Thank you!

This year’s MCH Golf Classic was a great success! We are thankful for all of those who participated – either as players or as one of our generous sponsors.

The funds raised through this event will impact those we serve in a big way!

PresIDENT’S PERSPECTIVE

As a ministry and nationally recognized childcare agency, we are committed at Methodist Children’s Home to be a place where children, youth and families have the opportunity to heal, be restored and find hope. Many of those who come into our care have endured trauma in some form, whether it is emotional trauma such as the death of a parent or loved one, physical trauma through abuse or neglect, or psychological trauma as a result of abusive words and actions of others. Whatever the case, trauma has a direct effect on so many areas of a child’s life, such as school performance and interpersonal relationships.

For several years now, MCH has learned more about trauma-informed care through Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBI). Through our exposure to neuroscience, we know the importance of improving our practice to deal with the consequences of trauma on youth, developmentally and neurologically, as they live in a world constantly inundated with trauma.

Trauma impacts relationships and the mechanism by which we become attached to one another. Attachment is a basic part of relationships. Healthy attachment is what helps keep families together and allows parents to parent their children in a successful way.

The cover story in this issue of Sunshine magazine delves deeper into the important emphasis we place on evidenced-based trauma-informed care. We know too much not to maintain a priority on trauma-informed care at MCH. The field is being driven by it. To be effective in our work, how could we not reach out and increase our knowledge and practice, enabling us to help families and children particularly at the developmental level?

Through our TBI partnership with the Karyn Purvis Institute for Child Development at Texas Christian University, we have proven these methods as a valid way of working with children and families who have faced trauma. Many of our staff have acquired expertise in TBI and are teaching others the latest information and techniques of the practice just as we ourselves are constantly being improved through access to the latest research.

We are so grateful to be part of the solution. Through our work, children, youth and families are managing and overcoming trauma and anxiety, and becoming better equipped to involve themselves in healthy relationships with others.

I am convinced Methodist Children’s Home will continue to be successful because of our unwavering commitment to bringing out the best in the children, youth and families we serve. We are so pleased to share our progress and success with the selfless individuals like you who support this ministry, making it possible for us to achieve everything God has for us. We are eternally grateful for your friendship.
Jason was a frequent visitor at his grandparents’ home. Their door was always open to him when he would show up on weekends. When summers came around, he often stayed with them throughout his summer vacation and returned home to his mother and stepfather in time for school to begin. But his grandmother, Griselda, started to notice something was off with Jason. Then after one summer vacation when he was 10 years old, he refused to return home and said he wanted to live with his grandparents. Griselda said she called his mother to ask her if she was coming to pick him up. She said no, that she couldn’t care for him anymore. It turns out that Jason was being treated poorly by his stepfather, according to Griselda, and had been living in an unhealthy and traumatic situation. She and her husband did what they felt was best for their grandson in order to keep him safe and allowed him to live with them on a permanent basis.

The transition was not without its challenges.
“It was very difficult because all of my kids were grown up already,” Griselda said. “Also Jason was a challenge. He would yell all the time and you couldn’t talk to him. It was very difficult, but things have gotten better.”

Griselda reached out to MCH Family Outreach in Waco for help in dealing with their new normal and Jason’s needs. They were matched with case manager Sara Beth Stoltzfus who helped the family establish goals to improve their situation, such as improving communication, helping Jason address his school issues and getting him enrolled in equine therapy in order to help him build self-confidence. Stoltzfus also provided parent education for the family.

During her work with the family, Stoltzfus led “nurture groups,” which are group activities intended to strengthen bonds between caregivers and children.

“Nurture groups allowed the family to talk openly about their feelings together as well as to have fun together and laugh during a difficult period,” Stoltzfus explained.

During groups, family members learn about giving and receiving care. Nurture groups also help them break down walls and be open to physical touch, something Jason has struggled with. Stoltzfus also showed Jason some techniques he could use to help him better control his emotions, or self-regulate, when he became anxious or upset. The family began to make progress.

“They have worked very hard to accomplish their goals and she has never given up on Jason,” Stoltzfus said. “He continuously strives for a better relationship. She tells him he loves him even when his behavior is bad. She always has had a deep love for her grandson, she just needed a little support and the knowledge of her own power as a caregiver.”

Griselda said she feels like their relationship has improved greatly since working with MCH Family Outreach, and she is more confident in her abilities to care for Jason, who is now 13.

“Before he wouldn’t let anyone hug him or give him any physical attention,” she said. “But now when he goes to school he hugs me and tells me he loves me. I feel he has changed a lot.”

“It is important for families to know that there is hope and there are practical tools that caregivers can use to support their children.

-SARA BETH STOLTZFUS,
MCH Case Manager

A COMMON ISSUE

This family’s story is one that is heard more frequently today. Jason, although now in a loving and secure home, still deals with the effects of trauma.

“Trauma in kids can look a lot like intentional bad behavior and can be very hard for families to manage,” Stoltzfus explained. “It is important for families to know that there is hope and there are practical tools that caregivers can use to support their children.”

