

# SUNSHINE

THE MAGAZINE OF METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME | FALL 2017

## *Healing from Trauma*



**Methodist Children's Home**  
Offering Hope Since 1890





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# Commissioners

Since the early days of Methodist Children's Home, individuals known as "Commissioners" have worked with the organization to raise support and awareness of the ministry. Commissioners are needed to help provide insight that will assist MCH in reaching children, youth and families who are in desperate need of hope and healing. The mission of a Commissioner of MCH is explained in the acronym H.O.P.E.

**Help us fulfill our mission with your gifts of time, talent and treasure.**

**Organize a special event for MCH at your church in your community.**

**Provide insight on ways we can partner with you to serve families in your community.**

**Enlist others as benefactors and friends to support the mission of MCH.**

For more information on how you can become a Commissioner for MCH, please contact us at [Development@MCH.org](mailto:Development@MCH.org) or 1-800-853-1272.



# 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



*Tim Brown*

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 (TBRI). 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 TBRI 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 TBRI 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.

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**MCH.org**



# Healing from Trauma



## *MCH strives to change communities through trauma-informed childcare*

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 back 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.



## 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)

"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.



Griselda (left) with MCH case manager Sara Beth Stoltzfus (right).

*"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

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 lets Jason know that she 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."

*\*Interview with Griselda was done through translator.*

## 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



MCH Family Outreach in Waco partnered with Indian Springs Middle School teaching sixth graders skills and principles of TBRI. The students pictured here are making sensory items that help with managing built up energy and aid with focus in the classroom.

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."

## 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."

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! Everyone was so knowledgeable and welcoming!"

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.

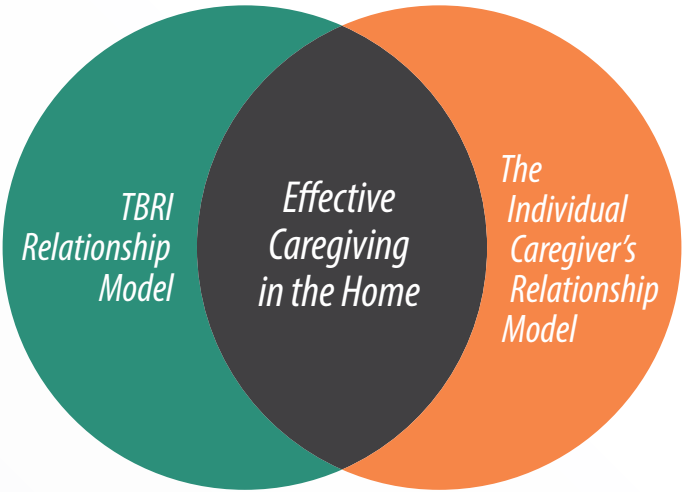
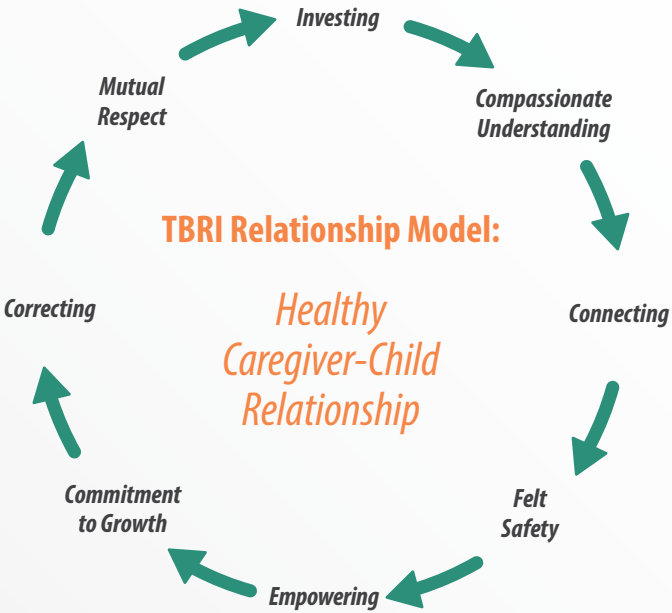
"We are interested in bringing this curriculum and information to caregivers who need an extra bit of support in their roles," Smith said. "Sometimes the support, too, comes in the form of spending time with others who are going through the same things. We hope these classes bring both and strengthen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

WE CAN INCREASE BRAIN CONNECTIONS THROUGH

- 1 Interaction
- 2 Healthy Touch
- 3 Stable Relationships
- 4 Safe, Healthy Environments
- 5 Self-esteem
- 6 Quality Care
- 7 Play
- 8 Communication
- 9 Music
- 10 Reading

(Source: Bavolek, Delinger-Bavolek, Devall, and Sears, 2007)

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.

