SUNSHINE

THE MAGAZINE OF METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME | SPRING 2020



MCH CONTINUES TO SERVE THROUGH COVID-19 CRISIS

n early 2020, the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic reached the United States, affecting lives all across the nation. Communities in which Methodist Children's Home (MCH) serves were hit by the crisis and families faced increased hardship due to school closures, shelter-in-place orders and job loss or wage reductions. However, MCH stepped in to meet the needs of its children, youth and families.

"Since 1890, Methodist Children's Home has served thousands of children and families across Texas and New Mexico through numerous societal challenges and extreme circumstances," said Trey Oakley, president/CEO of MCH. "It is by God's grace and through years of generous support from our benefactors that we are able to meet real and urgent needs of the most vulnerable in our communities, especially during times of crisis."

MCH staff members from the residential program are helping children feel safe and finding ways

MCH Family Outreach staff continue to serve families in the communities through online parenting sessions, safe outdoor home visits, porch drop-offs, connection baskets, educational packets, and virtual life lessons. Staff communicate and encourage each other through collaboration meetings and team check-ins.

"Our supporters would be proud and encouraged by the innovative and extra efforts our staff and foster parents are taking during these unprecedented times," Oakley said. "Our mission does not change. Thanks to our supporters and caregivers, our children, youth and families still have a place of refuge and support at MCH."

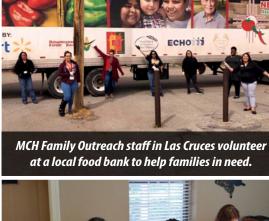
MCH created an online resource for staff members to keep them informed about the latest news, answer questions about benefits, and provide resources to help them during challenging times. The ministry also initiated the MCH COVID-19 Emergency







300 rolls of donated toilet paper to MCH Family Outreach in Waco.





to keep them busy during shelter-in-place orders in Waco. Spiritual Development staff are utilizing technology to provide pastoral leadership and support. School staff rallied to prepare distancelearning lessons so educational workflow had limited disruption, and educators offered encouragement through a "teacher parade" through the Waco campus and MCH Boys Ranch. Direct care staff, home parents and foster parents are going above and beyond their usual duties, adjusting to serve as teachers as well as caregivers to the children.

Response Fund to support the unexpected needs caused by the virus.

"I am mindful challenging days are still ahead," Oakley said. "However I am not fearful because of the caliber of staff, foster parents and supporters we have at MCH, and the faithfulness of our God who has not wavered in the promise that great things will be done through this ministry."

Visit MCH.org for other news about Methodist Children's Home. •

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



Trey Oakley

our gifts, prayers and support continue to equip Methodist Children's Home to offer hope to children, youth and families through a nurturing, Christian community. Thank you.

The unprecedented events surrounding COVID-19 are impacting MCH as they are throughout the world. Even though our daily jobs are focused on ensuring the safety and well-being of those we serve and our caregivers, we continue to explore new ways

to fulfill our mission. You would be proud of the extra efforts and creativity of our staff and foster parents, as well as the resiliency from all connected to MCH. We are compiling great stories of individuals and groups who are going above their already high calling to serve those in our care. A few examples of this can be seen on the adjacent

MCH will be called on to help meet massive needs that are predicted to emerge from layoffs and shut-downs impacting our communities. MCH is ready to answer that call just as we have since 1890. Please commit to praying with us each day at 4 p.m. for wisdom, endurance and innovation for all connected to MCH. While COVID-19 influences our daily lives, we must still carry out the vital work of MCH.

In this issue, you will read about our foster-to-adopt program, one of the many ways we are increasing the impact of our ministry in Texas and New Mexico. Our experience teaching the value of caring relationships and implementing trauma-informed services are great resources to those who feel a call to serve through foster care and adoption. We also share photographs from the celebration of the career of Mr. Moe Dozier, his wife Janet and their family. Mr. Dozier retired as vice president for programs last January and leaves behind a solid foundation for our next strategic plan.

This issue highlights the current MCH leadership team. Strong leadership is connected to every job including opportunities to lead by example for those we serve and our supporters. We are relying on great leadership as we enter into this new era at MCH. Our Building Hope capital campaign continues to move forward. The new homes on our Waco campus are a valuable addition to our ministry and empower MCH to serve young people in residential care at an even higher level. While we are grateful for these new homes, we celebrate the legacies of the buildings that have been removed to make way for them. The generous support these donors provided helped save and change countless lives thanks to the love, care and life-lessons shared for more than five decades while these buildings were in use.

I ask for your support and prayers as MCH moves forward in these uncertain days. I know that great things are ahead because of God's blessings, our strong leadership team and talented staff, innovative programs and faithful supporters.

Blessings and Peace,

Trey Oakley | 2 Corinthians 4:7-8

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EMBRACING GOD'S PLAN



Ben, Alexa, Tracy and Cash

DALLAS, TX

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight.

Proverbs 3:5-6

ometimes life takes an unexpected turn.
Ben and Tracy, parents of three children,
always felt called to foster and open up their
home to babies needing a safe place to stay.

"We have such a nice home and family, and we were blessed to have such good kids," Tracy said. "I felt that if we could give a baby a positive start in life, then that would be a good thing to do."

