SUNSHINE
THE MAGAZINE OF METHODIST CHILDREN’S HOME | SUMMER 2018

Cultivating GROWTH
MCH RECEIVES NATIONAL REACREDITATION FROM COA

Methodist Children’s Home President/CEO Tim Brown received notification from the Council on Accreditation (COA) that MCH has earned national reaccreditation.

“This reaccreditation is a testimony to the outstanding service of all our employees as we work together to offer hope to children, youth and families at the highest level,” Brown said. “This is a job well done’ to everyone involved in our organization and serves as an assurance to our benefactors and those we serve that MCH is operationally, programmatically and financially sound and worthy of their trust.”

Brown expressed appreciation to the many staff members across MCH who prepared for nearly a year for the accreditation review, which culminated in a COA on-site peer review team which examined nearly 800 standards for accreditation.

The comprehensive accreditation process evaluates in detail all areas of operations, including governance, ethics, policies and procedures, financial practices, fundraising, childcare programs and services, risk management, human resources and many other areas. Information is gathered from direct observation, surveys, policies, practices, licensing compliance, and face-to-face interviews with children, families, staff, board members, local businesses, contractors, and donors.

According to COA, organizational accreditation demonstrates accountability in the management of resources, sets standardized best-practice thresholds for service and administration, and increases organizational capacity and accountability by creating a framework for ongoing quality improvement.

MCH annually serves more than 6,000 individuals through residential programs in Waco and a variety of community-based programs through 13 MCH Family Outreach offices in Waco and other communities in Texas and New Mexico.

COA President/CEO Richard Klarberg commended Brown for the longstanding tradition of excellence achieved by MCH.

“Reaccreditation is a tremendous achievement that demonstrates that your organization is recognized as a provider that continues to successfully implement high performance standards and, as such, is delivering the highest quality services to all of its stakeholders,” Klarberg said.

Based in New York, COA is an independent, nonprofit accreditor of the full continuum of community-based behavioral health care and social service organizations in the United States and Canada. COA accredits more than 2,000 private and public organizations worldwide. MCH has been successfully reaccredited by COA every four years since its first accreditation in 1986.

The expression of worship has certainly evolved over the decades at MCH, but it is a reminder to me of our long history of identifying and meeting the spiritual development needs of those we serve.

Faith and spiritual development have been a mainstay for this organization, ever since the founding of MCH in 1890 by two Methodist ministers. Old black-and-white photographs show us images of sunrise services in the outdoor amphitheater of the Haynie Garden in the 1930s. In addition to on-campus services, older children would attend state assemblies and leadership events sponsored by the Methodist Church.

An emphasis on spiritual community is strong at MCH: today, just as in years past, young people gather for daily devotions in their homes led by staff, home parents or peers. As a staff, our faith carries us in our commitment to offer hope, healing and restoration. We want all those we serve to know they are prayerfully supported by this ministry and the time, talents and treasure of friends like you.

In the last two decades, our young people have had opportunities outside the boundaries of MCH to serve the body of Christ. Each summer, youth participate in mission trips sponsored by U.M. ARMY (United Methodist Action Reach-Out Mission by Youth), CTCYM (Central Texas Conference Youth Mission by Youth), and in partnership with great missions-minded Methodist churches that have invested in MCH.

In this issue of Sunshine magazine you will read about the continued growth of certain aspects of spiritual life at MCH and how our Spiritual Development team engages our children. Through creative methods, they create space for them to learn about Christ while also providing avenues for them to mature spiritually and walk out their faith in this nurturing, Christian community.

We are thankful for the opportunities afforded to our youth at MCH. It is a direct testament to the many friends of MCH who believe in our mission and whose faithful support makes it possible for faith and hope to abound. Your support helps us offer life-changing opportunities for children, youth and families to experience God’s love in a real and personal way. Thank you!
From its founding, Methodist Children’s Home has provided opportunities for children, youth and families to grow in their understanding of God’s love and in the spiritual gifts they have been given.

Through the years as MCH has adapted its programs and services to meet the needs of others, the opportunity for spiritual development through the building of intentional, meaningful and healing relationships has remained a constant.

According to Spiritual Development director Kim Clark, the Spiritual Development (SD) team serves as the local church for the MCH community.

“We are equipped to intentionally meet the youth where they are, physically, spiritually and emotionally,” she said. “It is my hope that we, as the SD team, are a tangible reminder of God’s call and that our actions, words and programs communicate the love and grace of Christ.”

Ron Britton, MCH minister, believes that SD can impact every aspect of the MCH organization.

“Spiritual Development strives to remind all people that they have purpose here that is much larger than they know,” said Britton. “Students have an opportunity to change their lives, plant faith and let it grow. The staff have a sacred call to be a part of our mission, to show the love of Christ to these students, to the community and to each other. We strive to represent Christ in the lives of everyone we are blessed to meet.”

As the team seeks to remind people of their value and potential, new programs have sprouted to allow MCH youth even more involvement with the spiritual development process at MCH.

