

SUNSHINE

THE MAGAZINE OF METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME | SPRING 2017

A VISION OF HOPE



Methodist Children's Home
Offering Hope Since 1890



THE 2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORT

The Annual Report of Methodist Children's Home may be viewed by visiting MCH.org. To receive a printed copy, please email your request to PR@MCH.org or call 1-800-853-1272.

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



Tim Brown

Throughout 127 years of ministry at Methodist Children's Home (MCH), the methods by which we have carried out our mission have changed, but MCH has remained relevant and thrived through our ability to adapt our programs, services and facilities to best serve the changing needs of society. MCH has never wavered from our commitment to offer

hope to children, youth and families through a nurturing, Christian community.

On p. 2 of this issue of Sunshine magazine, you will be introduced to our new Strategic Plan which will serve as our roadmap for the next three years. Some aspects of this plan will be groundbreaking. Other components will appear to stay relatively the same, building on the framework and planning set in motion in our previous strategic initiatives. Certain aspects may be implemented quickly, while others may not be completed or even attempted in the next three years. However, the discussions and critical planning must, and will, begin now.

For an organization the size and scope of MCH to remain relevant, it is critical that we stay attuned to the needs of the communities we serve. MCH is committed more than ever to being an organization on the cutting-edge of service, education and innovation as we make the most of the generous support of our faithful benefactors and advocates. This plan is a new starting point for initiatives that have the potential to save and change thousands of lives. The decisions we will make now will help shape the direction of this ministry for the next three years and beyond.

This is an exciting time at MCH. God's continued guidance of this ministry as evidenced throughout our history and the possibilities before us lead me to believe that even greater days are still to come. I thank God in advance for the great things that will be accomplished for the children, youth and families of Texas and New Mexico.

If you would like to read the Strategic Plan in its entirety, please visit our website at MCH.org.

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EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT

Tim Brown, *President & CEO*

Judy Broadway, *Vice President for Human Resources*

Moe Dozier, *Vice President for Programs*

Julie Mitchell, *Vice President for Finance*

Bryan Mize, *Vice President for Quality Improvement*

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MCH.org

A VISION OF HOPE

MCH UNVEILS NEW STRATEGIC PLAN

OUR VISION

Empowering children, youth and families to meet life's challenges.

OUR MISSION

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

The ministry of Methodist Children's Home was born from the vision of just two men. What began as an idea resulted in thousands of lives being changed for the better.

In 1890, Dr. Horace Bishop (*pictured left*), pastor of Waco's Fifth Street Methodist Church (now First United Methodist Church of Waco), and Bishop Joseph Key (*pictured right*), presented their plan to start an orphanage during a meeting of the Northwest Texas Conference. While traveling around the state, Bishop Key had witnessed the large number of homeless and neglected children in need of a safe place to live. He felt compelled to act. After the conference voted to support their vision, they began searching for a place where this home could become a reality. Four years later, the conference selected Waco as the location for the Northwest Texas Conference Orphans Home.



Today, that former orphanage, now called Methodist Children's Home (MCH), offers hope to more than 5,000 children, youth and families annually through its residential program, transition services and family outreach services. With strategic leadership, MCH has evolved through the years by taking notice of and adjusting to the needs of society, an ability that has allowed the agency to grow into a nationally-recognized leader in the childcare industry.

When Tim Brown was appointed president and CEO of MCH in 2010, he said many people asked him what his vision would be for the agency. These requests were the motivation for the Strategic Plan 2010-2015 which shared the agency's vision, priorities and goals for the next several years. The plan was comprehensive and ambitious, and at the conclusion of 2015, all goals and action steps were completed or in process. A new Strategic Plan for 2017-2019 was released in early 2017 and builds on the experiences and successes from the last plan.

"The Strategic Plan serves as a roadmap from our past through our present and into the future," Brown said. "The past and present inform our future plans and lay the groundwork and foundation to build upon."

Brown, members of executive management and Board of Directors feel it is important to clearly communicate the mission and vision for MCH.

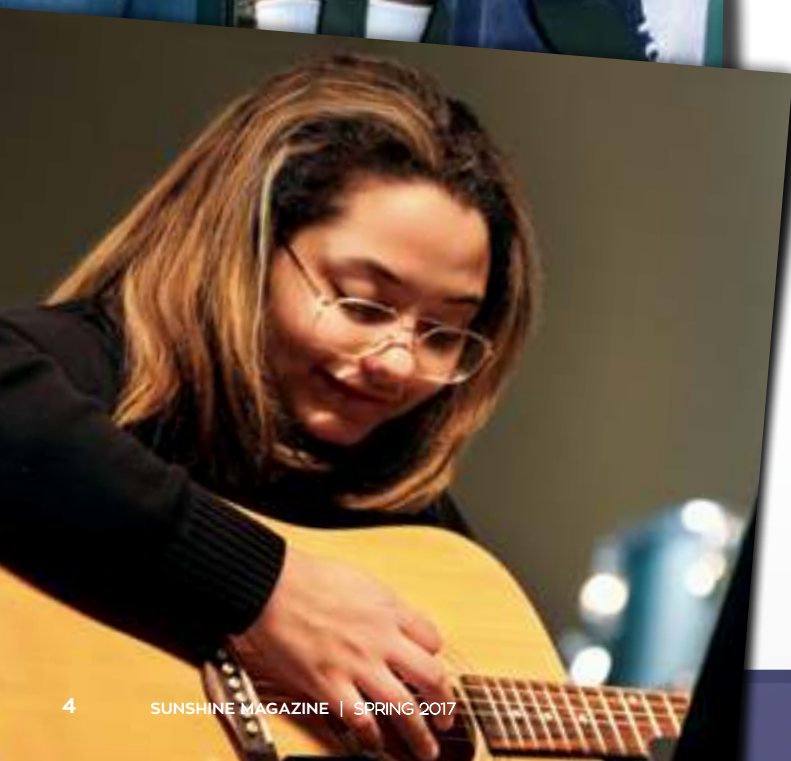
"Our strategic plan provides us with a vision," Brown said. "When we have an expressed, shared vision, there are opportunities for everyone to contribute."

Bryan Mize, vice president for quality improvement, guided the strategic planning process. The new plan covers a shorter time period to allow for any adjustments that may be needed as a result of changes in the industry or society, he explained.

"This new strategic plan provides many challenges for MCH as it guides our work for the next three years," Mize said. "As we implement the plan, we will adapt goals, action steps or target dates if we determine through our research that we need to move in a different direction, face external factors that influence our decisions or identify new priorities. In every decision, we will maintain our commitment to the best and highest use of our resources."

