

SUNSHINE

THE MAGAZINE OF METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME | SUMMER 2017



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Offering Hope Since 1890

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\$300K

GIVING DAY

June 30th

We reached our goal because of your generosity! Each gift given during our online giving day will be used to meet the daily needs of children in residential and family outreach programs. On a daily basis, your gifts are positively impacting families and communities.

Thank you for making a difference!

ON THE COVER

With warm summer days come fun team-building activities put together by the MCH recreation staff that help youth in our care have positive interactions and make meaningful connections. In all of our programs, MCH focuses on relationships as fundamental in the well-being of the children, youth and families we serve.



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



Tim Brown

While we can blame a variety of issues for the ills we see in society and the struggles that plague young people today, a report from the Commission on Children at Risk says that the “crisis of American childhood is a lack of connectedness.”

This is not an oversimplification; there is quite a lot packed into that brief statement. The “connectedness” inferred in the article, titled “Hardwired to Connect,” is actually twofold: close connections with other people

and deep connections to moral and spiritual meaning. The report states that this connectedness comes from social institutions in our society that, regrettably, have become significantly weaker over time. A second cause is found in the prolific use of electronic communications which has drastically cut down on face-to-face human interactions, a basic necessity for proper brain and relational development.

As the title of the article surmises, children are born hardwired to connect. From the Christian perspective, this should come as no surprise. God is a relational God; humankind was created for community and relationship. He created us to be a relational people. Relationships are how attachments are formed experientially over time. Without relationships there are no attachments and our society is at risk; not just the childhoods of our children, but foundations of entire societies.

At Methodist Children's Home, we emphasize relationships as essential to all that we do in our approach to “offer hope to children, youth and families through a nurturing, Christian community.” Morality, communication, play, teamwork, social interactions, conducting business, building trust and safety, marriage, friendships, employment, government ... I could go on and on. Without relationships, every nation, society, family, and individual is at risk.

In this issue of Sunshine magazine you will read more about our emphasis on relationships and how we make that an intentional part of our ministry. This is seen in our childcare programming and also in the way we connect with those who generously support this great work. We are who we are today because of relationships with individuals who believe in the difference MCH is making in the lives of children and youth.

On behalf of the children, staff and leadership of Methodist Children's Home, thank you for walking alongside us and supporting our work.

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MCH.org

Healthy Relationships Play Crucial Role in the MCH Mission

People need connection. We are born with the desire to connect. We find meaning and purpose through our relationships with others.

So what happens when you don't feel that connection? According to scientific research from "Hardwired to Connect," a report from the Commission on Children at Risk, the effects on children can be detrimental.

"The latest research indicates that children are born 'hardwired to connect' to others and when that does not happen or those needs go unmet, we have a rising level of mental health issues, aggression, suicides, crime, and a compromised conscience," explained Tim Brown, president and CEO of Methodist Children's Home.

THE POWER OF Connection

The philosophy of care at Methodist Children's Home (MCH) is largely based on the evidence described in this research, Brown explained. The ministry recognizes the importance of relationships for human development, as well as the impact it could have on our society, and made it an essential element in our programs and services. "Relationships" is even included as one of six core values of the ministry, described as to "build healthy relationships through communication, respect, trust and love."

"Teaching how to build, maintain and how to appropriately use relationships are at the center of all we do and is critical to our effectiveness as an organization," Brown said. "Relationships are a core building block as we restore and promote wholeness and potential for success in the children and families we serve."

"Many of our children come to us with broken relationships, misusing and misunderstanding relationships, without significant relationships, or having been involved in inappropriate relationships," he continued. "And just as these circumstances are the results of bad relationships that inflict pain and suffering, we utilize healthy relationships to heal and restore those who have been wounded and injured by them."

MCH staff can become role models and mentors to children, youth and families as they work to overcome their challenges. They walk alongside them in their journey to healing and find ways to connect, whether through a common interest, lending a nonjudgmental ear, or by showing compassion and care.

"We believe we are giving an invaluable gift to every individual child, youth, family, and our society in general, as we are successful in helping our young people build, understand and utilize appropriate relationships," Brown said.

MCH is blessed with staff who are motivated to have a lasting impact on our children, youth and families by providing them with opportunities to grow and connect. Several staff shared insight into how they have been successful in building relationships with those we serve.



Transition Services



Residential Services

"Relationships are a core building block as we restore and promote wholeness and potential for success in the children and families we serve."

-TIM BROWN,
MCH President & CEO



Family Outreach



Spiritual Development

A Friend in the Community – Family Outreach

Cindy Miller’s family was in crisis. She received custody of her grandchildren Kylee, now age 14, Riley, 12, and Ryder, 11, in 2008 when they had experienced neglect due to their mother’s drug addiction. After their mother was incarcerated, her parental rights were terminated and Miller adopted the three children as her own.

The children were showing the effects of trauma through their behaviors and Cindy didn’t know where to turn. Kylee was depressed and felt angry with her mother. Riley had trouble controlling his emotions and the children were fighting a lot. The family needed help.

After a referral from the children’s school, the family went before the Community Resource Coordination Group (CRCG) in Taylor County where they met Jo Ann Evans, a case manager at MCH Family Outreach in Abilene, who received the MCH Core Value Award for Relationships in the spring.

CRCG is a group of local partners that hear about family situations and develop a service plan for people who are having trouble finding organizations that match their needs. Miller said during the meeting when Evans spoke, it was like she already knew her children. The family began working with Evans through the Family Solutions program in May 2016.

Through the program, families meet weekly with a case manager to assess their strengths, set goals and work toward achieving those goals. Evans worked with Miller and the children in coping with their emotions, understanding and

“They will always have a way to find me and I will be checking in on them. This is a special relationship.”

-JO ANN EVANS,
MCH Case Manager



controlling their behaviors and creating more structure in the home in order to grow closer as a family. Kylee spent six months in a residential care facility for youth to work through her personal issues and is making improvements.

“I’m not as depressed and I’ve learned to accept who I am a lot better and accept who my mother was and to not hate her,” she said. “That is my biggest change.”

Riley has also learned to understand his anger and said, “I can control myself a lot more than I used to.”

Throughout the process, the family valued Evans’ support and grew close with their case manager.

“She made it easy to talk and I knew that she wasn’t going to lie or be ugly to you,” Miller said. “She’s tactful. She knows how to tell you when you are wrong and not make you feel bad. You don’t feel judged.”

“The thing about Jo Ann is she can understand you,” Riley said. “I don’t know if it is because she has met people like us, but she can understand how you feel. Also, I am able to understand her and what she is saying.”

Jo Ann said even though their case was concluded in December 2016, she has still checked in on the Miller family and will continue the relationship as the children grow up. She said she sees the love the family has for each other and is proud of their progress.

“The neat thing about it is that if we don’t talk to each other or see each other very often, it is still right back like where we left off,” Evans said. “I’ll know all of them until the kids have kids. They will always have a way to find me and I will be checking in on them. This is a special relationship.”



