THE NEXT CHAPTER

Trey Oakley Takes the Helm as the 11th MCH President
Thank you for the faithful support you give Methodist Children’s Home (MCH). Throughout the history of MCH, Sunshine magazine has contained stories, photographs and information that celebrate the amazing work God does through this ministry. In doing so, it inspires and encourages others to join with our mission to offer hope to children, youth and families through a nurturing, Christian community. It is an honor to write this message to you in Sunshine magazine, my first as president.

I have enjoyed visiting with MCH staff, foster parents, leadership, supporters and those we serve during my first several weeks in this new role. Their stories, words of affirmation and insights help me better understand the MCH story and are sources of encouragement and motivation. Although I have spent 20 years connected to MCH, I am still amazed by the things I witness happening every day through this ministry.

In this issue of Sunshine, you will read more about the journey God has orchestrated to bring me to this place of serving as president. You will also learn about my family and the wonderful support they are for me and to others. As a friend of MCH, I hope you will be encouraged to know that through whatever ups and downs may come with this position, I am blessed by a family and a core group of mentors who will stand with me as I seek to fulfill this high calling. Most importantly, in this issue you will be reminded of the life-changing work you help make possible for children, youth and families.

I have been given a great opportunity to build on the strong foundation of ministry already present at MCH. The work done by Tim Brown, and those who have served MCH faithfully through the years, enables me to spend my energies creating a new vision. We can dream big at MCH. Thanks to the resources entrusted to us by benefactors like you, our talented staff, innovative programs and God’s faithful hand on this ministry, we can do more than just dream big at MCH; we can make those dreams a reality for those we serve.

I do not know every detail of every place where we will go as a ministry in the coming days and years. However, I know God will be with us every step of the way, and when we achieve our goals, He will give us the courage and strength to continue moving forward to find more ways to help the children, youth and families of Texas and New Mexico.

I have already presented to our Board of Directors and staff a decision to begin the process of creating a new strategic plan. This plan will involve input from staff across our entire ministry, volunteer leadership, community partners and supporters like you. Our current strategic plan will conclude in December 2019. The target start date for the new plan is early 2020, and it will chart our course for the next five years. I am confident this new plan will identify key opportunities to strengthen and challenge MCH to further expand and improve our mission to the hurting, broken world we live in.

In the meantime, MCH will continue to provide our innovative and effective services based on Christian principles, trauma-informed care, evidence-based practices, and 129 years of experience. We will also keep strengthening relationships with like-minded groups that share our core values and always be mindful of ways to rally others to join with our mission.

I ask for your prayers and continued faithful giving as we move forward to write the next chapter in this ministry’s legacy of hope to children, youth and families.
The Next Chapter
Trey Oakley Takes the Helm as the 11th MCH President

Trey Oakley often tells people that love is what brought him to Methodist Children’s Home.

“At that time, the love was not yet for the rich history of MCH, the amazing people connected to this ministry or the appreciation for the generous friends who make it all possible,” Oakley said. “I have developed those over the years. No, what originally brought me to MCH was the fact that I needed a job so I could get married.”

In July 1999, Oakley was attending George W. Truett Theological Seminary at Baylor University when he came across an ad in the local newspaper for a part-time librarian at MCH. Oakley needed a stable job before applying to George W. Truett Theological Seminary to pursue the fact that I needed a job so I could get married."

July 1, 2019, Oakley was attending George W. Truett Theological Seminary at Baylor University when he came across an ad in the local newspaper for a part-time librarian at MCH. Oakley needed a stable job before proposing to his then-girlfriend, Karen. He submitted an application and received a call from the Rev. Travis Franklin, former MCH chaplain, offering him a position as the assistant director of religious education. Oakley accepted the offer and proposed to Karen shortly thereafter, and the couple was married later that year.