In recent years, MCH organized a student praise team to encourage youth to claim and grow in the gifts they have been given. Interest grew and this year 60 young people applied to join the team to participate on Sundays during the MCH chapel services.

The group now makes up the worship choir, worship dance team, sound and lighting team, and supplemental vocalists, soloists, instrumentalists, Scripture readers, and rappers.

As the praise team community grew, the SD ministers formed a smaller student leadership team in January 2018 to give youth opportunities for more in-depth personal growth and leadership training.

Jill Sims, a minister on the SD team, sees the newly established student leadership team as an opportunity for an ongoing, intensive discipleship training for youth who want to learn more about being a leader.
Student Testimony

KIAYANI

My life was once bad. When I was younger I was abused and bullied and was eventually taken from my situation with my younger siblings by CPS. We moved from family to family and eventually were taken by a half-sibling’s parent and I was treated like a family. After a year of living with them, it became clear that the best thing for me would be to move to Methodist Children’s Home due to the trauma I had gone through. At first, it was hard to live at MCH, but it has grown on me. I have had little problems at MCH, although I am not perfect. After coming here, I started going to church. I now listen to what the pastor tells me about God and Jesus. At first, I did not care but then I started to believe that God is my Lord and Savior. Almost two years later, I can see that I might have trouble, but I can learn. I started to practice how to pray. I have started to join activities like the student leadership team, and I go to church on Sundays to worship the Lord. I am glad to be at MCH.

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Once a month, the MCH ministerial team meets for a full afternoon with the worship planning team. The SD ministers bring with them their prepared sermons for the next month while students come prepared to brainstorm and plan the upcoming worship services.

“Each student at MCH has a different background and different story to share,” said Sims. “It would be foolish to think that I, from my singular worldview, could plan a worship service for such a diverse congregation.”

The monthly planning meetings are a space for collaboration. During the meetings, SD ministers go over the planned Scriptures with the students and youth are encouraged to think critically about the words. The group works together to find sermon illustrations, supporting text, song ideas, and supplemental spiritual expressions for the sermon that they believe will connect and resonate with their peers.

“Our goal in building a student planning team was to bring together students from different backgrounds who have a heart for worship, who care about the worship in our congregation and who want to see growth in our congregation,” said Sims.

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“This is a chance for the whole congregation to say something to God,” said Sims. “This group gets to act as the voice that leads our congregation by the planning they do. We strive for worship that tells the truth and that accurately represents how our congregation would express it.”

Beyond acting as student planners, the youth who have taken on this role grow in communication, critical thinking and relational skills, receive worship
education and form an understanding about how church worship is planned. “This is a space for youth to grow and foster new relationships, existing relationships, and their spiritual relationship,” said Britton.

Complementing the process, youth at MCH are also given encouragement from other leaders in the community. At the end of the spring 2018 semester MCH held a Student Worship Workshop. Individuals from Baylor University, Truett Seminary, Waco School of the Arts, Lake Shore Baptist Church, and MovementUP, an organization aiming to impact the lives of students, volunteered to invest in MCH youth. The volunteers spent their time teaching, positively refining and affirming various aspects of worship that would later come together as elements of the first fully student-led worship Sunday at MCH.

During the Student Worship Workshop, MCH youth learned from ministry leaders in the community about various aspects of worship.

Student Testimony CAMRAY

I was born and raised in church but at the age of 8 God shined in me and came into my life. He even begun my dance ministry and over the years I’ve had a lot of growth. God has given me many opportunities here at MCH. I have learned that the devil always expects me to fail, but God has always had a plan. There are days I question everything, but I know that I am not less than what I am. I thank God for the confidence He has given me. I enjoy being here today and I praise God.

Student Testimony AKIA

In my life I’ve faced many struggles and insecurities. There have been times where I questioned my worth and my life. In the 8th grade I had bad mood swings and eventually decided to stop going to school which led me to MCH. At first I didn’t want to go, but I just wanted to get away from where I was. Fast forward to now, I’ve made new friends and I’ve lost some, but I feel like my life is improving. Before MCH, I only prayed when I was in trouble, but now I pray actually just to feel acceptance. There are staff here that take time out of their day to make me feel wanted, loved and nurtured. I have met a lot of amazing people and I’m working on a gift I did not know I had. I’m just like a normal teenager, still living life and learning. I 100 percent put Jesus ahead in my life. I completely understand life is not easy and it takes time to get better. I am willing to go through it all to be successful in my life.
After her release Sunshine found a job and finished her parole, but all the while she was still an addict and selling drugs. One night after a party at a friend’s house, she woke up in different clothing and couldn’t remember what happened.

“Seven months later, I found out I was pregnant,” she said.

She didn’t tell anyone that she was pregnant. Even though she continued her heavy drug use, the baby survived. Sunshine had an emergency C-section, and her lungs and the baby’s lungs both collapsed during the process. They were both fighting for their lives, and her brother and sister came to the hospital to see her and “clean their slate.”

“My brother told me I needed to get rid of this kid because I was not mother material,” Sunshine said. “That hurt me. I was already in a state where I didn’t know what to do.”