After receiving support from MCH Family Outreach, Cindy Miller and her grandchildren continue to hold a special place in their hearts for their case manager, Jo Ann Evans.

A Home Away from Home – Residential Services

Leaving home and coming into a residential program to live in a house with other young people can be a scary experience. But at Methodist Children’s Home, direct care staff are able to ease the transition and provide a stable and loving home for children and youth.

After retiring, Max and Lou Larseingue felt the desire to give back and they became home parents at the MCH Boys Ranch in February 2014. In their position at MCH, the couple recognizes the importance of establishing a relationship with each boy as they manage their household.

“It is all about relationships,” Max said. “It is like a bank account – you have to make deposits first before you expect something from the boys. It is all about taking care of their



MCH home parents Max and Lou Larseingue (pictured above) understand that trust and respect are important in building relationships with the boys in their home.

needs and being in tune with what those needs are and reading their moods.”

“It’s important for Max and me to be open and direct with these boys in a kind manner,” Lou added. “Understanding that we have standards, we expect them to meet that standard to some measure of their ability and we’ll help them get there. Trust is huge. They need honest, straightforward people who they know will love them and want what’s best for them and will teach them how to make the best choices in their lives.”

The couple said they do their best to create a safe environment for the boys that will help them feel like a family unit by checking in on them, asking about their lives and planning activities together. They also understand that part of creating that environment is to let the boys know they will not be judged.

“We all have a past,” Lou said. “We’ve all done things we’re not proud of but we rise above that and move forward. That’s what we try to teach the boys.”

Galen, a resident at the Boys Ranch, has been in their home for a year and a half.

“You start to see that the home parents are the cornerstones in these young men’s lives and their life does depend a lot on them and there’s a deep connection – between the guys and the home parents – and it becomes a lot like a family,” he said.

On the Waco campus, home parents Dewayne and Paula Cady work alongside unit manager Monica Rose to oversee a household of girls. The Cadys began working at MCH in July 2016 and Paula is a former resident herself. The couple succeed in their role by trying to create a family-like environment with a good balance of nurture and structure.

“I want them to understand there are rules, but we can have fun,” Paula said. “I want them to know it is OK to make a mistake and help them learn life skills and things they are going to need to know when they walk out these doors.”

The Cadys make an effort to be active with the girls by taking walks with them, playing tether ball or giving them experiences in the real world. Dewayne said he recently took the girls to the park where they saw families cooking out and playing games together. He said initially many didn’t want to go but on the way home, several asked when they could come back to do their own cookout and games.

“This is what we want to show them – that this is what families do,” he said.

Rose, who came to MCH in 2014, leads the staff in the home and said she treats every child as she would treat her own. She has been successful in resolving conflicts and building solid relationships with the girls.

“I accept them for who they are and what they do,” she said. “Even in a situation that is challenging, I always tell them that their emotions are OK. I just help them try to find a way to express that emotion appropriately. I keep it real and help them prepare for life outside of MCH. Here, like the real world, we deal with things and keep on moving.”

Rose said she has been blessed with strong staff who all have been able to connect with the girls in their home.



Unit manager Monica Rose (left) and house parents Dewayne and Paula Cady all play important roles in creating a stable and nurturing environment for their girls.

When one staff member, Audrey Wells, moved to the night shift, she said they had to tell the girls they couldn't stay up all night to talk to her. Rose also noted the home services specialist, Stephanie Lewis, is popular with the girls and very good at playful engagement.

"We all play our part," she said. "Our house is just like anyone else's... we just have more extended family living here."

Ari, who came to MCH in 2016, said she was worried she would be on her own when she came to MCH.

"But it is not like that," she said. "Our staff is always there for us and they are the parent figure that I wish I had at home. They listen and are there for us and help counsel us."

The direct care staff in the homes deal with challenges, but find strength in their desire to make an impact in a child's life.

"There is a feeling of hope, love, charity and grace – that's the dynamic and attitude that people have at MCH," Lou said.

"They have a servant's heart, the people who work here. I don't know if you could work here if you didn't have that."

A Foundation of Support – Transition Services

Yesenia lived at Methodist Children's Home as a teenager from 2009 until she graduated from high school in 2013. During her time on campus, she became close with her staff and at the end of her junior year she was assigned a Transition Services (TS) coordinator to guide her as she prepared to leave MCH for college. TS coordinators work with MCH graduates as they prepare for life after graduation.

During her senior year, Yesenia's TS coordinator helped her as she signed up for the SAT and ACT tests, went on college tours and signed up for courses to earn college credits while still attending high school. Leaving MCH was bittersweet for Yesenia as she packed up her belongings and headed to Austin to attend the University of Texas. Staff and friends helped her settle into a new community and decorate her new room.

Then before Thanksgiving during her freshman year, Yesenia suffered a spontaneous hemorrhage in her head and landed in the ICU. Her support system from MCH was there to help her through the ordeal and her TS coordinator at the time was immediately by her side.

"I don't know who called her," Yesenia said. "I just know that when I woke up in the hospital, she was there."

Yesenia said her coordinator took care of arrangements with school and insurance so she was able to focus on getting well. In 2015 after her TS coordinator left MCH, Yesenia was matched with Crystal Anthony. Anthony said she believes she has been successful at building relationships with her young adults.

"I am honest with each of them, but treat them with respect," Anthony said. "When we work together,

I listen to their plan or goal. Then we discuss how to accomplish it. They understand that the ultimate decision is theirs and that I will support them. But I will also show them things that may cause a problem."

Anthony has been a tremendous support to Yesenia as she makes decisions in her adulthood and the two have built a healthy and playful bond. They email and text each other regularly and have face-to-face visits at least twice a semester. Yesenia visits MCH frequently to see staff and stops by Anthony's office to talk about her plans.

Yesenia will graduate in December 2017 with a double major in social work and human development and family sciences and plans to attend graduate school. She also recently attended a study abroad course in Paris and London that gave her valuable insight into social issues in different countries.

Anthony encouraged Yesenia to push herself academically and continue growing. She also helped her develop a budget and offers life advice. Anthony said Yesenia is doing well and "even when she hits an obstacle, she pushes through."

Yesenia said she appreciates the way Anthony and other MCH staff have been there for her, even after she left campus. She and Anthony have grown close and she feels comfortable asking questions and talking with her about things in her life.

"I like that whenever you graduate from MCH, you don't have to lose contact with everybody," she said. "I still say that MCH is home."

Anthony said TS is a vital part of MCH because they are able to convey life lessons to young adults as they pursue their dreams in a realistic way. She is proud of Yesenia's accomplishments.

"I could see her in 10 years coming back to MCH to work," Anthony said. "She is passionate about MCH and understands how MCH has made a difference in her life. Even if she doesn't work at MCH, it would be something similar – Yesenia would want to give back."



Yesenia, a former MCH resident, continues to feel support from her MCH family as she attends the University of Texas in Austin.

A Higher Purpose – Spiritual Development

In "Hardwired to Connect," connectedness is twofold, described as "close connections with other people, and deep connections to moral and spiritual meaning." As a Christian organization, MCH strives to show youth Christ's love for them as they heal from their past. This effort is led by the Spiritual Development team who are challenged to build relationships with youth who come from different home situations and spiritual backgrounds.