That phone call opened the door to the next chapter of Oakley’s personal and professional life. Oakley worked in religious education as an assistant director then director, before transitioning to the Development department as a fundraiser in 2002. Oakley was promoted to vice president for development in 2006 where he led his team in fundraising, public relations, spiritual development, donor information management, and alumni relations.

Oakley became the 11th president and CEO of MCH on July 1, 2019. “Little did I know the decision to reply to that newspaper ad would change my life and the way I saw ministry,” Oakley said. “Twenty years later, I now have this honor of serving as president, which gives me the opportunity to witness and share story after story of God’s amazing grace through this ministry.”

A Search For A Successor

After Tim Brown announced his retirement as MCH president and CEO in early 2019, the Board of Directors launched a national search for his successor. Candy Mallonee, Board chairperson, said the search committee looked at many applicants with a variety of backgrounds and experiences.

“We were seeking someone with vision and excitement for the mission of MCH,” Mallonee said. “We believe we found that in Mr. Oakley. He articulates a respect and understanding of our past and a desire to be open to a vision for our future. He brings great energy and enthusiasm. Having known him for several years, I am confident in his commitment to MCH and to the children and families it serves.”

Dr. Clifton Howard, Board member and part of the search committee, said they have faith in Oakley’s capacity for leadership of MCH.

“I see more good things in MCH’s future,” Howard said. “I think we can expect that while Trey will continue what has worked well at MCH, he will also challenge us to consider new and different approaches and efforts for the sake of our mission.”

During his time at MCH, Oakley has been instrumental in building strong relationships with MCH alumni, churches, United Methodist leadership, and supporters.

He collaborated with Board leadership, the Executive Team and campaign consultants to create and manage the Building Hope capital campaign, the first comprehensive capital campaign for MCH in more than 50 years with a total fundraising goal of $23 million. As vice president for development, Oakley and his team continually exceeded fundraising goals while also reducing fundraising costs.

Oakley coordinated and wrote an internal study on the effectiveness and structure of faith-based, social service boards.

That study led to a reorganization of MCH’s faith-based programs that increased efficiency and service to children and families it serves.

Oakley coordinated and wrote an internal study on the effectiveness and structure of faith-based, social service boards. During a worship service in July, youth and staff gathered around Oakley for a prayer of blessing.

Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE)

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His work led to a significant restructuring of the MCH Board of Directors in 2006 and was used as a resource by other agencies. Throughout his career at MCH, Oakley has maintained strong connections to the childcare program. As religious education director, he developed and led programming for worship services, discipleship and mission trips. He also coordinated a volunteer program with Baylor University students that was recognized as the Volunteer Group of the Year by the United Methodist Association in 2000.

Oakley also created an innovative spiritual development program that meets the unique needs and expectations of a diverse congregation of children and youth. He has always emphasized the importance of providing opportunities for MCH youth to share their testimonies to churches and at agency events, and he preaches regularly in Sunday worship services on the Waco campus and speaks at summer camps attended by MCH youth.

Brown worked closely with Oakley for the past 20 years, and he is confident in Oakley’s ability to lead the ministry. “Trey is rooted and grounded in his faith,” Brown said. “He firmly believes in our mission. He will challenge our staff and leadership team to continue to learn, grow and be innovative as the needs of society change. He is good at planning and solving problems, and he values integrity, character and transparency. Trey builds healthy relationships personally and professionally, and he maintains a proper balance between his family time and work.”

“I feel like he is the best person for the job because he is also a man of God. It seems like a good fit because we are a faith-based place.”

Joseph, 17

A Strong Beginning

Oakley launched his presidency with a “listening tour.” Before the November Board meeting, he plans to visit all 13 MCH Family Outreach offices, MCH departments and many key supporters.

“My plan is to hear what motivates and inspires staff and benefactors and experience more of the great work we do for children, youth and families,” he said. Oakley has announced plans to start the process for a new five-year strategic plan that will involve input from staff throughout the ministry, those served, volunteer leadership, community partners, and supporters. The target start date for the new plan will be early 2020, and Oakley is confident the process will identify opportunities to strengthen the ministry and set the course for the future.