To begin the discussions for the new plan, executive management evaluated the previous plan to identify priorities and goals to continue into the next stage. They determined three of the priorities were relevant areas of growth to pursue. Those priorities were focused on programs, organizational culture and awareness. The vice presidents utilized employee feedback and participation in order to establish goals and action steps for each priority.

"I am most excited about creating avenues for employees to play a role in the strategic plan," Mize said. "It will be the work of the whole agency to fulfill the goals."



PRIORITY 1

Increase the impact MCH has on children, youth and families.

The priority to increase our impact on children, youth and families led to many innovative accomplishments in the previous plan. MCH implemented several trauma-informed and evidence-based practices into our care: Trust-Based Relational Intervention and Family Solutions in 2011, Nurturing Parenting in 2012 and Circle of Security in 2015.

MCH Family Outreach was also expanded and now serves families through 13 offices across Texas and New Mexico. In addition, MCH services to high school graduates grew into an Independent Living program launched in 2012 followed by the purchase of Clay Commons apartments in 2015 for MCH graduates who need additional support as they pursue advanced education or employment. MCH established exciting new avenues for impact in Priority 1 of the new plan.

Priority 1 identifies the following goals of MCH:

1. Develop future program master plan to meet the demand for services.

2. Strengthen agency efforts to support the operation of efficient and effective programs.

"We want to maximize our reach with the prudent use of the resources we have," said Julie Mitchell, vice president for finance. "If we show good stewardship and use our resources wisely, we can impact more people and continue the agency's commitment to preserve earning power for future needs."

Mitchell, along with Moe Dozier, vice president for programs, collaborated on Priority 1. In determining their plan, the pair solicited feedback from three focus groups with employees of all levels to represent residential, support services (transition services and charter school) and MCH Family Outreach.

Dozier said there were 10-15 people in each group who met to discuss how MCH can make the biggest impact on communities. In all three groups, the idea of a community center or afterschool program for the community was at the top, Dozier said. As a result, MCH plans to explore designing a new outreach center in Waco that will also include a pilot program for a daycare center to help us reach families early who may benefit from trauma-informed approaches. The research on the feasibility of this strategic idea is now underway.

"A community center would give us a physical presence out in the community that would be recognizable and form a long-term relationship with a community in need," Dozier said. "Also, a daycare program would draw people and serve as a gateway to our other services like Family Solutions, Grandparents As Parents Program (GAPP), foster care, or our residential program."

MCH also reveals in the first goal strategies to research better ways to serve young adults ages 18-22 who have not graduated from high school, complete the Waco campus capital improvement project and evaluate Boys Ranch

resources for new educational opportunities. In addition, MCH will strive to incorporate new evidence-based practices in GAPP, and transition the focus of the residential program from child welfare to education.

"We began this transition with our partnership with the University of Texas-University Charter School to prepare our kids for success," Dozier said. "We've been adding enrichment opportunities every year and this year will hit 300 graduates. We will continue to stress the importance of education to the children in our care."

PRIORITY 2

Strengthen the organizational culture and sense of community to support employee development, retention and morale.

The second priority focuses on enhancing internal operations and opportunities. In the previous plan, MCH had several successes in this area including the expansion of the training department and processes, the establishment of an employee website in 2012 and newsletter in 2015 to increase agency communication, and redesign of the employee survey. The position of vice president for quality improvement was also added in 2014.

To address organizational matters in the new plan, executive management analyzed information provided by staff from the previous planning process, employee surveys, exit interviews, leadership training, and other methods.

Priority 2 established three goals:

1. Provide a workplace that promotes connection, communication and collaboration.

2. Develop a professional learning community model.

3. Enhance cultural competency throughout the organization.

While employee participation has been used throughout the planning process, MCH will continue to find avenues to encourage employees to get involved in decision-making.

"You get valuable input from employees," said Judy Broadway, vice president for human resources, who worked on Priority 2 with Mize. "It is important to us to keep connecting. We want to have happy people here and a connection at all levels. We all have our ideas and they are valued. We are all important."



"WE BELIEVE THE COMMITMENT AND EFFORT IT WILL TAKE FROM ALL EMPLOYEES TO ACHIEVE THE STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS WILL SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE THE IMPACT OF THIS AGENCY THROUGHOUT TEXAS AND NEW MEXICO."

Priority 2 also highlights the goal to provide more opportunities for agency-wide trainings. Last year, MCH hosted training for administrative professionals, bringing together staff from all MCH Family Outreach office locations, Waco campus and Boys Ranch for the first time. Mize said with a large agency of 350 employees in multiple locations, it is a challenge to find ways to get everyone better equipped and connected, but it is an important goal in the new plan.

"Every employee can benefit from meeting new or other staff," Mize said. "Our ministry is based on relationships and we need to provide opportunities for that growth."

Some other areas addressed in the second priority are the desire to create a leadership training program, evaluate employee benefits, and determine the need for a supervisor handbook. MCH also strives to promote cultural awareness and maintain a diverse employee population in Priority 2.

"With the talent we have here at MCH, the sky is the limit for us," Broadway said. "This is a good strategic plan. It is going to be exciting to see those things come to fruition."

PRIORITY 3

Increase visibility, prominence and awareness of MCH in all current and targeted future locations.

In the third priority, MCH carries over the desire to increase agency awareness. In the previous plan, MCH had several accomplishments such as boosting marketing efforts including the increase of our social media presence, creating a marketing plan and new logo in 2014, and growing opportunities for involvement through volunteering and special events.

Priority 3 includes three goals:

1. Increase awareness of MCH as a leader in faith-based child and family services and as an exemplary nonprofit organization.

2. Support Program staff and designated departments in their promotional efforts.

3. Increase giving from a more diverse donor demographic.

In determining the goals and action steps, executive management members Mitchell and Trey Oakley, vice president for development, looked at information provided

through Continuous Quality Improvement meetings, discussions with childcare administrators, and feedback from other targeted groups. They also worked with the Development Committee and Dini Spheris, strategic partners who currently work with MCH on its "Building Hope" capital campaign.

"We are beginning to see changes in our audience," Oakley said. "Not only do we want to share our story but we also want to reach those with whom we hope to collaborate. In our previous plan, we focused on getting our MCH message beyond our walls. This plan is how we now take our message to more detailed, personal levels and to specific groups."

The goals include strategies to create promotional processes in order to build awareness as well as to find ways to establish new connections through hosting community events to generate more support. Also, MCH plans to further develop campaigns to target demographics of younger donors, planned giving benefactors, United Methodist congregations and other denominations.