The Dallas residents became licensed foster parents with MCH Family Outreach in 2009 when their youngest child was 11 years old. At first, they provided respite care for children needing a temporary place to stay – no more than two weeks – due to an emergency or simply if a family needed a break for vacation or personal obligations. After six months of being licensed through MCH, the family received their first long-term placement, a boy named Cash who was only three days old.

Cash's mother was incarcerated but expected to take custody of him when she was released. However, after a year-and-a-half Ben and Tracy received word the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) was looking for a permanent placement for Cash.

"We already knew he was a fit with our family," Ben said. On July 17, 2012, they officially adopted him.

Ben and Tracy continued to serve as foster parents and two years later a newborn girl named Alexa, whose mother was incarcerated, came into their home. Alexa's placement was supposed to last six weeks until she was old enough to go to daycare. At that time her biological grandmother would assume custody.

However, her grandmother decided she could not handle the financial obligations of caring for Alexa. She was already working two jobs and taking care of her other grandchildren. It was decided that Alexa would remain in foster care with Ben and Tracy.

Once released, Alexa's biological mother had some visits with her, but in time they knew her case was moving toward adoption. MCH was not yet licensed for adoptions at the start of their process, so the family proceeded with outside agencies. When Alexa's adoption became complicated and the family dealt with several delays, Nicole Buchmann, a case manager at MCH Family Outreach in Dallas, was able to support the family as they navigated the emotional ups and downs.



Alexa and Cash bring a lot of joy to their family.

"They had already started their adoption journey with Alexa when I began my position with MCH," Buchmann said. "Due to past experience with adoption cases I was able to acclimate to the case rather quickly. I knew most of the steps that needed to be completed for adoption, so when one of the steps took longer than any of us anticipated I was able to provide some insight regarding any hiccups that occurred in the process."

Finally on Jan. 24, 2020, Alexa's adoption became official. The family celebrated her "Gotcha Day" with a courtroom full of relatives and friends. For her celebration, Alexa wanted everything to be just like her brother's adoption day, down to the types of food

served at the party and where her family members should stand in the courtroom adoption photograph. It was a joyous event for the entire family.

"They are wonderful and patient people who handle any situation with grace and strength," Buchmann said about Ben and Tracy. "In the midst of the chaos they chose to remain calm. I truly believe it is because they have surrounded themselves with a wonderful support system including their church, family, close friends, MCH, and most of all their faith in God. All of this was the anchor they needed during this process and they were not afraid to lean on that support."

Tracy

We've been blessed. These two kids we adopted have been great kids, and they really are a blessing to our family. I can't imagine life without them now. You never know what God has planned for you. Sometimes it's a nice surprise.

Ben and Tracy, joined by relatives and friends, celebrate Alexa's adoption after the judge makes it official on Jan. 24, 2020.



MCH FAMILY OUTREACH OFFICES THAT PROVIDE FOSTER CARE:

Abilene

1 Village Drive, Suite 102 Abilene, TX 79606 325-672-9398 **Dallas** (New address as of Spring 2020) 8820 N. MacArthur Blvd. Irving, TX 75063 972-480-8772

Houston

5005 Mitchelldale, Suite 119 Houston, TX 77092 713-682-8911

San Antonio

4606 Centerview Dr., Suite 100 San Antonio, TX 78228 210-733-3904

Tyler

921 Shiloh Rd., Suite B300 Tyler, TX 75703 903-509-1171



Dranger, Sherry and Sayde

TYLER, TX

Several hours away, another family was going through a similar journey. Sherry knew she always wanted to foster children, and when her youngest biological child was about to graduate from high school, she felt it was the right time. She went to lunch with a friend who worked at MCH Family Outreach in Tyler to learn more about the program. After attending a foster care information meeting, Sherry decided respite care was her best option.

"Adoption was never on my mind," Sherry said. "I was thinking that I loved kids and I could have them on a weekend here and there to help out, and that's it. But God had another plan."

Sherry became licensed in July 2015 and one month later, Sayde – a 9-month-old who had been removed from her biological mother's care by DFPS – was placed in her home. Sayde remained in Sherry's care for a year while her biological mother tried to work through her issues. When she went back to her biological mother, Sherry was able to stay in

contact and help out with babysitting. She thought everything was going well, but several months later Sayde and her 9-month-old brother Dranger were placed back with Sherry.

A rollercoaster began as Sherry waited and wondered what would happen to the siblings. She was supported by Tyler case manager Christy Lopez who helped her adjust to having two small children in her home.

"MCH was there to answer questions and keep me informed," Sherry said. "If they didn't know the answer, they would find out. They are so awesome and sweet."

When Sherry learned the biological parents' rights were terminated and family members of the children were not approved to care for them, she worried the siblings would be split up.

"I never intended to adopt but when I got them both, I knew I didn't want them separated," Sherry said. "I was the most stable person they had."





Sayde (left), Sherry and Dranger (right) spend time playing together.

Sherry's adoption of Sayde and Dranger became official on July 18, 2019, and was the first foster-to-adopt case completed by MCH Family Outreach in Tyler.

MCH added adoption services to its license in October 2018 and is currently offered in its five foster care locations: Abilene, Dallas, Houston, San Antonio, and Tyler. As of February 2020, MCH had completed 19 adoptions.