“MCH is serving on the front lines to support children, youth and families in these difficult times,” Oakley said. “Our services are relevant to families from all zip codes and backgrounds. Society’s pressures do not discriminate and people are trying hard to raise their children in a difficult world. Thanks to our many supporters, we are able stand up for and offer life-changing help to those who need us, regardless of their ability to pay for services. I love that about MCH. I also love our rich history. Our story is a shining example of what God’s people can do. We need a see a need, and we give of ourselves to be part of what God wants to do to save and change lives.”

A Desire To Lead

During his tenure at MCH, Oakley has worked with three presidents: Dr. Jack Kyle Daniels, Bobby Gilliam, and Tim Brown. He is grateful each president took an interest in placing him into positions where he was trusted with making key decisions for MCH.

“I took away things from each president and other mentors that have shaped my leadership style and how I will lead as president,” Oakley said. “I want to focus on relationships. Connecting people to our life-changing work is what I am most excited about in this new role. I look forward to connecting more with our supporters, staff, those we serve, and other like-minded ministries.”

After much discussion, Oakley and his family felt the time was right for him to pursue the presidency.

“I have a vision to further expand our great work and build on the strong foundation of ministry we have at MCH,” he said. “God blessed me with gifts to be able to match resources and talents with opportunities. The next several years will present MCH with important decisions so that we become even more relevant to communities and churches in Texas and New Mexico. I felt God was leading me to be that person and give my best, and God will lead the way to where MCH should go next to be all we can be for our children, youth and families of Texas and New Mexico.”

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Oakley meets families served through MCH Family Outreach in Killeen during an event in July 2019.
Trey and his wife, Karen, met while attending Howard Payne University and were married on October 30, 1999. They have two children, Abby (16) and Brady (12), and call China Spring home.

As a family, they enjoy skiing and hiking together with favorite destinations including Wolf Creek, Santa Fe, Carlsbad Caverns, and Guadalupe Peak. Oakley said most of their family time revolves around their children’s athletic and academic schedules.

Abby plays tennis for China Spring High School and also in tournaments sponsored by United States Tennis Association and Universal Tennis Rating. Earlier this year, she advanced to regionals in girls’ singles and was part of the team that made it to regional finals in the state 4A tournament. She was also selected to the first-team all-district and all-academic team.

Brady plays baseball for China Spring Little League and select teams. This year, Brady was chosen for the all-star team for the third straight year, and he was part of a team last year that won district and advanced to sectionals for the first time ever for his age group at China Spring.

Oakley admits he gets nervous watching his children compete and does a lot of pacing and watching from a distance. He is proud of the growth both have shown and the life skills they are learning through athletics.

"Both of my kids have experienced success," Oakley said. "This is a result of their work ethic. We often talk how everyone shows up for the game and most come to all the practices, but what are you doing when others are resting? Sports also teaches about adversity. You learn a great deal about someone in those moments when things are not going their way. These are great life-lessons for success and apply to academics and relationships, and they will serve them well in the future. I am told both of my kids are coachable. I am most proud of this because their awareness that there are always things to learn and people who can teach them will help them in all they do. I hope they see this in how I approach my work and aspire to do the same."

Karen is a talented graphic designer who has run her own business and assisted others in areas of public relations and marketing. Oakley is grateful for her dedication to their family as well as to the ministry at MCH.

"Karen volunteered as a Sunday school teacher that first year I started at MCH." Oakley said. "We knew then this was special. MCH has been a calling for us. I look forward to see how God will use her to bless and encourage when we meet others through this role. This has been, and remains, a family commitment."

Oakley has received good advice from previous presidents on balancing work and family life.