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

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 to 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.



New MCH employees participate in sensory awareness training as a way to better understand the behaviors and challenges of the children in their care.



# HELPING HANDS IN THE WAKE OF HURRICANE HARVEY

*Not long after the major destruction of Hurricane Harvey ensued on the Texas Gulf Coast, Methodist Children's Home rose to action to help in the wake of loss and recovery.*

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.

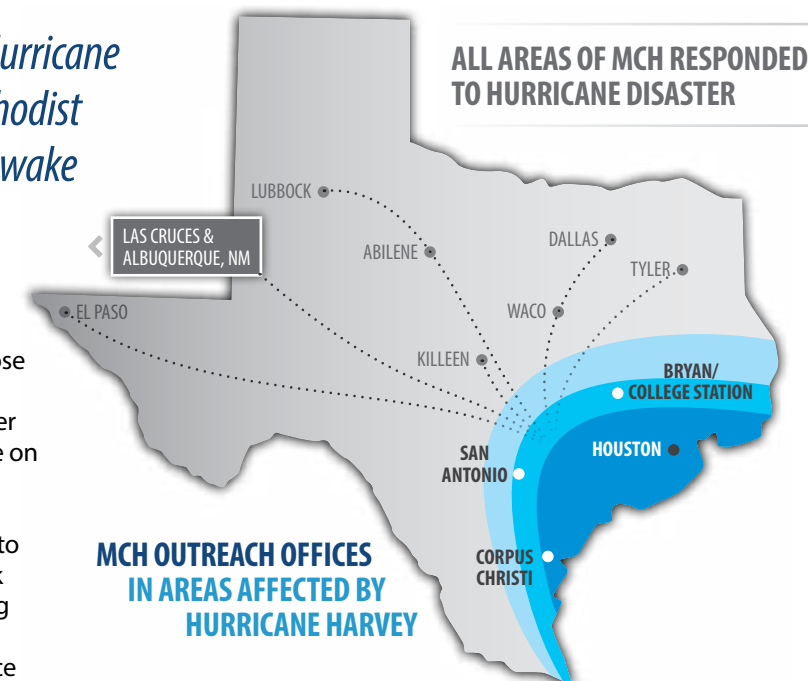
With the help of several other faculty personnel, Amy Grisham, director of school support for the charter school on the Waco campus, purchased all of the necessary items for 100 hygiene kits with the MCH donation.

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."



(Top) MCH youth assemble 100 care packages which are combined with other local donations by staff from First United Methodist Church in Waco and distributed by UMCOR to families affected by the storm.



Staff from the MCH Family Outreach office in Corpus Christi join with other organizations at Church Unlimited, a designated FEMA distribution center, to prepare food and hygiene kits for hurricane victims.



# MORE THAN A GAME

## *MCH student-athletes learn valuable lessons through competitive sports*

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, extracurricular 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.





## BULLDOG PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

### 2003-2004:

- MCH charter school opens in partnership with University of Texas-University Charter School

### 2008-2009:

- MCH charter school adds competitive athletics (flag football, volleyball, basketball, and track)
- Boys basketball finishes state tournament in fourth (Texas Charter School Academic and Athletic League)
- Girls basketball finishes state tournament in second (Texas Charter School Academic and Athletic League)

### 2009-2010:

- Cross country added to program
- Flag football team wins state championship (undefeated for season)
- Volleyball – State runner-up
- Girls basketball wins state championship

### 2010-2011:

- Six-man football added
- Junior varsity volleyball and basketball added
- Football – TCAL state quarterfinalist
- Volleyball – Qualifies for state tournament
- Girls basketball – Qualifies for state tournament
- Boys basketball – State runner-up

### 2011-2012:

- Junior varsity football team added
- Developed football field to host home games
- Six-man football goes to second round of playoffs
- Boys basketball team – State runner-up
- Cross country competes in state meet

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.