"Many families who are interested in foster care are also interested in adoption," said Kelly Smith, program administrator of the Western region of MCH Family Outreach. "This allows us to prepare a family for both scenarios from the start, so when a child is placed with them and becomes available for adoption, and the family wants to do it, we can move things along quickly."

Before obtaining the adoption services license, MCH had to turn cases over to DFPS and families completed the process with DFPS staff. Now MCH case managers can support through foster care placement, transition to adoptive placement and the adoption, Smith said.

"We can maintain established relationships, help the family navigate the process and celebrate the new family composition with them," Smith said.

Once an adoption is complete, MCH staff also follow up with the family to make sure they are transitioning well into their new phase.

Although adoption was not her objective at the start of her journey, Sherry is grateful for Lopez and MCH for their role in bringing the children into her home.

"God has a purpose and a plan for everything," she said. "He can take something bad and make it good. And here I am with these precious babies. They had to go through a hard start in life, but God was going to make it good for them. I get excited thinking about what they are going to be when they grow up. I know God has a plan for them."

For Ben and Tracy, their journey with MCH changed their lives. With their older children now out of the house or in college, Cash and Alexa, 10 and 5, have brought new joy and energy into their home.

Although MCH was not licensed for adoption services before Alexa's adoption process began, Ben and Tracy said they are grateful for the compassion and support they were shown throughout their journey.

"If it wasn't for MCH, we probably wouldn't have them in our home," Ben said.

"We've been blessed," Tracy said. "These two kids we adopted have been great kids, and they really are a blessing to our family. I can't imagine life without them now. You never know what God has planned for you. Sometimes it is a nice surprise." •

God has a purpose and a plan for everything. He can take something bad and make it good. And here I am with these precious babies. They had to go through a hard start in life, but God was going to make it good for them. I get excited thinking about what they are going to be when they grow up. I know God has a plan for them.

Sherry



aelyne knows what it takes to succeed. His personality and ambition are driving him to build a better life for himself. He has come a long way since arriving at Methodist Children's Home in 2013 at age 13.

Jaelyne was raised by his great-grandmother, but when she passed away in 2007, his care was left to family members. He was bouncing between his aunt's and grandmother's homes but they were having trouble finding afterschool care for him, and his behavior had become an issue.

When Jaelyne arrived on the Waco campus, he didn't like it at first. However, he grew close with staff and started to appreciate the stability and benefits he received through the program. After a year at MCH, his grandmother invited him to come back home to live with her. However Jaelyne knew it would be hard on her and that he had a great opportunity at MCH.

"Why go home when I knew MCH would set me up for success?" he said.

In May 2018, Jaelyne graduated as valedictorian of his class at the MCH charter school and earned scholarships for college from MCH. During his senior year of high school, Jaelyne prepared well for life after high school. He saved money for a car and proved his responsibility, making him eligible to advance to the second level of the Independent Living program at MCH and move directly into off-campus apartments rather than starting out in the on-campus housing. The Independent Living program provides support for recent MCH graduates as they attend college or work.

"I feel like MCH changed some things for me because whenever I was younger I was a little bad," he said. "MCH gave me a foundation. I didn't have either one of my parents in my life, so I got really close with some of the staff and they were like family. So it felt great to get a foundation; a home."

He now works full time at a job in downtown Waco while also attending classes full time at McLennan Community College. He receives support from MCH Transition Services (TS) staff including Crystal Anthony, who helps him navigate college and his responsibilities.

"Jaelyne has done really well with time management and reaching his goals," Anthony said. "Once he has his mind set on something, that's where he is going. He will have a plan."

Jaelyne appreciates the encouragement he receives from Anthony.

"Ms. Crystal has always been in my corner," he said. "She makes sure I stay on top of my grades and up-to-date on forms, and she is constantly pushing me toward new goals."

Jaelyne is studying social work and has a desire to serve others. He said he could see himself returning to MCH or a similar organization to help young people facing challenges like he did. He plans to pursue a bachelor's degree from Tarleton State University after completing his associate's degree in fall 2020. He maintains a good attitude and is focused on his future.

"Failure is not an option," Jaelyne said. "What drives me so much to do what I do is I feel like the world has a lot of negativity, and if I can be positive, maybe I could change someone's perspective. Why be darkness in someone's life when I can be the light?"•

LEADING THE CHARGE

"I seek out individuals who lead by example, set up opportunities for authentic examinations of who we are as a ministry — versus just who we say we are — and dedicate their energies to finding solutions, not simply identifying the problem. Our leadership team exhibits these attributes, and so much more, in order to make MCH the best it can be."

- Trey Oakley, MCH President/CEO

ethodist Children's Home will launch a new strategic plan in 2020 to chart the course of the ministry for the next five years. The plan is named "Building on a Strong Foundation," as it will expand on a profound legacy of impact spanning 130 years.

As part of the planning process, MCH leadership and staff are charged with examining existing programs and services as well as exploring areas for potential growth. It is a collaborative effort overseen by a talented group of vice presidents and advisors, which includes three new faces, who make up the MCH leadership team. This team works

alongside MCH President/CEO Trey Oakley and plays a vital role in fulfilling the mission of MCH to save and change lives.

