SUNSHINE
THE MAGAZINE OF METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME | FALL 2018

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In 1995, Reverend Tom and Debbie Stribling almost had their children grown and out of the house with their youngest child completing his senior year of high school. But as parents, they felt they had more to give. The Striblings wanted to become foster parents to help children who needed a safe place to call home.

“It was something God put on our hearts,” said Tom, pastor of Happy United Methodist Church. “It was a calling.”

The couple contacted Methodist Children’s Home and were trained and certified within three months. Just two weeks later they had their first placement, a 5-year-old boy named Darius.

“He had the sweetest smile that would just melt your heart,” Debbie said.

“He was your typical little boy,” Tom said. “He was strong-willed; had to learn what ‘no’ was. He had lots of energy. He loved to play ball.”

Photo from the April 2001 issue of Sunshine Magazine.
Several months later, Darius’ older sister Brittani joined her brother in the Striblings’ home. A few months after that, the Striblings welcomed another foster child, Jerome, into their home.

Kelly Smith, program administrator for the Western region of MCH Family Outreach, worked with the Striblings when she served as director of the MCH Family Outreach office in Lubbock. As the Striblings’ case manager, one of her first tasks in her new role was to bring Brittani to the Stribling family.

“I suppose you could say we all learned the ins and outs of foster care together,” Smith said. “From the start they were committed to the children placed in their home and they were mature enough to ask for support when they needed it.”

Darius, Brittani and Jerome remained with the Striblings throughout their childhood. Darius graduated from high school in Happy, Texas, and later met his wife, Calissa. Tom officiated their wedding.

The couple now lives in Amarillo where Darius started a woodworking business and manages an equestrian center. He visits the Striblings with his family frequently and feels grateful for their support throughout the years.

“We were excited,” Debbie said. “It was very heartwarming, but the other side is that you knew he was going to go through a lot of disappointment. The training requires you to face your prior life, including things that we knew about but that he might not know. But we knew his faith would get him through.”

Darius and Calissa started out by fostering two little girls who then went to a different placement. Next they received Carsen, now 4, who they adopted in June 2018. They also fostered Carsen’s siblings for a short time before they were adopted by another family. They are currently fostering a little girl, 18 months old, and hope they can help more children, like Darius was helped by the Striblings.

“I had a loving life,” Darius said. “Lots of opportunities. They showed me what family is all about. That’s important. They never gave up on me and I couldn’t imagine giving up on the kids that we have. I want them to have the opportunities that my parents gave me. I’m hoping we can give that to Carsen and show him what family is all about – how a dad is supposed to be to his wife, to his kids.”

“I couldn’t be prouder,” Debbie said of the man Darius has become. “Everything we prayed that he would overcome, he has.”

“That was the hope,” Tom agreed. “The whole driving force.”

Smith has felt privileged to be able to walk alongside the family throughout their journey over the years.

“Seeing Darius grow into such a loving and committed husband and father affirms the example the Striblings provided,” Smith said.

Through MCH Family Outreach programs, staff work with families to give them skills and tools to become successful and to reverse negative cycles of neglect or abuse. Smith said the goal in foster care cases, initially, is to give the child felt safety and a sense of normalcy.
If along the way we can make an impact and help a young person learn safe and nurturing behaviors, alternative methods of response and provide healthy life skills, then yes, we hope to change the trajectory of that child’s – that family’s – existence,” Smith said.

“I believe that by helping Darius maintain a relationship with his sibling and mother, providing opportunities for relationship with a family trained and willing to meet his needs, and supporting everyone’s growth along the way, he was given new opportunities and choices about how he wanted to lead his life,” she said. “It is certainly a credit to Darius that he is making positive choices and seizing healthy opportunities.”

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-DARIUS
Former MCH Family Outreach Client

MCH makes an effort to reach children and families through early intervention and prevention services. MCH currently offers in-home services for families, grandparents or other caregivers raising children as well as parent education through 13 MCH Family Outreach offices across Texas and New Mexico. Services are provided at no cost to families. Foster care is offered in Abilene, Dallas, Houston, San Antonio, and Tyler.

“MCH has been intentional in funding and providing staff support for prevention and early intervention services,” Smith said. “In the Child Placing Agency community, those efforts are not always on the forefront. In our prevention and early intervention services, and in some foster care placements as well, MCH staff have the opportunity to work with the entire family and its support system to effect better long-term outcomes.”

Through the latest research on the impact of trauma on children and through partnership between MCH and the Karyn Purvis Institute of Child Development, MCH has developed programs that are reducing the risk of trauma for children who are vulnerable, said Moe Dozier, vice president for programs at MCH.

“With our programs, we are working to give people the skills to become more successful, but behind that is also about preventing childhood trauma,” Dozier said. “We want to prevent trauma in order to give them a better quality of life.”

Dozier said MCH hopes to positively impact families so their children can turn their lives around, just as Darius was able to do with guidance from the Striblings.

“To reverse the cycle, we must first stop the cycle,” Dozier said. “We do this through showing parents healthy ways to raise their children and giving them the skills that they can pass on to their children. Darius was able to learn parenting from his foster parents, and in turn he is impacting the lives of Carsen and older foster children. It was more than just reversing the cycle. They created a new cycle, and are paying it forward.”