Methodist Children’s Home is participating in the fight against an epidemic of trauma in childhood. A study performed by Kaiser Permanente and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the mid-1990s found that after surveying more than 17,000 participants, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) were extremely common in all families, including middle-class, college-educated homes. It also uncovered a link between childhood trauma and chronic diseases people develop as adults such as heart disease, lung cancer and depression. The more types of trauma experienced increased the risk of health, social and emotional problems. But there is hope.

MCH has demonstrated a commitment to trauma-informed care, meaning it has incorporated programs and childcare practices and strategies that recognize the physical, emotional and psychological effects that children from traumatic situations face and empowers them through increasing “felt safety” or a sense of control. At the forefront of these techniques is helping children learn how to build nurturing relationships and form attachments, a lesson they were unable to learn due to a breakdown in trust or through living in a state of chaos or instability.

Tim Brown, president and CEO of MCH, said the state of Texas is now emphasizing trauma-informed care which is driving the childcare field.

“There is a sense of urgency,” Brown said. “If we call ourselves helpers, we have got to emphasize it. We know trauma impacts relationships, education, physiological development, neurological development – it impacts everything that we do.”

THE NEED IN OUR TEXAS COMMUNITIES:

3.3 MILLION

In one year, more than 3.3 million children in the U.S. suffered from first-time abuse or neglect with lifelong social and economic consequences.

(Source: The Perryman Group)

7+

More than seven children are maltreated every hour.

(Source: texasprotects.org)

182

Children are confirmed victims daily.

(Source: texasprotects.org)

3+

More than three children die from abuse or neglect on average every week.

(Source: texasprotects.org)

RISK FACTORS OF CHILD TRAUMA

- Physical, emotional, or sexual abuse
- Neglect
- Natural disasters or acute trauma
- Difficult pregnancy or birth
- Early hospitalization
- Unresolved loss

EFFECTS OF TRAUMA

Different Brain
ex. the brain functions differently due to living in a constant fight or flight mode

Different Body
ex. sleep issues, negative health outcomes, sensory deficits

Different Biology
ex. neurochemistry is altered, reactive to dehydration or changes in blood sugar

Different Belief
ex. you are bad, you don’t matter

Different Behavior
ex. anger, acting out

(Source: TCU ICD 2012, Purvis and Cross, 2011)
THE EFFORT TO EDUCATE

MCH offers parent education as part of its early intervention and prevention programs through MCH Family Outreach. The adoption of evidence-based approaches has increased in recent years due to a rising need during case management. MCH initiated Nurturing Parenting in 2012 which was followed by Circle of Security in 2016. MCH also entered into a research partnership with Texas Christian University’s Karyn Purvis Institute for Child Development in 2010 by incorporating Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI®) into its everyday childcare practices.

TBRI is defined as “an attachment-based, trauma-informed intervention that is designed to meet the complex needs of vulnerable children. TBRI uses Empowering Principles to address physical needs, Connecting Principles for attachment needs, and Correcting Principles to disarm fear-based behaviors.”

OVERLAP OF RELATIONSHIP MODELS - HOW TRUST-BASED RELATIONAL INTERVENTION WORKS

The above images are based on the Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI®) method and was developed through the collaborative partnership between the Karyn Purvis Institute for Child Development at Texas Christian University and Methodist Children’s Home.

They also adapted the information to be helpful for educators, called Connected Classroom. Teachers and administrators learn to understand some of the behaviors they witness in the classroom and are given tools to improve the learning environment and help students concentrate. It has been well-received by school districts such as Midway ISD (Waco), Tyler ISD and Bryan ISD.

Davilla said their partnership with Midway ISD began with parenting classes for pregnant teens and has since grown into the Connected Classroom presentations. She said it is encouraging to see how the teachers and administrators are embracing the knowledge and better understanding some of the behavioral trends they see in classrooms.

“We find that a lot of teachers and support staff are figuring out inventive ways to connect with their students to get their needs met, but I think they were doing it quietly thinking that it was maybe not OK or not supported,” Davilla said. “Seeing that their administration is open to conversation, I saw a lot of hopefulness in that.”

One teacher from Midway ISD who attended the classes said, “It was very beneficial to learn the factors that contribute to students’ behavior choices. Learning how to better meet the needs of the students in my classroom will enable my students to feel safe and secure, which will then create a better learning environment. I really thought the workshop was great!”

Kelly Smith, program administrator for the Western region of MCH Family Outreach, said the new educational curriculum is a valuable asset to staff in helping families and educating their communities. “Connected Caregiver and Connected Classroom provide the opportunity to bring the best of three top-notch parent education pieces to families simultaneously,” Smith said. “MCH staff are using these to empower caregivers and educators to use evidence-informed practices with children across a variety of settings. It’s one more way our competent and committed team members impact the lives of children and families.”

MCH Family Outreach encourages staff to become trained facilitators in parent education programs and currently has 27 trainers for TBRI, 28 in Circle of Security, and 50 in Nurturing Parenting. All new childcare staff at MCH must also undergo TBRI training during orientation.

“We are interested in bringing this curriculum and information to caregivers who need an extra bit of support in their roles,” Smith said. “Sometimes the support, too, comes in the form of spending time with others who are going through the same things. We hope these classes bring both and strengthen families in the process.”

PAYING IT FORWARD

MCH strives to impact communities, and hopefully society, through sharing its knowledge and helping individuals understand the value of connection. Its goal is to bring Connected Caregiver to more families through church venues and other like-minded agencies as well as help educators find more tools to use in the learning environment.