"MCH presidents and other mentors have said to find what will sustain me when times get difficult and find ways to take care of myself so I can take care of the ones we serve at MCH," Oakley said. "My family helps me recharge when my professional and personal energies are low. They are a source of comic relief, my private consulting group on some new ideas, and my non-stop encouragers. To say I am blessed is an understatement."

"I often talk about the strong foundation we are building on at MCH," he continued. "My faith and family are my strong foundation."
Dremon and Sam are two of the many valued students of the Day Student program at Methodist Children’s Home. Though their journeys have not always been easy, they have grown and achieved educational success.

Dremon, known as “Dre” to friends and family, found himself struggling in public school as he finished eighth grade. He and his mother, Outrie, believed he needed additional support to succeed in school. “A big public school setting was not for my son,” Outrie said. “Dre could not focus in that environment, and we were in a horrible spot.”

Dre, now a senior, enrolled in the Day Student program at MCH his freshman year and believes he has grown tremendously since then. “Ninth grade was a rough year for me going into this program, but it would have been more rough somewhere else,” Dre said. “I started in my worst years and have progressed very much. I am not the same person anymore.”

Outrie said that entering the Day Student program was a hopeful move for her family. “I am so glad I took a chance on this program for our family,” Outrie said. “Dre received the one-on-one support he needed but never had before. He has transformed.”

In elementary school, Sam, now a sophomore, watched his oldest sisters overcome struggles in public school by attending the Day Student program at MCH. His mother, Tiffany, also recognized their growth and decided it would be in Sam’s best interest to enroll in the program. “I really didn’t know what to expect coming into this program, but the staff and students of MCH have helped me grow,” Sam said. “I cannot see myself anywhere else and do not want to go anywhere else. I am proud of who I am, and I am thankful for MCH!”

Tiffany believes the MCH environment is the best one for Sam. “This program has given Sam the additional encouragement and support he needed,” she said. “He came in reserved and shy. Now, he is open at school with his teachers and friends.”

“Dremon and Sam are two of the many valued students of the Day Student program at Methodist Children’s Home. Though their journeys have not always been easy, they have grown and achieved educational success.”

Amy Grisham, director of school support at MCH, believes the ability to work with students and their families makes the Day Student program exceptional and distinctive. “We want to provide more than just educational support,” Grisham said. “We teach the importance of empowerment and connected relationships. MCH offers an opportunity for growth and success to youth who have been unsuccessful in the traditional school setting, along with offering a sense of hope to families by giving increased support in the school as well as the home.”

Clarence DeGrate, coordinator of the Day Student program, said the program makes a positive impact on the Waco community. “We support and give youth another option for academic success,” DeGrate said. “This program helps decrease the number of dropouts and gives youth and families courage and confidence for their future.”

Sam and Dre are grateful for the encouragement they found at MCH. “MCH has shown up for me and my family when we needed it,” Sam said. “MCH is the place to call because they will answer.”

“I’ve found role models and support at MCH,” Dre said. “I’ve grown in my attitude, behavior and academics, and I’ve been able to do things I wouldn’t have been able to do somewhere else. I know this program is here for me.”

For more information about enrollment in the Day Student program at MCH, call Amy Grisham, director of school support, at (254) 750-2666.
Summer is a special time for our youth and families at MCH to have fun and enjoy special occasions with those around them. Our young people served through the residential program have opportunities to enjoy a full schedule of recreational activities, overnight camps, mission trips, and community service. Many of our MCH Family Outreach locations host events where families are able to come together, have fun with their children and feel the support of the MCH community.
Shanita (left) feels encouraged and supported through her work with case manager Nikki McKeehan (at right) and MCH Family Outreach.

Everything was supposed to be all set. Looking for a fresh start after her divorce, Shanita and her three children moved from Wisconsin to Texas in January 2019. Shanita had an apartment lined up and worked with a staffing agency regarding a job. But when they arrived, her plans fell apart. The apartment was in a neighborhood where she felt unsafe, and the agency no longer had jobs available.