"We have to approach them without an agenda," said Kim Clark, director of spiritual development, who has served in her role for 13 years. "We value them as human beings and get to know who they are. And I think from there, God blesses that and helps us find a way to make a deeper connection."

The team makes an effort to show up at the school, athletic events or other activities in order to establish the foundation for a relationship.

"We actively and prayerfully pursue relationships with our students while trying to make sure we don't push too hard," said Ron Britton, who has served as spiritual development minister for seven years. "Our goal is to have an honest relationship built on mutual trust."

"My hope is that these kids will ultimately find a foundation in Christ."

-RON BRITTON,
Spiritual Development Minister

Ahmad Washington, spiritual development minister who has served in several roles at MCH for the past 17 years, added, "When we engage on a natural level, events and other life issues going on, we are also in tune with God, trying to walk how He wants us to walk here, and the spiritual core of who we are manifests itself in how we talk about those issues or listen."

The Spiritual Development team also utilizes their own talents to connect with the youth through groups for art, praise dance and praise team. Britton leads art sessions on an individual basis and said conversations come about organically through these lessons. Washington works weekly with praise team and praise dance as they prepare for performances.

"We want to figure out ways to allow them to share their gifts in a way that helps them develop a sense of connectedness and belonging here so that through that connectedness, they can encounter Christ," Washington said.



In addition to her involvement in the praise team, Rainn is active in FFA where she finds encouragement from Spiritual Development ministers like Ahmad Washington.

Youth find support systems among peers and the Spiritual Development staff while also expressing emotions or insecurities through their craft. Iona, who currently plays guitar in the praise band and is a member of praise dance, said music is an outlet for her and said the praise team is "a place to forget about things for a while."

"Pastor Ahmad is kind of like a father figure here for me," Iona said. "If I have something that is bothering me, I typically go to him. I'll tell him what's going on and we talk together and pray."

Soleana said working the audio/visuals for the praise team has helped her gain confidence and get closer to staff.



MCH youth are able to participate in praise team and other spiritual development opportunities in order to explore their faith and relationship with God.

"I was shy and I wasn't social at all with the staff at first," she said. "It helped me a lot in getting over my fear and with my communication."

Rainn, a member of the praise team, was able to start a praise dance group last year with the support of the Spiritual Development staff. She coordinates practices and choreographs dances while helping other members improve their skills. The popularity of praise dance has grown tremendously and she said seeing its success has helped her faith grow.

"Pastor Ahmad told me God has a plan for me," she said. "God helped me reach my goals that I didn't think could happen. It helped bring me closer to God knowing there is a purpose for me."

Although their role can be trying, the Spiritual Development team all say they feel called to serve this special congregation and hope they can help them see God's love for them.

"My hope is that these kids will ultimately find a foundation in Christ," Britton said. "So many of them often have zero foundation – they don't know who they are or what they want and are chameleons trying on every identity they can. Ultimately I want them to leave here with a strong foundation and strong identity in regards to who they are."

Washington added, "I want them to also have an honest look and view of their scars, whether it be from their past or family issues. Through that honest look they can begin or enter the process of healing through Christ and faith in Jesus by allowing Him to bring the assistance and the help they need."

RAISING THE NEXT GENERATION

Gap Program reaches out to grandparents and other second-generation caregivers

“The whole family works together. I tell them when you set your mind to something and keep it there, you will accomplish it.”

-LINDA RODRIGUEZ,
Gap Program Client

Linda Rodriguez is getting by through her strength and love for her family. She became the primary caregiver for her grandchildren after tragedy struck her family not just once, but twice. Through the support of MCH Family Outreach, she has found a way to keep her family strong.

A three-bedroom home in San Antonio is refuge to Rodriguez, her eight grandchildren, and daughter Janie. The grandchildren range in age from 5 to 13.

Rodriguez raised four daughters – Anna, Petra, Janie, and Melinda – and when they had children, she was a constant in their lives, even caring for two of her granddaughters from the time they were 6 months old. She helps care for her daughter Petra’s two daughters, one of which lives in the home permanently due to their mother’s disability.

In 2012, her oldest daughter Anna died, leaving behind a daughter whom Rodriguez adopted as her own. Then in October 2016 her daughter Melinda and Melinda’s daughter Alizae were killed in a tragic car accident. Rodriguez stepped up and took in Melinda’s surviving four children. She said she wants people to know that grandparents are fully capable of caring for their grandchildren if needed.



Linda Rodriguez (center), along with her eight grandchildren and daughter, have found strength after tragedy with support from MCH Family Outreach.

"I didn't have a perfect childhood myself but I learned from that," she said. "I took on two jobs to support my kids and I kept working and working until I couldn't any more. Not only for my daughters but now for my grandkids."

She said she never thought twice about taking in her grandchildren and loves having them in her home.

"These are my kids," she said. "I see a lot of grandparents who couldn't care less [about helping their children]. But for me as their grandmother, I have a responsibility too."

Rodriguez heard about MCH Family Outreach through the children's school and reached out for support even before Melinda's death. She was matched with Melissa Arroyo, then case manager and now director of MCH Family Outreach in San Antonio. Together they developed goals to get food assistance for the family, assistance with utilities, referrals for therapists and psychologists, and low income legal assistance. MCH also helped the children enroll in an afterschool program and receive benefits through Medicaid. The case was successfully closed and the family was in good shape.

But after Melinda's accident, it was simply too much for Rodriguez and she needed some guidance to help her and her family through the trauma.

"It has been really hard for me," she said. "I needed that support. I needed somebody to talk to. I wound up in the hospital and I've been having a lot of problems. I keep it all inside of me. And it still hurts. I can't seem to let it go and I need that one person to talk to, to help me through that."

MCH case manager Danielle Flores took on Rodriguez's case in January 2017 and has provided her with emotional support. She has walked alongside her as she has met challenges. MCH referred Rodriguez to an "Ask a Lawyer" event where she was able to get legal assistance to help solidify her rights to her grandchildren.

"We talked about what the needs were for this household," Flores said. "It's more for support so that we can communicate and so she has someone to talk to if she needs



Rodriguez's grandchildren are doing well in school and thriving in their home.

any resources. She does a great job of managing this household and keeping everything in line."

Rodriguez has been able to work alongside Flores to assess her and her grandchildren's needs and develop goals in order to strengthen her family. With the support she has received, Rodriguez is continuing to work through her grief and found a great partner in her daughter Janie, who has recently moved into the home with her own daughter.

"She is so incredibly strong and an amazing mother and grandmother. She's come a long way from what she's been through."

-DANIELLE FLORES,
MCH Case Manager

"It means a lot to have Janie here," Rodriguez said. "She's still young and has all this responsibility. She chooses to be here and I just love her for that."

With Janie able to care for their physical needs that Rodriguez's health will not allow, the family's situation is improving.

"The kids come first," Rodriguez said. "We have it pretty much taken care of. We don't live in luxury but we have what the kids need."