"We want to continue to build overall awareness and improve upon it, but also segment out our message to where it is most effective," Oakley said. "This is done to connect with our next generation of supporters and to cultivate our current supporters so they know how they bless those we serve."

MCH has already put aspects of the new plan into motion and will periodically give updates on progress through publications and other mediums.

"We are excited about the potential for growth of MCH during the next three years," Mize said. "We believe the commitment and effort it will take from all employees to achieve the strategic plan goals will significantly increase the impact of this agency throughout Texas and New Mexico." •

To view the 2017-19 Strategic Plan, please visit our website at MCH.org.



2017-2019 STRATEGIC PLAN SUMMARY

PRIORITY 1

Increase the impact MCH has on children, youth and families.

Goal 1 – Develop future program master plan to meet the demand for services.

Goal 2 – Strengthen agency efforts to support the operation of efficient and effective programs.

PRIORITY 2

Strengthen the organizational culture and sense of community to support employee development, retention and morale.

Goal 1 – Provide a workplace that promotes connection, communication and collaboration.

Goal 2 – Develop a professional learning community model.

Goal 3 – Enhance cultural competency throughout the organization.

PRIORITY 3

Increase visibility, prominence and awareness of MCH in all current and targeted future locations.

Goal 1 – Increase awareness of MCH as a leader in faith-based child and family services and as an exemplary nonprofit organization.

Goal 2 – Support Program staff and designated departments in their promotional efforts.

Goal 3 – Increase giving from a diverse donor demographic.

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM

Mr. Tim Brown
President/CEO

Mr. Trey Oakley
Vice President for Development

Mrs. Julie Mitchell
Vice President for Finance

Ms. Judy Broadway
Vice President for Human Resources

Mr. Bryan Mize
Vice President for Quality Improvement

Mr. Moe Dozier
Vice President for Programs

YOUTH PROFILE

TRENT

CHOOSING TO OVERCOME



Trent, a resident at MCH Boys Ranch since 2014, has a personality that is full of life. He channels his energy into sports and has become a strong athlete at Methodist Children's Home charter school. He is doing well in school and will graduate in May 2018 and begin a promising adulthood.

Trent has grown up and overcome some of his previous struggles in the last few years. Before MCH, Trent was getting into trouble at school and at home. He was using drugs and alcohol and hanging out with the wrong people. It was damaging his relationship with his family and they knew it was time to make a change.

At MCH, Trent became involved in football and track. Although he had never previously played sports, he found that he enjoyed being part of a team.

"It teaches you to work with other people to accomplish a goal," he said. "And trust-building – you have to trust people that they will help you out and you will help them out."

Trent is attending the Greater Waco Advanced Manufacturing Academy through a partnership with Waco Independent School District to study welding. Trent's father was a crane operator and he said he likes the idea of building structures and doing construction.

Trent has built relationships with staff members and said he has been able to meet new people and learn how to get along with others through MCH. Trent also has had quite an impact on his home parents, Donna and Jack Ratliff.

"The improvement Trent is showing is commendable," Donna said. "He is a very bright young man who shows great potential. He is an intelligent and passionate young man with a uniqueness that sets him apart from others. Trent is compassionate and cares for others from his heart. He always makes me laugh with his fun-loving spirit. He will always be a shining light in the future."

At MCH, Trent has taken advantage of opportunities, learned to make better choices and dealt with his previous issues. He said MCH has been a good place for him.

"They helped me with my anger and self-control," Trent said. "They help you get a good relationship with your family if you didn't have it before. The school offers different programs to go to so that you can be what you want. And they will help you go to college."

Trent believes he was on his way to destruction before coming to MCH – whether by destroying his family, going to jail or even dying. Through MCH, he had the time to change his path and opened doors to new possibilities. •



A MOTHER'S HOPE RENEWED

MCH Family Outreach in Tyler empowers a struggling mom to thrive

A playground brings out the joy in any child and on a bright, crisp, sun-drenched spring afternoon at a park in Tyler, Texas, Ebonie's three children are no different.

Dytristen, age 6, is first up the path and is soon shrieking with glee from the top of a tower with several twisting slides. A'nyiah, age 10, is playing the role of a reserved big sister who'd rather be somewhere else, trailing behind 2-year-old Dymond, who is intent on doing everything his brother Dytristen is doing. Soon all three children are running back and forth across the playground, laughing and smiling as their mother looks on.

Ebonie will be the first to admit she's coming out of a hard place, but things are looking up – thanks in part to her determination coupled with the help she's received from MCH Family Outreach in Tyler.



“I WANT TO PARENT AND RAISE MY KIDS IN A DIFFERENT WAY THAN HOW I WAS RAISED.”



According to Madison Lasse, family preservation case manager at MCH in Tyler, many of the referrals received by the office are single mothers who are jobless and living in extreme poverty situations, needing support in child development and financial assistance.

Ebonie was different in that she had a job, but was running on empty in her ability to parent her children and break the cycle of negative habits learned from the community and family environment she knew growing up. After a difficult situation with her children last year, Ebonie was referred to MCH Family Outreach by a CPS caseworker.

"I was at a point where I knew I needed to be further along in life in terms of parenting my kids," she said. "It seemed like everything I did was wrong and I was always angry and frustrated with them."

"I want to parent and raise my kids in a different way than how I was raised," she said determinedly. "I don't want to put my hands on them."

"I WANT MY KIDS TO SEE THE WORLD. I WANT THEM TO HAVE EVERYTHING, BUT ALSO KNOW THEY GET THAT BY WORKING HARD."

Lasse said it is understandable that new clients can be apprehensive and wary when meeting with a case manager for the first time, but said Ebonie was quick to see that MCH was solidly on her side.

"Normally during our first visit I emphasize that we are here to advocate for them, support them and see their family thrive," Lasse said. "Ebonie was a bit guarded when she first met with me, but at the end of our first visit she had relaxed a lot and said I was easy to talk to."

Ebonie received support through Family Solutions, an MCH Family Outreach program in which a case manager meets weekly with the family to set goals and offer support as they find solutions to their challenges. Family Solutions is facilitated through all 13 MCH Family Outreach locations across Texas and New Mexico.

Lasse helped Ebonie develop a plan to strengthen her family and also helped connect them to services in Tyler which would help even more. Through weekly meetings with Ebonie, she taught and reinforced parenting skills and helped her set achievable goals as a mother.

Ebonie said she and her children have bonded as a result of meeting with Lasse and have implemented several things to help in the home, such as a behavioral chart. With Lasse's help, Ebonie was able to get Dytristen, who had been acting out with emotional outbursts, into a center that uses therapeutic massage and positive reinforcement as therapy for over-active children.