For more information on programs or to find the office nearest to you, please visit MCH.org.
Back in middle school, Danny, now a senior in high school, said he had trouble paying attention in class. “Everything went in one ear and out the other,” he admitted. “I was careless.”

Before his freshman year of high school Danny realized home was not the best place for him and he chose to live at Methodist Children’s Home and attend the MCH charter school.

Residents of MCH attend the University of Texas—University Charter School on the Waco campus, which serves youth grades 6 through 12, or other Waco public schools. The charter school also serves a limited number of youth from the community through the Day Student program. Childcare and school staff work together to determine the most appropriate educational plans for students.

For Danny, this was just the change he needed to get on track. He is now on the honor roll and will graduate in May 2019. He feels the learning system in the charter school and availability of staff helped him improve.

“I love the staff here,” he said. “They are amazing. They are right there when you need them.”

Students at the charter school have access to several extracurricular programs including leadership organizations, academic competitions, recreational activities, and community service. They can also participate in competitive sports such as six-man football, volleyball, basketball, track, and golf. Future Farmers of America (FFA) is also offered through MCH.

Danny signed up for agricultural science class as a freshman and has stuck with it into his senior year. “Danny first entered my classes as a freshman with no confidence; he couldn’t look you in the eye and hold a conversation, and had a vocabulary that consisted of ‘I can’t do that,’” Kruse said. “As Danny built confidence, we started to see a young man emerge who wanted to learn, wanted to succeed and wanted to please not only himself but teachers, home parents and his peers.”

Last year at a local livestock show, Danny earned two scholarships to Texas State Technical College for his ag mechanics projects. Kruse said he is proud of Danny for the growth he has shown during his time at MCH.

“MCH turned a little boy who had little self-esteem and confidence into a productive young man who will contribute something to his community and society,” Kruse said. “I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to help mold, teach and groom this young man.”

Along with FFA/Ag, Danny became involved in athletics and plays basketball and football for the MCH Bulldogs. It was his first experience playing in team sports, and he enjoys the competition and expanding his skills.

“I’ve been living here for four years now and it has kept me in good condition,” Danny said. “I felt like home wasn’t where I belonged right now and I was right. I have multiple opportunities here – a good education, scholarships – that I wouldn’t have at home.”

Danny, a student at the MCH charter school, has showed animals at local livestock shows since his freshman year.

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As part of its strategic plan, MCH has recently taken steps to transition the focus of residential programs from child welfare to education in order to give youth like Danny opportunities that they may not have had if they stayed at home. These steps include academic additions to enhance the learning environment, events that will normalize the educational experience, and extracurricular opportunities for students to explore their interests and talents.

“Our emphasis on education not only includes academics, but also learning skills and giving our students the total school experience. Being involved in extracurricular activities increases a student’s chance of success,” said Moe Dozier, vice president for programs. “Being involved in extracurricular activities increases a student’s chance of success. We want to keep our students engaged and there is much to be learned by being part of a team and competing against students from other schools.”

MCH students can join theatre, choir, FFA and try out for the cheer team or an athletic team. Students show leadership by becoming a Safe School Ambassador or member of Bulldog Pride, a group that receives incentives for good grades and behavior. Most recently, MCH teamed up with the Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce for the LEAD Mentorship program. Selected students will be paired with mentors from the business community who meet regularly to expose them to various
offered at other schools such as a baccalaureate ceremony for graduating seniors, “fish day” for incoming freshmen, and an awards banquet to recognize student achievements in academics and extracurricular activities.

The athletics program continues to grow with the addition last year of junior high teams for boys track and basketball. Students are encouraged to get involved in competitive sports to learn to work as part of a team, build confidence and become physically fit. MCH Bulldogs are part of the Texas Christian Athletic Fellowship (TCAF) league but also compete against larger schools in the local area. Last year, the MCH Bulldogs were TCAF state champions in six-man football.

MCH and the charter school team up to encourage youth to connect with others in order to have the best chance for success. Class sizes are small to give students individual attention. Childcare staff and school staff collaborate on decisions and rely on each other’s expertise to make sure the needs of students are met. MCH also supports the school with field trips, and 60 laptops were provided for classrooms this year by the MCH donor-funded Education Enrichment Fund. Michelle Arocha, executive principal at the charter school, said she is grateful for the support from MCH.

“UT and MCH make sure we are doing what is best for our kids. We are able to get students’ needs met. We function as a team.”

- MICH AROCHA
  Executive Principal of MCH Charter School

Students are encouraged to participate in athletics or other activities in order to strengthen their skills and build confidence.
Laura Bonner, program administrator, believes the Boys Ranch is a great option for many youth. “This is a unique program,” she said. “This location provides young men entering MCH a choice in their environment.” “Youth coming from a rural or ranch background may desire familiarity when coming to MCH,” she explained. “Others may be searching for a new space to learn and grow. Overall, the ranch is a special place for youth to build a solid foundation for life while surrounded by outdoor recreation and education opportunities.”

Tim Price, director of outdoor education at the Boys Ranch, believes the ranch environment instills responsibility while providing room for creativity and fun. “We have a great amount of resources at the Boys Ranch that we maximize,” said Price. “We are doing everything in our power to give youth every opportunity possible to be successful and grow.” Resources include a 50-foot Alpine Tower challenge course, a recreation and activities center, lakes for fishing and kayaking, a horsemanship program and equine arena, outdoor education classes on survival and hunting, a poultry barn that houses turkey, chicken and quail, and miles of terrain for walks, hikes and bike rides.