Brown hopes that by sharing a common language and mission, more children who have experienced trauma will be able to heal and become successful adults.

“We have to reach out and engage our community in a way to strengthen that connection, strengthen our moral and spiritual meanings,” Brown said. “Our church is our community, our work, our school system. If we do it well and we do it right, things get better and kids don’t have trauma in their life. Or if they do, they have the tools to get better and deal with those issues and stay healthy.”

For more information about offering Connected Caregiver or Connected Classroom at your organization, please contact us at 254-750-1260 or visit MCH.org to find an outreach office near you.

The Effort to Educate

We are interested in bringing this curriculum and information to caregivers who need an extra bit of support in their roles.

-KELLY SMITH, MCH Family Outreach Program Administrator

Born from requests for additional information, staff in MCH Family Outreach in Waco recently developed a new curriculum, called Connected Caregiver, which incorporates all three trauma-informed, evidence-based approaches for families and groups. The approach has been embraced by community partners such as Jesus Said Love, a ministry in Waco, and Hope House in Albuquerque, N.M.

“We put together what we thought was the most cohesive information incorporating some Nurturing Parenting, some Circle of Security and really focusing on TBRI and found that it is a great thing to take any parent through,” said Brooke Davilla, director of MCH Family Outreach in Waco.

“We are interested in bringing this curriculum and information to caregivers who need an extra bit of support in their roles.”

-KELLY SMITH, MCH Family Outreach Program Administrator

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Through a donation made to Methodist Children’s Home, student leaders from Bulldog Pride, a group of staff-selected MCH students, assembled 100 hygiene kits for those affected by the hurricane. The kits were handed off to First United Methodist Church of Waco to be gathered with other donations and distributed by United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) among those impacted across Texas.

UMCOR is a ministry of the United Methodist Church through the General Board of Global Ministries. According to the UMCOR website, as a nonprofit organization, they work to alleviate human suffering and advance hope and healing around the world.

The hygiene kits included nail clippers, bandages, a face towel, a washcloth, soap, a toothbrush and $1 for toothpaste. With the help of several other faculty personnel, Amy Grisham, director of school support for the charter school on the Waco campus, purchased all of the necessary items for 100 hygiene kits with the MCH donation. After Grisham shared about the need, what UMCOR is and the opportunity, the youth assembled, packaged and boxed all 100 kits in a short time.

MCH was just one of many organizations in the greater-Waco area to join in on UMCOR’s cause to help those affected by Hurricane Harvey.

According to Victoria Trappe, administrative assistant of membership and discipleship at FUMC Waco, her church has worked with UMCOR to deliver hygiene kits and other resources to those in need since Labor Day.

When the direct intensity of Harvey dissipated, MCH President and CEO Tim Brown said, “The magnitude of the recovery work is just beginning. We now have the awesome task and opportunity to stand in the gap with our children and families, offering hope to those who are most at risk of losing it.” UMCOR Director of Disaster Response and Partner Relations, Catherine Earl, stated, “UMCOR understands that this is a long term event and that we will be there alongside of the conferences, people of the UMC church and our external partners through the recovery process.”

Traci Wagner, program administrator for the Eastern region of MCH Family Outreach, shared at a conference for MCH case managers that she is proud of how MCH worked together to respond to different communities in need after Harvey. During Hurricane Harvey, Wagner witnessed all areas of MCH working together to help in any way possible. From the IT department, to the executives, other outreach offices, and MCH students, everyone had a role in the work, she said.

“I am honored to lead MCH and serve alongside staff and volunteers who day after day care for children, youth and families in whatever storms life has thrown at them,” Brown said. “We have done this since 1890 and will continue to do so.”
It's not whether you win or lose, but how you play the game. Student-athletes at Methodist Children's Home play the game to be "better," whether it is to become more physically fit, work on a new skill, build friendships with teammates, or as an outlet from everyday challenges of life. Win or lose, MCH student-athletes are successful in building self-confidence, creating memories and learning life lessons that they will carry into their adulthood.

Students attending the Methodist Children's Home charter school, operated in partnership with the University of Texas-University Charter School system, are eligible to participate in athletics as long as they are passing their classes. MCH strives to build a culture on campus where youth are able to live out a "normal" childhood complete with high school experiences like pep rallies, extra-curricular activities, prom and other dances, as well as team sports. By attending school at Methodist Children's Home, many students will even have opportunities and experiences they wouldn't have had if they stayed at home. In the MCH culture, participation is encouraged and developing talents is celebrated.
It may take us some time to get going and figure things out. But I would hope that the kids that have played and gone through the program leave as better people.

-MATT RODGERS, Director of Athletics

The Bulldog athletic program is led with the MCH model of care in mind. Director of Athletics Matt Rodgers and his team of coaches focus on building a great team and helping their student-athletes learn life skills, like working together and good sportsmanship, in order to become better people. Unlike other high school coaches, MCH coaches must meet childcare training requirements that include trauma-informed practices utilized in everyday care in order to provide consistency throughout the residential program.