Shanita suddenly found herself homeless in a new town, and she was desperately looking for a place to go with her children, Jamal (16), Destiny (13) and Raven (12). They stayed at her sister’s home for a couple of days, but Shanita did not want to be a burden so she called the office and was connected with case manager Nikki McKeehan. She called the office and was connected with case manager Nikki McKeehan.

Shanita began the Family Solutions program, offered in all 13 MCH Family Outreach offices. Through the program, families work with a case manager and receive help through advocacy and support, connection to resources in the community and other services. The program allows families to identify and build on their strengths to meet their needs. Case managers meet regularly with the family for several months or as long as needed to offer encouragement as the family develops and works to accomplish its goals.

The first step for Shanita and her family was to find a safe place to stay. McKeehan helped the family as they transitioned into the shelter and regularly checked on them. After they got settled, Shanita found a job but needed to leave very early in the morning to travel across town for her shift, leaving her unable to take the children to school. McKeehan stepped in, going above and beyond by giving the children a ride to school each morning for two weeks, sometimes even stopping for donuts on the way.

“The kids thought she was amazing,” Shanita said. “They loved her. That helped a whole lot.”

Shanita asked McKeehan to go with her when she took a test to obtain her CDL license. She passed and found a job in transportation with Bryan ISD. Shanita calls McKeehan an “ambassador for Christ.”

“God sent the right person,” she said. “She’s genuine. God knows I don’t open up to a lot of people.”

Things are looking up for Shanita and her family. They moved out of the shelter and into a three-bedroom townhouse. She was recently promoted as a trainer at her job. The children love their school and received good grades in the spring. They found a church with McKeehan’s help that has a good youth ministry where the children feel loved and accepted. They are proud of their mom for overcoming challenges.

“She is strong,” Jamal said. “When she takes steps back, she comes back faster.”

Shanita said the entire staff at MCH Family Outreach was willing to help her family. One case manager chatted with the children about the book they were reading during a visit. Ted Randall, director of the Bryan/College Station office, made himself available to Jamal, providing him with a positive male influence he could trust. Shanita said finding MCH was a blessing for their family.

“This place is a vessel of God,” she said. “He used this organization to help us transition. This place means a lot to me.”

In May, Shanita earned an associate’s degree in early childhood education and is working toward starting her own daycare. MCH extended the family’s case so staff could continue to support Shanita’s efforts and connect her with individuals who can provide advice and assistance. She recently met with a financial advisor utilized frequently by MCH to go over her business plan, and she found a location for the daycare. Shanita feels optimistic about her next steps, but knows it will require hard work.

“It’s going to take a lot of faith and belief in God to get this project going,” she said.

McKeehan has been impressed by Shanita’s persistence and drive to improve her family’s life. “She is amazing,” McKeehan said. “I feel blessed to be on this journey with them. Her determination, faith in God, and love for her family are inspiring. I learned a lot from her. We always think we are going to teach our clients things, but I’ve learned so much from them.”

Shanita (left) feels encouraged and supported through her work with case manager Nikki McKeehan (at right) and MCH Family Outreach.
JOSEPH & JOHNNIE
FINDING SOLID GROUND

Devoted to God, determined, hardworking, beyond reproach, and positive are just a few of the words used to describe 16-year-old twins Joseph and Johnnie.

Before coming to Methodist Children’s Home in September 2018, the brothers did not have a consistent home. From a young age, Joseph and Johnnie moved from one family member’s care to the next. Eventually the two were placed under the care of Child Protective Services and continued to move from placement to placement.

“Our last placement was in an emergency shelter,” Johnnie said. “That is when we found out about MCH and realized it could be an option for us. We toured the campus and I wanted to come immediately. Without MCH, we’d still be moving around!”

Since the brothers made their transition, they have seen MCH as solid ground for rest and growth.