Bonner pointed out that it is not only the boys residing at the Boys Ranch that benefit from the activities and resources. “All students from the Waco campus are welcome to attend afterschool programs at the ranch as well,” she said. “Adding to that, each year we host events for all MCH youth, students and staff.” This year, the Boys Ranch hosted its first Rowdy Rancho Games, a day packed full of outdoor competitions, agriculture showmanship, a fall worship service and an educational wildlife expo. The Boys Ranch is also home to the Ag science classes and the FFA program for the MCH charter school. All youth who attend the school are eligible to participate in classes that include raising and showing swine, goats, sheep, and steer. Students also have access to a metalwork and a carpentry shop where they learn welding, mechanical and electrical skills. Steve Kruse, Ag science teacher, said youth benefit from being introduced to and learning new skillsets and the activities the students participate in at the Boys Ranch have been known to help raise student test scores.

Steve Kruse, Ag Science Teacher

“Reading comprehension grows when students read blueprints; math skills are strengthened during the building of projects,” he said. “Speech skills and science are used, too. I believe this program has a high impact on our youth.”

Kruse said the impact of the Boys Ranch goes beyond building skills and gaining experience. “This program teaches youth that not everyone can always win, but what you learn, no one can ever take that from you,” he said. “This place and this program will pay in dividends for years to come.”

Pat Close, director of ranching, has served at the Boys Ranch for 31 years. He says the Boys Ranch is an important component of MCH. “The Boys Ranch is a good place because it helps youth build good work ethic and how to take ownership and pride in hard work,” he said. “In all my years here, I’ve seen a lot of growth happen and it has been good.”

According to Price, youth have countless opportunities at MCH to grow. “Whether a child is in Ag, horsemanship, or is fishing off the dock, the lessons they are learning while doing these activities will follow them through their whole life,” Price said. “The Boys Ranch helps youth build tools that will last for a lifetime.”

In 1971, MCH benefactor J.T. Stevens of Arlington provided funds for the purchase of land about 10 miles east of Waco that would be developed into the MCH Boys Ranch. According to MCH archives, the Boys Ranch was established to provide structured living and space that would accommodate a work environment to help youth develop self-discipline and responsibility.

The program first utilized work crews, academic and vocational instruction, recreation, community service, and individual counseling to help youth achieve personal growth.

Following construction, the first group of youth was brought into the Edwards Ranch House in August 1973, the first of the homes to be built. At that time, youth learned how to feed and care for livestock, build fences, paint facilities, bale hay, and cut and clear timber.

Today, the MCH Boys Ranch has the capacity to serve up to 40 youth at the 500-acre facility. The ranch includes homes for youth, administrative offices, a recreation and activities center, a variety of livestock pens and barns, an equine arena, and a dining hall.
Nonprofit leaders from across the United States came to Waco this year for the annual Coalition of Residential Excellence (CORE) Conference hosted by Methodist Children’s Home. The conference, a national gathering for residential care providers serving children and youth, took place Oct. 9-11.

CORE is described as “an alliance of programs who are dedicated and passionate about residential care for children and youth in need. 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.”

The conference theme this year was “Reframing the Future.” Moe Dozier, vice president for programs at MCH, said the theme referred to several changes that happened this year at the state and federal level affecting caregiving agencies and how those changes could affect the future.

“This coalition promotes best practices for residential programs and it also gives us a voice at the federal level,” Dozier said. “This conference is an opportunity for professional development and to collaborate and dialogue with other agencies.”

Speakers included Don Forrester, executive director of CORE; Dr. David Cross, Rees-Jones director at Karyn Purvis Institute of Child Development at Texas Christian University; Lyle Mason, executive director of Magnolia Foundation; and several representatives from other caregiving agencies including Buckner International, Oklahoma Baptist Homes for Children, Milton Hershey School, and Cal Farley’s Boys Ranch.

MCH had several speakers including Dozier; Rebekah Powell, program specialist; and Brooke Davilla, director of MCH Family Outreach in Waco. Powell and Davilla shared information on trauma-wise care and enriching staff proficiency. Dozier shared a presentation about trauma-wise living spaces. As part of his presentation, participants were given a tour of the new home design that has been implemented on the Waco campus as part of the Building Hope Capital Campaign.

Creative, intelligent, outgoing, and humble are just a few of the words used by to describe 17-year-old Jack.

Before coming to Methodist Children’s Home in 2016, Jack was living a life full of frustration at home and at school. But in the last two years he has matured and overcome some of his previous struggles.

“I had been angry since I was young,” said Jack. “As I got older I started lashing out. I had learned that my dad was sick, I wasn’t doing well at school and I didn’t really have an outlet for any of it, so I would just walk around mad. I finally hit a point where I knew I wanted to change and I knew I needed help to do that.”

Jack began searching for help. He attended a youth group, spoke with counselors and did his own research, all of which led him to MCH.

“I just knew MCH would be good for me, and it has been,” said Jack. “When I came here I realized that there was no reason what was going on in my life should bring me down. I decided to fight through the anger and to do things that would make me happy.”

