and alumni. •



Top left, from top to bottom: MCH president Tim Brown introduces former president Dr. Jack Kyle Daniels and wife Evelyn during the ceremony • Among the special guests were family members of Ima Lea Gamblin's estate, whose generous gift helped in the funding of the home. • Dr. and Mrs. Daniels are greeted by guests as they view the interior of the home. • Hank Coleman, chair of MCH's Board of Directors, welcomes guests to the ceremony. • Susan Brown, wife of MCH president Tim Brown, visits with future residents of the new home. • Rev. Steve Ramsdell, MCH board member, leads the congregation at First United Church of Waco, a church that donated \$40,000 toward the building of the home. • Guests had the opportunity to tour the home after the presentation. • Several friends of Dr. and Mrs. Daniels attended the event in a show of support. •



Legacy Luncheon honors 2015-2016 Estate gifts

On June 17, 2016, MCH celebrated several benefactors at the Legacy Luncheon in Johnson Student Center. This year, five families were honored with a special presentation and bronze plaques that will be placed in the Mulkey Memorial Garden.

The garden, located next to the Administration building on the Waco campus, honors those who have contributed to MCH through estate gifts with plaques commemorating gifts of \$125,000 or more. The garden is named in memory of Abe and Louisa Mulkey, evangelists who

were instrumental in keeping the doors of MCH open during its early years.

During the luncheon, Trey Oakley, vice president for development, spoke about each benefactor and thanked them for their contributions to our ministry.



Estates honored during the 2016 Legacy Luncheon

John and Rebecca Baird – Mr. and Mrs. Baird were married in 1948 and shared a life until John passed away in 2006. The couple enjoyed an active retirement for 24 years and were the first residents of the White Acres Good Samaritan Retirement Village. Rebecca passed away on Jan. 16, 2015. She was a beloved first grade teacher and an active member of her church, Trinity First United Methodist Church in El Paso.

Ima Lea Gamblin – When Mrs. Gamblin was a child she was moved by the radio program that featured children from MCH. Her memories of the children she heard inspired her to want to make their lives better. Gamblin's generosity not only affected MCH, but also many she encountered. She cared for her older brother, Willie, who was injured in an automobile accident and loved her nieces and nephews as if they were her own. Her family remembers her for her kind heart and giving nature and said they were truly blessed to be a part of her life.

Mary Anne Phillips – Mrs. Phillips was a piano teacher who loved music and the arts, and showed generosity to local arts charities in Houston in addition to MCH. She was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution along with her sister, with whom she traveled extensively after their husbands passed away. Although she didn't have any children of her own, she loved them and as a loyal Methodist, felt close to MCH.

Sue Travis – Mrs. Travis lived a happy and healthy 91 years. One friend described her as someone "who lived as a Christian, generous and kind to all those blessed to know her." She was also described as a true Southern Belle and met her husband at a

military dance attended by the belles. The couple loved to travel and settled in Gainesville, Fla., for their retirement where they were active in the First United Methodist Church.

Frank Wilson White – Mr. White grew up in Morgan, Texas, and was a member of Morgan United Methodist Church. He married his high school sweetheart, Mary Vada Boulware, in 1942 and joined the Army Air Corp in 1943 as an instructor for the belly turret gunnery on the B-17. After he was honorably discharged, he and his wife returned to Morgan where he owned and operated a service station and also worked as a mail carrier. Mr. White was a long-time supporter of MCH throughout his life. He often felt a close bond to the stories of children in Sunshine and frequently shared words of encouragement to those serving and being blessed by this ministry. •



Support MCH through Planned Giving

MCH appreciates the generosity of our benefactors who partner with us to serve children, youth and families every day. Through planned giving, our supporters have a variety of options to provide needed resources for the children while also providing income for life for the donor (and beneficiaries if desired) and potential tax benefits.

To learn more about ways to bless this ministry with a gift from your estate or trust, or to participate in the MCH gift annuity program, please visit the Planned Giving section of our website at: mch.org/page/planned-giving.aspx.

Wills and Bequests	Gifts of Appreciated Stock
Charitable Gift Annuities	Charitable Remainder Trusts
Gifts of Retirement Assets	Gifts of Life Insurance
Charitable Lead Trusts	Gifts of Real Estate
Bargain Sales	Flip Unitrusts
Deferred Charitable Gift Annuities	

To discuss planned giving opportunities through MCH, please contact Allison Crawford, director of legacy giving, at (800) 853-1272 or ACrawford@mch.org.