Lately, the children have begun responding to Ebonie's efforts to be intentional about having family time and activities, "instead of always just allowing them to be with their friends so they'd be out of my hair," she said. "Now we sit at the table together and talk about their day. We have structure, and that's not a bad word."

More than anything, through her meetings with MCH Family Outreach, Ebonie said she began to notice that her feelings of being overwhelmed by life were becoming less frequent.

"Without MCH and Madison, I probably would have moved us all in with my mom and just screamed for help," she said. "But now I have faith and believe in myself. It's me, too, who needs to learn, not just the kids. I'm better, but I'm a work in progress. I used to feel weak and bad – less than a woman – when I couldn't handle my kids and all I did was come down on them."

Ebonie hopes to one day work in the travel industry, because more than anything, "I want my kids to see the world. I want them to have everything, but also know they get that by working hard."

"One of the best things now is that I have an open mind," she added. "I know I can be a good mother and there is so much more I can do. I don't have to be stuck in the same cycle as I was raised. Madison brought me my confidence back."



OUTREACH NEWS

■ LAS CRUCES STAFF GIVE BACK TO THEIR COMMUNITY

The staff of the MCH Family Outreach office in Las Cruces, N.M., are dedicated to helping others. Along with their everyday duties on the job, the group also devotes time to volunteer at other local nonprofits. Kimberly York, director of the Las Cruces office, said her team has committed to a "Day of Service" at least once every quarter and feels it is an important aspect of their work in this new outreach location.

"It has been great for us to learn about what each person (on our team) is passionate about," York said. "Deciding our next assignment sparks some great discussion about how people would like to give back to our community while learning more about the great work other agencies are doing. It is heartwarming to see that our team shares a genuine passion for giving back."

So far the Las Cruces team has volunteered to serve hot meals at the El Caldito Soup Kitchen and put up walls in Habitat for Humanity homes of some of their very own Circle of Security class graduates. Next, they plan to volunteer at the Gospel Rescue Mission's Clothing Center where they refer several of their Grandparents As Parents Program (GAPP) clients for free clothing. Beatrice Jimenez, administrative assistant for the office, participated in both "days of service" events.



"Being new myself to social services and as the administrative assistant, I feel we can all contribute however we can to understand the needs of the community," Jimenez said. "Volunteering is a great way to hear and see the effect that it has on people and learn what challenges face our area in particular."

York said the Las Cruces community has welcomed MCH and they have received an "outpouring of support" from the school board to the mayor's office since the office opened last summer. They currently serve 19 grandparents through GAPP and are leading four parenting classes in the community. York said they also have plans to connect with several other organizations in the area to

strengthen the support for the families they serve.

York is proud of her team and their efforts to connect with others in the community through volunteer service.

"I truly believe that what comes from the heart reaches the heart and that people would rather see a sermon than hear one any day," York said. "When I first moved to New Mexico a year ago, I did so with a mission to get a bird's eye view and understanding of the unique Southwestern culture. When you are in the trenches with people, you get to know so much about their journey and what's meaningful to them. It's an opportunity to see the world through someone else's eyes and to grow as a result of the rich exchange."



BRYAN/COLLEGE STATION

There was a great crowd at our open house on Jan. 13 to officially open the newest MCH Family Outreach office! Representatives from local churches, other social service agencies, government representatives, and the Chamber of Commerce joined the MCH team for a ribbon-cutting following a time of visiting, touring the facility and learning about the services MCH Family Outreach brings to families in the Bryan/College Station area.

MCH ADVOCATES ALONGSIDE OTHER
CHILDCARE AGENCIES AT STATE CAPITOL

Methodist Children’s Home (MCH) joined representatives from other childcare agencies across Texas at the State Capitol in Austin on Feb. 1 for the awareness event “Never Alone Star State – Advocating for Children in Foster Care” sponsored by the Texas Alliance for Child and Family Services (TACFS).

“The alliance put together the event as an opportunity to unite together to advocate for children in foster care in Texas and encourage legislators to make these children a priority this legislative session,” said Kelly Lawson, special gifts coordinator for MCH who helped arrange attendance to the event for MCH.

According to its website, the mission of TACFS is to strengthen services to children and families through quality care and advocacy. The alliance is made up of agencies that focus primarily on working with children and families who are at-risk, children who have experienced abuse and neglect and families dealing with low income, loss of jobs, domestic violence, and other issues.

Tim Brown, President/CEO of Methodist Children’s Home, also serves on the Board of Directors for TACFS. He said MCH felt it was important to participate in the awareness event due to the potential for wholesale changes to the Child Welfare Regulatory and Services system in Texas.

“Many of the changes being proposed are positive, but there are others that may impact agencies in unanticipated ways, agencies such as MCH who also serve children placed privately by their own families and caregivers,” Brown explained. “We felt like we could add balance to the proposed solutions by bringing a wider view to the discussions.”

Brown, along with several other agency leaders, was recognized at the Texas Senate during the session by Senator Charles “Carlos” Uresti of Senate District 19. Uresti serves as vice chair for the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services and is an advocate for the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

Uresti sponsored the conference portion of the event which also included breakfast, presentations and speakers throughout the day, including remarks from Texas First Lady Cecilia Abbott. Participating agencies also spent the afternoon making legislative visits.

MCH is accredited through the Council on Accreditation (COA), accepts placements and referrals from TDFPS and is licensed and regulated by the department. Brown pointed out that MCH holds an excellent record of compliance and safety for those in our care.

“We wanted the opportunity to participate in the dialogue and support positive and necessary change without further encumbering providers with additional changes or regulations unnecessarily,” he said. •



DEVELOPMENT NEWS

■ “BUILDING HOPE” CONTINUES

Methodist Children’s Home started the process of building two additional homes (*pictured below*) on the Waco campus in December 2016. These homes are part of the “Building Hope” capital campaign which started in 2015 to build state-of-the-art homes influenced by modern licensing standards and our growing expertise with trauma-informed care in order to better serve today’s youth.

“The building of the second and third home completes Phase One of our capital campaign,” said Trey Oakley, vice president for development. “MCH

leadership, our Board of Directors and fundraising team are exploring the feasibility of additional homes.”

The two latest homes will be named for benefactors John E. Hilliard and Margaret Ann Ashcraft. They will be located across from the Willis-Greene Gymnasium on Hope Street. John W. Erwin General Contractor, Inc., who completed the Daniels Home, is also constructing the new homes. The design and concept for the homes will follow the design of the recent Daniels Home with some minor modifications based on recommendations from

childcare staff and their experiences in the home.