“From the start, I felt really welcomed and supported,” Joseph said. “God has been our driving force to get us through different things, and we are blessed He brought us to MCH. I believe we are here for a reason.”

The brothers are two of 160 students living at MCH. Joseph and Johnnie have found community through the various MCH programs. Joseph connected with the Spiritual Development department and participates in clubs and the worship arts program. He has also applied to be a student worker for the department.

Johnnie has engaged with athletic opportunities at MCH and last season played football, basketball and ran track. This summer he is “setting right” mentally and physically in the weight room, preparing his body and heart for his future.

“We want to make the most of our lives starting now,” Joseph said. “Each opportunity we have is a fresh new start and that has changed something in us. We are improving our character and that won’t stop. We hold ourselves to a high standard because Christ is in us.”

This fall Joseph and Johnnie will begin their senior year of high school. Johnnie anticipates playing basketball, football, and running track.

“It is my dream to play for the NBA,” Johnnie said. “The court has been like a home to me, and I want to influence others and glorify God.”

MCH residents enjoyed summer activities through Camp RLfie Up, a day camp on the Waco campus led by the MCH Recreation department.

Camp Rise Up utilizes Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) principles to help youth learn life skills and important self-regulation techniques. Residents participated in intentional experiential recreation activities such as crash-and-bump games, life skills, and movement and art groups. Youth also heard from a number of encouraging guest speakers.

Rebekah Powell, program specialist for MCH, said the students build relationships with the staff and each other during camp that will continue to grow moving forward.

“When I see kids having fun and interacting in healthy ways with their peers and staff, I know we are accomplishing what we are here for,” she said.

MCH staff member Dorothy Phillips (left) and Devion Jordan, a freshman at the charter school.

FISH CAMP 2019

Incoming freshmen at the charter school on the campus of MCH learned what to expect entering high school during Fish Camp, a freshman orientation. Sixteen students began their first year at the charter school, operated in partnership with The University of Texas-University Charter School system.

Michelle Arocha, executive principal, gave students an overview of the school, went over expectations and explained transcripts and grade point averages. Additionally, she informed them of changes this upcoming school year including new teachers, schedules and school policies.

Arocha’s presentation, students were introduced to members of the MCH Transition Services (TS) staff. TS coordinators begin meeting with MCH students their junior year to help them prepare and develop post-graduation plans, including how to apply for college and scholarships, admissions testing, taking college visits, finding a place to live, and learning independent living skills.

TS staff explained to students about life after high school and gave examples regarding cost of living expenses such as rent and phone. They also provided information on additional MCH resources available to students and stressed the importance of doing well in school in order to increase their chance of success in advanced education or the workplace.

Freshmen also received information on dual credit and career development programs available to them as upperclassmen through partnerships with Waco ISD and local colleges.

They closed out the day with team building exercises and discussed what they learned during the orientation.

“I learned that you need good grades and to be on your best behavior in order to earn scholarships,” said Devion, one of the students attending Fish Camp.

Charter school students began the 2019-2020 school year on Aug. 19.
SUMMER CONFERENCES

MCH is grateful for its faithful donors who give to ensure the children have a joyous Christmas. As fall approaches, MCH is preparing for the holidays through its Christmas Offering, Secret Santa program and other giving opportunities. Please consider inviting a speaker to share the story of MCH with church groups or congregations, in addition to distributing Christmas Offering brochures to church members.

SEASON OF GIVING 2019

The goal of the capital campaign is to build 12 homes that will better meet the needs of today’s youth. The campaign is part of a strategic initiative challenging MCH to address changes in the current and future population of residents, and cost and maintenance efficiencies, while incorporating expertise MCH has gained through its partnership with the Kayrn Purvis Institute of Child Development at Texas Christian University.

The new homes will display a tribute to the generous benefactors, with each including a scripture or quote selected by the donor family. To learn more about supporting the Building Hope capital campaign, contact Trey Oakley at TOakley@MCH.org.