DEVIN

LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE



Devin, a sophomore and resident at the Boys Ranch, has found his direction in life through the opportunities offered at Methodist Children's Home.

But it was not always like this for Devin. He had a tough time when he first came to MCH.

"I got mad easily and cursed a lot," Devin said. "Honestly, I just needed a break and an opportunity to mature. I used to get angry over everything. I would throw things, but now I am more relaxed and have learned to channel my anger better."

During Devin's eighth grade year at MCH he started looking towards his future and thinking about what he might want to pursue as a career.

"In English class we had to do a career project," he explained. "I have enjoyed my welding class through the AG program and I love to swim, so I started exploring what careers there were that combined both these interests and discovered underwater welding."

"My mom supported me and found diving classes through the local YMCA," he continued. "I have learned that scuba diving takes patience, practice and overcoming some fears. I think underwater welding is

really cool because you can combine metal, electricity and air and make something out of it."

Devin will be applying to the Greater Waco Advanced Manufacturing Academy (GWAMA) in the fall. He hopes to earn an advanced welding certificate by the time he graduates.

"I have made friends at the Boys Ranch," he said. "I have enjoyed all the activities offered here and know I have made some lasting friendships. I have had staff who really helped me find better ways to express my anger. Having to live with a group of peers has helped me learn to work as a part of a team."

Devin plans on graduating in May of 2017 and pursuing a career in underwater welding.

"I am excited," he said. "I can make good money and go anywhere in the world and there will be welding opportunities."

Besides helping him build toward future dreams, Devin said MCH has helped him where he needed it the most, adding that, "MCH has helped me and my mom's relationship and I am grateful for that." •

NEWS AND NOTES

END OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2016



The Charles W. & Mariam Hawes Academic Excellence Award (male and female student with highest grade point average) - **Jeffrey, Seleehom**
Outstanding Student Award - **Ashley**

Methodist Children's Home School Awards Assembly on May 24 honored student achievements in academics and extracurricular activities. Below is a list of several top awards:

Academic Honor Roll
Noah, Iona, Marissa, Galen, Laura, Chrislynn, Alexis, Camray, Mae, Nick, Seleehom, Hawa

FFA
Ag Mechanics Design and Fabrication - Nick, Galen, Chayce
Agriscience - Jacob
Star Discovery Award - Rainn
Star Green Hand - Marissa
Chapter Star Farmer - Jeff
Chapter Star in Agriscience - Mikayla
Belt Buckles: Beef Production - Chayce
Swine Production - Noah
Sheep Production - Laura
Goat Production - Alex

After School Programs
(Most Valuable and Most Improved)
Theater - Skylar (MV), Desi (MI)
Choir - Iona (MV), Jamia (MI)
Drumline - Justice (MV), Chris (MI)
Cheer - Kelli (MV), Iyahanna (MI)

Athletics
(Most Valuable and Most Improved)
Volleyball (Varsity) - Crystal (MV), Amashia (MI)
Football (JV) - Reggie (MV), Noah (MI)
Football (Varsity) - Chayce (MV), D'Andre (MI)
Golf - Marissa (MV)
Basketball (Boys JV) - Solomon (MI)
Basketball (Boys Varsity) - Brandon (MV), Jakenzie (MI)
Basketball (Girls Varsity) - Ja'Vianne (MV), Alexis and Christina (MI)
Track (Boys) - Rashon (MV), Trent (MI)
Track (Girls) - Ja'Vianne (MV), Christina (MI)
Bobby Gilliam Leadership in Athletics Awards - Ja'Vianne (girls), Steven (boys) •

Methodist Children's Home recognized student achievements during award ceremonies the last week of school. On May 22 MCH celebrated graduates with Senior Sunday where several students were given Core Value awards and honors for academic achievements. All seniors were also given a Bible. Below is a list of Senior Sunday award recipients:

Relationship Award - Lizbeth, Michael, Seleehom
Growth Award - Jennifer, Daesha, Mikayla, Vincenzo
Service Award - Vanessa, Skylar
Responsibility Award - Maegan, Ashley
Hope Award - Alyssa, Kelli
Courage Award - Destiny, Jorae, Jeffrey

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR STUDENTS ON THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS THIS SCHOOL YEAR!