Residents and staff in the Daniels Home, which was the first home built with the updated design, have been very pleased with their state-of-the-art home and home parents report there is more interaction with the youth due to the open floorplan. Also, the youth enjoy the feelings of security and privacy having their own bedroom and bathroom in accordance with childcare licensing best practices. •



Illustrations courtesy of John W. Erwin General Contractor, Inc.

■ CHURCH GIVING FOR 2016 *Top 20 for Direct Gifts and Total Giving*

DIRECT GIFTS

Offerings and donations received directly from churches

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. First UMC - Waco | 11. University Park UMC - Dallas |
| 2. Banquete UMC | 12. First UMC - Coppell |
| 3. First UMC - Center | 13. First UMC - Mansfield |
| 4. First UMC - Rockwall | 14. Grace UMC - Copperas Cove |
| 5. First UMC - Grapevine | 15. Coker UMC - San Antonio |
| 6. Matador UMC | 16. First UMC - Georgetown |
| 7. First UMC - Frisco | 17. The Woodlands UMC |
| 8. Marvin UMC - Tyler | 18. Garden City UMC |
| 9. First UMC - Keller | 19. Christ Church UMC - The Woodlands |
| 10. First UMC - Graham | 20. Fellowship UMC - Trophy Club |

TOTAL GIVING

Direct gifts from churches plus church credit requests from individual's donations

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. First UMC - Waco | 11. First UMC - Grapevine |
| 2. Banquete UMC | 12. Custer Road UMC - Plano |
| 3. First UMC - Center | 13. The Woodlands UMC |
| 4. First UMC - Rockwall | 14. Friendship UMC - Sherman |
| 5. Marvin UMC - Tyler | 15. First UMC - Big Spring |
| 6. First UMC - Los Alamos | 16. Bethany UMC - Austin |
| 7. Kingwood UMC | 17. Trinity UMC - Arlington |
| 8. First UMC - Richardson | 18. St. Luke's UMC - Midland |
| 9. Christ Church UMC - The Woodlands | 19. First UMC - Fort Worth |
| 10. First UMC - Graham | 20. Holy Covenant UMC - Katy |

Thank you for your continued support!



TRANSITION SERVICES

NATALIA

FINDING A VOICE

Natalia Hazelwood came to Methodist Children's Home (MCH) at the age of 16 longing for normalcy and stability. In the decade since, her journey has led her to now be a voice and advocate for other at-risk youth.

Hazelwood began her journey at the age of 2 through several foster placements. By the age of 10 she had experienced the hopefulness of being adopted, only to be removed due to neglect years later.

"I have seen and experienced injustices in my own life," said Hazelwood. "I always knew I wanted to help people but as I got older I began to see injustices more outside of myself and I wanted to help make a difference in the world."

After moving through several foster homes, Hazelwood was placed at MCH.

Hazelwood was determined to take full advantage of her opportunities at MCH. She was involved in high school activities as well as taking part in the MCH choir, mission trips, and the Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University. She also was an MCH Ambassador, a group of MCH youth selected to share in churches their experiences at MCH and their personal testimonies.

"MCH does a good job creating a family environment," she said. "I came to MCH where people loved and supported me. I was able to do normal kid things like make friends, go on trips, and get a job and a driver's license."

But it was through the MCH Ambassadors that she learned she had a powerful story to tell.

"MCH gave me a voice," said Hazelwood. "They saw greatness in me and nurtured it. Traveling and speaking helped me start healing and I wanted that for others. These are the things that carry me through today."

Hazelwood and her husband Daniel live in Spring, Texas, with their 3-year-old daughter.

Last fall Hazelwood completed her coursework at Lone Star Community College in The Woodlands, Texas, maintaining a 3.9 grade point average. She was the vice president of Student Government and also in the Honors College and made the President's List. In the fall of 2016 she was selected to be on a panel at the Democratic Commitment Conference at the New York Times. She spoke about her involvement with the Center of Civic Engagement and Campus Vote Project which helps students get engaged in the election process.

"As a young adult and Christian I thought my avenue to help others would be through missions," she said, noting opportunities she has had serving with youth organizations in Indonesia and Mexico. "Now I can see I have another avenue and I have seen God's favor in it."

Hazelwood has been accepted to Penn State and will complete her online bachelor's degree in International Relations while remaining an active voice for at-risk youth. In February she attended a rally in Austin, Texas, at the State Capitol hosted by the Texas Network of Youth Services. She shared her story as the first speaker at the rally.

"I am grateful for the second chance MCH gave me," she said. "My transition services coordinator, Angie Vaughn, is the face of MCH for me now. She keeps up with me and celebrates with me in my successes. When I complete my degree my ultimate goal is to work for the United Nations or the State Department."

When Hazelwood was asked to share a favorite memory while at MCH, she said, "When I reflect back I remember a time the MCH Ambassadors had the opportunity to speak and Trey Oakley, vice president for development, came up to me and said 'You did a fantastic job! You could do that for a living one day.' That encouragement made a huge impact in my life." •

EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS | 2017

3 YEARS OF SERVICE

Back row, from left: Elizabeth Goss, Samantha Grochoske, Gregory Raley
Front row: Austin Brown, Kelly Lawson, Billie Schaefer, Tim Brown-president
Not pictured: Danyel Bennett, Dominique Caram, Elizabeth Cuevas, Megan Harbin, Philana Hollingsworth, Monica Jaramillo, Anna Ortiz, Olga Paull, Maria Pintor, Tameka Riley, Brenna Sanford, Zahire Gonzalez-Villa

5 YEARS OF SERVICE

Back row, from left: Robert McKenzie, Kristy George, Magdalena Calhoun, Julie Mitchell, Ian Bracken, Tim Brown-president
Front row: Rebecca James, Jessica Johnson, Kimberly Bobbitt, Roberta Brickey, Sabrina Munselle, Bernita Anderson, Azucena King, Shannon Zuehlke
Not pictured: Daniel Harper

10 YEARS OF SERVICE

Back row, from left: Donald Repp, Tim Brown-president, Anthony Burns
Middle row: Charles Ehlers, Kathy Spencer, Randy Powell
Front row: Nicole Washington, Moe Dozier, Susan Beatty
Not pictured: Brian Brookshire, David Starr

15 YEARS OF SERVICE

From left: Jason Bartlett, Veronica Whalen-Peters, Curtis Holder, Tim Brown-president
Not pictured: Emma Holland

20 YEARS OF SERVICE

From left: Kelly Smith, Tim Brown-president, Julie Spiech

25 YEARS OF SERVICE

From left: Barbara Kostecka, Tim Brown-president

30 YEARS OF SERVICE

From left: Kenneth Alexander, Elise Pinney, Tim Brown-president

35 YEARS OF SERVICE

Not pictured: Joseph Heupel

■ MCH STAFF MENTOR PROFESSIONALS IN TBRI

Four Methodist Children's Home staff members have teamed up with Texas Christian University's Institute of Child Development to train others around the world in Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI). John Warren, Lee Davis, Ian Bracken and Clarence DeGrate have all traveled to Fort Worth and Austin to serve as mentors during the Institute's TBRI practitioner training.