Coaching in a unique environment is something the coaches take seriously. “Some of our kids are here by their own fault or some may have just been dealt a bad hand,” Rodgers said. “I made plenty of bad decisions in high school but I had people who loved me and cared enough about me to hold me accountable and teach me otherwise. I think I may be hard on them, but I would hope that they would learn from or be better by what I tell them and show them.”

Rodgers, a 2007 Baylor graduate and former graduate assistant on the Baylor men’s basketball team, joined MCH athletics in the fall of 2012 as an athletic coordinator and became director of athletics in 2015. He has led his teams to the postseason every year since he began at MCH, an impressive accomplishment especially considering his rosters change from year to year and sometimes even during the season due to youth leaving the residential program. He said it is important to find leaders on the team each year.

Lindsey Fortner, athletic coordinator and one of the head coaches at MCH, shares in the excitement of the day’s track meet with two of her student athletes.
WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!

THINGS TO REMEMBER:

1. You are unique and talented.
2. You can make a difference.
3. If you put your mind to it, you can achieve it!
4. This year is going to be great!
When Andrew came to MCH in 2010, he was just a quiet 13-year-old boy about to enter high school. But while attending the MCH charter school located on the Waco campus, Andrew took the initiative and made a choice that would ultimately lead to his future career while also opening a door of opportunity for other students to follow.

He decided to enroll in an agricultural sciences class as his elective and was introduced to welding. Andrew grew to enjoy it and talked to his career counselor in an effort to find more opportunities to continue his interest.

"I told her I wanted something that I can do where I can build or make things and work with my hands," he said.

The solution was enrolling Andrew in the Greater Waco Advanced Manufacturing Academy (GWAMA), a training program offered through the Waco Independent School District that offers advanced technical and manufacturing education. Andrew enrolled in the welding program and became the first student from the MCH charter school to attend the program during his junior and senior year.

"I learned that (welding) can be a really good-paying job and I liked it," Andrew said.

Andrew’s motivation to pursue his interest made him a somewhat of a trailblazer at Methodist Children’s Home. He really found his niche in college. "He is really a model college student," Vaughn said.

Andrew earned credits toward an education in welding before even graduating from high school in 2015 and decided to continue his studies at Texas State Technical College in Waco. He is currently pursuing two associate’s degrees: one in applied science in welding technology, and the other in precision machining technology. He said he wants to travel and obtain a job welding exotic metals that also incorporates machining.

Throughout his transition from high school into college, Andrew has stayed on track and performs well in college. He said although he is doing well on his own, it is reassuring to have the support of MCH and his Transition Services coordinator, Angie Vaughn, who has been with him on his journey since his senior year of high school.

"It is an awesome thing to have in case I need it," Andrew said about the assistance from MCH. "It shows they really care about you and want to make sure you continue to succeed. I appreciate it.”

Vaughn checks in with Andrew several times a semester and has supported him during his transition into adulthood. She has been very impressed by the growth he has shown.

"He is really a model college student," Vaughn said. "He takes care of business and whatever he needs to do. He has really matured and grown up a lot these past few years. He really found his niche in college." -

Three From MCH Recognized By Coalition for Residential Excellence

Methodist Children’s Home congratulates Dan Moore and Tommy and Brenda Benson for receiving awards from the Coalition for Residential Excellence (CORE). CORE is a “national voice for residential excellence” and consists of an alliance of programs that are dedicated to residential care for children and youth in need. According to the website, “CORE works to establish excellence for residential care; assists programs in achieving excellence; influences policymakers to recognize the need for residential programs; and promotes public support for residential excellence, research and practice.”

From their nomination: Tommy and Brenda Benson have been employed as home parents at Methodist Children’s Home since May 2008. During their nine years of service, the Bensons have embodied the agency’s mission of providing hope to children, youth and families in a nurturing, Christian community. They do this through their natural ability to build connections while teaching responsibility and Christian principles to the youth in their care.

Tommy and Brenda are dynamic home parents in regards to the vast range of experiences that they provide for the youth in their care. Tommy utilizes opportunities to teach the young men in his home about necessary life skills that they need to learn to become independent. Tommy has taught skills such as car maintenance, independent living readiness and college preparedness. Brenda is a consistent and nurturing presence for many of the young men in their home and faithfully supports them at their academic and extracurricular functions. She provides a comforting “home” environment while meeting the needs and ensuring the safety of the youth in their home. The Bensons have had many notable successes including assisting one of their youth with transitioning and moving into the University of Texas. They have built a strong relationship with this youth during his five years at Methodist Children’s Home. Tommy and Brenda were a critical part in paving the way for this young man’s success and future.

While the Bensons are highly skilled, deeply compassionate, and possess an in-depth understanding of the attributes and skills needed to be effective home parents; they are incredibly humble and view their position as home parents as an opportunity and not as a job. The Bensons quietly go about their daily duties and allow the success of the youth in their care to be the testimony of their investment. Methodist Children’s Home is impacting and changing lives because of staff like Tommy and Brenda Benson.

TOMMY & BRENTA BENSON
HOUSEPARENTS OF THE YEAR

From his nomination: Dan Moore is a dedicated alumnus of Methodist Children’s Home. As a child from “hard places,” he overcame many obstacles with resilience and perseverance to achieve success both personally and as a role model of service to others.