TBRI RECEIVES NATIONAL BEST-PRACTICE RATING



For a number of years, Methodist Children's Home, in partnership with the Institute of Child Development at Texas Christian University, has implemented Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) training for all MCH childcare workers. TBRI training has recently been listed on the California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare (CEBC) website as a "promising practice" with a "high" rating.

"CEBC is a prominent, nationally accepted entity for validating evidence-based practices in the United States," said Tim Brown, president/CEO of MCH, and "TBRI is now nationally recognized as a Promising Evidence-Based Intervention. We are thrilled by this news and the fact that our research partnership the last few years with TCU and the Institute has led to this level of credibility and recognition. This truly validates the high level of quality care we are providing to our children and families."

Brown added that "we are one of the few agencies in our field of service that can confidently say to our service populations and our supporters that our work is well-supported as an evidence-based practice and intervention training that we will soon be able to take to our communities and our church families as well." •

MCH STAFF TRAINED FOR NEW PARENT EDUCATION PROGRAM



Several staff members at Methodist Children's Home (MCH) now have new tools to help families after receiving Circle of Security training. Circle of Security is described as "a relationship-based early intervention program designed to enhance attachment security between parents and children."

The program is based on research revealing that secure children exhibit more self-esteem and empathy while also forming stronger relationships and performing better in school. Through the program, facilitators help caregivers to identify children's needs and determine the best ways to meet those needs. MCH decided to implement Circle of Security after a recommendation from partners at Texas Christian University's Institute of Child Development. It will be offered

in addition to Nurturing Parenting and Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) programs.

"The program marries well with Nurturing Parenting and TBRI and it's simple to facilitate," said Kelly Smith, program administrator for the Western region of MCH Family Outreach. "After these rounds of training, all offices will have a trained COS Parenting trainer. Circle of Security provides participants with a model for parenting through secure attachment, allows exploration of attachment styles and teaches skills to facilitate a secure attachment with their children."

Brooke Davilla, MCH Family Outreach director in Waco, attended the training in May.

"Often in our roles at MCH we hear 'fix them,' 'fix us' or 'tell us what to do' from families and community members who are seeking assistance," she said. "The COS training is unlike other programs or interventions that offer a three-step guide to this or a behavior intervention that does that. The COS approach moves past the distraction of the behaviors and gets to the heart of the issue, our innate need for connection."

"During our training we were immersed in attachment theory and reminded that if we can help create or repair connection then we can move towards security with resiliency and wholeness," Davilla added. "Circle of Security is rich in research and theory but simplistic in implementation. I believe we will continue to bring a message of hope to families through this approach and look forward to offering it in our community." •

ONE ACT PLAY COMPETES AT STATE AND DISTRICT COMPETITIONS



Methodist Children's Home School (MCHS) students can take a bow after impressive performances at district and state competitions this spring. The One Act Play cast received several awards for the performance of "Indoor/Outdoor," a sentimental comedy written by Kenny Finkle.

The play is about a cat named Samantha, played by Skylar, who is adopted by her new owner Shuman, played by Ben. At first, everything is going well, but soon Samantha begins to wonder why Shuman doesn't understand her. The relationship grows even more complicated when she meets an alley cat and begins to wonder if she is meant to be an indoor cat or outdoor cat.

The One Act Play cast rehearsed the play since January 2016. They were directed by Kira Rockwell, MCH recreation coordinator, who said she chose the play for her students due to its lovable characters and relatable message.

"The play is hysterical, but it has a beautiful overarching message of unconditional love and explores the principal of self-worth," Rockwell said. "I wanted the students to have a show they could truly love to

perform for people. I wanted them to be able to walk away knowing they told a great story."

For the district competition on April 15, Ben received first place male actor overall for his role as "Shuman" and Skylar made the second all-star cast for her performance as "Samantha." The play also received second place overall. At state competition on May 13-14, Skylar received first all-star cast, Ben was awarded second all-star cast, Josh was an honorable mention for his performance as the mouse, and D-Nayjah was recognized as an all-star tech. •

MEMORIAL GIFTS AND GIFTS OF HONOR

GIFTS MADE FROM MARCH 2016 THROUGH MAY 2016

Honorariums:

Marianne Anderson

Jami Lovelady

Joshua Bruhn

Friendship Sunday School Class,
First UMC- La Grange, TX

Grandson - Olin

Tina L. Carrick

Lena Clontz's 90th Birthday

Colonel John E. Hilliard, Sr.