Even though the case has come to a close, Rodriguez has a strong bond with MCH that will continue.

"Linda is an inspiration to others," said Arroyo. "At a time of grief and loss, she has placed her grandchildren first, which has been an amazing strength in helping her family heal."

"She is so incredibly strong and an amazing mother and grandmother," Flores said. "She's worked really hard for everything that she has and she's come a long way from what she's been through. She's an amazing person and I feel very lucky to have had the opportunity to work with her and serve her and get to know her as a person."

Rodriguez is grateful for the way MCH has walked alongside her in her mission to preserve and stabilize her family. She said the children have been able to get involved in extracurricular activities and also help around the house doing chores to earn money for items they want to purchase. They have also improved their grades.

"The whole family works together," Rodriguez said. "I tell them when you set your mind to something and keep it there, you will accomplish it."



About the Gap Program

Rodriguez was served through the Gap Program, formerly called the Grandparents As Parents Program, which assists second-generation caregivers. MCH has recently redesigned the program in order to meet the needs of more people in the community while also adding more structure and evidence-based practices into the program.

"The MCH Grandparents as Parents Program (GAPP) has served families well for many years," explained Traci Wagner, MCH Family Outreach administrator for the Eastern region. "Our team wanted a way to meet the changing needs of families in Texas and New Mexico. We have developed a program to further support grandparents and other caregivers that is in line with our organizational strategy for offering hope to and impacting children and families. We have incorporated a comprehensive assessment of the family in

order to enlist the best resources and to help them set goals. We hope to equip families with tools and resources that will promote healthy caregiving and interactions."

The new program will offer in-home and support services to relative and kinship caregivers, not just grandparents, and will be fully transitioned into all MCH Family Outreach offices by Sept. 1.

"This continuum of in-home and support services to grandparents and other caregivers provides strength-based services to clients," Wagner said. "We are able to support the kinship triad, which includes the child, parents (when safe and appropriate) and the caregiver. The new Gap Program is informed by industry best practices, theories and perspectives including trauma theory, empowerment approach and attachment theory."

Danielle Flores (right), MCH case manager in San Antonio, is proud of the resilience Rodriguez has shown throughout her journey.



GONE FISHIN' 2017

PIT STOP!

COURAGEOUS!

SMILE

Our youth in the residential program enjoy the summer months with friends, staff and new experiences.

From ropes courses to horseback riding, water sports to games at the park, youth at MCH make summer memories that will last a lifetime.

MCH SUMMER FUN



METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME CLASS OF 2017



Iyahna Adams



Edwina Dunbar-Gregory



Na'Keldrick Edwards



Joseph Glaser



Diego Herrera



Tameka Ingold



Ja'Vianne Jackson



Stephen Jones



Devin Martinez



Chrislynn McClanahan



Keondra Miller



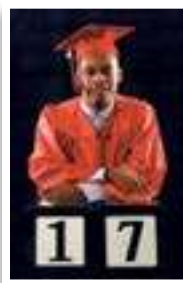
Sky Moore



Athina Parker



Nicholas Rister



Jakenzie Terry



Zakaree Watson



Jacob Watts

Congratulations to our students who earned their high school diplomas this year! MCH had 17 students graduate from the MCH charter school. A special thanks to First United Methodist Church of Waco for again hosting our graduation ceremony.

YOUTH PROFILE

GALEN

REBUILDING CONNECTIONS



Galen feels at home in a country environment. Originally from Canada, he lived on a farm for six years before moving to Stephenville, Texas, with his mother and father where he spent two years learning to rope and ride horses.

But after his parents separated, he started to have a tough time adjusting to the situation. His father moved to another town and his relationship with his mother began to decline. They decided the best thing for Galen's future was for him to live at Methodist Children's Home.

A resident since January 2015, the MCH Boys Ranch was a good fit for Galen's background. He joined FFA, cares for steer every day and worked in the horse barn last year. He also spends a lot of time fishing and being outside. However, it took him some time to adjust to living with new people and said he was pretty antisocial toward everyone at first. But being in a home with, at times, nine other young men helped him learn to be more patient and tolerant.

"It has put me into positions where I've had to keep a level head or else it would affect not only my standing here at MCH, but also my standing in life," Galen said. "Everyone comes here with different backgrounds so you have to understand that to live here."

Galen was met with another challenge when his father passed away in January of this year. Although his relationship with his mother has improved greatly during his time at MCH, he said the process of coping with the

loss ended up bringing them even closer together.

"I go on a lot of home visits," he said. "I spend a lot of time at home. I have built a strong relationship with my mother through MCH and through their help."

Galen was on the academic honor roll last school year and will be a senior in the fall at the MCH charter school. School is important to him, he said. He will attend dual-credit courses as a senior and hopes to attend Texas State Technical College after graduation to study biomechanics. His father was a mechanic, and Galen has fond memories of learning from him. He said through a trade in biomechanics, he can work on machines in hospitals anywhere in the world. He dreams of moving to the Bahamas to work at a hospital within walking distance to the beach.

Maegan Molnar, his unit manager at the Boys Ranch, is proud of the progress that Galen has made during his time at MCH.

"Through hard work and patience, Galen has overcome many obstacles which have granted him maturity and great leadership skills," Molnar said. "Galen has built trusting relationships with the adults he works with on a daily basis and has become closer with family which was one of his goals upon admission. It's been a joy to see Galen transform into a dependable, hardworking and driven young man."



TRANSITION SERVICES

LETICIA

CREATING A BRIGHT FUTURE

Achievement in education is a strong value young people receive at Methodist Children's Home. Through scholarship opportunities available to MCH graduates to continue their education after high school, youth who previously might not have considered attending college find the support and motivation to create a bright future.

Leticia Alilionwu came to MCH when she was 12 years old and stayed until she graduated from high school. Many of her memorable experiences at MCH involved having her eyes opened to the world around her.

"I had experiences at MCH that were a lot of firsts for me, such as my first plane ride, my first trip to other Texas cities, my first trip to New Mexico, and my first summer camp experience," she said.

After graduating from high school, Alilionwu took advantage of MCH scholarship opportunities and attended the University of Texas at Austin. After UT she found employment in the field of education. It was there that she realized she had a passion, instilled through her experience at MCH, to help young people succeed in education.

"I had been working in K-12 education for a few years and realized that the toughest transition for at-risk students is the transition from K-12 into higher education, if that is their path," she said. "There is a high level of support for high school and applying to schools, but there are other issues such as student matriculation that are important to me and important in the higher education arena. It's important to me that more students of color, especially, not only go to college, but finish it.

"MCH provided a lot of exposure and awareness for me," she explained. "It's very likely that I wouldn't have had a clear vision about my future before finding education."

Currently pursuing a master's degree in higher education administration from Texas A&M University, Alilionwu will soon begin working in the office of the dean of student life in order to gain experience in higher education administration.

Throughout her studies, MCH has remained a constant support for Alilionwu. Angie Vaughn, transition services coordinator, manages Alilionwu's MCH scholarship and assistance and meets with her periodically.