*“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*

“For us to be successful, players are going to have to say the same things that I’m saying but in their own way and know what I expect,” he said. “If a kid makes a mistake (off the field) and can’t play, that affects other people. So if we have guys who are leaders in what they say and do, it provides a lot more opportunities to be successful as a team.”

Rodgers leads a fairly young athletic program which began through the charter school in 2008 with flag football, basketball, volleyball, and track. In the beginning, MCH competed in the Texas Charter School Academic and Athletic League. Six-man tackle football replaced flag football in 2010. Today, the Bulldogs compete in the Texas Christian Athletic Fellowship and the program consists of six-man football, volleyball, basketball, track and, most recently, golf.



*Lindsey Fortner (center), 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.*

Lindsey Fortner, athletic coordinator and head coach for girls volleyball, basketball and track, joined the program in 2009 while still a senior at Baylor University. With a bachelor’s degree in psychology, Fortner has become a standout for her leadership and relationships she has built with her athletes.

“I’m really big on relating to each one and finding something special in each person so I can build that bond with each girl,” Fortner said. “I’m also extremely honest, but I tell them the truth in a way that will build them up.”

It is not uncommon for athletes on MCH teams to come in without any prior playing experience. This year the volleyball team only has two returning athletes from last season.

“The biggest challenge is trying to instill confidence and teach them how to be an athlete – the mindset is different,” Fortner said. “They may come in and think they can’t do this, but I want to help them see that ‘Yes, you can do it. Let’s work on it.’”

“Part of getting better is you have to work through it,” she continued. “I think that’s what helps them to get motivated – I try to relate it to life and give them life lessons. I want them to learn to be a hard worker, accountable for their actions and be a good person to others, as well as a good student. A lot of my girls have been valedictorians here.”

“She’s like a second mom or a big sister,” said Amashia, one of Fortner’s current athletes who competes in volleyball, basketball and track. “There’s fun times and then there’s hard times

where she really teaches us stuff like becoming leaders.”

Soleana, who played sports for the first time last year, now competes in volleyball, basketball and track.

“The coaches are very encouraging,” Soleana said. “They make me feel like I’m an important part of the team. I just didn’t want to let them down, so you start working hard for your teammates. It’s fun to be together; before games in the locker room, you talk about stuff. It’s like a family here. It’s always fun – no one is ever sad.”

Rodgers, Fortner and the Bulldog athletic staff have built a successful culture based on relationships, teamwork and accountability. Rodgers said his teams learn his expectations very early on. He stresses the importance of youth being on time and responsible for their own actions.

“I try to get them invested enough to where they care about the success of both the team and themselves,” he said. “I paint a picture of what this team has looked like in the past, where we are now, and where we’re hoping it goes.”

For Rodgers, that goal this fall is to finally win the state championship in football. But he is also excited about how far the athletics program has come during his tenure at MCH.

“I’m proud that we’re always competitive,” Rodgers said. “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. That’s the ultimate goal and something to be proud of.” •

### 2012-2013:

- Football – State quarterfinalist
- Boys basketball – State semifinalist
- Girls basketball and volleyball – Qualify for state tournament

### 2013-2014:

- Boys basketball – State runner-up
- Girls basketball and volleyball – Qualify for state tournament

### 2014-2015:

- Football – State semifinalist
- Boys basketball – District champs and state semifinalist
- Girls volleyball – State quarterfinalist

### 2015-2016:

- Football – District champs and state runner-up
- Boys basketball – District champs
- Adds boys and girls golf program
- 1 girl (Marissa) qualifies for state golf tournament

### 2016 – 2017:

- Football – State semifinalist
- Boys basketball – State semifinalist
- Girls basketball – State quarterfinalist
- Girls golf – District champs and state runner-up
- Boys golf – 2 boys qualify for state
- Boys track – 2 individual gold medals (100m & 200m) and 1 team gold medal (4x100m)
- Girls track – 1 individual gold medal (100m)

*To view schedules for MCH Bulldogs, visit our website at [MCH.org](http://MCH.org). Let’s go Bulldogs!*



# MCH BULLDOGS



**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!**







## TRANSITION SERVICES

# ANDREW

MAXIMIZING OPPORTUNITIES

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 program offered through the Waco Independent School District that offers advanced technical and manufacturing training for high school students. 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 somewhat of a trailblazer at Methodist Children's Home. Since Andrew's enrollment, MCH has had 15 students attend courses at GWAMA, with three more attending the Greater Waco Advanced Health Care Academy (GWAHCA).