TCU approached our staff to see if they were interested in helping out during the week-long sessions. These trainings typically occur four times a year. Sarah Mercado, training specialist with the Institute, said mentors have become an integral part of their TBRI practitioner training. They lead small groups in roleplay activities as well as breakout groups to learn about sensory integration, nurture groups, life skills and mindfulness.

"They are remarkable at developing relationships and building trust to make participants comfortable and able to learn," Mercado said. "The mentor also serves as a wonderful support for our staff. Whether they are roaming the room with a microphone to aid in audience participation, leading sensory breaks, helping carry heavy boxes or lending a hand wherever asked, they have become an invaluable part of our training."

Warren, director of training at MCH, said he plans to serve as a mentor again this spring and enjoys being able to share TBRI with others.

"We love doing it," he said. "It is great to be up there. It energizes us and helps give us ideas. It is good to connect and see what others around the world are doing and stay connected with the people at TCU."

People attending the training are from various professional fields including other childcare agencies, occupational therapists, medical doctors, therapists, and educators. Lee Davis, youth care counselor supervisor at MCH, has attended three trainings as a mentor so far and also plans to return in the spring.

"I am very happy to be able to share and to hopefully have a greater impact on the lives of kids and their caregivers," Davis said. "Without exception, the people that I have mentored have been highly motivated and dedicated to helping children heal." •



■ MCH STUDENTS SURPRISED DURING FIELD TRIP TO McLANE STADIUM

Some special visitors joined a group of Methodist Children's Home charter school students during a tour of McLane Stadium, home to the Baylor Bears football team. On March 1, five Baylor players surprised the middle schoolers and helped give them a field trip they will not soon forget.

The group of students were from Mr. Zachary Byrd's Core class. Byrd, the middle school social studies teacher at the charter school, said one of his objectives in his class is to teach the children leadership and positive peer interaction.

"A lot of my kids in the class are big sports fans," Byrd said. "I wanted them to have the opportunity to interact with some of their heroes and see the stadium. I emphasize to the kids that there are a lot of jobs involved with sports and you don't have to be a great athlete to have a career in sports or athletics. I think them seeing the stadium showed them some of the career opportunities involving athletics."

Byrd coordinated with Baylor athletics to surprise the students. At the beginning of the tour five players, Wyatt Schrepfer (running back), Josh Malin (tight end), Will Jones (defensive tackle, pictured at left with MCH student Quentrell), Clint Kelly (long snapper), and Chris Lutz (long snapper) along with Associate Director of Football Operations Ryan Kelly filed into the stadium.

During the tour, the group was taken through the press box, president's suite, recruit lounge, postgame interview room, locker room and football field. The players spent their time talking with the students, signed autographs, and even tossed around the football and kicked field goals with the students on the field.

"Seeing the kids interact with the players absolutely made my day," Byrd said. "Their positive interaction with them was amazing. The kids' smiles and comments afterward were awesome." •

■ MCH INVESTS IN ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS

Administrative professionals are often the first point of contact in an office. As an essential support element of a workgroup, their work is important to keep a team operating like a well-oiled machine. To support and encourage this group of individuals, Methodist Children's Home (MCH) recently held the Administrative Professionals Conference (APC), gathering together for the first time administrative personnel from all MCH offices.



According to John Warren, director of training at MCH, the APC was an important part of an organization-wide strategic plan to strengthen employees.

"Since 2009, the agency's commitment to employee professional growth across all departments and programs has increased as a result of the strategic plan," Warren said. "The APC is an important part of this commitment that came out of the implementation of the agency-wide training plan. The APC, in particular, was the result of an intentional emphasis on a group of employees who work in many different departments, but utilize a similar skillset."

Attendees included administrative professionals from the Waco campus, Boys Ranch and the MCH Family Outreach offices located throughout Texas and New Mexico. During the two-day conference they heard from various MCH leaders on topics such as the MCH legacy of ministry, building a culture of community and connection, and supporting the MCH mission. They also toured the Boys Ranch and new Daniels Home and received training from MCH's training staff. Sarah Aynesworth, a professional etiquette consultant, delivered an interactive keynote address on professional and social interaction and conversation.

Jean Wright, MCH staff trainer, explained that the title of the conference, "The Connected Community," was "to remind us of the importance of staying connected so that we can continue to strengthen our community even while we work in different cities and areas of the agency every day."

"I think all of us can forget the scope of our programs and services at times," Wright said. "We each play a different role, but we all contribute to the legacy and mission of MCH and are all connected to the accomplishments and developments taking place."

Genie Greer, administrative assistant in the MCH Family Outreach office in Lubbock, has been with MCH for nearly 15 years. She said the APC was a good time of encouragement and validation for her and her peers in similar positions.

"MCH has always been good to accept that the position of administrative professional, with all its different titles throughout the years, is important," she said. "Coming from a managerial background, I know that is not always the case. Organization, flexibility, problem-solving, reliability, and sociability are not always attributes one finds within the same person. It is good to be recognized as one of the persons using these skills on a daily basis."

"MCH administration validated our position's importance with this conference," she added. •

■ McLENNAN COUNTY JUNIOR LIVESTOCK SHOW 2017

Methodist Children's Home (MCH) FFA students had a record year at the 2017 McLennan County Junior Livestock Show with five animals making it into the sale. The Ag Mechanics team consisting of 17 students also won second place in sweepstakes.