"We have a saying at MCH – there is no chain of command on ideas," Oakley said. "Our leadership team takes seriously their role in fostering open communication among those who want the best for our ministry and then empowering, equipping and encouraging others to find the most effective ways to serve children, youth and families. I am blessed and honored to lead such a talented and gifted group of people." •

MEET THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

JUDY BROADWAY - Vice President for Human Resources

Tenure and background: Hired in 1992 as MCH personnel director. Served as personnel administrator before being promoted to vice president in 2000. Previous experience includes 18 years in personnel management.

Areas of focus: Broadway is responsible for the operations and supervision of the Human Resources department including monitoring employment law, grievance and counseling processes, employee relations programs, events and communication, management training, compliance, staff recruitment, and employment manuals. Broadway oversees the administration of employee performance evaluations, benefits and compensation. She also serves as chairperson of the Risk Management committee.

In her words: "The commitment that is constantly demonstrated and reaffirmed from our leadership is overwhelmingly heartfelt. I felt early on that the vision and mission of our leaders is evident in everything we do and every decision made on behalf of those we serve. The dedication from all the leaders I have had the privilege to work alongside continues to be the driving force in providing opportunity and success for our youth and families. This is a mission of hope, trust, love, and ministry that truly affects all who benefit from such expertise and all who are employed here."





Tenure and background: Joined MCH as a fundraiser in 2010 and promoted to director for benefactor relations in 2012, serving four years. Returned to MCH in 2019 as vice president. Previous experience includes working in both for-profit and nonprofit sectors.

Areas of focus: Mason is responsible for running an effective and efficient Development department. He leads a fundraising team and program purposed to bridge the charitable desires and resources of benefactors with the financial needs and mission of MCH. He also leads special projects like the Building Hope capital campaign and oversees and supervises the residential volunteer program and Spiritual Development department.

In his words: "It's very evident that every member of the leadership team feels our specific roles and opportunities for influence are Godgiven. I've noticed how deeply each person cares about each other, our employees, and the children and families we serve. It means a lot to me that as we conduct important meetings and make significant decisions, we are constantly coming together in prayer, asking the Lord to grant us the wisdom necessary to ensure all are flourishing. This shared commitment to God, one another, and the entire MCH community is truly inspiring and special. It's for these reasons I'm so proud to be part of our leadership team."



JULIE MITCHELL - Vice President for Finance/CFO

Tenure and background: Became vice president in 2011 after 14 years of experience as a certified public accountant and firm partner working on small business services, audits, employee benefits, and serving as controller.

Areas of focus: Her primary responsibilities include oversight of accounting, technology and plant services. She collaborates with executive management and administrators to prepare and adhere to an annual budget in order to advance strategic initiatives and maintain current programs. Mitchell also works with the Investment committee and third-party consultants to manage the endowment assets of MCH, provides support for the Accounting department, and works with the Technology department to provide a secure data infrastructure. Mitchell collaborates with others to accomplish capital projects and manages the employee retirement plan and other employee benefits.

In her words: "I am most proud to be a part of this leadership team because they enable me to use my accounting and business skills in a group setting so that the overall accomplishment is to help others."



BRYAN MIZE - Vice President for Strategic Initiatives

Tenure and background: Served as public relations director at MCH for 12 years prior to being named vice president in 2014. Worked 14 years in higher education as a public relations director before coming to MCH.

Areas of focus: His primary responsibilities include strategic planning, continuous quality improvement, public relations, training, national accreditation, and employee communication. Mize collaborates with the executive management team and strategic initiatives officers to facilitate the strategic planning process that supports the vision and mission of MCH. He provides oversight of the Training department, which maintains responsibility for helping the agency meet the licensing and professional development needs of employees. Mize also works with the public relations team to ensure internal and external communication and branding support the strategic plan and agency standards.

In his words: "I consider it a privilege and blessing to be part of this ministry's leadership team as we work together to provide direction, resources and other support for employees and the children and families we serve across Texas and New Mexico."



DENISE ONDREY - Executive Assistant to the President

Tenure and background: Has served MCH for more than 37 years, beginning in the secretarial pool. Worked as division secretary, home parent, administrative assistant to vice presidents, and student events coordinator before joining the president's office.

Areas of focus: Ondrey is responsible for day-to-day operations of the president's office. She is the secretary for the MCH Board of Directors where she plans and organizes meetings and

Board-related events. She also plans all-staff meetings, facilitates employee recognitions, manages student release files, and answers inquiries.

In her words: "I love MCH for the possibilities of goodness offered to the children and families we serve. I have always felt that no matter what my workday holds, I have the great opportunity to benefit children and families and to be a small part of what makes MCH a great place."



TRACI WAGNER - Vice President for Programs

Tenure and background: Has served MCH for more than 12 years, first as director and case manager in the Crockett satellite office before becoming director of MCH Family Outreach in Tyler. Worked as program administrator for the East region of MCH Family Outreach before becoming vice president in 2020. She was promoted to vice president for programs in April after serving in an interim role. Worked in the juvenile justice system as an associate psychologist and later as a program administrator in the State's mental health program prior to MCH.

Areas of focus: Wagner provides leadership and support for the overall continuum of programs and services throughout Texas and New Mexico. Under her leadership, MCH will explore opportunities for new services and collaborations that help fulfill the organization's mission and strategic initiatives. Wagner implements quality improvements to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of programs and services, helps develop and monitor an annual program budget, and ensures effective communication and compliance with contract, licensure and accreditation bodies. Wagner also plans and coordinates projects and special initiatives with leadership to ensure continuity and consistency.