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 assuring 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."*



## TOMMY & BRENDA BENSON

HOUSEPARENTS OF THE YEAR

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 unit 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 had built a strong connection 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.



## DAN MOORE

CATHERINE HERSHEY AWARD FOR ALUMNUS 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 Alumnus. 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.



# *A Season of Hope*



**Methodist Children's Home**

Offering Hope Since 1890

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS OFFERING | CHRISTMAS DONATIONS  
SECRET SANTA PROGRAM | END-OF-YEAR GIFTS



*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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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 children, youth and families in our care.

MCH became home to Dodds (pictured below - front right) and her four siblings when she was only 3 years old. She lived here for most of her childhood and left in 1935 to move to Big Spring. She went on to complete her education and served as a teacher for more than 30 years in Big Spring Independent School District.



Dodds also became highly involved in community service and was recognized in 1993 as the Big Spring Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Woman of the Year for her efforts to improve the quality of life in the community. Dodds is an active member of her church, First United Methodist Church of Big Spring, where she has served as a Sunday School teacher, choir member and lay speaker.

Dodds received the 2014 Distinguished Alumni Award from the Methodist Children's Home Alumni Association for her service to MCH and the community. Aside from her work with the Alumni Association, Dodds has partnered with MCH consistently by hosting Christmas party fundraisers for the ministry, serving as a commissioner, and assisting in the development of historical projects at MCH including the Perkins Heritage Home Visitors Center and *Legacy of Hope*, the historical book commemorating the 125th anniversary of the organization.

Dodds was given a "money tree" from a fellow educator around 40 years ago and since then has used the tree as a tool for raising money for various causes in the community and MCH.



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.

"Mamie 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." •

## ■ METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME RECEIVES HIGH RANKINGS FROM CHARITY EVALUATORS

Methodist Children's Home received the Gold Seal of Transparency designation from Guidestar, the world's largest source of information on nonprofit organizations.



More than 8 million visitors visit Guidestar.org each year to find information on nonprofit organizations for the purpose of research, community collaboration and charitable giving. Less than 1 percent of nonprofits listed on Guidestar have achieved the Gold level, noted Tim Brown, president and CEO of Methodist Children's Home.



"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."

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 your gift. 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 [TOakley@MCH.org](mailto:TOakley@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 hitting 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 makes sure that the school helps everyone become successful.

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, attended the courses and felt they were getting great advice from the Wells Fargo representatives.

"It helps me with learning how to budget my money," Chrislynn said.

Tameka added, "It is teaching us a lot of things we need to know in life and how to better prepare."

Wells Fargo branch manager Julie Cowser, who helped teach the classes along with personal bankers Tabatha Turner, Larry Maxwell and Annamarie Eckenrode, said this opportunity came about after she reached out to MCH in an effort to give back to the community.

"Our branch stays involved with the community and I was searching nonprofits in our area," Cowser said. "When I saw MCH I was excited about the opportunities to help students." (continued on next page)

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, and it outlines various steps they can take to ensure success," Olivarez said. "By partnering with Wells Fargo, it helps residents build relationships outside of MCH, which is crucial to long-term success, 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."

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. •



Students in our Independent Living program sit down 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/or disabled homeowners who are unable to make the repairs themselves. This year, the group traveled to Port Arthur, 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 out into different 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.

"It 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 also] 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 come 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."

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."

Throughout the week, 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." •





## MCH FAMILY OUTREACH REACHES OUT TO FAMILIES DURING BACK-TO-SCHOOL EVENTS

As summer ends, some families are faced with the financial burden of back-to-school preparations such as new clothes for their growing child, 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 back-to-school events. "Participating in back-to-school events in these communities, whether our own or in collaboration with community partners, allows us 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. "These events strengthen our partnerships with other community organizations and increase awareness of MCH services as well." 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 were unable to 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 information card in packets handed out to families.

■ **CORPUS CHRISTI:** Staff attended the Kingsville Housing Authority back-to-school event and passed out school supplies to children. They 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

Family Outreach donated more than 1,000 notebooks, 590 composition books and 300 packages of crayons.