“I am so proud of Jack and his accomplishments,” said Suzanne French, director of transition services, who served as Jack’s home life manager for nearly a year and a half. “He has been able to recognize his challenges and ask for help, which most people struggle with. Jack is mature beyond his years and is willing to make positive changes to help himself grow.”

During his journey with MCH, Jack has taken many opportunities to try new things and to embrace joy. Jack has helped with the MCH football team, attended Glen Lake and Shepherd of the Ozarks (SOTO) camps, joined the theater group, and placed first in the All-Star Cast category at the Texas Christian Athletic Fellowship (TCAF) theater competition during the 2017-2018 school year.

Additionally, Jack serves as a teacher’s aide at the MCH charter school, studies electronics and robotics thorough the Greater Waco Advanced Manufacturing Academy (GAWMA), a dual-credit program through Waco ISD, and plans to graduate in May 2019 with a GPA of 3.7 or higher.

Jack said he hopes to attend Texas State Technical College (TSTC) for two years and later transfer to Baylor University, Texas Tech University or The University of Texas at Austin to study robotics engineering or history.

“Jack maintains a tenaciously positive attitude which allows him to persevere through tough situations,” said Gabe Garecz, recreation assistant and theater instructor. “Jack has grown in confidence as well as the ability to overcoming any anxieties on and off the stage.”

Jack said MCH has helped him become hopeful for his future.

“I’ve honestly never questioned my decision to come to MCH,” said Jack. “Since being at MCH I’ve been opened to see the good in things. I had good things at home in my past, but I can see now that anger tends to cloud and block good things out. That is what my life was once like. Now I basically have another family here. I am a much happier and relaxed version of myself. I feel believed in and I am excited for what is to come.”
A CLEAR COMMITMENT

MCH MOVES TOWARD OPENING THE FIRST MCH FAMILY OUTREACH CENTER

When the new MCH Family Outreach Center opens in Waco in early 2019, it will be the result of much planning as well as a reflection of growth experienced by MCH programs and services.

“This is a natural expression of our commitment to serve,” said Moe Dozier, vice president for programs. “Our ministry objective is to connect resources and expertise to meet the expressed need and the Family Outreach Center is an extension of that.”

One of the goals detailed in the organization’s 2017-2019 Strategic Plan describes building a state-of-the-art facility that would specifically be designed to support the operation of MCH programs. Additionally, MCH leadership developed a community center approach for the delivery of prevention and early intervention services that would serve as a front door to other MCH services.

“We are making great strides toward fulfilling our ministry objective,” Dozier said. “The new space will allow MCH Family Outreach to continue to impact families while also allowing us to discover new opportunities in how we can best serve those in Waco and the surrounding area.”

Brooke Davilla, director of MCH Family Outreach in Waco, said the new building holds a lot of potential for her team.

“The depth of our care is rich and the work that we get to do is unique and transformative,” Davilla said. “It is my hope that the new center will allow the Waco Family Outreach team to continue our continuum of care as well as come alongside families in new and impactful ways.”

Tim Brown, president/CEO of MCH, believes the 2017-2019 Strategic Plan challenges MCH to be a leader in the field of care and services rather than simply a follower.

“We have always held ourselves accountable to a standard of excellence;” he said. “I’m particularly excited about the prospect of us doing more and being more impactful with our work in the future.”

For further MCH Family Outreach Center building updates and for more information about the services MCH Family Outreach provides, visit MCH.org.

When Alfonso was only 6 years old, he told his mother he wanted to be President of the United States.

“I was shooting big,” he said. “Even as a little boy, he had a big desire to contribute to the world around him. That ambition remained consistent throughout his life and led him to Methodist Children’s Home during his senior year of high school.

“My home environment was chaotic because I have a large family and everyone had their own schedules,” he said. “So I felt a different environment would allow me to focus on what I needed.”

Alfonso did well at MCH and he enjoyed the structure and routine MCH offered. After graduation, Alfonso attended community college thanks to scholarship funds coordinated through Transition Services (TS) at MCH. He moved to Arizona to live with his sister and completed his associate’s degree. He is now pursuing a dual bachelor’s degree in political science and history at the University of Arizona with expectations to graduate in December 2018.

Alfonso’s interest in political science and history was solidified in Arizona when he became involved in a cultural leadership group on campus. The group works toward creating an inclusive environment for students through culturally affirming programs and events.

Alfonso found another opportunity to give back to his community through an internship at a refugee assistance nonprofit last semester. He also works at a student-run camp that provides cost-free trips for at-risk youth in the Tucson community. Although he had not camped previously, a friend recognized his sense of adventure and invited him to become involved. Alfonso said he fell in love with camping right away and enjoys teaching the young campers.

“I am able to teach these kids how to live on lesser means and do a lot more with a lot less,” he said. “It’s teaching them to be more efficient people, and I like being able to engage with them and help facilitate an opportunity for growth.”

He hopes to continue his education by attending graduate school in Spain to study foreign affairs. He also has a desire to share knowledge with young people through becoming a teacher. In the future, Alfonso said his dream job would be to become a foreign ambassador, social activist or policy reformer.

“I just want to help out,” he said.

Alfonso hopes other youth at MCH will take advantage of and appreciate the opportunities they have.

MCH definitely solidified the emphasis to be strong and independent,” he said. “It allowed me the opportunity to experiment and grow in an environment that allowed that type of success and failure that comes along with learning as a young adult. Would it have happened if I didn’t go to MCH? I can’t say, but I’m really glad that it did happen at MCH.”