In her words: "We have great blessings of a strong history and foundation, a supportive Board and leadership team, support services, and a skilled workforce who work daily to positively impact our communities. Our ministries rely on research-proven tools but also afford the flexibility to meet the individual needs of children and families. It is a great joy to work alongside the best and brightest team doing what I love."



AHMAD WASHINGTON - Lead Advisor to the President

Tenure and background: Has served MCH for more than 20 years as a youth care counselor, home life manager, admissions social worker, and spiritual development minister. Serves in the community through his MovementUp ministry for children and young adults in schools, group homes, juvenile detention centers, colleges and universities, and other programs and organizations.

Areas of focus: Washington is responsible for offering informed, godly counsel to the MCH president regarding the ministry and its various components. He also researches and discovers partnerships with likeminded community organizations and ministries.

In his words: "I am most proud to be a part of our leadership team because I know we have a shared passion to positively impact the lives of children, youth and families. I love the fact that this leadership team is willing to honestly assess the health of this ministry and celebrate what is going well while also dealing faithfully and courageously with those things that are not healthy."



ianna became a resident at Methodist Children's Home at the age of 14. Today she is a senior at the MCH charter school, looking toward her future and feeling grateful she had a place to grow.

Tianna described MCH staff as being more like mentors. She said she has thrived in the structure MCH provides and feels connected to her staff.

"I have learned this is not just a job to those who work with all the girls in my home," she said. "They truly spend time with you and try to make a connection. Staff never gave up on me and I feel I have made some changes."

Bailey Petzold, home life manager at MCH, described Tianna as a natural leader who speaks up for injustices.

"She has so much beauty about her," Petzold said.
"She has an infectious laugh and a desire to work hard.
She makes the world and our home a better place."

Tianna holds a part-time job, participates in community service projects on weekends, and was crowned homecoming queen in 2019, all while taking dual credit classes at McLennan Community College the past two years. She recently was accepted to Tarleton State University.

Tianna said a special memory for her is taking part in MCH summer mission trips.

"It is very moving, both spiritually and emotionally, to be able to get out and help others," she said. "The Spiritual Development staff have been great with answering questions for me and being part of my growth."

The most important connection at MCH for Tianna has been the ability to stay close to her brothers. Her older brother comes and visits and is able to take her off campus for some family time. She sees her other brother, who is also a resident, at school and is able to sit with him on Sundays during worship services.

"MCH has done a good job of helping us stay connected as a family and I have appreciated that," Tianna said. "I believe things would have been completely different if we had not come to MCH. I am glad we did."

As she approaches graduation, Tianna said she encourages younger MCH residents to "be the best version of yourself you can be. It is important to connect with staff and take advantage of those relationships and the opportunities MCH has to offer." •

Celebrating the Service MOE DOZIER

n Jan. 24, 2020, Methodist Children's Home celebrated the service of Moe Dozier, vice president for programs. Dozier retired after 14 years with MCH.

The celebration was held at Johnson Student Center and attended by many current and former staff, representatives from partnering agencies, current MCH residents, and members of the Dozier family. Dozier received several gifts including photographs and special artwork, an MCH Bulldogs football jersey, and a fire pit made by students from the agricultural science class at the MCH charter school.

Former MCH president Bobby Gilliam hired Dozier on Jan. 16, 2006 as vice president for residential services. He was promoted to vice president for programs in 2014. Under his leadership, MCH implemented a trauma-informed approach in all services and programs and utilized evidence-based programming and outcomes to improve effectiveness.

MCH also developed an independent living program, services for grandparents and other kinship caregivers, and adoption services for foster families. Dozier led efforts to grow MCH Family Outreach by opening offices in strategic locations and expanded the continuum of care through home services and parent education classes. Dozier also provided leadership in educational and extracurricular opportunities. He worked to establish an athletic and fine arts program for students, and the MCH charter school has now celebrated 361 graduates since it began in 2003.

Dozier worked with state and federal policymakers to advocate for children. He also advocated through the Coalition of Residential Excellence (CORE), Texas Coalition of Homes for Children (TCHC), and Texas Alliance of Child and Family Services (TACFS).

He has 44 years of experience working with children, youth and families and has held a variety of leadership positions with public and private sector caregiving agencies in Texas. Dozier earned his Bachelor of Science from West Texas State University in Canyon, Texas, and his Master of Science in Social Work from the University of Texas at Austin. He is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Licensed Child-Care Administrator and Licensed Child-Placing Agency Administrator. •





Joseph, give Dozier a football signed by all players and a custom jersey as a

thank you for his support of the athletic program.