She planned to give up her baby for adoption, but when a priest at the hospital showed her a picture of her son, she made the decision to clean up her life.

“I said, ‘That baby is beautiful, and I started crying,’” Sunshine said.

She named the baby “Doce Anjo” which means “Sweet angel” in Portuguese in honor of her heritage.

“In the first six months he was going through withdrawals and I faced myself,” she said. “When things got hard, all I knew was to drink or use drugs. But that gave me a big reality check that I needed to get it together because I needed to be there for my baby.”

She made a pact with God that she would give Him my sobriety if He would give me my son back,” she said.

-SUNSHINE MCH Family Outreach Client

Sunshine worked with Child Protective Services to provide a good home for her son. She had her ups and downs and even lost custody for two months, but she fought to get back on track. She started praying and reading the Bible.

“I made a pact with God that I would give Him my sobriety if He would give me my son back,” she said.

In December 2015 she got clean and enrolled in an inpatient substance abuse treatment center where Doce could live with her. She began to learn about her disease and face her issues and emotional struggles. It was there that she first came into contact with MCH Family Outreach.

MCH Family Outreach provided parenting classes for the treatment center and Sunshine became their star student. She was always raising her hand and asking questions that sometimes even stumped the instructors. Sunshine missed the last two classes when Doce became sick, and her absence was noticed. Veronica Whalon-Peters, director of MCH Family Outreach in Houston, ran into her weeks later and offered to help her finish out her course.

At that time, Sunshine was living at a transitional living facility. Whalon-Peters told her about a program to support families at MCH. Through the program, called Family Solutions, case managers meet with clients on a weekly basis to help them develop goals and strategies to achieve them.

“The weekly interaction with Family Solutions helps a lot,” Whalon-Peters said. “It really works for people who are invested and want to make a change. Sunshine was always determined to make a change.”

Whalon-Peters worked with Sunshine from September 2016 through January 2017. Through the program, she helped Sunshine get connected with local resources and provided her with encouragement as she settled into her clean, sober life as a new mother. Sunshine received training in an employment program for young mothers through a partnership between University of Houston and Project Row Houses, an internationally known art institution. She also completed outpatient substance abuse treatment and mental health treatment, and her CPS case came to a close.

“Because of the love for her son, Sunshine remained positive and determined to complete services even though she had a lot of obstacles
Sunshine expressed appreciation for the support she found through MCH Family Outreach. “They saw something different in me. They stuck with me,” she said.

Sunshine and Doce, now 3, have their own apartment in Houston and are living a stable and happy life. The love between the two is special, and Sunshine is working hard every day to be a good mother for her son.

“It’s been hard to not just throw everything away, because that’s what I’ve been used to,” she said. “But I have a better support system now that I can call and they walk me out of it.”

Sunshine has built a strong network and become a known advocate in her neighborhood. She is a community liaison and researcher conducting a community needs assessment for residents and is also an ambassador for Project Row Houses. She has also returned to the treatment center as chair of a Narcotic Anonymous (NA) group and spoken about her disease several times.

“I feel like this is my life purpose,” she said. “When I was a kid, I wanted to change the world. I found out that being in this neighborhood, I’ve changed more people’s lives. In NA we call it giving back. I was a big dope dealer and I feel bad for that. This is a way for my redemption. It makes me feel good doing service work and giving back to people in this community who need help.”

Although Sunshine’s case has been closed with MCH Family Outreach for more than a year, Whalon-Peters said she still hears from her regularly, mostly to get advice about how to help other people. Because of her success and desire to help others, Whalon-Peters asked Sunshine to become part of the Family Solutions Advisory Board for the Houston office. The board consists of community members and like-minded agencies who meet to network and discuss new and better ways to help families.

“She’s been a wonderful advocate for the program. She is an example of paying it forward by the way she is helping other people.”

VERONICA WHALON-PETERS
Director of MCH Family Outreach in Houston

Traci Wagner, program administrator for the Eastern region of MCH Family Outreach, said advisory boards first began when Family Solutions was implemented at MCH in 2012 and have recently grown to include all outreach programs. Outreach offices build relationships with community partners through collaborations, marketing efforts and memberships in local coalitions serving children and families.

“When I first met Ari, she was a fragile young lady in pain, afraid to make connections with people and feeling hopeless. With time, the hard work of our staff and the use of TBRP, I am proud to say Ari has developed healthy, trusting connections with staff and peers.”

*Trauma-Based Relational Intervention (TBRP) is an attachment-based, trauma-informed intervention designed to meet the complex needs of vulnerable children—as defined by the Karyn Purvis Institute of Child Development at Texas Christian University.

“Coming here gave me a new outlook,” Ari said. “I feel like I can talk about my problems without being judged. Instead of sitting back and watching stuff happen, I’m able to step up and act.”

At the MCH charter school, Ari earned all A’s and became active in athletics. This fall she will begin her senior year and study design and construction through the Greater Waco Advanced Manufacturing Academy (GWAMA), a dual-credit program through Waco ISD. She also balances a part-time job at a retail shop.