*Building rendering courtesy of John Erwin General Contractor, Inc.*
**Connecting Through a Common Interest**

MCH encourages staff members to utilize their gifts and talents in serving youth. For his support staff member Michael Lewis, his interest in fitness enabled him to help a student make a positive transformation.

Lewis was approached by Bryce, a student at the charter school, in February 2018. Bryce, now a freshman, wanted to know how Lewis was able to maintain his muscular physique at age 61. Lewis gave him some tips on exercise and nutrition and Bryce took his advice and put it into action. Within only a couple of months, Lewis noticed that Bryce's appearance was changing. Bryce said he lost around 30 pounds before the end of that school year.

“I started changing my diet and eating things that I knew were good for my body, beneficial,” he said. “Not just empty calories that you get from chips and sodas. It is to the point now that I don’t even like other foods anymore. I got used to eating fruits and vegetables and healthy foods that I know help with building muscle.”

Once the summer hit, Bryce and Lewis began meeting three or four days a week to work out at the gym on campus. Lewis said he is proud of the sacrifice and motivation Bryce has shown in continuing his good habits. Lewis said they spend their time in the gym not just working out, but also talking about life and have built a positive relationship.

“It is more than just working out; Lewis said. “I’ve seen him become more responsible, grow mentally and sometimes I have to remind myself that he is only 14.”

Lewis said he hopes he is helping Bryce build a solid foundation for the future by living a healthy lifestyle. He also hopes these efforts will inspire other students at MCH.

“The physical body is something God wants us to take care of,” Lewis said. “How to eat is in His Word. The physical body has to be maintained just like the mental and spiritual.”

Bryce has now dropped around 50 pounds and said he has gained confidence and will continue working out with Lewis.

“I feel stronger since I’ve been in the weight room,” he said. “People have given me more respect because I’ve been willing to do this. It got me out of my comfort zone and I will feel better in the future.”

**MCH Charter School Hosts “Fish Camp”**

Incoming freshmen for the MCH charter school received an introduction to high school during “Fish Day” on July 19. The two-hour event served as freshman orientation to prepare students before the school year began and introduce them to MCH and school staff who will work with them. During the orientation, freshman students listened to several presentations and toured the high school areas of the school where they would attend classes. Presentations emphasized the importance of academic performance during high school with the intention of getting them off to a positive start.

**Church Hosts MCH Youth at Minor League Game**

In what has become a summer tradition, 59 youth and staff from the MCH Waco campus and MCH Boys Ranch attended the Round Rock Express minor league baseball game at Diamond Dell Stadium in Round Rock, Texas.

For the past five years, the United Methodist Men (UMM) of Cross Tracks Church in Liberty Hill have generously sponsored MCH students and staff to attend a Round Rock Express game.

This year, in addition to donating tickets to MCH, the youth and staff were personally greeted at the gate by the UMM event organizer, Mike Bowles, and were treated with a drink and snack.

“The youth and staff really felt the kindness of those from the church,” said Tanequa Newton, associate program administrator for the Waco campus. “They were very nice, and even let our group in early to keep our students out of the heat.”

Once the game started, MCH students and staff cheered on the choir from Cross Tracks Church as they sang the national anthem.

The rest of the evening was spent rooting for the Round Rock Express, competing to be featured on the stadium’s live “big screen” by dancing in the stands, participating in a trivia game and taking pictures with the mascot, Spike the bulldog.

“The excitement from our students was the highlight of the night,” said Newton. “During the event students would come up, talking about how excited and thankful they were for being able to attend the game. Many of our youth have never had an opportunity to attend an event like this so I am so thankful to the church who sponsored the event.”

Erica Reyes-Rosas, program administrator for the Waco campus echoed Newton’s sentiment.

“We are thankful for Cross Tracks Church and their continued support of our youth,” Reyes-Rosas said. “This has become a summer tradition!”

Because of generous benefactors like the United Methodist Men of Cross Tracks Church, MCH youth are able to attend memorable summer activities such as baseball games, camps and water parks, further adding to the joy and hope that they are offered at MCH.
MEMORIAL GIFTS AND GIFTS OF HONOR

GIFTS MADE FROM JUNE 2018 THROUGH AUGUST 2018

Judge and Mrs. Robert A. Fitz
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Calmes
Bruce C. DeHart
Development Staff
Allison Crawford
Mamie Lee Dodds
Jane Jones
Mamie Lee Dodds’ 99th Birthday
Allison Crawford and Family
Trey and Karen Oakley
Jeremy Webb
Sue Duval
Monty and Anita Brazell
Joe B. Elmore
Mr. and Mrs. Gene W. Elmore, Jr.
Blaine Eubank’s Graduation
University of Texas
Medical Branch – Galveston
King Memorial Church Family
Whitney, TX
Jeb Wayne Eubank’s Graduation - Texas A&M
King Memorial Church Family
Whitney, TX
Father’s Day
First UMC – Carthage, TX
The Fathers of Tobin Park UMC
United Methodist Women
Tobin Park UMC – El Paso, TX
Father’s Day
Men of Waples UMC
Women of Waples
Waples UMC – Granbury, TX