"Tish is 27 now and is a strong and motivated woman," Vaughn said. "Still, it's important that I check in with her to see how she's doing. Reaching out through phone calls and face-to-face meetings is important to show her someone cares and is cheering for her to succeed. We want to maintain that 'home' connection with MCH."

Alilionwu said the continued support is helpful.

"I've certainly done a lot of growing up and it's always great to have someone who encourages you along in the seasons you experience," she said. "It's also great to know that you have someone who is advocating for you. Ms. Angie supports me and I know I can always trust she is moving forward with integrity and with a 'students first' mindset. The reality is that those types of relationships are few and far between."

Alilionwu said she is considering two paths for her future in higher education.

"One consideration I have is to pursue a PhD in higher education administration to push my efforts toward retention in financial aid policy, admissions, enrollment, or academic affairs," she said. "A second thought is that I would like to work in Washington, D.C., for an association or organization geared toward higher-education policy and development."

As evidence of her aspirations, this summer Alilionwu has an internship in Washington with the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU).

Through her internship, Alilionwu has had the opportunity to meet government officials and influencers and attend important meetings, such as an assembly at the French Embassy related to international student mobility in France and hearing Education Secretary Betsy DeVos and Labor Secretary Alexander Acosta speak about initiatives related to higher education.

Alilionwu said her experience in the nation's capital has "been wonderful and I think I've found the city that I want to live in at some point in my life."

As Alilionwu works toward her educational goals, having the support of MCH in her corner "is encouraging," she said. "It says that MCH thinks that my future goals are worth investing in and they trust that I'll make a greater impact reaching far past myself." •



LEGACY OF HOPE

Historical book shares the story of Methodist Children's Home

Since 1890, Methodist Children's Home has had an impact on many generations of children and families looking for a fresh start and opportunity to improve their lives. The pages of *Legacy of Hope*, a historical book released earlier this year, chronicles important stages in the life of the ministry while also sharing nostalgic memories for those whose journey led them to MCH.

The idea for *Legacy of Hope* began six years ago when the administration decided to create two important historical projects to celebrate the rich history of the ministry as they prepared for the agency's 125th anniversary in 2015 – the Perkins Heritage Home Visitors Center and a historical book written in-house by staff members. Bryan Mize, formerly the director of public relations and now vice president for quality improvement at MCH, led the efforts.

The Visitors Center is an area in the Perkins Heritage Home where displays and artifacts show the history of the agency as well as highlight current programs and services for groups and individuals who wish to learn more about MCH. Mize said the Visitors Center laid the groundwork for the development of the book as he and his staff were able to collect and organize archives of historical information that were essential in his research for the book.

"I never thought when I came to MCH that I would have the opportunity to work on the Visitors Center and write a book," Mize said. "It was a privilege to do both projects. The longer I'm at MCH, the more I appreciate the history and decisions that were made in our past that impact today. It helps me understand the decisions we make today will impact others years from now."

Mize conducted research for the book by collecting information from previous MCH Board of Directors meeting minutes, annual reports from Methodist conference journals, Sunshine magazines dating back to the early 1920s, special publications, historical documents collected throughout the years, and items from Baylor University's Texas Collection. He also incorporated stories and anecdotes from personal interviews and questionnaires with alumni.

"The goal for me personally is for employees to gain a better understanding of history at MCH and for alumni to be able to reflect on the time they lived here and were served by our programs," Mize said. "Also, I want our donors to see the evidence of the ways their gifts have blessed this ministry."

Mize said it was a challenge to determine the content of *Legacy of Hope* due to the rich history of the childcare agency and the hundreds

of photos collected throughout the years. The pages include a chapter on presidents and administrators who led MCH, a decade by decade historical account, and a chapter on topics that have been important aspects of the agency. *Legacy of Hope* also incorporates photo galleries and a section highlighting the development of the campuses.

"The book's content focuses on how we've made decisions to meet the specific needs of children, families and society," he said. "That's a significant part of our legacy – that we've been able to adapt and develop programs as needed while also steward the resources we've been given."

Mize's *Legacy of Hope* depicting MCH's history follows books by Dr. Patricia Ward Wallace, a former MCH resident and Baylor University professor. Mize said he felt grateful to be able to write a history book that would be added to the collection of books from Wallace which have been tremendous resources to MCH for many years. He said he is thankful that he was entrusted with this project and for those who assisted in the effort.

"It was a privilege to work on this unique and important project and I appreciated the support of Tim Brown, MCH president, and Trey Oakley, vice president for development, throughout this process," he said. "Producing this book was a team effort that required the work of many people, including three members of our public relations staff – Lindsay Blagg, Lindy Dehm and Nathanael Mosher – who made significant contributions through their time and talents."

Mize said he hopes people are able to see how God has blessed MCH and its children throughout history and noted in his introduction that only God knows the impact of everyone who has given of themselves for the ministry.

"God called upon people to serve at a certain time and work together," he writes. "We are all part of the *Legacy of Hope*, regardless of our role." •

For information about ordering your limited edition copy of *Legacy of Hope* for \$30.00, email us at Development@MCH.org or call us at 1-800-853-1272.



RELATIONSHIPS CRAFTED THROUGH GENEROSITY



Mr. Theo Embry



Steve Kruse demonstrates how to use several of the items generously donated by Mr. Theo Embry.



Generosity is demonstrated in a variety of ways. Some people, like Theo Embry, seem to have covered them all.

According to his daughter, Elaine Embry-Mullins, her father lives his life generously through his relationships, gifts, talents, and actions.

"My father did so many things – he worked with his hands as a builder, sold insurance and real estate – but he would also always teach people skills along the way," she said. "When he built a house for someone who might have a hard time making ends meet, he'd have them work alongside him in the building process and count it towards their down payment."

Embry-Mullins said her father has always been very community oriented, "looking out for the betterment of his fellowman. To his children, he gave us the understanding of valuing what was important, which was using what we had to help others," she said.

That is one reason Embry, a longtime member of St. Mark United Methodist Church in Cleburne, first became involved with Methodist Children's Home.

"He believes in what MCH was doing," she said. "He knew they helped kids get a better start in life."

Embry, who has been a benefactor and participant of the MCH gift annuity program for more than 30 years, recently donated the contents of his two large hobby workshops to the MCH Boys Ranch when he and his wife downsized to move into an assisted living facility near their daughter in Robinson, Texas.

Embry's collection included many woodworking tools, a welding rig on a trailer, impact wrenches, lifts, pulleys, many trays of tools, and machines to bend and cut metal.

Allison Crawford, director of benefactor relations at MCH, said it took multiple trips by a moving company to transport all the items to the Boys Ranch. She recalled how proud Embry was of his workshops.

"When we would pay visits to Mr. Embry, he used to take us through his shops and show us projects he'd completed," Crawford said. "Mr. Embry seemed to have every tool imaginable. He was very proud of his tools and kept everything in immaculate condition."

"Because of the quality, it was like receiving brand-new tools," Crawford said of the donated items. "Many of the tools and machines were actually on the wish list of our teachers who lead our vocational program."