“Ari, a child who has found hope,” Sabido-Villa said. “Her purpose is coming to fruition.”

After high school, Ari hopes to work as a certified project manager in design, while simultaneously working toward a degree in social work so she can help others.

“I’ve learned so many skills here,” Ari said. “I’ve been opened up to different things that, had I been at home, I would have never thought about or experienced.”

Ari said she is grateful that she found a “brick foundation to build upon” at MCH and is grateful for the opportunities, growth and healing she has experienced. Although she has dealt with a lot of adversity, Ari used those experiences and her time at MCH to become a stronger person.

“Before coming here I didn’t care; I was very angry,” she said. “But now I am able to feel compassion and love. Somebody who is sitting there saying, ‘You’re doing a good job – keep going,’ brought those emotions back to me. I’ve been able to excel in these programs. Being here has actually made me a happier person.”

Arianna has persevered. She is resilient. She didn’t let her struggles bring her down but has used those experiences to lift herself up. Arianna, or “Ari” to her friends, lost her mother in a car accident when she was only 7 months old. After her mother’s death, she was placed into the care of her father, a situation later discovered to be abusive. She was then removed from the home at age 8.

Ari’s grandmother took her in, but after her grandmother suffered strokes and her health deteriorated, Ari, only 10 years old, assumed the role of caretaker.

“I had to grow up fast,” Ari said. “I didn’t talk about it with anyone, because for me it was embarrassing.”

Ari was removed from her grandmother’s home and went through several foster homes before being adopted at age 12 by a family friend. She said even though the relationship with her adoptive mother wasn’t perfect, she learned for stability. But they continued to fight and Ari became very depressed, especially after her grandmother died. As her situation worsened, Ari said she knew it was time to leave. After meeting with Child Protective Services to determine her options, Ari discovered an opportunity for a fresh start at Methodist Children’s Home.

Ari moved to MCH in 2016. Marchelle Sabido-Villa, unit manager at Ari’s home, said Ari has had a drastic transformation.

“Ari is a testimony to our MCH mission,” Sabido-Villa said. “When I first met Ari, she was a fragile young lady in pain, afraid to make connections with people and feeling hopeless. With time, the hard work of our staff and the use of TBRP, I am proud to say Ari has developed healthy, trusting connections with staff and peers.”
Many come to Methodist Children’s Home in search of safety and stability. By having a secure environment, children and families are able to focus on healing and rebuilding their futures.

Safety is an agency-wide effort, and MCH leadership and staff work together to maintain high standards and stay up-to-date on the latest methods of risk prevention. MCH recognizes the need to make safety and security a priority in all programs at the Waco campus and Boys Ranch which provide a home for youth, and the 13 MCH Family Outreach offices.

Leading the charge to examine safety and develop strategies for improvements is the Risk Management Committee. The emphasis was started more than 25 years ago by Judy Broadway, vice president for human resources. The current group consists of representatives from Human Resources, Technology, Plant Services, Waco campus and Boys Ranch administrators, Training, and Security who meet quarterly to discuss safety concerns and issues.

All staff are encouraged to report any safety concerns to a Risk Management Committee member so it can be addressed in a timely manner. During the meetings, the committee reviews any incidents, safety risks, or audits or inspections, and emergency preparedness. Members of the Risk Management Committee continue to work closely with representatives from the Waco Police Department as well as other local experts and consultants in order to find the best options to prepare staff and create a safer environment for all.

MCH Director of Security Gary Freeman is a retired Waco police officer and part of the Risk Management Committee. His team of security officers are all current Waco police officers who work for MCH on a part-time basis. Police officers patrol the campus, check buildings and attend special events. They also may be called upon to help with situations or conflicts involving youth should they arise.

“With all the things that have been happening in schools across the country, this is a reality that we are concerned about,” Creel said. “We have an interest as a community in being more prepared. As a school we are becoming more proactive in talking about ways to make our community safer. This is an area to emphasize and is an important part of our safety. It should be as routine as anything else.”

In addition to the lockdown drill, the school also regularly performs fire and weather-related emergency drills. The school utilizes surveillance cameras as well as restricted access to the building throughout the day. MCH staff on both residential campuses, MCH Family Outreach offices and foster care homes are also required to undergo regular drills. Plant staff are in charge of performing safety inspections at campus facilities for fire extinguishers, lighting, playground equipment, elevators, vehicles, and other maintenance needs. Staff are encouraged to report any areas needing attention.

Freeman also assisted with a safety audit for MCH Family Outreach offices. The office spaces at each location are different, but MCH incorporated security and safety measures into each design to better protect staff. Locations are, or will soon be, equipped with secure lobbies and shatterproof glass at entrances. All office spaces include at least two exits.

MCH leadership also set up a confidential reporting hotline where employees can call through a third-party provider about any concerns so that all employees feel safe in the workplace. When introducing the service, leadership stated: “It takes all of us working together to build and maintain a strong and positive organizational structure.” The hotline is meant for the overall protection of the agency and its employees by giving them an option to voice concerns anonymously.