Warren and Amy Fortenberry
Amy and Shelby Barley
Mr. and Mrs. David Gallian
Ms. Pat McDaniel
Genie Harrison’s 50th Birthday
Donna Lovestovich
Aline Harwell
Mrs. Linda Moore
Neida Hazlewood
Amy and Shelby Barley
Ms. Kallei Barley
Steven and Tera Garlington
Debbie Louder
Reverend David Henry’s Retirement
Advent Sunday School Class
First UMC – Bryan, TX
Michael Hewitt – Class of 1999
Mr. and Mrs. Ed Hewitt
Lincoln Wiley Holland
Anonymous
George Hoffeman
Tony and Patricia Boykin
Howard Home Legacy
Jack and Karen Faulkson
Betty Huddleston
James Huddleston
Reverend Byron Jarratt
Betty Rosenbaum
Mary Jones
Fidelis Sunday School Class
St. Mark UMC – Cleburne, TX
Dick and Linda King
Scarlett and Patrick Bray
Kelly Lawson
Suzanne Hickman
Reverend A. Davenport
Les Mallonee
Dr. Elsa Soto Leggett
William Lawson
Tompros Family
Dr. Elsa Soto Leggett and Reverend Richard Leggett
Reverend C. Searle
Mr. and Mrs. Brian Makins
Karen Spore
Charles and Carol Brown
Edith Fatheree Sutherland
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Albrecht
Taste & See – Granbury, TX
James Hudson
Ned Foster Walter
Charmaine Mantooth
Reverend Bob and Violet Waters
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Baumont
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Zimmerman
Pastor David Ray and Family
Ozette Rainey
Owen Osborne
Amy and Shirley Barley
Ozette Rainey
Mr. and Mrs. Albert Smith
Pastor David Ray and Family
Vicki Lackey
Bishop Scott Jones and Mary Lou Reece
Rick and Kim Anderson
Katie Roberson’s 17th Birthday
Granddaddy and Nana Elaine
Mason Matthew Sarno
Kelly and Billy Lawson
Laura Romero
Marene D. Shaff
Reverend A. Davenport
Glenn Smith
Mr. Rob Smith
Ms. Minerva Martinez Soto
Dr. Elsa Soto Leggett and Reverend Richard Leggett
Homer C. Searle
Mr. and Mrs. Brian Makins
Karen Spore
Charles and Carol Brown
Edith Fatheree Sutherland
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Albrecht
Taste & See – Granbury, TX
James Hudson
Ned Foster Walter
Charmaine Mantooth
Reverend Bob and Violet Waters
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Baumont
Brit Webb’s 50th Birthday
Elaine Faircloth Lee and Ronnie L. Lee
Christina Sharping
Bob Zimmerman
Mr. Darrell Zimmerman

Children of Oak Grove UMC
Vacation Bible School
Oak Grove UMC – Bryan, TX
Hanna and Aaron Odum
Amy and Shirley Barley
Owen Osborne
Amy and Shirley Barley
Ozette Rainey
Mr. and Mrs. Albert Smith
Pastor David Ray and Family
Vicki Lackey
Bishop Scott Jones and Mary Lou Reece
Rick and Kim Anderson
Katie Roberson’s 17th Birthday
Granddaddy and Nana Elaine
Mason Matthew Sarno
Kelly and Billy Lawson
Laura Romero
Marene D. Shaff
Reverend A. Davenport
Glenn Smith
Mr. Rob Smith
Ms. Minerva Martinez Soto
Dr. Elsa Soto Leggett and Reverend Richard Leggett
Homer C. Searle
Mr. and Mrs. Brian Makins
Karen Spore
Charles and Carol Brown
Edith Fatheree Sutherland
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Albrecht
Taste & See – Granbury, TX
James Hudson
Ned Foster Walter
Charmaine Mantooth
Reverend Bob and Violet Waters
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Baumont
Brit Webb’s 50th Birthday
Elaine Faircloth Lee and Ronnie L. Lee
Christina Sharping
Bob Zimmerman
Mr. Darrell Zimmerman

Memorials

Roy Don Achamire
Jerry and Ann Gibson
Doris Adams
Mr. Stacy A. Adams
Richard (Dick) Samuel Albrecht, Sr.
Dr. and Mrs. Donald Bogue
Matt and Jackson Alexander
Dennis and Charlene Fowler

COMMISSIONERS 2018

MCH hosted Commissioners on Oct. 16-17, 2018. Commissioners play an important role in raising awareness about our mission. During their visit, they were equipped with information and suggestions on ways they can generate more support for the ministry of Methodist Children’s Home.

SUPPORT STUDENT PROGRAMS THROUGH BOOSTER CLUBS

Beneficiaries can now contribute directly toward programs that help youth discover talents and build confidence by joining booster clubs. By making a designated gift to the Ag Booster Club or the MCH Athletics Booster Club, donations will be used to help these programs continue to grow and expand.

“Booster clubs provide a way for our benefactors to support our youth when unexpected program opportunities or expenses pop up during the year,” said Trey Oakley, vice president for development. “Booster clubs are an important role in raising awareness around our mission. During their visit, Athletic boosters enabled the MCH golf team to attend an additional tournament during the spring 2018 season. Boosters have also enabled the volleyball and football teams to receive last-minute upgrades to uniforms and equipment. Most recently, the booster club is assisting in constructing a fence around the football field for added security. Booster club members receive special recognition from the programs they support throughout the year. To get involved in the Ag Booster Club or MCH Athletics Booster Club, contact the Development department at Development@MCH.org or 1-800-853-1272.