■ **HOUSTON:** MCH Family Outreach in Houston participated in the ABC Dental back-to-school event on July 29 to provide school supplies and health screenings for children in need. MCH Family Outreach also participated in the Back-to-School Extravaganza on Aug. 25, hosted by Houston Independent School District – Homeless Education Office, to provide backpacks, shoes, school supplies, 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.

■ **KILLEEN:** MCH Family Outreach in Killeen facilitated activities for children during back-to-school events at Grace 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 Unified 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 worked with Coker United Methodist Church during a backpack 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 is 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. •



Thank you to all the organizations who partnered with us in serving families this year during back-to-school events!

# MEMORIAL GIFTS AND GIFTS OF HONOR

GIFTS MADE FROM JUNE 2017 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2017

## Honorariums

**Peter Alexieff**  
United Methodist Men  
Three Rivers UMC – Three Rivers, TX

**Betty Allen**  
Charlotte Brown

**Zachary Allen**  
Loretta Hardie

**Sarah Alves**  
Ruth Circle  
Bellville UMC – Bellville, TX

**Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Amerson**  
Melvin Amerson

**Kathy Anderson**  
Bobby and Debbie Caswell

**Margaret Andrews' 90th Birthday**  
Bette Samford

**L.B. Atterbury for Fathers' Day**  
Milton and Brenda Evitt

**Daphnie Bledsoe**  
Bishop W. Earl and Leslie Bledsoe

**Jimmy Caswell**  
Bobby and Debbie Caswell

**Brittany Fitz Chapman**  
Judge and Mrs. Robert A. Fitz

**Carroll Choate**  
Julie and Maro Johnson

**Wilma Clemmons**  
Steve and Norma Runyon

**Jo Cook**  
Charles and Marilyn King

**Mr. and Mrs. Hunter Cunningham**  
Randy and Charlise Cunningham  
Fred Gunter

**Liz Dillard**  
Roy Dillard

**Mamie Lee (Piper) Dodds**  
Jane Jones  
James and Laura Milam  
Philathea Sunday School Class  
First UMC – Big Spring, TX

**Mamie Lee Dodds' Birthday**  
Mr. John Easterwood  
John and Paula Farquhar  
Brady and Carolyn T. Piper

**Andy Ellis, Jim Ellis and Bob Wilson**  
Ms. Angela Wilson-Ellis

**Grant Eubank's Graduation**  
King Memorial Church Family – Whitney, TX

**Fidelis Sunday School Teachers**  
Fidelis Sunday School Class  
St. Mark UMC – Cleburne, TX

**Allan F. Fink**  
Bill and Carolyn Barthels & George and Joy A.J. and Lynnea Fink  
Gawain Wetz

**AshLee Nicole Frazier & Aaron Caleb Williams**  
Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Castiglione

**Mrs. Kent (Juanette) Gentry**  
LeDrew and Bobbie Arrott

**Phill Grant**  
Blain and Debbie Keith

**Jim Guthrie**  
United Methodist Men  
Three Rivers UMC – Three Rivers, TX

**Scott and Birdie Hamilton**  
Family of Pat Cody-Warren

**Chris and Laura Harrison**  
Mr. and Mrs. Will Cunningham

**Landon Franklin Harrison**  
Larry and Sarah Harrison

**Nelda Hazlewood**  
Cathy and Karl Herzog  
Debbie, Justin and Jarrett Louder

**Edwin Luther Holt**  
James and Laura Milam

**Robert and Sandra Houghton**  
Mr. and Mrs. Daryl Lostak

**Howard Home Legacy**  
Charles and Ann Cantrell  
Jack and Karen Faubion  
Mr. Jack and Dr. Linda Howard Tinsley

**Cindy Huff and Staff**  
Stan and Tammy Strickland

**Kate Johnson**  
Vicki Bell

**Boyce Jones**  
Reverend Sheila and Mr. Pablo Castellano  
George and Judy Patrick

**Mr. and Mrs. Allan Kohutek**  
Pam Goergen

**Claire Lapointe**  
Dr. Genevieve D. Stevens

**Larry and Carolyn Leavell's 50th Wedding Anniversary**  
Cheryl Smith

**Reverend Richard L. Leggett**  
Dr. Elsa Soto Leggett

**Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Lewis**  
Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Savio