MCH residential and Family Outreach programs analyze service delivery and client outcomes regularly as part of a continuous quality improvement (CQI) process “to promote organizational and program service excellence through data analysis, evaluation and performance and quality improvement planning and implementation.” The goal of this process is to create an environment where staff are constantly trying to find new and innovative ways to better serve children, youth and families.

The MCH annual report for 2016-17 reported that 98 percent of youth are safe in care. In addition, 90 percent of youth are safe by avoiding high risk behavior. In foster care, 100 percent of families report being treated with dignity and respect by staff, and 88 percent were satisfied that MCH met all their child’s needs while in foster care.

Children, youth and families served at MCH can feel confident they are receiving support from an agency that makes their needs for a secure environment a priority. MCH is committed to continuously examining risk and understands that safety is an ongoing process.

Recently the Training department and Risk Management Committee implemented an extended safety training that is required annually for all MCH staff. During the training, staff learn about emergency plans and procedures, conducting drills, and how to use fire extinguishers. Also, a new video provides unknown intruder training for all employees so they can feel better prepared to handle a situation if needed. MCH Family Outreach staff receive training on home visit safety and boundaries with clients. Several outreach locations have also hosted unknown intruder trainings.

We depend on this committee to remain sharp, well informed and committed to these responsibilities, and we take pride in the contributions, dedication and dependability of all our members.

-JUDY BROADWAY
Vice President for Human Resources

Gary Freeman, director of security at MCH, serves on the Risk Management Committee and acts as a consultant on various MCH safety matters.
Congratulations to our 29 MCH students who earned their high school diplomas on May 25! We are very proud that all 29 graduates have been accepted to two- or four-year colleges or vocational/technical schools, where they will be further supported by scholarship funds made possible by our generous benefactors.

Special thanks to First United Methodist Church of Waco for hosting our graduation ceremony again this year!

Samrawit came to Methodist Children’s Home at the age of 15 searching for normalcy, security and support. Upon graduating from high school, Sam, as many of her friends and staff call her, said she was “determined to make something of her life.” To her, advanced education was a path to a bright future.

Through scholarship funds made possible by generous benefactors committed to helping MCH alumni, and with the support of MCH Transition Services, Sam attended Kilgore College in pursuit of an associate’s degree.

While at Kilgore, Sam’s life changed. During her second semester of college, she was invited to attend a church service with a friend. Sam said in the service she felt the weight of the hurt from the past she had been carrying. “My life felt chaotic because of my anger and it was then I knew I needed to get my life under control,” she said. “I had hit rock bottom and I needed hope. It was on that day in 2015 that God found me as I was, and I received salvation. It was a work in progress but since making that decision, I’ve been full in Christ.”

As Sam grew in her new faith, she also grew in her education. After receiving an associate’s degree she moved on in 2017 to pursue a bachelor’s degree in business at the University of Texas in Arlington. Since her move, Sam has found a church community and served as a college intern for her church. This summer, she was promoted to the role of a pastoral assistant.

“When I look at my life today, I feel very blessed,” she said. “I want people to know that there is not anything I did that got me to this place. I believe God’s hand has been in all of it, even while at MCH.”

Throughout her studies and seasons of life, MCH has remained a constant in Sam’s life. Crystal Anthony, transition services coordinator, has managed Sam’s scholarship and assistance and has met regularly with her for nearly four years.

“Sam is a loving and caring person,” Anthony said. “She is a hard worker and is passionate about the work she does. It is my hope that she continues to grow in her faith and use that as her passion in life.”

Sam plans to graduate in 2019 from UT Arlington. It is her dream to continue into full-time ministry, sharing with others the Good News of Jesus that has transformed her life.

Looking back at her journey, Sam recognizes that MCH provided her the support she originally sought out when she first came to MCH years ago. “MCH gave me great real-world experiences,” she said. “While living at MCH I learned how to communicate with different kinds of people, learned about finances, how to cook and even learned how to fix a car. MCH has invested in my future and my education. I wouldn’t have anybody if I didn’t have MCH. I am so grateful for MCH and God’s goodness.”

Sam carries hope in her heart and clings to the promises of God. “It took me a little while to realize God’s goodness,” she said. “In this world you can feel very alone, but I know God is with me. All of our lives are in His hands. We must remember that through it all, God is in control no matter life’s circumstances.”

*December 2017 graduates

Class of 2018

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The Legacy Luncheon is attended by representatives of the family estates, MCH Board of Directors, MCH staff members and special guests. Trey Oakley, vice president for development, introduced this year’s special beneficiaries by sharing about their life and dedication to children. The 2018 honorees were:

**NANCY J. BOWEN (CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS)** – Ms. Nancy Bowen was born in Corpus Christi where she later worked for her father’s real estate business. In a time when this business was often dominated by males, she was known to be able to hold her own and negotiate with the best of them. After her father’s death, she took over the business and ran it until it was sold in 2002. She was very active in her community and an avid traveler. Ms. Bowen was a longtime supporter of Methodist Children’s Home, giving every year at Christmas for almost three decades. She was also known to be well-informed about the ministry of MCH through reading *Sunshine* magazine and being a part of the Sunshine Club and Heritage Club. Friends and loved ones shared many stories of how she often passed up personal purchases in order to give to others. She was a friend to MCH and through her faithful support, will bless the children for years to come.