MCH FAMILY OUTREACH STORIES OF IMPACT

EL PASO

Sofia, a mother of two daughters, ages 2 and 7, with another on the way, was referred to MCH Family Outreach in El Paso by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. She was dealing with anger and facing struggles that were impacting her family. Her partner, who had just returned from military service, was adjusting to the family. Sofia was in a custody dispute with her ex-husband over her oldest daughter, and the conflict was affecting her daughter's behavior. During their work together, the case manager discovered Sofia's anger may have begun after losing a son. The couple did not receive adequate help in dealing with the trauma, resulting in the end of their relationship. Sofia, now with a new partner, came to MCH for help in coping with her anger and to learn strategies to help keep her family intact. Their case manager began to teach, guide and support the family through parent education. Through the process, Sofia made significant progress, changed her approach and accepted professional help. The custody case was resolved where both parents remained in their child's life. Communication improved between Sofia and her current partner, and the children appeared happier and more attached to their caregivers. Sofia said she felt better prepared when her baby was born because she learned to let go of control and accept that she is good enough in her parenting and that it is healthy to feel and express her needs. Now she is able to enjoy the present to nurture a better future.

HOUSTON

Ms. A* is a single grandmother raising her one-year-old grandson. She enrolled in the Gap program in October 2019. She began caring for her grandson due to her daughter's poor choices, and they both agreed it would be best for him to stay with her. Ms. A was employed when she initially began caring for her grandson, but a few months afterward she was terminated, causing her financial strain. She requested assistance with obtaining diapers and affordable childcare so that she could begin looking for a new job. MCH Family Outreach in Houston provided Ms. A with resources as well as Christmas gifts and hygiene items during the holiday season. She recently found a part-time job and was helped with work attire and clothing for her growing grandson. Ms. A said she was grateful for MCH supporting her during such a difficult time. She is looking forward to finding a new job, and possibly obtaining guardianship of her grandson. She said she feels empowered and motivated to make changes. Her case manager said, "It has been my pleasure to work with her. She is always positive and open to ideas." • * Name changed for privacy.

LUBBOCK

MCH Family Outreach in Lubbock partners weekly with Open Door Survivor Housing (ODSH), a transitional housing program providing a home and therapeutic supportive services for adult survivors of sex trafficking and their children. The Lubbock staff provide weekly parent education groups and host spa days quarterly for the survivors. Parent Café, a new MCH support group model, was launched at this location in February 2020. Staff also worked with survivors through the Family Solutions program. During the spa days, survivors are given supplies to do manicures, pedicures and facials. One of the MCH staff members is a licensed cosmetologist and volunteers to cut and style the hair of any participant who is in need. In the parent education groups, participants learn Nurturing Parenting, Connected Caregivers and Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI). Staff said the participants have been engaged in the learning process and able to connect the information with their own experiences. Creating self-worth is a common theme within the groups. Staff at the Lubbock office say they feel blessed to partner with a program that shares in offering hope and healing to an underserved population. •

WACO

A Spanish-speaking mother of four was referred to MCH Family Outreach in Waco by a local organization called La Puerta. She initially reached out due to her struggles with her son's behavior and school issues, but wanted to work on connection and discipline for the whole family. Waco staff supported the family by leading nurture groups to build the family's bond. Her case manager also helped the mother cope with previous trauma which was affecting her ability to manage her emotions and expectations, especially when trying to discipline her children. She and her son both started separate counseling and are improving. Her oldest daughter, who was struggling with depression and anxiety about her future, was able to visit a local community college and now feels hopeful. The mother is engaging with community groups to elevate her self-worth and also recently enrolled in ESL classes. •

EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS

JAN. 17, 2020



Back row, from left: Jessica Berry, LaKreisha Whitfield, Christa Martinez-Broemer, Robert McKee III, Tim Price, Randall Cook, Jennifer Warner, Ted Randall **Third row:** Irene Norcross, Sandra Halbeisen, Jesse Diaz, Michelle Petty, Austin Guerra, Trey Oakley (president); **Second row:** Christi Evans, Miranda Pena, Jeanna Odom, Wendy Holderfield, Jim Holderfield; **Front row:** Debra Knox, Laura Rodriguez, Charlene Colson, Jenifer Sorrentino, Lee Sorrentino

Not pictured: Billie Allen, Jeanita Beck, Kellie Bennett, Christina Burns, Dewayne Cady, Paula Cady, Geri Goolsby, Matthew McCallister, Julius McCarter, Lalita Miller, Art Molina, Maria Montoya-Hopkins, Margo Owens, Alison Poteet, Reggie Ragan, Laura Rosales-Frias, Kristal Valdez, Audrey Wells



Back row, from left: Trey Oakley (president), Stephanie Cummings, Russell Rankin, Michael Lewis, Max Larseingue **Third row:** Brad Lewis, Nick Molnar, Lou Larseingue

Second row: Sarah Musick, Morgan Lyons, Melissa Arroyo, Jonathan Olivarez **Front row:** Cathy Lawless, Sara Beth Stoltzfus

Not pictured: LaKiesha Chatman, Paul Fields, Dulce Garcia, Stephen Massington, Monica Rose, Marchelle Sabado-Villa, Joe Williams



Back row, from left: Trey Oakley (president), Enos Peniston **Front row:** Aretha Scott, Sheri Sinchak

Not pictured: Lindsey Fortner, Ramonia Ross



From left (both are recipients): Jeff Creel, Trey Oakley

15 YEARS OF SERVICE

Back row, from left: Trey Oakley (president), Ahmad Washington, Lee Davis **Front row:** Erica Reyes-Rosas, Jackie Coleman

Not pictured: Shannon Montgomery, Darlene Washington



Trey Oakley (president), Clarence DeGrate

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

LEGACY GARDEN HONORS HISTORICAL BENEFACTORS

Methodist Children's Home recently completed the Legacy Garden, designed to honor benefactors and their families whose gifts helped build the historical homes and buildings on the Waco campus.