Charlise Jones Cunningham -

Mother's Day

Hunter and Totsy Cunningham

Mona Curington

Jami Lovelady

Edie and Nike Dass' 1st Birthday

Elaine Hibbitts

Nicolas England

Friendship Sunday School Class,
First UMC- La Grange, TX

Brittany M. Fitz

Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Fitz

Elizabeth Garrett

Blain and Debbie Keith

Corey Golan

Friendship Sunday School Class,
First UMC- La Grange, TX

Janet Golden

Harold and Carol Cain

Reynold Gravina's 97th Birthday

Hunter and Totsy Cunningham

Mrs. Harry A. Gump – Mother's Day

Robert M. Gump, C.P.A.

Joy Hall

Friendship Sunday School Class,
First UMC- La Grange, TX

Reese Hardin

Friendship Sunday School Class,
First UMC- La Grange, TX

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Houghton

Corine Hurst

Howard Home Legacy

Ann Howard Cantrell
Lee Goble

Reverend Rebecca and Dr. Jeff Hull

Glenn and Kay Furman

Josh Ivins

Friendship Sunday School Class,
First UMC- La Grange, TX

Russell and Jana Jarrell

Pam Goergen

Sheri Jones

Blain and Debbie Keith

Johnnie R. Keith's 93rd Birthday

Blain and Debbie Keith

Elyse Menconi

Friendship Sunday School Class,
First UMC- La Grange, TX

MOMS and Ladies of Our Congregation

Methodist Men's Group
First UMC - Lockney, TX

Dakota Moore

Friendship Sunday School Class,
First UMC- La Grange, TX

Logan Naiser

Friendship Sunday School Class,
First UMC- La Grange, TX

USAF (Ret.) Chaplain Charles

Posey's 90th Birthday

Colonel John E. Hilliard, Sr.

Colton Powell

Friendship Sunday School Class,
First UMC- La Grange, TX

Matt Rayburn

Friendship Sunday School Class,
First UMC- La Grange, TX

Tricia and Reverend Grady Roe

Barbara and Richard Ochs

Jonah Saunders

Friendship Sunday School Class,
First UMC- La Grange, TX

Herbert Shelton

Jana Shelton

Lynn Stuckey

Herbert Shelton

Caleb Teas

Friendship Sunday School Class,
First UMC- La Grange, TX

Temple ISD Board and Administration - Temple, TX

Robin Battershell

Judi Cunningham Thomas -

Mother's Day

Hunter and Totsy Cunningham

John R. Warren

Becky and Quentin Warren

Alyssa Wich

Friendship Sunday School Class,
First UMC- La Grange, TX

Shirley Windsor's 76th Birthday

Shirley Windsor

Mr. Ronald R. Wright

Mr. Timothy E. Wright

Memorials:

Colonel John E. Hilliard, Sr.

Allison Crawford and Family
Betty Disler
Jane Kiehle
Pam Kroyer
Lyle and Denise Mason
Trey and Karen Oakley
Norris and Peg Wynne