The FFA chapter is part of the charter school at MCH operated in partnership with the University of Texas–University Charter School system. Every year, students in the agriculture classes learn to care for livestock and show them at local events. This year MCH had 23 students compete in the McLennan County show. Here are the results:

Steers: NICK – 4th (sale), GALEN – 5th (sale), JOSH – 6th, KEL – 8th; also participated – JACOB
Swine: JULIO – 5th (sale), NOAH – 6th (sale); also participated – CHRIS, LESTER, DANNY, YACCI, ALEX
Goats: SELENA – 2nd (sale); also participated – EDWINA, LADARIUS, TAMEKA
Sheep: MARISA – 3rd, IONA – 4th, JAYLEN – 2nd; also participated – KK, RAINN, AKIA, GAIL

Ag Mechanics Show:

Gates (LESTER and JACOB) – 3rd, Wooden salt feeder (KK, AKIA, SELENA) – 2nd, Headache rack (ALEX) – 1st, Towable barbecue (NICK, GALEN, JOSH) – 2nd, Cedar coffee table (DANNY) – 2nd, Cedar chest (MARISA) – 1st, Cedar table (AG CLASSES) – 2nd, Quail house (RAINN, JAYLEN, TAMEKA) – 2nd, also entered – BBQ (GALEN) and Fire pit (NOAH, KEL); Shop light (GALEN) – 1st and Reserve Division Champion, Turtle trap (NICK, GALEN, KEL) – 2nd and Reserve Division Champion, Indoor lamp (KK, AKIA, SELENA) – 1st and Division Champion; Team received Second in Sweepstakes

Congratulations to all our students on their hard work, and a special thanks to our AG Boosters! •



MEMORIAL GIFTS AND GIFTS OF HONOR

GIFTS MADE FROM JANUARY 2017 THROUGH FEBRUARY 2017

Honorariums

Matthew Andrews
Cathy Alexander

Shirley Ann Aubert
Bobby Vance

Arledge Brashers
Bobby Vance

Mary Ellen Bryan
Bobby Vance

Jeff C. Buie
Bobby Vance

Claudette Burlison
Dallas and Debbie Garrett

Jason D. Cannavale
Louis and Vickie Cannavale

Mrs. Mary Brooke Casad
The Supremes – Wesley UMC –
Greenville – East Tawakoni, TX

Kenneth and Linda Chaffee
Douglas and Dawn Hancock

Carroll and Joyce Choate
Krystal Porter

Jack and Evelyn Daniels
Bobby Vance

Deborah Daugherty
Bobby Vance

Mr. Bob Dockendorf
Victor Sunday School Class
First UMC – Palestine, TX

Mrs. Sue Ferguson
Bobby Vance

Ashlee Nicole Frazier & Aaron Caleb Williams’ Wedding
Mr. and Mrs. John P. Griffin
Bryan and Jennifer Hawkins
Matthew Meiners
Sheila and Donald Williams
Nick and Jan Zettlemoyer

Louis B. Gillispie
Bobby Vance

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Graalum
Robert and Betty Thompson

Dugie Graham’s Birthday
Margaret Briley

John Hartridge
Ms. Merle Mendheim

Ed and Susan Hinson’s Anniversary
Elizabeth Ponder

Howard Home Legacy
Charles and Ann Cantrell

Karen Jackson’s 60th Birthday
Alice Sappington

Boyce Jones
Reverend Sheila and Mr. Pablo
Castellano

Ashli Knust’s Birthday
Robert H. Collins

J.D. Martin and Kay Martin
Bobby Vance

Linda McMurry
Bobby and Debbie Caswell

James and Laura Milam
Bobby Vance

Daniel Moore
Bobby Vance

Bruce Pruett and Patsy J. Pruett
Bobby Vance

Rodney Reese’s Retirement
Christine Fernandez

Bart Rex
First UMC – Clifton, TX

Marene Shoaff
Allie Davenport

Eugene Spencer
Bobby Vance

Pat Taylor’s Birthday
Jo Cato-Herring

Welcome Sunday School Class
Custer Road UMC – Plano, TX
Nancy Evans

Memorials

G.E. (Steve) Almquist
Kay Merritt
Hartley and Barbara Sappington
Sertoma Club of Georgetown, Inc.
Georgetown, TX

Connie Anderson
William DeForest Family

Mrs. Donna Anderson
Judge Lloyd W. and Mrs. Dorothy O.
Perkins

James Armstrong
Virginia (Ginger) Sandwina

Eli Boyd Arnold
Martha Boothe-Bederka

Don E. Aubert
Bobby Vance

Cynthia Farrall Aycock
Barry and Marijane Smitherman

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Dr. and Mrs. Marcus Young

Franklin Bain
Nelda Hardin

Mrs. Mary Barker
Dr. and Mrs. Marcus Young

Wacie Barnett
Leland and Barbara White

Dr. Roy T. Bassett
Mary E. Bassett

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Scarlett and Patrick Bray

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Peggy Stilwell

Reverend Ted Berkas
Charles and Elvina Windham

Annette Boaz
Jerry and Ann Gibson

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Nevelyn C. Alexander
Lew and Pauline Ashton
Shelby and Amy Barley
Arledge Brashers, Jr.
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Edith Craig
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Moe and Jane Dozier
Judy Evans
Louis B. Gillispie
Genevia Hendricks
Sarah M. Hudson
Wayne and Sandra Johnson
Bryan Mize
Betty and Les Morrison

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Peggy Osborne
Dr. Merwyn and Polly Pickle
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Bobby Vance
Tim and Joyce Woodlock

Martha Brewster
Jerry and Ann Gibson

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Annora K. Ables
Joe and Jami Lovelady

Merlin Burlison
First Bank – Officers & Employees
Wichita Falls, TX
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Dallas and Debbie Garrett
Teresa Grubbs
Greg King
Richard and Sue Ripley
Paula Tilker

Dan Moody Cain
Patricia Anding
Wilson Crone
Maria de la Torre
Tanner Franklin
Rene and Liliana Greenwald
Bonnie Sanford
Becca Skupin
Sarah Williams

Jack Cone
Geraldine Orr

Jacob Cook
Steve and Meda Beaird

Lera Crow
Linda Phillips

Peggy Jean (Jones) Custard
Arledge Brashers
Annabelle W. Catterall
Louis B. Gillispie
Genevia Hendricks
Tim and Joyce Woodlock

William Cal Daves
Jerry and Adelle McCarty

Clayton Davis
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Patricia Ann Ford Denman
Genevia Hendricks

Reverend John M. Dickey
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Lillie Irene Easley
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Michael & Sandy Caskey
Pamela & Elery Knapp
Patricia & Richard Lanza
David and Frances Long
Mark and Keri Wallace

E. Jean English
Anonymous

Diane Fite
Andrew McMahan

George and Theo Fory
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Fory

Peggy (Crooke) Fry
Lyle Scholten

Steve Fryar
Terelyn Garlington

Glenn Fuller
Margie P. Berger

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Patsy Dell May Gunter
Hunter and Totsy Cunningham

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Jeremy Webb

Mrs. Kerran Hartman
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Kaleidoscope Sunday School Class
St. Mark’s UMC – Mesquite, TX