LYLE MASON NAMED VICE PRESIDENT FOR DEVELOPMENT

MCH welcomes back Lyle Mason as vice president for development. The position became available after Trey Oakley was selected as MCH president and CEO. Mason began his new role on Sept. 9, 2019.

Mason’s career at MCH started in 2010 when he joined the Development department as a fundraiser. He was promoted in 2012 and served four years as director of benefactor relations. In this role, he focused on the annual fund, strategic objectives and special fundraising projects. Mason was also at MCH during the planning process and launch of the Building Hope capital campaign.

In 2016, Mason joined Chip Gaines, his longtime friend, to create and then manage the Magnolia Foundation. He served as executive director of the foundation and fulfilled additional roles within the ever-expanding Magnolia organization.

Mason said he is excited to return to serve at MCH. While he fulfills his responsibilities as vice president for development, he will also remain on the Board of Directors of Magnolia Foundation.

“The decision was unanimously supported by our leadership team and board members,” Oakley said. “Those who know Lyle are aware of his abilities and passion for inspiring others to support MCH. Those who have not met Lyle will see this for themselves when he joins an already strong Development department. I look forward to the way Lyle will lead our Development department at MCH.”

Mason was born and raised in San Antonio, Texas. He earned the bachelor of business administration degree from Baylor University and a master’s degree in biblical studies from Dallas Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Denise, have been married for 21 years and have three children: Hannah, 19; Luke 17; and Justin, 12.

MCH youth and staff will move into the B.R. and Helen Greathouse Home and Nancy J. Bowen Home early this fall. These homes are the fourth and fifth homes built on the Waco campus as part of the Building Hope capital campaign launched in 2015.

Phase III of the fundraising campaign is nearing completion, which will provide four additional homes incorporating the new trauma-informed design. One of these new homes will be named in honor of Tim and Susan Brown, former MCH president and his wife, who retired in June.

B.R. and Helen Greathouse Home

“Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, the sheep of His pasture. Enter His gates with praise, giving thanks to Him and praising His name. For the Lord is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations.”

Psalm 100

Barney, known by his nickname B.R., was born and raised in Blackwell, Texas. In 1929, he married the love of his life, Helen Lee Maddox, and they moved to Midland, Texas. In 1933, they bought the inventory of a failed store and opened their own in Midland. Side by side, B.R. and Helen worked for more than 37 years. They were faithful members of First Methodist Church in Midland. B.R. was very involved in the community. He had a wonderful reputation of offering free medicine to all children whose families could not afford it. Helen was a caring, giving individual and had a warm spot for children and adults with any physical or mental challenge. B.R. and Helen traveled the world and at one time had lived in every free country in the world. The untimely death of B.R. in 1973 did not allow him to see the fruits of his work and giving spirit. In 1997, Helen created the Helen Greathouse Charitable Trust, which was her way of giving back to the community they truly loved. Helen passed away in 2001, but the Greathouse legacy is only beginning. The generosity of the Greathouse Charitable Trust has funded many projects on the Waco campus, including several aspects of the Building Hope capital campaign and this new home.

May all those who live, work and enter this home be encouraged and blessed by the generosity of B.R. and Helen Greathouse.

Nancy J. Bowen Home

“Those who know Lyle are aware of his abilities and passion for inspiring others to support MCH. Those who have not met Lyle will see this for themselves when he joins an already strong Development department. I look forward to the way Lyle will lead our Development department at MCH.”

Mason said he is excited to return to serve at MCH. While he fulfills his responsibilities as vice president for development, he will also remain on the Board of Directors of Magnolia Foundation.

“The decision was unanimously supported by our leadership team and board members,” Oakley said. “Those who know Lyle are aware of his abilities and passion for inspiring others to support MCH. Those who have not met Lyle will see this for themselves when he joins an already strong Development department. I look forward to the way Lyle will lead our Development department at MCH.”