Dan flourished at MCH with the nurture, support, discipline and camaraderie of his staff and peers. He developed self-confidence and trusting relationships with others. He went on to graduate from high school in 1991 and attend college at Texas A&M University. Dan admittedly struggled with independence, and took some time off from college and joined the Navy where he served for four years, which was also during the second Gulf War. While in the Navy he earned numerous awards, including the Navy and Marine Corp Achievement Medal and the Enlisted Warfare Specialist pin.

Following his time in the Navy, he returned to Texas A&M to complete his degree in political science. After graduating from A&M, Dan took time off to work and save money before returning to graduate school. In 2005, Dan was accepted into the Baylor University School of Law. He went on to complete his Law Degree and MBA at Baylor University.

While attending Baylor University Dan regularly attended the annual homecoming events for alumni at Methodist Children’s Home. He became interested in serving in the MCH Alumni Association and went on to serve as president of the Alumni Association for more than eight years. During his tenure as president, Dan was able to assist the association in organization and growth through his leadership skills and expertise in the field of law.

Dan is currently a practicing attorney in the Dallas area. Throughout his life he has remained humble and thankful for the opportunities he has been afforded and makes it a priority to be of service to others. He has been active in the Dallas community and as a Methodist Children’s Home Alumni. Dan began a new role of service to MCH students and alumni in June 2017 when he assumed the position as a member of the Methodist Children’s Home Board of Directors.

DAN MOORE
CATHERINE HERSHEY AWARD FOR ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR
MCH relies heavily on the generosity of our benefactors during Christmas with 60 percent of donations contributed to the annual fund during the season of giving. Thank you for remembering our children and families.

Your support will help MCH provide a lifetime of Christmas memories for our children and youth. To make a Christmas donation, please visit MCH.org and click the “Donate” tab. For more information about hosting a Christmas Offering at your church, please contact our Development department at Development@MCH.org or 1-800-853-1272.
BUILDING HOPE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Construction will soon be concluded on the Margaret Ann Ashcraft and John E. Hilliard homes. This construction completes Phase One of the Building Hope Capital Campaign to add new homes to the Waco campus that better serve the needs of children.

The decision to build updated homes with a new design was an initiative from the Strategic Plan set in 2011. MCH leadership was challenged to evaluate the quality and effectiveness of an aging Waco campus. Using knowledge acquired through the latest research and our collaboration with the Karyn Purvis Institute of Child Development at Texas Christian University, the new homes include an open floorplan to encourage interaction as well as individual bedrooms and bathrooms for residents to help them feel safe and secure. The Ashcraft and Hilliard homes follow the building of the Daniels Home which was completed in 2016.

To learn more about the vision of the Building Hope Capital Campaign or to contribute, contact us at Development@MCH.org or 1-800-853-1272.

ALUMNA DEMONSTRATES GRATITUDE THROUGH CONTINUED SUPPORT OF MCH

Mamie Lee Dodds, a resident of Big Spring, Texas, recently celebrated her 98th birthday. To mark this joyous milestone, Dodds chose to forego gifts and instead asked her friends and loved ones to make donations to Methodist Children’s Home, a ministry very dear to her heart. With this benevolent gesture, she raised almost $3,000 for the organization.

Mamie Lee Dodds is a resident and member of the Board of Directors for the Methodist Children’s Home Alumni Association. Dodds was given a “money tree” at her birthday celebration, which she passed it on to Methodist Children’s Home where it will be displayed in the Perkins Heritage Home Visitors Center.

After receiving donations through the money tree at her birthday celebration, she passed it on to Methodist Children’s Home where it will be displayed in the Perkins Heritage Home Visitors Center. Trey Oakley, vice president for development at MCH, attended the birthday celebration and accepted the gift on behalf of the ministry.

“Aimee Lee is a living example of how God is at work through Methodist Children’s Home,” Oakley said. “She was blessed during her childhood by this ministry and now returns that blessing to others. We are grateful to her for her continued support and loyalty. We are proud to have Mamie Lee representing MCH!”

METHODOIST CHILDREN’S HOME RECEIVES HIGH RANKINGS FROM CHARITY EVALUATORS

Earlier this year, Methodist Children’s Home received a four-star rating from Charity Navigator, the highest rating available from the nation’s largest independent charity evaluator.

“It is important for our community members and potential donors to find in-depth information about our goals, strategies, capabilities, and progress,” Brown said. “Carrying a four-star rating from Charity Navigator and the Gold Seal of Transparency from Guidestar gives the public the assurance of our commitment to integrity and best practices.”

GIFT ANNUITY PROGRAM

A charitable gift annuity provides a way to benefit future generations while also increasing your income and decreasing your tax bill. Our charitable gift annuity program was created as a service to our many friends who have expressed a desire to make a gift of significance, while still retaining income from the gift property during their lives. A charitable gift annuity is a contract in which you exchange a gift of cash or securities for a guaranteed, fixed income each year for the rest of your life.