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Susan and Rick Cade

David Wayne Hill
Charles and Carol Brown

Brian Hoffman
Suzanne Goodenough

Mr. M.C. (Hoppy) Hopkins
Will and Carolyn Saunders

Mr. Glyn Jamison
Dr. and Mrs. Marcus Young

Alice Johnson
Mr. and Mrs. Dan W. Robinson

Marjorie Brown Johnson
Robert and Ima Brown

Weldon Josey
Glenn and Kay Furman

Mr. Lamar Kopecky
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Mr. and Mrs. Carroll D. Brown, Jr.
Zach Brown

Rayford Lamkin
Bette Samford

Nelda Laney
Leland and Barbara White

Roy Lovelady
Jami Lovelady

Lamb Mackechnie
Grady UMC – Broadview, NM

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Linda Evenson

Charlie Marstaller
Carroll and Mary Jane Huber

Mrs. Kim Mayer
Dr. and Mrs. Marcus Young

Mr. Millard McAfee
Dr. and Mrs. Marcus Young

Mildred McAllister
Ken, Belinda and Frances Alles
Donna Kay Barnes
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Ms. Ann Owens
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Katrina Swindle

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Peter and Flossie Gibson

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Mr. Lloyd Rucker
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Shelby and Amy Barley

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Virginia Bell
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Andrew (Mac) McMahan
Bette Samford
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Leland and Barbara White

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Dr. Jere Showalter
Dr. and Mrs. Marcus Young

Senator Bill Sims
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First UMC – Clifton, TX

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Jami Lovelady

Joyce Spencer
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John Hogg Sr. Chapter NSDAR
Daughters of the American
Revolution – Hawkins, TX
Bobby Vance
Tim and Joyce Woodlock

Donald E. Stapleton
June Ivey

Johnnie Lou Suits
Helen and Arthur Edwards

Billie Tatum
Jean Lynn and Family

Pearly Theiss
Susan and Rick Cade

Dick Thomas
Wesley Sunday School Class
First UMC – Killeen, TX

Evelyn Thompson
Geraldine Orr

Bill Tucker
Harold Bogan

Pete Wade
Family of Kathy Franco

James Walker
Geraldine Orr

Lee Waller, Sr.
Ben and Laura Lutek

Patsi V. Whatley
Jim and Diana Braziel

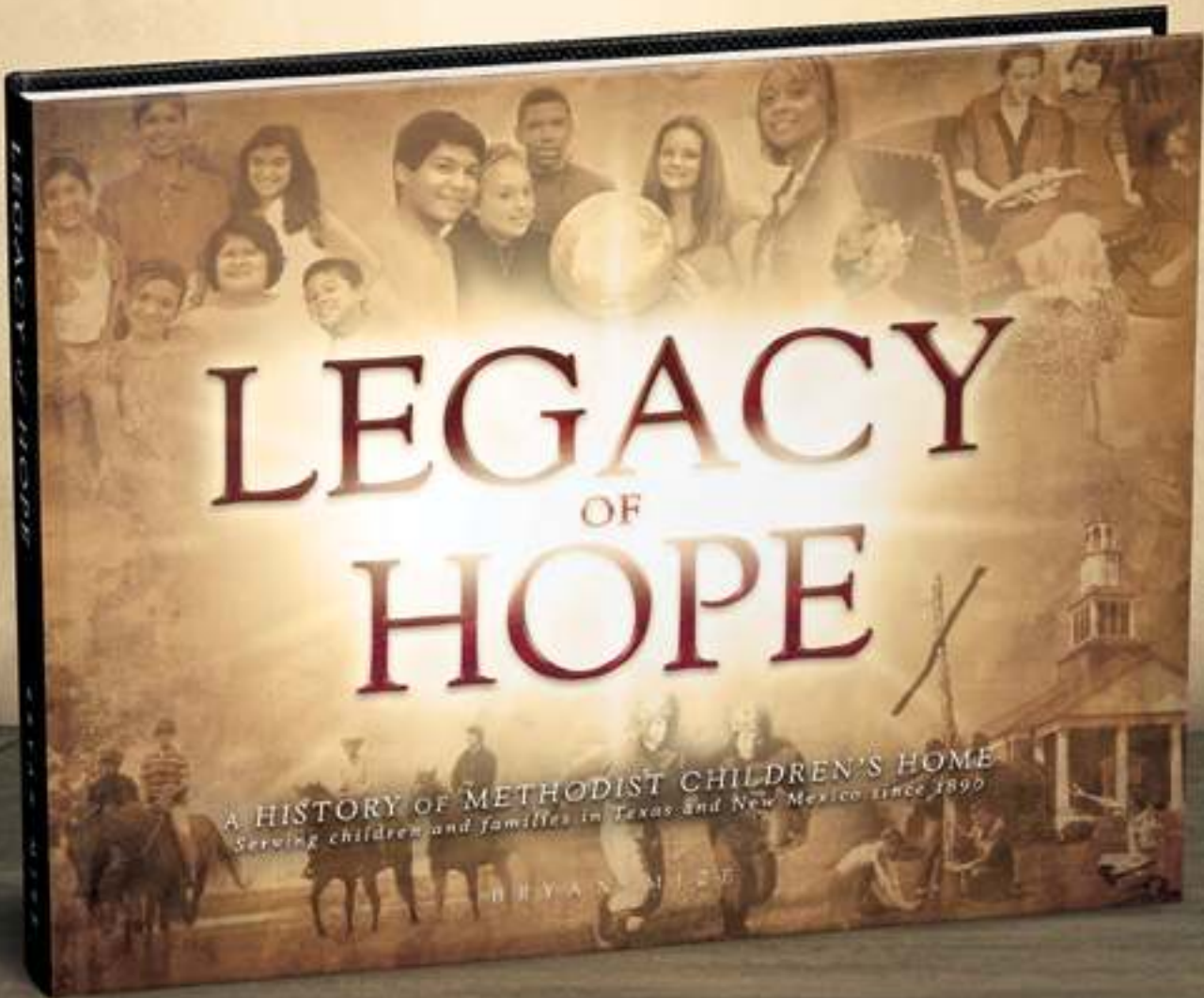
Edna White
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Mrs. Ethel Wilmore
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Throughout its history, Methodist Children's Home has adapted programs and services to meet the changing needs of children, families and society. Legacy of Hope documents important transitions in the program of care and highlights significant events and achievements in the life of this ministry.

For information about ordering your limited edition copy of Legacy of Hope for \$30, please contact us at Development@MCH.org or call us at 1-800-853-1272.



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In memory of **Frank W. Greenhaw**
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In loving memory of my MeeMa,
Mildred McAllister
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