Honorariums

Buzz Adcock’s 2 year recovery from stroke
Buzz and Virginia Adcock
Rita Allen
Suzanne Willis
Loretta W. Amerson
Melvin Amerson
Mrs. Marianne Anderson
Mrs. Jams Lovelady
Martha Lou (Milan) Carter
James and Laura Milan
Brittany Fitz Chapman
Judge and Mrs. Robert A. Fitz
David Charles and Jose Cruz, Jr.
Debra Ellis
Carroll Choate
Julie and Maro Johnson
Ed Cole’s 96th Birthday
Hunter and Totsy Cunningham
Shirley Cowdry
John A. Tatum
Jack and Evelyn Daniels
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Calmes
Bruce C. DeHart
Bruce DeHart
Development Staff
Allison Crawford
Mamie Lee Dodds
Jane Jones
Mamie Lee Dodds’ 99th Birthday
Allison Crawford and Family
Trey and Karen Oakley
Jeremy Webb
Sue Duval
Monty and Anita Brazell
Joe B. Elmore
Mr. and Mrs. Gene W. Elmore, Jr.
Blaine Eubank’s Graduation
University of Texas
Medical Branch – Galveston
King Memorial Church Family
Whitney, TX
Jeb Wayne Eubank’s Graduation - Texas A&M
King Memorial Church Family
Whitney, TX
Father’s Day
First UMC – Carthage, TX
The Fathers of Tobin Park UMC
United Methodist Women
Tobin Park UMC – El Paso, TX
Father’s Day
Men of Waples UMC
Women of Waples
Waples UMC – Granbury, TX

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

$500 - $999 GIFTS

In celebration of the Pellicore Family & Friends Bake Sale by Kimberly Pellicore
Kingwood, TX
In honor of Arthur Capps by Anonynous
In honor of Megan Cooksey's College Graduation by Mr. and Mrs. Glen Pendergrass
Brenham, TX
Dorothy Chears
Allison Crawford and Family
Dallas Home Economists in Home & Community – Dallas, TX
Dallas Trailer Repair Company, Inc.
Irving, TX
Dwight and Joyce Dare
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Henderson
Eugene and Becky Kegegan
Jerry and Sharyn Larson
Legacy Texas Bank – Sachse, TX
Mr. and Mrs. David Maidlin
Mr. and Mrs. Bryan C. Mize
Miss Jane E. Morris
Jeanne P. Nowlin
Trey and Karen Oakley
Family of Julie & Mark Pechersky
Michael Radice
David and Cookie Ramsey
Bob and Susan Ritter
Betty A. and Don C. Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Smith
Bernard Walling
Danny and Jackie McSpadden
Murray Watson, Jr.
L.E. Pennington
June Wells
Larry and Lauran McCormick
Lahn Whatley
Albert and Jackie McLaughlin
Frank Whitacre
Leslie and Candy Mallonoe
Cleo and Herbert Wiley
Gary and Cheryl Rodgers
Johnny Williams
Rebecca Shepherd
B.C. and Clara Wilson
Royce and Lou Wilson
Reverend Dick Wilson
Hunter and Totsy Cunningham
Elaine Wilson
Mr. Billy Wilson
Shirley Wittman
Marvin and Marlene Baker
James & Mora Rae Buller Family
Kasper and Florence Fritz
Karen and Lynette Gardner
Elizabeth Glanz
Judy Hewitt
Clarence and Nancy Littlefield
Reg and Amy Othold
Betty L. Rogan
First UMC – Shiner, TX
Laura Stuka
Karen and Larry Oakley
Bryan and Andy Wood
Karen W. Wittman
Margaret Wood
Martha and Steve Willey
Jerry Wayne Woodlock
Tracy Don (Woodly) Woodlock
Suanne Beatty
Tim and Susan Brown
Allison Crawford and Family
Johnny M. Milam
Trey and Karen Oakley
Doris Woods
Barbara Lewis
Joan Wright
Anonymous
Cathy Lutz
Jeremy Mall
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Senn
Jack Sam Yarbrough
Linda Murray and Family
In memory of
Elvin and Lloyd Ola Bearden
by Michael and Molly Bearden
Albuquerque, NM
In memory of
my parents,
Miriam and Jim Billings
by Ms. Karen Billings
Las Cruces, NM
In memory of
Robert D. & Virginia G. Bowersock
by Robert Bowersock
Bedford, TX
In memory of
Mary Jo Carson
by Andy Carson
Big Spring, TX
In memory of
Sara Martin Franco
by The family of Kathy Franco
Cypress, TX
In memory of
Shirley Haight
by Turco Roofing & Construction
Fridley, MN
In memory of
our parents,
John Boston and Ida Irene Hankila
& Joe and Eva Hurt
by William Hankilla-Hurt Trust
Austin, TX
In memory of
Bill Hoffman
by Mrs. Paula Hoffman
Houston, TX
In memory of
The Reverend Dr. Lloyd A. and Esther R. Hughes
by The Reverend Dr. Lloyd A.
and Esther R. Hughes
Houston, TX
In memory of
Allan McCurdy
by Barbara R. Hughes
Cedar Crest, NM
In memory of
my father,
Dorothy Tomme Morgan
by Mr. and Mrs. Laird Morgan
Richmond, TX
In memory of
my mother,
Annabelle Taylor
by Annabelle Taylor
San Antonio, TX
In memory of
Mark Trautmann
by Keith and Pamela Trautmann
Richmond, TX
In memory of
my parents,
Richard and Emma Turner
by Richard and Emma Turner
San Marcos, TX
In memory of
my mother,
Mrs. Ket Udo-Ukpong
by Mr. and Mrs. Ket Udo-Ukpong
Fair Oaks Ranch, TX
In memory of
Joan Wright
by Badger State Ethanol
Monroe, WI
In memory of
Tim Brown
by Hank Coleman
Houston, TX
In honor of
the Diem Family Scholarship
by Julie and John Diem
Harker Heights, TX
In honor of
Allan Fink's 87th Birthday
by Mrs. Betty Fink
Cost, TX
In honor of
Reverend Gene Gurley's Retirement
by First UMC - Gatesville, TX
In honor of
Lyle Mason
by Randy and Lyn Mason
San Antonio, TX
In honor of
Debbie McDonald's Birthday
by Network For Good via Facebook.com
League City, TX
In honor of
Reverend Don and Kay Meador
by Maurice and Cathy Estlinbaum
League City, TX
In honor of
Sylvia Ostby
by Gary and Peg Ostby
Leland, NC
In memory of
my parents,
Harry W. Burns and Audrey L. Burns
by Anonymous
San Marcos, TX
In memory of
Mr. and Mrs. William Morgan Harper (Dorothy)
by Dianne Patrick
Greenville, SC
In memory of
Jean Jipp
by Nancy Sue Jipp
Plano, TX
In memory of
Jim Leskoven
by Les and Karen Leskoven
Corsicana, TX
In memory of
Dr. Henry A. Mayer
by Ms. Joyce Mayer
Kileen, TX
In memory of
Mr. and Mrs. Scott Pogue
Dr. Scott Pogue
by Sally Ezell
Georgetown, TX
In memory of
W. Tom Thweatt III
by Mr. and Mrs. Tom and Lou Thweatt
Katy, TX
$1,000 - $3,499 GIFTS