The garden is adjacent to the Mulkey Memorial Garden next to the Administration building at the front of campus and displays plaques mounted on pillars that provide information about each home and its benefactor. Each plaque was previously displayed at the entrance of its corresponding home.

"This garden is a way we can celebrate the legacy these donors had in constructing these homes," said Trey Oakley, MCH president/CEO. "As we continue progress with the Building Hope capital campaign to build new homes on campus, we wanted to have a place to honor those who gave these homes and where our alumni, supporters, friends, and family members of those who gave could pay tribute to the thousands of lives that have been changed through these homes."

The Building Hope capital campaign is a strategic initiative launched in 2015 that challenged MCH to develop a new home design that considers the needs of its current population, cost and maintenance efficiencies, and expertise gained through cutting-edge methods of care such as Trust-Based Relational

Intervention. MCH is currently in Phase 4 of the campaign which includes construction of four additional homes. •



The Legacy Garden is located next to the Mulkey Memorial Garden.

■ TOP 20 CHURCHES FOR DIRECT GIFTS AND TOTAL GIVING IN 2019

DIRECT GIFTS

Offerings and donations received directly from churches.

1. First UMC – Grapevine	11. Matador UMC
2. First UMC — Big Spring	12. The Woodlands UMC
3. First UMC – Center	13. First UMC – Coppell
4. First UMC – Rockwall	14. White's Chapel UMC — Southlake
5. First UMC – Boerne	15. Kress UMC
6. First UMC – Mansfield	16. Salado UMC
7. Coker UMC — San Antonio	17. First UMC – Celina
8. Marvin UMC – Tyler	18. First UMC – Georgetown
9. Mt. Zion UMC — Panola	19. First UMC – Graham
10. University Park UMC – Dallas	20. Wheelock UMC

TOTAL GIVING

Direct gifts from churches plus church credit requests from individual donations.

11. The Woodlands UMC

16. Kingwood IIMC

3 1 3	
2. Sierra Vista UMC — San Angelo	12. Marvin UMC – Tyler
3. First UMC – Rockwall	13. First UMC — Nacogdoches

1. First UMC — Bia Sprina

6. Highland Park UMC — Dallas

• First UMC – Grapevine 14. First UMC – Mansfield

•					
7	Travic Park IIMC	Can Antonio	17	Eirct IIMC	Et Worth

7. ITAVIS PAIK UNIC — SAIT ATTOTIO	17. FIIST OIVIC — FL. WOITH
8. First UMC – Boerne	18. First UMC – Lockney

9. First UMC – Center	19. First UMC – Lubbock

10. Coker UMC – San Antonio 20. White's	Chapel UMC — Southlake
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

A TRIBUTE TO THE Chapel Hill Homes

What could be more refreshing and useful than the environment of a growing child. This is the aim to secure better living conditions for the children of the Methodist Home. This 'Chapel Hill' is not an orphanage dormitory, it is a real home for children.

- The Sunshine Monthly (September 1943)

orothy DeShong, Mamie Mitchell, Prothro, Price, and Zimmerman homes provided a safe place and cherished memories for all who lived within their walls. Methodist Children's Home is grateful for the families who provided these homes. They will forever be a part of this ministry's legacy. As part of the Building Hope capital campaign, these five homes will be replaced with four new homes that will better meet current licensing standards and the needs of children and youth today and in the future. •

DOROTHY LEE DESHONG HOME (1952)

"Dedicated to God's gift of loveliness — little girls. Given with the prayer that those who abide here may find love and understanding and that they may in turn share it with others."

Donors: Mr. and Mrs. J.C. DeShong of Paris, Texas

The home was given in memory of their only child, Dorothy Lee DeShong, who died at the age of 12. It was one of seven homes dedicated on Oct. 2, 1952. The DeShongs put a lot of themselves into the creation of the home for girls, selecting pink as a prevalent color scheme and providing several pieces of furniture from their own home. They also donated the Cora Lee DeShong Home.





PRICE HOME (1961)

"Bring up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it." - Proverbs 22:6

Donors: Mr. and Mrs. L.M. Price of Stratford, Texas

The Price family gave the home to MCH in 1961. It started out as a home for brothers and sisters before transitioning to a home for teenage girls, and later for young boys. During its history, the Price Home had some famous visitors including Ken Curtis, who played Festus in the television show Gunsmoke and his wife Torrie.

ELIZABETH PROTHRO HOME (1941)

"To us there is none lovelier or sweeter."

Donors: Mr. and Mrs. Joe Perkins of Wichita Falls, Texas

The Prothro Home was a gift in honor of the couple's only daughter, Elizabeth Perkins Prothro, and dedicated on Nov. 28, 1941. The Perkins family were loyal supporters of MCH, also providing the Lois Perkins Home, administrator's residence and a portion of funding for the current Administration building. They also hosted annual Christmas parties for the children for many years. The Board of Directors recognized Mr. Joe Perkins during a meeting in 1940 by stating, "...brick and mortar, grass and trees are not enough to make a home. You have not only given these, you have also brought a spirit of friendship and love to the children."