Your gift annuity offers five distinct advantages:

- INCOME FOR LIFE at attractive payout rates for one or two lives
- TAX DEDUCTION SAVINGS a large part of what you transfer is a deductible charitable gift
- TAX-FREE INCOME a large part of your annual payment is tax-free return of principal
- CAPITAL GAINS TAX SAVINGS when you contribute securities for a gift annuity, you minimize any taxes on your “paper profit”
- PERSONAL SATISFACTION from making a gift of lasting significance

Payments are made quarterly; one-life or two-life annuities; cash or securities to fund a gift annuity. Cash gifts allow maximum tax-free income; gifts of securities allow you to minimize capital gains taxes. Methodist Children’s Home Board policy states that an individual wanting to participate in the gift annuity program must be at least 55 years of age and make a minimum donation of $5,000. MCH does not accept real estate or property to fund a gift annuity.

To receive your personalized proposal, please contact Trey Oakley, vice president for development at (254) 750-1388, or by email at Tooakley@MCH.org.

INCOME FOR LIFE at attractive payout rates for one or two lives

CHARITY NAVIGATOR

Four Star Charity

1777 GOLD

Receiving the gold level designation from Guidestar speaks to the commitment we carry to conduct our work with the utmost integrity and transparency,” Brown said. “It reflects the commitment to excellence found in our staff, executive leadership and board of directors. Most importantly, it shines a light on the difference we are making in the lives of thousands of children, youth and families across Texas and New Mexico.”

Distinguished Alumni Award from the Methodist Children’s Home Alumni Association for her service to MCH and attending the Building Hope Capital Campaign to add new homes to the Waco campus. MCH leadership was challenged to evaluate the quality and effectiveness of an aging Waco campus. Using knowledge acquired through the latest research and our collaboration with the Karyn Purvis Institute of Child Development at Texas Christian University, the new homes include an open floorplan to encourage interaction as well as individual bedrooms and bathrooms for residents to help them feel safe and secure. The Ashcraft and Hilliard homes follow the building of the Daniels Home which was completed in 2016.

To learn more about the vision of the Building Hope Capital Campaign or to contribute, contact us at Development@MCH.org or 1-800-853-1272.

Mamie Lee Dodds, a resident of Big Spring, Texas, recently celebrated her 98th birthday. To mark this joyous milestone, Dodds chose to forego gifts and instead asked her friends and loved ones to make donations to Methodist Children’s Home, a ministry very dear to her heart. With this benevolent gesture, she raised almost $3,000 for the organization.

Mamie Lee Dodds is a resident and member of the Board of Directors for the Methodist Children’s Home Alumni Association. Dodds was given a “money tree” at her birthday celebration, which she passed it on to Methodist Children’s Home where it will be displayed in the Perkins Heritage Home Visitors Center. Trey Oakley, vice president for development at MCH, attended the birthday celebration and accepted the gift on behalf of the ministry.

“Aimee Lee is a living example of how God is at work through Methodist Children’s Home,” Oakley said. “She was blessed during her childhood by this ministry and now returns that blessing to others. We are grateful to her for her continued support and loyalty. We are proud to have Mamie Lee representing MCH!”

Earlier this year, Methodist Children’s Home received a four-star rating from Charity Navigator, the highest rating available from the nation’s largest independent charity evaluator.

“It is important for our community members and potential donors to find in-depth information about our goals, strategies, capabilities, and progress,” Brown said. “Carrying a four-star rating from Charity Navigator and the Gold Seal of Transparency from Guidestar gives the public the assurance of our commitment to integrity and best practices.”

GIFT ANNUITY PROGRAM

A charitable gift annuity provides a way to benefit future generations while also increasing your income and decreasing your tax bill. Our charitable gift annuity program was created as a service to our many friends who have expressed a desire to make a gift of significance, while still retaining income from the gift property during their lives. A charitable gift annuity is a contract in which you exchange a gift of cash or securities for a guaranteed, fixed income each year for the rest of your life.

Your gift annuity offers five distinct advantages:

- INCOME FOR LIFE at attractive payout rates for one or two lives
- TAX DEDUCTION SAVINGS a large part of what you transfer is a deductible charitable gift
- TAX-FREE INCOME a large part of your annual payment is tax-free return of principal
- CAPITAL GAINS TAX SAVINGS when you contribute securities for a gift annuity, you minimize any taxes on your “paper profit”
- PERSONAL SATISFACTION from making a gift of lasting significance

Payments are made quarterly; one-life or two-life annuities; cash or securities to fund a gift annuity. Cash gifts allow maximum tax-free income; gifts of securities allow you to minimize capital gains taxes. Methodist Children’s Home Board policy states that an individual wanting to participate in the gift annuity program must be at least 55 years of age and make a minimum donation of $5,000. MCH does not accept real estate or property to fund a gift annuity.

To receive your personalized proposal, please contact Trey Oakley, vice president for development at (254) 750-1388, or by email at Tooakley@MCH.org.
MCH SCHOOL WELCOMES NEW INITIATIVES AND PROGRAMS THIS SCHOOL YEAR

The charter school on the Waco campus of Methodist Children’s Home, operating in partnership with the University of Texas – University Charter School system, started its 14th year on August 15. In May 2017, the school graduated its 300th student and is continuing to implement a new initiative and new programs in hopes of moving more milestones. This year the charter school is focusing on Restorative Discipline. According to Michelle Arocha, executive principal, “Restorative Discipline is a whole school approach to building school climate and addressing student behavior.”