According to Trey Oakley, MCH vice president for development, Embry's heart for helping others, especially those served by MCH, has always been evident.

"The Embrys have been faithful benefactors for many years," Oakley said. "This generous gift further affirms their support for our mission and will help transform our vocational/ag program at the Boys Ranch. As a result, countless lives will be positively impacted. Like so many of our benefactors who believe in the life-changing work we do, I know that is what the Embrys care about very deeply."

One of Embry's projects, a large mirror in a handmade wood frame, now hangs in the Perkins Heritage Home and Visitors Center on the MCH Waco campus. Embry-Mullins said the heavy piece is characteristic of her father's projects, just as it mirrors his generosity to MCH.

"That's how he did it – it had to be big and it had to last," she said, laughing.

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

■ LEGACY LUNCHEON CELEBRATES ESTATE GIFTS

Methodist Children's Home showed its gratitude for estate gifts during the 2017 Legacy Luncheon held on June 16 at the Johnson Student Center. Four families were honored during the ceremony and received bronze plaques that will be placed in the Mulkey Memorial Heritage 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.

Below are the 2017 honorees:



John E. Hilliard

Colonel John Edward Hilliard was born in a small town in East Texas and joined the Air Force after law school. He lived in many places both in the United States and abroad. After his retirement he taught government and history at a Christian school in Houston where he was beloved by his students for his fairness, sense of humor and dedication to his craft. After his second retirement, he traveled to 97 countries, some of which were mission trips with his church. He adopted a young boy from Siberia at the age of 60 and raised him to a good life as an American citizen. His life was a beacon of loving and giving, which will continue to shine in his gift to Methodist Children's Home.

Hancel C. and Veneta Kyle Light

Veneta Light was born on Aug. 17, 1915, in Amber, Oklahoma. She was 99 years old when she passed in Chickasha, Oklahoma, on Sept. 12, 2014. After graduating from Oklahoma College for Women in 1937, she worked at Middleburg School in Blanchard, Oklahoma. While there, she met her husband Hancel C. Light, and the couple were married in 1938 at her parents' home. Hancel and Veneta, both teachers, worked in many places before eventually making their home in Wichita Falls. After Hancel passed in 1984, Veneta returned to Chickasha and became involved in the community as a member of Epworth United Methodist Church, United Methodist Women and the Texas Teachers Association.

H.E. and Annette N. Nicholson

H. Earl and Annette N. Nicholson established a trust in 1951 while they were still living in Wheeler County, Texas. After the trust had cared for their grandson Nick, the Shriners in Amarillo and the Methodist Orphanage at Waco became beneficiaries. The Nicholsons first lived in the Panhandle before owning property in Krugerville near Denton. They followed the plan to take care of their family first and then included MCH as part of their family through this special gift.

Helen Reid Yarbrough

Helen Reid Yarbrough was born in Fort Worth on June 25, 1922, and lived in Junction for most of her life. Her devotion to Junction and Kimble County were represented by her support of causes she thought were important to the area. The land for Kimble Hospital was a donation from her parents' property, and she also donated the land for a new hospital. She supported the Kimble County Library, Kimble County Historic Museum, and other local causes. She was a strong Methodist and lifelong member of the First United Methodist Church of Junction.

Following the Legacy Luncheon, Larry and Belinda Stanley, representatives of the Hilliard estate, shared blessings and prayers on the walls of the new home being built on the Waco campus. This home will bear John E. Hilliard's name. Construction is expected to be completed on the Hilliard home as well as the Margaret Ann Ashcraft home by the start of 2018.



■ MCH STUDENT AWARDS 2017

Methodist Children's Home celebrated student achievements for the 2016-17 school year during an awards ceremony on May 22 at the Johnson Student Center. During the ceremony, students from the MCH charter school, operated in partnership with the University of Texas – University Charter School system, were recognized for academic honors and extracurricular activities. Students received certificates, plaques, letter jackets and patches based on their individual achievements.

Below is a list of awards:



SENIOR AWARDS

Relationship Award:

Chrislynn, Sky, Xavier

Growth Award:

Edwina, Joseph, Keondra, Jacob

Service Award:

Iyahna, Xavier

Hope Award:

Diego, Ja'Vianne, Devin, Jakenzie

Responsibility Award:

Tameka, Ja'Vianne, Athina, Zakaree

Courage Award:

Kel, Tameka

The Charles W. and Mariam Hawes

Academic Excellence Award (top

seniors with highest GPAs):

Athina, Nick

Outstanding Senior Award:

Stephen, Sky

CHARTER SCHOOL AWARDS

Academic Honor Roll:

Noah, Xavier, Iona, Selena, Rainn, Jaelyne, Marisa, Galen, Dina, Stephen, Ladarrian, Ladarrius, Athina, Soleana, Jakenzie, Arianna

Bulldog Pride:

Nikkie, Iona, Emily, Faith, Lucas, Selena, Dathan, Marisa, Galen, Dina, Quentrell, Kaitlyn, Stephen, Benjamin, Alexis, Athina, Soleana, Christina, Arianna

Art Awards:

Edwina, Jaelyne, Daniel, Joshua

FFA

Ag Mechanics Design and

Fabrication:

Nick

Ag Mechanical Repair and

Maintenance:

Galen

Diversified Livestock:

Marisa

Vegetable Production:

Jaelyne

Chapter Star Creed speaker:

Rainn

Star Discovery Award:

Danny

Star Greenhand Award:

Chris

Chapter Star in Agriscience:

Nick

Belt Buckles:

Beef production – Kel

Swine production – Julio

Sheep production – Iona

Goat production – Selena

RECREATION/AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS

Choir/Vocal Performance:

Most Improved – Luther, Kiayani

Most Outstanding – Layla, Iona

Drumline:

Most Outstanding – Faith

Cheerleading:

Most Improved – Tremya

Most Outstanding – Adrianna

Theatre: Benjamin, Nicole

Dance: Rainn, Marisa

ATHLETICS

Volleyball:

Most Improved Player (MIP) – Soleana

Most Valuable Player (MVP) – Amashia

JV Football: MIP – Dathan

MVP – Dremon

Varsity Football: MIP – Reggie

MVP – Xavier

Girls Basketball: MIP – Justine

MVP – Jamion

JV Boys Basketball: MIP – Johnathan

MVP – Dremon

Varsity Boys Basketball: MIP – Eli

MVP – Jakenzie

Girls Track: MIP – Alexis; MVP – Justine

Boys Track: MIP – Christian

MVP – SirDautrel

Golf: MIP – Dina; MVP – Emily

Bobby Gilliam Leadership through

Athletics Award: Justine, Stephen



Congratulations to our students and staff on a successful school year!

■ TWO MOMS FORM SPECIAL BOND WHILE FOSTERING THROUGH MCH

Denise Davis and Bethany Falls lived in the same city, but their paths had never crossed before. Then in 2013, both women and their husbands embarked on an emotional journey to become foster parents through MCH Family Outreach in Tyler.