June Aiken

Fairview UMC - Nacogdoches, TX

Ernest Akers

Susan Beatty
Rita Jackson
Vanessa and Michael Lewis
Sandy and Larry Matus

Mr. Herbert Alexander

Vanessa and Michael Lewis

Jackson Alexander

Charlene Fowler
Mildred McAllister

Matt Alexander

Charlene Fowler

Mrs. Nevelyn Alexander

Ben and Chelsea Alexander

Johnnie L. Anderson

Harold G. Anderson

Linda Anderson

Geraldine Orr

Reverend Daniel M. Arguijo

Mrs. Eleanor A. Arguijo

Mary Baggerman

Mr. Billy M. Powell

Bradys Bagley

Tammy and Stan Strickland

Susan Ball

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Mary E. Bassett

Wendell Beans

Andrew and Dorothy Dunn

Janice Bentley

Marc and Rebecca Clark

Ray Bilbrey

Charles and Carol Brown

Dorcas Birdsong

Glenn and Kay Furman

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Juanita Hill

Mary Ruth Blanchard

Naomi M. Ford

Tim Boeglin

Jami and Joe Lovelady

LaVon Bohanek

Roy and Becky Kemble

Judith (Judy) Boulais

Tim and Joyce Woodlock

Kyle Bowler

Rosemary Loftis

Kim Bradshaw-Franklin

Sue Hoover

Annedelle Brantley

Leslie and Candy Mallonee

Dorothy Holcomb Breedlove

Jim and Sissy Riley

Elizabeth Brown

Karen Brown

Helen E. Collins Brown (Griffin)

Mr. William R. Brown

Ralph W. Brown

Mr. William R. Brown

Mary Buehring

Cynthia Upchurch

Oran L. Burrows, Jr.

Upper Room Sunday School Class,
First UMC - Madisonville, TX

Tristan Byrd

Jerry and Ellen Hodon

Jackie D. Caffey

Belinda and Vic Anderson

Sally Mozelle Caldwell

Monte Joe Caldwell

William G. Cantrell

Betty V. Cantrell

Bert Carey

Tim and Joyce Woodlock

Terry Carter

Rebecca and Dub Narramore

Keith Chilton

Charles and Patricia Carpenter

Ruth Clarkson

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Halencak

Jack Coleman

Betty Roberts

Jesse Cowan

Geraldine Orr

Jessica Craft

Cliff, Charla, Nathan and

Delaney Leath

Lera Crow

Linda S. Phillips

Eddie Curtis

Julie Potts Mitchell and Family

Carey Dalton

Larry and Betsy Pennington

Xina Davison

Charles and Carol Brown

Ellie Dell'Abate

Doug and Lauren Strubar

Robert (Bob) Denker

William Denker
Paula Farris-Frances
Steve and Karen Gregg

Lisa Dubois

Mr. and Mrs. Randy Mason

Bettye Dunbar

David Dunbar

Marion Elrod

Mary Jo Elrod

E. Jean English

Anonymous

Reverend John Peeler Estes

Mrs. Elizabeth E. Taylor

Carolyn (Hawkins) Evans

Tim and Joyce Woodlock

Eva Lee Fitzgerald

Jane Brooks

Reverend Bill Fleming

Lonnelle and Arden Kenady

Nina Brown Hughes Flynn

Billie Louise Lennon and Children

Priscella Focken

Sheryl A. Wittenbach

Jean Lee Sutter Foreman

Mary E. Haubold

George and Theo Fory

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Fory

Randy Fossett

Steve and Rita Yeats

Mrs. Dot French

Mrs. Sarah M. Stephens

Mr. Ron Garner

Judy Broadway
Vanessa and Michael Lewis
Julie Potts Mitchell and Family
Trey and Karen Oakley

Sandy Garner

Creo L. Smith

Dr. James Gay

Judge Lloyd W. and
Dorothy O. Perkins

Mary Dolores Genarlsky

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First UMC - Waco, TX

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Mary D. Collins
Randy and Debbie Curless
Joan Haag
Juanita Rapp

Tom Gilmore

Mrs. Marie Gilmore

Margaret Goff

Naomi M. Ford

Miller Goodman

Keystone Sunday School Class,
St. Luke's UMC - Midland, TX

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Mrs. Ruth F. Irvine

Stanley Graner

Sam Brown

Geraldine Orr

Reynold Gravina

Hunter and Totsy Cunningham

Mary Gregory

Mrs. Florence K. Brokaw

Sheila Campbell Gregson

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Garland Gresham

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Mr. and Mrs. William Blackwell
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M.A. Dal Sasso

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Bobette, Bob and Lyndanne
Mattox