Every day teachers are allotted an extra 15 minutes in their class period for a proactive circle program. “This is a place for teachers to check in with students, to see what they have learned in class during the week and to see if they have questions about course content,” Arocha said. “Every student in the circle has the opportunity to have their voice heard and know that their opinion is valued.”

When it comes to conflict, restorative discipline also uses the circle program to foster accountability rather than punishment. In the event of conflict, “parties have to meet in a restorative circle and discuss what happened,” Arocha explained. “All parties then come to an agreement for how they need to treat each other and what needs to happen moving forward. There is some kind of agreed upon restitution to the party that was harmed and then the facilitator of the circles check in on the parties in the following weeks to make sure the agreement is being kept.”

Echoing the restorative discipline initiative of fostering a healthy school climate, the charter school has been given the theme of Super HEROES (Helping Everyone Reach their Own Educational Success) to use this school year. Further, the school was tasked to come up with their own campus super heroes. The charter school decided on two heroes, Diamond Diggers, as they are always looking for ‘diamonds’ in their faculty, students and staff, and Data Divas, who make sure they have questions about course content, “Arocha said. “Every student in the circle has the opportunity to have their voice heard and know that their opinion is valued.”

Additionally, the school has introduced another program to foster a positive environment for the students called “Write Your Principal.” This is a way for students to directly and anonymously contact the principals and administration by writing questions and comments on a piece of paper and dropping them off in a locked mailbox that is read daily, Arocha explained.

The final program taking place this year focuses on teachers and staff. All charter school leadership is participating in a book study on The Fundamental 5 which presents the best teaching practices.

As the charter school implements and embraces new initiatives this year, Arocha said it is their goal that 100 percent of teachers daily utilize proactive circles, empowering and correcting techniques and the practices learned from The Fundamental 5. “I am most excited for our new faculty and staff to embrace our initiatives this year,” said Arocha. “I think that utilizing all of these programs will increase student achievement, create a positive climate and will support our entire community.”

MCH wishes the students and teachers much success as they journey through this school year. Go Bulldogs!

INDEPENDENT LIVING RESIDENTS GET TIPS ON MONEY MANAGEMENT

Young adults in the Methodist Children’s Home Independent Living program (ILP) got valuable advice from representatives of Wells Fargo during six-week money management courses. Personal bankers came to Clay Commons apartment complex to lead the groups in lessons such as earning money, spending smart, saving money, and building credit.

The course was offered at different times on two days of the week, repeating curriculum for the week so that all residents interested were able to attend. ILP residents Tameka and Chrislynn, who recently graduated from MCH charter school in May, were excited about the opportunities to help students. “I get to teach people and help them succeed, and it lends credibility to the things they hear from our staff because they are hearing many of the same things from an outside agency,” Tameka said.

The Independent Living program serves MCH graduates as they transition into adulthood. Young adults first live at homes located at the back of the Waco campus before moving to the Clay Commons apartments located off campus. They receive guidance from MCH staff as they work and/or attend advanced education while taking steps toward becoming independent.

Cowser worked with Jonathan Olivarez, Independent Living coordinator for MCH, to schedule the classes. The students follow a course curriculum from Wells Fargo that gives real-world advice geared toward young adults on topics such as saving money on their grocery bill, determining what rent they can afford and purchasing a vehicle.

“These financial education sessions are important to our residents because they help them better understand what will be expected to successfully transition to independence,” said Olivarez. “It outlines various steps they can take to ensure success.”

“The program provides much of the same information and guidance as Wells Fargo, but it is adapted for young adults,” said Arocha. “The students learn about the importance of saving money and managing their finances. This is something that they likely will not learn otherwise.”

Students in our Independent Living programs are drawn with representatives from Wells Fargo bank to learn about setting financial goals and how to manage their money responsibly to meet those goals.

U.M. ARMY 2017

Seven youth from Methodist Children’s Home had an experience they will always remember during the United Methodist Action Reach-Out Mission by Youth (U.M. ARMY) trip, July 16-22. MCH representatives work alongside volunteers from Kingwood United Methodist Church for this annual mission trip.

According to its website, U.M. ARMY “provides an opportunity for youth and adults to experience Christian growth through service to others.” Volunteers provide home repairs and maintenance for low-income, elderly and disabled homeowners who are unable to make the repairs themselves.

This year, the group traveled to North Austin, Texas, to assist families who were referred by social workers from a home health agency.

Kingwood representatives work with MCH staff to determine groups for the mission trip. The young people from MCH are spread throughout several groups to work alongside adult team leaders and youth from Kingwood and other church youth groups. Ron Britton, spiritual development minister, accompanied the residents this year. It was his 15th mission trip with MCH, and Britton said every trip he looks forward to watching the youth transform and grow through their experience in helping others.

This is a tangible way to change someone’s life,” Britton said about the mission trips. “I love getting to see our students experience that (because it) creates a situation where we explore their faith.”

MCH youth built wheelchair ramps, painted houses, reinforced porches, and helped out in the church kitchen throughout the week. Gail, a resident at MCH, attended U.M. ARMY for the first time this year.

“You feel a sense of joy to help people who need it and don’t have the resources,” she said. “It is a beautiful thing to see them get that freedom. It is all about the people we are impacting through these missions.”

A MCH’s connection with Kingwood UMC began through their senior pastor who developed a love for the ministry, and the relationship has continued to grow. Kingwood sponsors MCH residents each year so that they can attend mission trips.