They became acquainted in weekly trainings as they pursued licensing for foster care. Then both received placements within one week of each other of boys who were born only one day apart. Evan was placed with Falls and her husband, David. Jacob was placed with Davis and husband, Keith.

Evan's case was a voluntary placement and the family thought he would go back to his mother after a few months. However, she relinquished her rights and they thought at that point he was theirs to adopt. Jacob came into Davis's family with expectations that his case could turn into an adoption. But the roller coasters for both cases had just begun.

Evan's biological father unexpectedly came into the picture when he was 1 year old, leading to visitations and court appearances. Even though their situations were unstable, Jacob's biological mother and father each fought for custody which led to two separate jury trials. During the trials, the biological parents' rights were terminated but then appeals and more legal issues followed.

Throughout the journey, Falls and Davis grew closer as they were experiencing the same emotions and challenges.

"We were kind of thrown into it together but I am thankful for that," Falls said. "I wouldn't have been able to make it through as easily."

"It was a Godsend," Davis said. "God knew I needed that friend that could identify and be there right beside me."

The mothers would call each other in the emotional times of waiting in the car as the biological parent was having a visitation. Or sending a hopeful text as they knew the other was waiting for news. During the trials, the mothers leaned on each other for support as they waited to learn the fate of their family.

"We could speak truth and speak Scripture to each other when we needed it most," Falls said.

They also relied on each other for advice as they experienced new behaviors in the boys that their older children did not have.

"It felt like for the first time I didn't know how to parent," Davis said. "You have to parent so differently. Obviously, because you are a foster parent you also have to discipline differently. But their behaviors are so different and you have to figure out if it is a toddler thing or an emotional trauma issue. And you can feel isolated in that because your friends don't understand the difference. You feel like an island on your own sometimes. We were able to talk about that."

Both mothers' journeys led to the adoption of the boys and their boys have now grown to be great friends. Looking back, the mothers are thankful to each other and for God's role in their experience.

"I don't know how people foster without being firm in their faith," Falls said. "I can't imagine going through this without God. To know that He has my back and is protecting these babies and knowing that no matter what the outcome, His Will will be done."

"With Evan and Jacob, God chose them and plucked them out to give them a fresh start," Davis said. "It is such an honor and a blessing. I've said to friends considering (fostering), 'it is going to be the hardest thing you've ever done, but it is so rewarding.' And I think as a family unit, it has been amazing to see my older kids know it is a ministry and see that they want to minister this child and get them through. They grow and the growth that comes from it, you are amazed by that." •



From left: Denise Davis, Jacob, Evan and Bethany Falls became friends during their journey with MCH.

■ EMPOWERED TO CONNECT 2017

MCH Family Outreach in Waco brought together several members of the community for the Empowered to Connect conference simulcast April 7-8 on the Waco campus. The conference was hosted by The Karyn Purvis Institute of Child Development at Texas Christian University and Show Hope, a nonprofit organization based in Franklin, Tennessee.

Methodist Children's Home (MCH) has a partnership with the Purvis Institute in utilizing Trust-Based Relational Intervention techniques in its childcare practices. Show Hope is an international movement to care for orphans through adoption aid, care centers, adoption support and student initiatives. The two agencies joined together for the Empowered to Connect conference which is designed to give professionals and adoptive and foster parents insight into connecting better with children who have experienced emotional or physical trauma and help them to heal.

The conference was held in Tennessee, but many agencies, including MCH, hosted simulcasts in their communities. Around 40 people attended the MCH simulcast including foster and adoptive parents, social workers, school staff, counselors and local nonprofit case managers.

"We believe that the information provided in this training and other trauma-informed care trainings we offer at MCH have the power to offer hope and transformation to families," said Brooke Davilla, director of MCH Family Outreach in Waco. "We desire for everyone who is a caregiver or works with children to be exposed to this information and be equipped with practical tools which can assist them in their different roles with children." •

MEMORIAL GIFTS AND GIFTS OF HONOR

GIFTS MADE FROM MARCH 2017 THROUGH MAY 2017

Honorariums

Molly

Beverly Allee

William Almos

Barbara Dodd

Sarah Alves

Methodist Sunshine Class

Linden UMC, TX

Mrs. Marianne Anderson

Jami Lovelady

Bessie Baker Beaver

Mr. and Mrs. Greg Chaffin

Will Blackwell

George and Reba Lunsford

Paula Bouas

Spirit ChristCare – Christ UMC – Farmers

Branch, TX

Mr. and Mrs. Tim Brown

Bobby Vance

Johanna Bruhn

Friendship Sunday School Class

First UMC – La Grange, TX

Gary and Kathy Buchholz – GKB Cattle

Scarlett and Patrick Bray

Bea Burton

Friendship Sunday School Class

First UMC – La Grange, TX

Georgia Burton

Friendship Sunday School Class

First UMC – La Grange, TX

Victoria Cannavale

Louis Cannavale

Kenneth and Linda Chaffee

Douglas and Dawn Hancock

Evie Elizabeth Coats

Alice Sappington

Allison Crawford

Linda Hatchel

Mrs. Mona Curington

Jami Lovelady

Dr. and Mrs. Jack Daniels

Mrs. Bruce Hall

LaVon and Clyde Nelms

Ila Dennis

Kaleidoscope Sunday School Class

St. Mark’s UMC – Mesquite, TX

Bill Dodd

Barbara Dodd

David Allen Dodd

Barbara Dodd

Elaine Eiland’s Birthday

Amy and Shelby Barley

Reverend and Mrs. Lenier Emerson

Epworth Sunday School Class

First UMC – Big Spring, TX

AshLee Nicole Frazier &

Aaron Caleb Williams

Melissa Bedre

Morgan Bourque

Anna and Steve Burtell

Brandon Cole

Chaser – Los Angeles, CA

Kelly and Garth Davis

Mr. and Mrs. James Hartsook

Randy and Susan Hartsook

The Hernandez Family

Sydney Hicks

Amber and Bryan Higgins

Dorothy Lipar

Elise Mosca and Peter Poarch

Benjamin and Stephanie Randall

Erica Rose

Samantha Samarasinghe

Rosie Sanchez

Mr. and Mrs. Ryan Sheffler

Dr. and Mrs. Vadim Sherman

Mike Snider

Jason Spinella

John Sullivan

Jay and Bela Sutaria

James and Elizabeth Van Steenhouse

Jacqueline Wood

Abby Gage

Friendship Sunday School Class

First UMC – La Grange, TX

Sushil George, M.D. and Staff

Kim and Rick Anderson & Family

Warren G. Gibson

Bobby Vance

Linda Gilliam

Bobby Vance

Janet Golden’s Birthday

Harold and Carol Cain

Mrs. Harry A. Gump – Happy

Mother’s Day

Robert M. Gump, C.P.A.