Tom and Sue Myers' daughter:
Stacy

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and Friends, Orange, TX

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Willouise Hawkins

Alene Holder

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Mitzie Deike
Susie Johnson

Jean Hudiburg

Geraldine Orr

Billy Ray Rushing Hudson

Bruce and Patsy Pruett

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George and Elaine Roberson

Connie Ingram Parks Jasper

Mark and Suzette Brock

Marjorie Brown Johnson

Robert and Ima Brown

Kenneth (Ken) Jolly

Tim and Joyce Woodlock

Dawn Dee Jones

Mrs. Ruth F. Irvine

Eugenia (Jean) Jones

Jacob Bezner

Peggy Jones

Mr. and Mrs. Kennard Bill Holley

Hubert Joyner

Inez Howe
Mary and Jack Knowles
Geraldine Orr

Dr. Clifton M. Julian

Glenna Julian

Richard Kiker

Jim and Kay Batton

Mary Kinney

Dr. Louis F. Cannavale

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 Randy and Donna Arnold
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 Cindy Branyon
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Marilyn Tinkle

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 Lyn and Randy Mason
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 Kristi Michaelis and Family
 Julie Potts Mitchell and Family
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Michael Quintero

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Geraldine Orr

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My Richardsson Sullins

Gene and Maryanna Rhemann

George Surber

Virginia and Tom Buckingham

Milton Sweazea

Charles and Carol Brown and Lacy

Aubrey E. Taylor

Connie Smith

Betty Thompson

Corine Hurst

Rusty Thompson

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 Peter and Flossie Gibson
 Kristi Michaelis and Family

Bill Thornton

Jack and Margaret Gressett

Ted Tiller

Stanley and Rosemary Miller

Carroll and Sue Todd

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 James A. Huttenhower
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 Victor and Terry Ramirez
 Gary and Denise Rogerson
 Mike and Jayne Sewell
 Drs. Heath and Adrianna Stacey:
 Annalise, Whit, Mary, Virginia
 and Jack
 Mrs. Patricia Thomey
 Stephen and Kim Thomey

Sam Trejo

Mr. and Mrs. Dorman
 W. Pickering

Nancy Trimble

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 Farmers Branch, TX

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Sara Mull

Fred and Martha (Billie) Vinson

Joe and Cindy Altemore
 Betsy Henderson

Leroy and Dorothy Wallen

Ms. Linda Morrow

Barbara West

George and Elaine Roberson

Jessie Lee White

Jim and Wanda White
 John P. White

Mrs. Nancy Ray White

Rob and Peggy Brown

Lena Swinford Wiggins

Rebecca and Dub Narramore

Cleo and Herbert Wiley

Gary and Cheryl Rodgers

Jane Williams

David Thompson

Nancy Williams

Mr. John C. Williams

Elaine Wilson

Bill Wilson

Robert and Carlene Wilson

Royce and Lou Wilson

Rick Wolfe

Robert and Cami Hill

Mrs. Kay Woodley

Milly Schaer

Daniel Yarbrough

Short UMC - Center, TX

Doc Young

Mary Lou Massengale

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\$500 - \$999 GIFTS

In memory of **Mr. and Mrs. M.K. Alston (Genia)** by Gail, Gary, Glenna and Gregg Alston, Pasadena, TX

In memory of **Thomas L. Barrow, Sr. by Larry and Barbara Wright**, London, TX

In honor of **Diem Family Scholarship Fund** by Julie and John Diem

In memory of **Christina Gilbert** by Laureena A. Shah, Fort Washington, MD

In memory of **Augusta Hodges** by John and Janet Wilson, Paradise, TX

In memory of **Reverend Dennis Macune** by Wenda Kolterman, Lyford, TX

In memory of **my spouse, Henry A. Mayer, Jr. by Mrs. Henry Mayer**, Killeen, TX

In memory of **Gwyn H. Morton** by his wife, Phyllis Morton, Garland, TX

In memory of **Jim Sisler** by Jane Sisler, Corpus Christi, TX

In memory of **former staff member, Tom Strother** by James and Laura Milam, McGregor, TX

In memory of **Reverend Thomas Strother** by John and Elaine Milam, Lubbock, TX

In memory of **James S. Wilkins** by Ruth Wilkins, Waxahachie, TX

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In memory of **Otto and Janell Clary** by **Clary Farms**, Sabinal, TX

\$5,000 - \$10,000 GIFTS

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In memory of **J.T. and Jodie King** by **Kathryn and Hank Coleman**, Houston, TX

STRENGTH for Today HOPE for Tomorrow



Methodist Children's Home

MCH.org

 **Methodist Children's Home**
1111 Herring Ave.
Waco, TX 76708

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Boys Ranch youth enjoyed a ski day this summer hosted by In His Wakes ministries.