**Dr. Leo Mack, Jr.**  
Stan and Tammy Strickland

**Dr. and Mrs. Charles Mallett, M.D.**  
Carolyn Ferguson

**Larry and LaJuan McCormick**  
Ronnie D. McCormick

**Father's Day – Men of Waples**  
Women of Waples  
Waples UMC – Granbury, TX

**Methodist Children's Home Development Staff**  
Allison Crawford and Family

**Mary A. Morehead's Birthday**  
Brian Morehead

**Weldon Morgan**  
Charles and Carol Brown

**Mrs. Nancy Buchanan's Birthday**  
Sarah Norman

**Aaron Odom's First Father's Day**  
Shelby and Amy Barley

**Mrs. Ford (Norma) Oglesby**  
Judge Lloyd W. and Mrs. Dorothy O. Perkins

**Ms. Sue Oliphant**  
David and Kristi Oliphant

**Bill and Reverend Mary Lu Palmer's 25th Wedding Anniversary**  
Joyce Boelsche

**John Porter**  
Sandy Robinson

**Reverend Steve and Susan Ramsdell**  
James and Laura Milam

**Genevieve Ratliff**  
James and Laura Milam

**Bishop Scott Jones and Mary Lou Reece**  
Rick and Kim Anderson

**Bill and Pat Richards**  
Alice Sappington

**Sandy Robinson**  
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Robbins

**Betty Rosenbaum**  
Reverend Byron Jarratt

**Linda and John Russell**  
Charlotte Brown

**Vernon and Martie Sauter**  
Dr. Thomas and Susan Lundeen

**Dara Shoaff**  
Allie Davenport

**Marene Shoaff**  
Allie Davenport

**Glenn Smith**  
Robin Smith

**Gene Speer**  
Patricia Speer

**Jim Stuckey**  
Herbert Shelton

**Jack and Janie Temple's 50th Anniversary**  
Carla Sutton

**John and Judi Thomas' 28th Wedding Anniversary**  
Hunter and Totsy Cunningham

**The Fathers of Tobin Park UMC**  
United Methodist Women  
Tobin Park UMC – El Paso, TX

**United Methodist Men**

**St. Mark's UMC – Marshall**  
Richard Long II

**Sue and Robert Wallach's 40th Anniversary**  
Alice Sappington

**Micha Ward's Graduation**  
King Memorial Church Family – Whitney, TX

**R. Jane Watson**  
Lloyd and Martine Curley

**Su Welch**  
Charles and Carol Brown

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



Memorials

**Jean Adams**  
Blanche Turner Hext

**James Lowery Alexander**  
Dorothy Dietz Alexander

**Nevelyn Crawford Alexander**  
Darrell and Mary Vines

**Shirley A. Allen**  
Kenneth H. Allen

**Johnnie L. Anderson**  
Harold G. Anderson

**Willis Max Anderson**  
Lyndall Leathers

**J.F. Andrews**  
Cliff, Charla, Nathan and Delaney Leath

**Boyd Arnold**  
Martha Boothe-Bederka

**Oris Baldwin**  
Geraldine Orr

**Bobette Banks**  
Jay and Billie Bradford

**Helen Barrows**  
Daniel Gabriel

**Dr. Roy T. Bassett**  
Mrs. Mary Cooper Bassett

**Major Richard W. Bateman, USAF (Ret)**  
Mrs. Richard W. Bateman

**John E. Bates**  
Ann Thomas

**Debra Benge**  
Mrs. Anne Benge

**Marjorie C. Benson**  
Mr. and Mrs. Norman Hetzel

**Shirlene Benson**  
Jo Cato-Herring

**Dorothy Jeannine Bethke**  
Tommye Jo Clark

**Wayne Billeck**  
Mary Billeck

**Gwendolyn Billingsley**  
Margaret Andrews

**Thelma Black**  
Mark and Helen Hopkins

**John Robert Blankinship**  
Ann Blankinship

**Edna and Elbrey Bonnette**  
Brenda Wilson

**Coach Sherrill Bottoms**  
Arledge Brashers  
Allison Crawford and Family  
Dr. and Mrs. Jack Kyle Daniels  
Louis Gillispie and Deborah Daugherty  
Nelda Hazlewood  
Bud and Kay Martin  
Virginia Sandwina  
Tim and Joyce Woodlock