**PEGGY JUNE CROOKE FRY (DALLAS, TEXAS)** – Dr. Peggy Crooke Fry was born in Conroe. She and her brother enjoyed telling stories of their childhood in a small oil boom town where her grandfather was one of its founders. She became a nutritionist, receiving her bachelor’s degree in science from the University of Texas, master’s degree from Harvard University, and Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska. She met her husband Edward, an anthropologist, while studying in Austin. The two enjoyed travel, study and working in their respective fields. They received Fulbright Fellowships that took them to the Cook Islands, New Zealand, and Tahiti. Dr. Fry later worked at UT Southwestern’s Children’s Medical Center of Dallas in the Nutrition Clinic until she retired. After her master’s degree from Harvard University, and Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska. She met her husband Edward, an anthropologist, while studying in Austin. The two enjoyed travel, study and working in their respective fields. They received Fulbright Fellowships that took them to the Cook Islands, New Zealand, and Tahiti. Dr. Fry later worked at UT Southwestern’s Children’s Medical Center of Dallas in the Nutrition Clinic until she retired. After her

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

**Construction has begun on two additional state-of-the-art homes, the Nancy J. Bowen and B.R. and Helen Greathouse Great House.**

**Nancy J. Bowen Home**

**Houses**

- **Daniels, Ashcraft and Hilliard homes**: built as phase one of the MCH project. The homes are located along the circle around Harrell Memorial Chapel in the former locations of Bridwell and Williams homes. The homes are expected to open in summer 2019 and will follow the same design as Daniels, Hilliard and Ashcraft.

- **Bowen and Greathouse homes**: will be located along the circle around Harrell Memorial Chapel in the former locations of Bridwell and Williams homes. The homes are expected to open in summer 2019 and will follow the same design as Daniels, Hilliard and Ashcraft.

- **New home design**: takes into account the latest research obtained in part through the partnership with Karyn Purvis Institute of Child Development at Texas Christian University and other best practices and licensing standards. Homes have several new features including an open concept, home parent apartments, and individual bedrooms and bathrooms for residents. Steve and Debbie Callison, home parents for the Daniels Home, previously worked at an older home on campus and said they have seen many benefits from the new design.

- **“The girls seem to interact more with the open space,” said Steve Callison. “If we have a game going on at the table, eventually everyone will come out and get involved.”**

- **Debbie Callison added, “The kids have taken ownership over their own room and things. They really take pride in being able to live in a home like this.”**

- **The Callisons also said they enjoy having their own space with the home parent apartments. The new homes also have an updated alarm system to provide more security for the home, a feature that Debbie said is a great asset in helping them monitor the home.**

- **“It is less stressful. I can go to bed at night and not worry,” she said. “The amazing success of this campaign thus far is a testimony to the generosity of our benefactors and value they see in this new design,” said Trey Oakley, vice president for development at MCH.**

- **“We spent three-plus years planning and producing the new design with hopes to better meet the needs of today’s youth.**

**The feedback from our staff and residents in the newest homes affirms that we are achieving these goals.”**

**Because of the success, the MCH Board of Directors has authorized plans for fundraising for Phase Three which will produce three more homes bringing the total to eight when completed.**

**The goal of the Building Hope Capital Campaign is to construct 11 new homes on the Waco campus. This effort started as part of a strategic initiative in 2011 that challenged MCH leadership to address the quality and effectiveness of an aging facility infrastructure. The Bowen and Greathouse homes have been named accordingly to honor contributions from Nancy J. Bowen of Corpus Christi, Texas, and a legacy of support from B.R. Greathouse Trust of Midland, Texas. A significant portion of the Bowen gift will also be used as a matching gift program in the near future.**

**To learn more about supporting this Building Hope Capital Campaign, contact Trey Oakley at 1-800-853-1272 or TOakley@MCH.org.**

**MCH hosted a luncheon for churches of the Texas Annual Conference on May 29 at The Loft Worship Center of The Woodlands UMC. Our staff shared about all the wonderful things happening at MCH and also took the opportunity to thank the top-giving churches of the conference, including St. Luke’s UMC in Houston, which was second in giving to MCH among all churches in the six UMC conferences of Texas and New Mexico.**

**Lunch attendees commemorated gifts of $125,000 or more through estate gifts with plaques that will be placed in the Mulkey Memorial Heritage Garden to mark their generous contributions to the children, youth and families of MCH.**

**LEGACY LUNCHEON CELEBRATES ESTATE GIFTS**

**BUILDING HOPE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE**

**Development News**
**MCH YOUTH RECEIVE AWARDS FOR ACADEMICS, ACTIVITIES**

Congratulations to students at the Methodist Children’s Home charter school who were recognized for achievements during the 2017-18 school year! Students were celebrated with certificates, letter jackets, patches, and other items during a school awards ceremony on May 18 and an Activities Banquet on May 22. Below is a list of recipients:

**CHARTER SCHOOL AWARDS**

**BULLDOG PRIDE:**

Middle school – Lacey-Ann, Lucas, Dathan, Blake, Christina, Brittny
High school – Nikkie, Juliana, Emily, Josh, Faith, Cameron, Charles, Madison, Jaelyne, Marisa, Galen, Dina, Dominic, Symia, Alexis, Soleana, Jasmine, Daniel, Nebiyat, Arianna, Deborah

**SAFE SCHOOL AMBASSADORS:**

Noah, Dan’tavion, Jaelyne, Marisa, Galen, Tremya, Amashia, Julio, Alexis, Adrianna, Damonte

**ART AWARDS:**

Kelsey, Soleana, Tremya, Daniel, Lacey, Faith, Alayah, Jasmine, Deborah, Selam, Emone, Alexis N., Abigail, Charles, Alyssa

**ENGLISH AWARDS:**

English 3 – Deborah, Nebiyat, Arianna
English 4 – Rainn, Dan’tavion, Soleana

**FFA AWARDS:**

Ag Mechanics Design and Fabrication – Noah
Diversified Livestock – KK
Ag Mechanics Repair and Maintenance – Galen
Vegetable Production – Jaelyne
Wildlife Production – Ladarius
Star Green Hand – Duane
Chapter Star Farmer – Galen
Chapter Star in Agriscience – Galen

**ATHLETICS AWARDS**

**FOOTBALL:**

Co-MVPs – Julio, Damonte
Most Improved – Kendrick

**Volleyball:**

MVP – Amashia
Most Improved – Armani

**BOYS BASKETBALL:**

MVP – Sir Dautrel
Most Improved – Xaivier

**GIRLS BASKETBALL:**

MVP – Emone
Most Improved – Ari

**BOYS TRACK & FIELD:**

MVP – Sir Dautrel
Most Improved – Crewe

**GIRLS TRACK & FIELD:**

MVP – Justine
Most Improved – Rainn

**BOYS GOLF:**

MVP – Lacey

**GIRLS GOLF:**

MVP – Dina

**BOBBY GILLIAM LEADERSHIP THROUGH ATHLETICS AWARD:**

Tayshawn, Soleana

**FINE ARTS AWARDS**

**THEATRE:**

Most Valuable – Lacey
Most Improved – Juliana

**CHEER/DANCE:**

Most Valuable – Jaelyne
Most Improved – Christina

**CHOIR:**

Most Outstanding – Layla
Most Improved – Faith

**PHOTOGRAPHY:**

Most Outstanding – Alexis T.
Most Improved – Lauren

The charter school, located on the MCH Waco campus, is operated in partnership with the University of Texas – University Charter School system. Thank you to all our supporters and staff who contributed to another successful year for our students!

**MCH FAMILY OUTREACH**

Kerrianna is a single mother of six children, ages 3-16, and was doing her best to make ends meet working as a substitute teacher. However, with limited financial means and transportation, she could only accept jobs at schools close to her home. As a necessary solution, she accepted full-time employment at a local pizza chain near her apartment so she could walk her younger girls to child care before work.

Kerrianna learned about MCH Family Outreach in Bryan/College Station through a local childcare and educational program and hoped they could help her find a solution to her challenges. She began working with MCH case manager Susan Hays in February 2018 as part of the Family Solutions program.

Through the program, Hays was able to assist Kerrianna with identifying her goals and developing strategies to meet those goals. Kerrianna desired financial stability and also wanted to increase healthy experiences for her family. Hays provided her with support and encouragement through her journey and connected her with resources in the area to assist her in gaining financial stability.

“I think the program was very helpful,” Kerrianna said. “Since starting the program I have developed a ton of self-worth.”

Hays knew that a reliable vehicle would be a crucial part of Kerrianna’s goals. She nominated her to a local nonprofit called OnRamp that assists hardworking families in need with vehicles. She learned about the organization through friends and thought Kerrianna would be a great candidate for the opportunity.

Through this partnership, Kerrianna received a 2005 Dodge Caravan in June that is able to accommodate her six children. She is now searching for full-time employment at College Station ISD and will no longer have to worry about limiting her search to schools within walking distance. Kerrianna said she has also seen improvements in her relationships with her children.

“It has helped us become closer,” she said. “It’s given me the strength to listen to my kids more and we go and do a lot more now. I’m feeling happy and overjoyed that my family and I are closer and we can now travel more.”

Hays said she enjoyed working with Kerrianna and is impressed by her ambition to provide whatever it takes to support her family.

“Kerrianna has persevered through a lot of stress and hardship,” Hays said. “I don’t know many people who would walk their kids to child care and then walk to a job they don’t like every day in hopes of providing a better future for their children. She continues to move forward and do the ‘next right thing.’”

**NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH**

In honor of National Foster Care Month in May, MCH Family Outreach in Houston celebrated by providing foster parents with baskets of goodies for the entire family, along with a personalized gift card. Also enclosed were notes of appreciation to the families for their time, service, and dedication to the children they foster.
MEMORIAL GIFTS AND GIFTS OF HONOR

Gifts Made From March 2018 Through May 2018

**Honorariums**

Charles Allen
Kenneth Lawson
Reverend Mary Delmore Balagia
Suzy Delmore
Pastor Danny Barrett’s Birthday
Jim and Barbara Brown
Jill Bean
United Methodist Women
Spring Valley UMC – Dallas, TX

**Kyle Bear**
Kay Clipp
Mouzon Biggs
Kenneth Lawson
Grace Elizabeth Bissing

**Jill Beam**

**Charles Allen**
Kenneth Lawson
Grace Elizabeth Bissing

**Philip Allen**

**McMullen**

**DeDe Cooper**

**Mr. and Mrs. Larry Stanley**

**Primrose Ehlers Green**
Susan Beauty
Joel, Sami, and James Grochoskie
James Gunter
Anonymous
Reverend Julie Hay Halstead
Marc and Becky Clark
Raymond Hamilton
Blanche Turner Hex
Jan Johnson Hanyask
Denny Hanyask
Clyde Brownlow
Gracie Elizabeth Bissing

**Jill Beam**

**Robert and Boyd (Buddy) Jackson**
Pat Jackson
Ollie Inmon
Charlsie Evans Hufmyer
Betsy and John Roof
Reverend D. Jack Hooper
Jackie Hoenig
Raymond Hamilton
Primrose Ehlers Green
Santo UMC – Gordon, TX

**Ms. Connie Smith**

**Dennis and Lynn McKinney**
Daniel Heath
Bette Samford
Julia Parks Holloway
Christine Williams
Reverend D. Jack Hooper
Mrs. Foster
Mary Howard
Lily Beth and Melinda Chollar
Daniel Heath
Yolonda Howard
June, Gail Hulsey and Jeanine
Mike King and Families
Dennis and Lynn McKinney
Betsy and John Roof
Mary Beth Zumwalt
Charlsie Evans Huffman
Ruth Kindl
Olie Inmon
Tim and Joyce Woodcock
Pat Jackson
Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Smith
Robert and Boyd (Buddy) Jackson
Ms. Connie Smith

**MEMORIALS**

Ann Cox Alexander
Jeff Leahy
Clyde Allen
James and Wenzel Williams
Shirley A. Allen
Kenneth H. Allen
Dawnyce (Martin) Anderson
Arledge Brashear
Geneva Hendricks
Jean E. Bunge
Edrald W. Bunge
Ed Cabell
Judith Caswell
Tally Anne Calvert
Shirley Windcius
Larry Dan Campbell
DeDe Cooper
Jolene Chambler
Blanche Turner Hex
Mr. and Mrs. John D. Clark
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Mayer
Gretchen Zentner Clegg
Hunter and Tosby Cunningham
Dr. Jack Cox
Dr. Elaine Free-Roberson and
Mr. and Mrs. Luther Garren
Steven, Tere and Will Garlington
Chad Garren
Virginia Garlington
Steven, Tere and Will Garlington
Chad Garren

**Mary Lou Berry**

**Dr. Dan J. Craig**
Dena Cornelius
Ray Coleman,
Mr. and Mrs. John D. Clark

**Mary Lou Berry**

**Mr. and Mrs. Earl N. Blair, Retired**

**Reverend and Mrs. Kenneth R. Byrd**

**Mary Lou Berry**

**Mr. and Mrs. Larry Stanley**

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Anonymous
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Marc and Becky Clark
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Blanche Turner Hex
Jan Johnson Hanyask
Denny Hanyask
Clyde Brownlow
Gracie Elizabeth Bissing

**Jimmy and Laura Milam**

**Mr. and Mrs. Larry Stanley**

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Blanche Turner Hex
Jan Johnson Hanyask
Denny Hanyask
Clyde Brownlow
Gracie Elizabeth Bissing

**Bobby Vance**

**Regina Henley**
Pathfinders Sunday School Class
First UMC – Childress, TX

**Kenneth Lawson**

**First UMC – Sweeny, TX**

**Keith's Birthday Fundraiser**
George Louiz
Kelli, Rich, Casey, Scott and
Bradley Kahulas
Darthe Kees

**Kathleen Arrington**

**JoAnn Rotermund**

**Briana Roberson's 15th Birthday**
Virginia Renfro
Theodore, Ethel and Donald
Kathleen Arrington

**Mary Lou Berry**

**Dr. Dan J. Craig**
Dena Cornelius
Ray Coleman,
Mr. and Mrs. John D. Clark

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**Charles Allen**
Kenneth Lawson
Grace Elizabeth Bissing

**Jill Beam**
We have made it even easier for you to stay connected with all of the exciting things happening at MCH. Our new website looks great on both your desktop and your mobile devices. Whether you want to learn more about our programs, share a story from Sunshine magazine with your friends or family, or make a gift that impacts the children and families we serve, MCH.org puts all of that right at your fingertips.

Visit us today at:
MCH.org