“For Kingwood, they love the opportunity to give our kids a chance to do something they’ve never done and be there with them,” Britton said. “For our kids, it is surprising to them how other people are willing to do things for them that they don’t know. During the trip, they are able to step into that environment of openness and comradery and by the end of the week, they’ve accepted it and enjoy it.”

Through the course, the friendships between the volunteers grow as they work hard during the day, worship in the evenings, and celebrate God’s love as they give back to others.

“With our kids, I’m hoping they grow in their faith, and understand and appreciate that they are not the only ones who hurt or have problems,” Britton said. “They come to realize that and it leads to growth in their faith and in the way they view people and humanity in general.”

This year, the group traveled to North Austin, Texas, to assist families who were referred by social workers from a home health agency.

Students in our Independent Living programs are drawn with representatives from Wells Fargo bank to learn about setting financial goals and how to manage their money responsibly to meet those goals.
As summer ends, some families are faced with the financial burden of back-to-school supplies or scheduling last minute hair or dental appointments. As a way to show support to families in our communities as well as build connections with other area nonprofits and businesses, MCH Family Outreach offices look for opportunities to be a part of our back-to-school events in these communities, whether in our own or in collaboration with community partners, whenever possible to offer an event to clients of our programs and others where families can come together, learn about helpful resources, and get a start on school supplies for the children in their families," said Kelly Smith, outreach administrator for the Western region. "This helps us strengthen our partnerships with other community organizations and increase awareness of MCH services. Below are a few examples of ways our outreach offices partnered with families in their communities, as they prepared for the new school year.

**BRYAN/COLLEGE STATION:** The Bryan Outreach office passed out backpacks to those who could not purchase the necessary items for their children. Bryan/College Station also set up a booth at the Bryan Independent School District (ISD) pre-K and Kindergarten registration to offer families information on services. College Station ISD included an MCH school supplies, or scheduling last minute hair or dental appointments, in our communities as well as build connections with other area nonprofits and businesses. MCH Family Outreach staff also attended the Portland First United Methodist Church 4th Annual Back-to-School Health Screening which provided free annual and sports physicals for children. Grace United Methodist Church also donated school supply items as well as personal hygiene, diapers, and wipes for MCH families. Also, a previous client secured sponsorship slots for MCH children to receive a free haircut, school supplies and a complete head-to-toe outfit. The event was sponsored by A1 Finest Barbershop and Herrman & Herrman law firm.

**EL PASO:** For the second consecutive year, MCH Family Outreach in El Paso participated in the Ysleta Independent School District Back-to-School Rally on Aug. 19 where 2,000 backpacks were handed out to children from Ysleta and El Paso MCH families. Family Outreach donated more than 1,000 notebooks, 590 composition books and 300 packages of crayons.

**SAN ANTONIO:** On Aug. 16, MCH Family Outreach staff in San Antonio worked with Coker United Methodist Church during a back to school distribution event for families receiving food assistance from the church’s wellness center. MCH staff also participated in the Alamo Area Council of Government’s back-to-school voucher event at the San Antonio Food Bank.

**TYLER:** MCH Family Outreach in Tyler served underprivileged families in the community during the “School’s Cool” event in Tyler. This event offered school supplies, discounts for school uniforms and other clothing items. Many organizations, local radio stations and food vendors came out to promote their services and provided food and refreshments to participants.

**KILLEEN:** MCH Family Outreach in Killeen facilitated activities for children during back-to-school events at the Killeen United Methodist Church in Copperas Cove on Aug. 13 and at Y Armed Services in Copperas Cove on Aug. 26. The office also participated in the Head Start Open House on two dates and the back-to-school event at Bell County Juvenile Services on Aug. 18 where they had activities and giveaways for families.

**LAS CRUCES:** Gap families from MCH Family Outreach in Las Cruces received clothes, shoes, school supplies, and a backpack during an event hosted by the Las Cruces Gospel Rescue Mission Clothing Room on Aug. 10. Also, on Aug. 11 members of the Caregiver Empowerment Group were recipients of backpack donations from UnitedHealthcare and United Prevention Coalition. On Aug. 12, Las Cruces outreach families were part of the “Shop with a Cop” event hosted by Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Lodge #8.

**SAN ANTONIO:** On Aug. 16, MCH Family Outreach staff in San Antonio participated in the St. Mark’s UMC – Cleburne, TX 28th Wedding Anniversary and the “Participating in back-to-school activities” event to clients of our programs at the Ysleta Independent School District Back-to-School Rally on Aug. 19 where 2,000 backpacks were handed out to children from Ysleta and El Paso MCH families.

**HOUSTON:** MCH Family Outreach in Houston participated in the ABC Dental back-to-school event on July 29 to provide health screenings, immunizations, fresh produce, and assistance with applying for Medicaid, CHIP, and SNAP. On Sept. 9, they also planned to be a part of the Aldine-Harris County – Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support’s 14th annual Family Strengthening Conference.

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Thank you to all the organizations who partnered with us in serving families this year during back-to-school events!
MCH Coach Matt Rodgers leads players from both Methodist Children’s Home and Live Oak Classical School in a moment of prayer and thanksgiving after an action-filled game of six-man football.