**Marian and Elmer Bowden**  
Dr. Rebecca Narramore

**W. Dale Boyd**  
Mr. and Mrs. David W. Stiver

**Kim Brantly**  
Kathy Franco Family  
Geneva Shamrock Family

**Peggy Brashers**  
Bud and Kay Martin

**Charles Brittain**  
Polly Montemayor

**Randy Brizendine**  
Charles and Carol Brown

**Ray Bruyere**  
Clarence and Margaret Bruyere

**Joe E. Burchett**  
Gerald and Pat Garrett

**Woodrow (Woody) Burgess**  
Nelda Hazlewood  
Martha Isbell  
James and Laura Milam  
Joe B. Rollins  
Virginia Sandwina  
Tim and Joyce Woodlock

**Ken Burke**  
Marline C. Toler

**Bo Burkhalter**  
Cynthia and Elzy Prater  
Layton, Brandi and Elzy Wiemers

**Bert Butaud**  
First UMC – Hemphill, TX

**Billie Kathryn Butler**  
Charles R. Butler

**Jason D. Cannavale**  
Louis and Vickie Cannavale

**Timothy Lant Cannavan**  
Judy Hughes

**Marilyn Chandler**  
Jane Brooks

**Mrs. Lorraine Christian**  
Mr. Frank Busch

**Ron Clipp**  
Kay Clipp

**James William Cobble**  
Mr. and Mrs. Joe George

**Reverend Charlie Coffee**  
Wray and Mary Ann Boyd

**Robert Coffman**  
Marilyn Coffman

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**Vella Jo Martin**  
Vella Jo Martin  
Byron and Norma Ruth Myrick  
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**Mary Nicoletti**  
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Angela Pigford  
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Marsha B. Tripp  
Barry and Bonnie Zonno  
**Walter Keith Sawyers**  
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**Ben Sheppard**  
Jess and Susan Laird  
**A.J. Shiveley**  
Jami and Joe Lovelady  
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Dorothy Slaten and daughter  
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Florence Snyder  
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**Thelmarie (Wall) Wilhite**  
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Cullen and Barbara Hackler  
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Martha Willey  
**Bill Wuebker**  
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**Aileen Yager**  
Wanda Langston  
**Doc and Sallie Sue Young**  
Mary Lou Massengale

MEMORIAL GIFTS AND GIFTS OF HONOR ARE  
RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR LEVEL OF SUPPORT

\$500 – \$999 GIFTS

Celebrating the birth of **Micah Cortez**  
**by Rose M. Connell**, Harker Heights, TX

In honor of **Mrs. Nevelyn C. Alexander**  
**by Mr. and Mrs. Ben Alexander**, Fort Worth, TX

In honor of **Brett Cox**  
**by Don and Sue Cox**, Austin, TX

In honor of **The Diem Family Scholarship**  
**by John and Julie Diem**, Harker Heights, TX

In honor of **Mamie Lee Dodds' Birthday**  
**by First UMC** – Big Spring, TX

In honor of **Gouldbusk UMC & Trinity UMC**  
**by Reverend and Mrs. John Alsbrooks**,  
San Saba, TX

In honor of **Methodist Children's Home**  
**by Mrs. Romelia Garza**, Wellington, TX

In honor of **Lee Moore**  
**by Debe' Moore Piatak**, New Home, TX

In honor of **Heather Reed**  
**by Marjorie Leedom**, College Station, TX

In honor of **Arthur Capps**  
**by Anonymous**

In honor of **Orphan Sunday on**  
**November 12, 2017 by Anonymous**

In recognition of **Judith Reeves Comstock**  
**by Dr. Thomas Comstock**, Salado, TX

In memory of **Miriam and Jim Billings**  
**by Karen Billings**, Las Cruces, NM

In memory of **Coach Sherrill Bottoms,**  
**Gene Spencer & Molly Berry Weaver**  
**by Nelda Hazlewood**, San Angelo, TX

In memory of **Robert D. Bowersock, Jr.**  
**by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bowersock**,  
Bedford, TX

In memory of **Clyde Briley**  
**by Mr. and Mrs. John Campbell**,  
Granite Shoals, TX

In memory of **Harold Bruns**  
**by Billie J. Bruns**, Gonzales, TX

In memory of **Mary Jo Andrews Carson**  
**by Andy Carson**, Marble Falls, TX

In memory of **Ron Clipp**  
**by Kay Clipp**, Grapevine, TX

In memory of my husband, **Robert H. Cooper**  
**by DeDe Cooper**, Carrollton, TX