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Tim Brown
by Hank Coleman
Houston, TX
In honor of
the Diem Family Scholarship
by Julie and John Diem
Harker Heights, TX
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by Ms. Joyce Mayer
Kileen, TX
In memory of
Mr. and Mrs. Scott Pogue
Dr. Scott Pogue
by Sally Ezell
Georgetown, TX
In memory of
W. Tom Thweatt III
by Mr. and Mrs. Tom and Lou Thweatt
Katy, TX
$5,000 - $10,000 GIFTS

In memory of
C. Clyde Hamblin
by Martha Hamblin
Midland, TX
In memory of
Lenora Hetherly
by David and Julie Laine
Horseshoe Bay, TX
In memory of
Harman Parrott
by Melba Parrott
San Marcos, TX
In memory of
Mr. and Mrs. William Morgan Harper (Dorothy)
by Dianne Patrick
Greenville, SC
In memory of
Jean Jipp
by Nancy Sue Jipp
Plano, TX
In memory of
Jim Leskoven
by Les and Karen Leskoven
Corsicana, TX
In memory of
Dr. Henry A. Mayer
by Ms. Joyce Mayer
Kileen, TX
In memory of
Mr. and Mrs. Scott Pogue
Dr. Scott Pogue
by Sally Ezell
Georgetown, TX
In memory of
W. Tom Thweatt III
by Mr. and Mrs. Tom and Lou Thweatt
Katy, TX

Mary Stroud
Jay and Billie Bradford
Winston Sullivan
Rebecca and Dub Naramore
Mrs. Surface's sister
Barbara Cole
Annabelle Taylor
First UMC – Navasota, TX
My parents
Mrs. Daina Taylor
Lisa Taylor
Joy Gallagher
Mrs. Avueir Thompson
Blanche Turner Hext
John L. Tomerlin
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Heggie
Jim Trimble
Kason Anderson Family
Carl Dean Family
Martin Tucker
Lyn and Ed Lafferty
Reverend and Mrs. Weldon Tucker
Wendell Tucker
Don Turner
Lonnelle Konady
Jerry and Ann Gibson
Richard and Emma Turner
Mrs. Kathryn Mathis
Frank Tyson
Juanita Hickey
Mrs. Kat Udo-Ukpong
Ita Ufot
Bill VerDonk
Amy and Shelby Bailey
Betty Afton Vilven
11th Hour Adult Sunday School Class
First UMC – Plano, TX
Ms. Jane Aeonhalt
Laneil and Jack Bloom
Tim and Susan Brown

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Cottonwood Creek Golf Course - WACO, TX

Join Methodist Children’s Home for an enjoyable day of golf and help support our mission to offer hope to children, youth and families through a nurturing, Christian community.

Register at MCH.org!

Sponsorships are available. For more information, contact LRomero@MCH.org.

PLAY WITH A PURPOSE
Special pricing available for pastors.

PREMIUM PACKAGE: $100 PER PERSON
One player spot and gift bag
2 mulligans
2 tickets for prize drawing

SINGLE PLAYER: $80 PER PERSON
One player spot and gift bag