Jimmy Hammond

Bobby Vance

Ronnie Haynes

Mamie Lee Dodds

Nelda Hazlewood

Steven and Tere Garlington

Bobby Vance

Howard Home Legacy

Charles and Ann Cantrell

Boyce Jones

Reverend Sheila and Mr. Pablo

Castellano

Johnnie R. Keith for Mother’s Day

Blain and Debbie Keith

Methodist Children’s Home

Nelda Hazlewood

Methodist Children’s Home

Perkins Heritage Staff Center

Bobby Vance

James and Laura Milam

Mary Ellen Bryan

Mrs. Winnie Morris

Doris Taylor

Haley Muff’s Graduation

Carolyn Ferguson

Lane Jackson Odom

Amy and Shelby Barley

Geraldine Orr

Gene and Bettye Jo Wiley

Reverend Jenn Pick’s Ministry

Sandy Robinson

Judith Adams Pittman

Kathleen Pellegrino

Jim and Annette Powell’s

50th Wedding Anniversary

Micki Steinhauser

Lynn Stuckey

Herbert Shelton

Rusty and Richard Thomas’

Anniversary

Carolyn Ferguson

Melvin and Cindy Trousdale

Bobby Vance

John R. Warren’s Birthday

Becky and Quentin Warren

Welcome Sunday School Class

Custer Road UMC – Plano, TX

Nancy Evans

John D. White

Bobby Vance

Julia and George Wommack’s 50th

Anniversary

Alison and Gary Mann

Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Woodlock

Bobby Vance

Mr. Ronald R. Wright

Timothy E. Wright

Memorials

Dr. Jerry L. Ables

Annora K. Ables

Johnnie L. Anderson

Harold G. Anderson

Willis Max Anderson

Mike and Joanne Bruce

Henry and Shirley Faust

Jim and Delta Igleheart

Gene Stewart

Shawn Stewart

James Andree

Elaine Hibbitts

Charles Armstrong

Jim and Ina Cleavinger

Susanne Audilet

Mary Milner

Mrs. Virginia Austin

Helen Goethe

Marvin Axe

Jim and Ina Cleavinger

D.O. Baker

Della Baker

Oris Baldwin

Gene and Mary Chamness

Loudell Barbee

Tommye Jo Clark

Faye Barker

Charles Huffman

Dr. Roy T. Bassett

Mrs. Mary Cooper Bassett

Floyd and Johnny Beach

Jim and Sue Beach

Thelma Black

Ann Black

David Moreau

John Robert Blankinship

Ann Blankinship

Irwin H. Blum

Sam D. Brown

Peggy Brashers

Catherine and Tom Drennan

Nelda Hazlewood

Helen Marie Breithaupt

Steve and Meda Beaird

E.C. Brock

Joe and Jami Lovelady

Helen E. Collins Brown (Griffin)

Mr. and Mrs. William Brown

Ralph W. Brown

Mr. and Mrs. William Brown

Mayme Buchanan

Betty Roberts

Merlin Burlison

Tom and Jane McGough

Wichita Falls Symphony League

Wichita Falls, TX

Dan Moody Cain

Dr. Kenneth Hamlett

In His Steps Class – Highland Park UMC

Dallas, TX

Amos L. Mazzant

Raymond Canion

Steve Canion

Lexi Cardwell

Andrew (Mac) McMahan

Randy Carter

Rebecca and Dub Narramore

Arthur C. Casey

George Roberson and Dr. Elaine

Free-Roberson

Wanda Caswell

Randy and Cheryle Simmans

W. Byron Caton

Barbara M. Caton

Ada R. Cebrun

Shirley A. Cebrun

Wade Choate

Julie and Maro Johnson

Judi Churchill

George Roberson and Dr. Elaine

Free-Roberson

Albert Darrell Cobbs

Johnida and Art Evans

Don and Dana Hardcastle

Bill J. Johnson

Ray and Rosemary Sancton

Dan Williams

Mildred Jane Cocke

Troy W. Cocke, Jr.

Billy Mac Cockrell

Reverend and Mrs. John Alsbrooks

Terry Cramer

Lois Ann Smith and Family

Johnnie Crocker

W.C. (Bunkin) and Candy Bennett

Lera Crow

Linda Phillips

Dora Margaret Crowell

Charles Huffman

Waymon D. Davis

Virginia and Tom Blaylock

Jackie Lee

Wanda Dawson

James and Josie Hamrick

Mrs. Barbara DeHass

Barbara Cole

Dan Devorsky

Ms. Wincie Cannon

Mrs. Bess Duewall

Dan and Judy Philp

Doris Brunson Duncan

Lucille Bida

Jacque Elliott

Betty Jo Spencer

E. Jean English

Anonymous

Wilma Louise Evarts

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Frietsch

Barbara Evartt

George Roberson and Dr. Elaine

Free-Roberson

George and Theo Fory

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Fory

Edith Fritzsche

Mr. and Mrs. John Bryan

Sandy Smith Garner

Creo Lynne Smith

Bobby Gilliam

Bobby Vance

Joanna Givan

United Methodist Women

Seagraves UMC, TX

Bobby Williams

Anne Julian Goodroe

Dr. Rebecca Narramore

Laura Jean Greenwaldt

Gene and Mary Chamness

Edward L. Gregurek, Sr.

Reverend and Mrs. Kenneth R. Byrd

Benjamin H. Griffin

Mary Anne Griffin

Don Hamilton

Kim and Rick Anderson & Family

Mrs. Welcome Harris

Annora K. Ables

Joy Wingfield Hartsell

Hunter and Totsy Cunningham

Cliff Hazlewood

Nelda Hazlewood

Bobby Vance

Mr. Bob Heller

Mr. Frank Busch

Norman Hicks

Norma Jones
Becky Hernandez
Judy and John McNeely
Mrs. Joy French Kirby
Randy and Janie Broussard
Brenda Kirby
Barbara and Johnnie Long
Eugene Monroe Klein
Hunter and Totsy Cunningham
Louis Landingham
Bobby Vance
Christina Lane
Carolyn Ferguson
Mildred Geddes Langford
Harmon Langford
Betty Ann Lawson
Ms. Bess Nellis
Joel Levingston
Ms. Virginia Avery
Joanna Lichtenwalter
Joe and Carole Salvador
Barbara Burkett Lilley
Clyde and Norma Arrendell
Doug and Amy Ashmore
Mary Ashmore
Mackie and Jean Herring
Korli Kamara
Michelle, Glenn and Judie Lilie
Peggy Long
Donna and Pete Lunn
Ms. Ina K. Miller
Noah’s Ark Bar & Grill – Bacliff, TX
Raymond, Charlie, Jean Ann,
Perry Families
Marly Smith and Family
Clara Long
Sam D. Brown
Jack MacPhee
Mary Ellen Bryan
C.B. and Treasure Malone
Bobby Vance
Ruby Maris
Mary Wells
Betty Marlow
Steven and Tere Garlington
Mary Marney
Gene and Mary Chamness
Richard Brian Mason
Wilma and Houston Blanks
Dorman and Martha Pickering
Mildred McAllister
Dennis and Charlene Fowler
Hazel Metz
Bette Samford
Darrell Michels
W.C. (Bunkin) and Candy Bennett
Mr. and Mrs. L.E. Milam
Reverend David E. Milam

Diane Miller
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