In memory of **Mr. and Mrs. M.L. Godwin**  
**by Ms. Sandra Godwin**, Arlington, TX

In loving memory of my beautiful Sissy,  
**Kathie Joan Hansen**  
**by Claudia Kingston**, Duncanville, TX

In memory of **Reverend Dow Harleston**  
**by Ginny Harleston**, Tyler, TX

In memory of **Faydean Norred Hart**  
**by Patsy Barnett**, Wilson, TX

In memory of **Reverend Dr. and**  
**Mrs. Lloyd Hughes**  
**by Barbara Hughes**, Cedar Crest, NM

In memory of our parents,  
**John Boston and Ida Irene Hankla**  
**& Joe and Eva Hurt**  
**by William Hankla-Hurt Trust**, Austin, TX

In memory of **Dr. Hubert Johnson**  
**by The Family of Walter G. Lacy, Jr.**, Waco, TX

In memory of my mom, **Norma Jones**  
**by Deanna Ellisor**, Friendswood, TX

In memory of **Elizabeth Killebrew**  
**by Pam Hill**, Victoria, TX

In memory of **James Allen Litton,**  
**Lemuel Godby Litton & Samuel Mack Litton**  
**by Lossie Elizabeth Litton Hudspeth**,  
Grapevine, TX

In memory of **Nina N. McCarter**  
**by Mr. Thomas K. McCarter**, Las Cruces, NM

In memory of my husband,  
**Reverend William D. McReynolds**  
**by Dorothy C. McReynolds**, Lubbock, TX

In memory of **Lit H. Moore, Jr. and**  
**Kenzel Moore**  
**by Debe' Moore Piatak**, New Home, TX

In memory of **Dr. David P. O'Brien**  
**by Carolyn O'Brien**, Las Cruces, NM

In memory of **Scott Perrin Pool**  
**by Mary Lou Massengale**, Odessa, TX

In memory of **Eris Shelton**  
**by Herbert Shelton**, Bryan, TX

In memory of **Roger Smith**  
**by Art and Patricia Greenhaw**, Dallas, TX

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

In memory of **Rick Wolfe**  
**by Wes and Wendy Green**, Amarillo, TX

In memory of **Rick Wolfe**  
**by Debe' Moore Piatak**, New Home, TX

\$1,000 – \$2,999 GIFTS

In honor of **Allan F. Fink's Birthday**  
**by Elizabeth Fink**, Cost, TX

In memory of **Ted and Alice Anne Bibby**  
**by Kathleen Britt**, Glen Rose, TX

In memory of **Wilburn Curnutt**  
**by Travis and Nancy Stone**, Houston, TX

In memory of **James Glenn**  
**by Stephen and Mariglyn Glenn**,  
Friendswood, TX

In memory of my mom, **Norma Jones**  
**by Deanna Ellisor**, Friendswood, TX

In memory of my mom, **Norma Jones**  
**by Carol Golding**, Montgomery, TX

In memory of my mother, **Norma Jones**  
**by Lori Krizan**, Pflugerville, TX

In memory of **James, Mollie and Helen Laney**  
**by David and Anita Bond**, The Woodlands, TX

In memory of **Dr. Henry A. Mayer, Jr.**  
**by Ms. Henry Mayer**, Killeen, TX

In memory of my wife, **Virginia Werlla**  
**by Charles Werlla**, Rosenberg, TX

In memory of **Arthur Capps**  
**by Anonymous**

\$3,000 – \$5,000 GIFT

In memory of **Paul and Bertie Dettman**  
**by Mr. and Mrs. Jim Milner**, Meadows Place, TX

In memory of **Fred and Gertie Goebel**  
**by Robert Hargrove**, Keller, TX

In memory of **Molly Huffman**  
**by Charles Huffman**, Lockney, TX

In loving memory of our parents,  
**Joseph and Glenna Machac**  
**& Emil and Hattie Reimer**  
**by Joe and Ella Machac**, Huntsville, TX

\$10,000 GIFTS

In memory of **C. Clyde Hamblin**  
**by Mrs. Martha Hamblin**, Midland, TX

In memory of **Lit H. Moore, Jr.**  
**by Anonymous**





*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.*