Mason was born and raised in San Antonio, Texas. He earned the bachelor of business administration degree from Baylor University and a master’s degree in biblical studies from Dallas Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Denise, have been married for 21 years and have three children: Hannah, 19; Luke 17; and Justin, 12.

MCH youth and staff will move into the B.R. and Helen Greathouse Home and Nancy J. Bowen Home early this fall. These homes are the fourth and fifth homes built on the Waco campus as part of the Building Hope capital campaign launched in 2015.

Phase III of the fundraising campaign is nearing completion, which will provide four additional homes incorporating the new trauma-informed design. One of these new homes will be named in honor of Tim and Susan Brown, former MCH president and his wife, who retired in June.

The goal of the capital campaign is to build 12 homes that will better meet the needs of today’s youth. The campaign is part of a strategic initiative challenging MCH to address changes in the current and future population of residents, and cost and maintenance efficiencies, while incorporating expertise MCH has gained through its partnership with the Kayrn Purvis Institute of Child Development at Texas Christian University.

The new homes will display a tribute to the generous benefactors, with each including a scripture or quote selected by the donor family. To learn more about supporting the Building Hope capital campaign, contact Trey Oakley at TOakley@MCH.org.

B.R. and Helen Greathouse Home

“In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 5:16

Barney, known by his nickname B.R., was born and raised in Blackwell, Texas. In 1929, he married the love of his life, Helen Lee Maddox, and they moved to Midland, Texas. In 1933, they bought the inventory of a failed store and opened their own in Midland. Side by side, B.R. and Helen worked for more than 37 years. They were faithful members of First Methodist Church in Midland. B.R. was very involved in the community. He had a wonderful reputation of offering free medicine to all children whose families could not afford it. Helen was a caring, giving individual and had a warm spot for children and adults with any physical or mental challenge. B.R. and Helen traveled the world and at one time had lived in every free country in the world. The untimely death of B.R. in 1973 did not allow him to see the fruits of his work and giving spirit. In 1997, Helen created the Helen Greathouse Charitable Trust, which was her way of giving back to the community they truly loved. Helen passed away in 2001, but the Greathouse legacy is only beginning. The generosity of the Greathouse Charitable Trust has funded many projects on the Waco campus, including several aspects of the Building Hope capital campaign and this new home.

May all those who live, work and enter this home be encouraged and blessed by the generosity of B.R. and Helen Greathouse.

Nancy J. Bowen Home

“Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, the sheep of His pasture. Enter His gates with praise, giving thanks to Him and praising His name. For the Lord is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations.”

Psalm 100

Ms. Nancy Bowen was born in Corpus Christi, Texas, 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 was 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 will bless the children for years to come through her faithful support.
She is always very thankful. She really takes pride in her education and in her life.”

Anthony and Raven continue to discuss her post-graduation plans. Raven intends to look for a job in Waco so she can help care for her grandmother. She understands that creative writing, her passion, may not pay the bills at first, but she hopes to utilize her education and talent in a beneficial way. “I want to make an impact wherever I am,” Raven said. “I hope what I do will expand someone else’s way of thinking, their knowledge and their compassion for other people. That’s my goal when I’m writing.”

Raven said in addition to her positive relationship with her grandmother, MCH played a major role in her success by giving her opportunities she might not have had otherwise. “The entire Methodist Children’s Home experience changed my life,” Raven said. “My grandma wasn’t in a position to give me the kind of care I needed but I got that at MCH. I don’t think I would have had the support I got otherwise.”

In her experiences, Raven gained perspective on dealing with adversity. “As I’ve grown older, I’ve learned that I can’t control every circumstance in my life, and I can’t control every person,” she said. “But I’m in control with what I choose to do with my life and how I choose to interact with people. If I can have an impact on someone, then I would like to do so.”
WE EXCEEDED OUR GOAL
BECAUSE OF YOUR GENEROSITY

$300K GIVING DAY

Thank you for giving to MCH!