MAMIE MITCHELL HOME (1941)

"And He took them up in His arms, put His hands upon them and blessed them." – Mark 10:16

Donors: Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Mitchell of Marfa, Texas

The Mamie Mitchell Home was dedicated on Nov. 28, 1941, in memory of their daughter, Jennie Ruth Mitchell. The Mitchells were longtime supporters of Methodist Children's Home, also providing funds to build and furnish the Tom Mitchell Home. The April 1960 issue of Sunshine magazine described the support of the Mitchell family, stating, "Tom and Mamie Mitchell not only built and furnished the Mitchell Homes, they have endowed the entire program of the Methodist Home for generations to come by their outreaching love for children. Their indomitable spirit moves mightily among us, unceasing and unswerving."



George Hammond Zimmerman Home (1967)

"Given in memory of Mr. George Hammond Zimmerman, 'who knew no greater joy than being of service to his fellow man."

Donor: Mrs. G.H. (Walter) Zimmerman of Waco, Texas

The home was dedicated on Nov. 7, 1967, in memory of Mrs. Zimmerman's late husband who was a Waco businessman, and church and civic leader. It was designed to serve as a family unit where brothers and sisters could live together. It was later used as an emergency shelter, housing the Branch Davidian children in 1993. During the home's dedication, Bishop W. Kenneth Pope of Dallas described the Zimmermans by saying, "He was a great citizen of

influence throughout the community. Charity alone is not much in itself. But real charity responds to humanity and will last forever. This is the kind of charity that Mr. Zimmerman and his wife have shown."

MEMORIAL GIFTS AND GIFTS OF HONOR

GIFTS MADE FROM JANUARY 2020 THROUGH MARCH 2020

SENIORS PRESENTED WITH CLASS RINGS

Methodist Children's Home celebrated its seniors during a class ring ceremony at the charter school in January. Each student was presented with their ring by their home life manager or other MCH staff member. The charter school is located on the Waco campus and operated in partnership with the University of Texas-University Charter School system.

Seniors visit a local jeweler in the fall to choose from a selection of class rings. They are able to pick out

their own stone colors and special markings that will make their ring unique to them. When the rings are complete, the school hosts a ceremony for seniors to show off their rings to their peers, teachers and other staff members.

"Senior rings are an important tradition at MCH," said Jeff Creel, program administrator for school and transition services. "It is a symbol of progress toward their goal of graduation. After graduation the senior rings serve as a symbol they



Seniors show off their unique class rings.

can wear as a daily reminder of their success to motivate and encourage them and remind them that they can achieve greatness."

MCH FAMILY OUTREACH FINDS SUCCESS WITH NEW PARENT SUPPORT GROUP MODEL

In 2019, MCH Family Outreach offices launched a new program to support caregivers called Parent Café. Staff first heard about the support group model during a conference in 2018 and felt it would be a good fit for MCH. While the social distancing mandates during the COVID-19 crisis have led to the suspension of group sessions, Outreach staff were encouraged by the early success of Parent Café and look forward to resuming the program once restrictions are lifted.

"When we learned about Parent Café, MCH staff were all very interested in learning more about an evidence-based approach that would provide an additional way of engaging parents and caregivers while increasing their support systems," said Brooke Davilla, program administrator for the Eastern region of MCH Family Outreach.

Parent Café curriculum focuses on enhancing protective factors in the home that help strengthen caregiver and child relationships. The ultimate goal of a Parent Café is for participants to be able to run their own group and create meaningful relationships in hopes to increase their support system in their communities.

In early 2019, several MCH staff became trained facilitators of the Parent Café model and four Outreach locations – Dallas, Lubbock, San Antonio, and Waco - were tasked with piloting the program in their communities.

Parent Café provides structured discussions where caregivers are encouraged to talk about their challenges and victories with their peers and come away with knowledge and strategies to implement into their home. Participants reported they felt heard, comfortable, respected and accepted during groups. •



MCH Family Outreach in San Antonio hosts a Parent Café aroup at a local school.

HONORARIUMS

Meda Beaird

Francis Raley

Ruth Bryson

N. Kay Rever

Dashton Dass' Birthday

Flaine Hibbitts

Moe and Janet Dozier

Amy and Shelby Barley

Hunter Gordon

Jimmy Lodato Blanche Hooks Turner Hext's

95th Birthday

Cheryl Chancellor

Nicole, Corey, Lincoln and **Shelby Hunter**

Alice Sappington

Irma Jarratt's 80th Birthday

Reverend J. Bryon Jarrat

The Kellum Family

Carol and Randy Kellum

Lynda Kendziorski

Bobby Childress

Kelly E. Lawson Kelly and Shannon McCuaig

The Lee Family

Carol and Randy Kellum

Les Leskoven

Marilyn Priest

Methodist Children's Home Albuquerque Outreach Office

United Methodist Women Christ UMC, Albuquerque, NM

Wendy Miranda and Family

Kenneth K. Tyer, Sr.

Blake Moore

Christy Kinnaird

Dan Moore

Mrs. Jane Grant McDougal

T.J. and Teresa Parks

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Sandy Robinson

Jenna Rogers

Barbara Kusserow

Susan Rosamond and Family Kenneth K. Tyer, Sr.

Betty Rosenbaum's 85th Birthday

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Robert Rowe

Allie Davenport

Don Scott

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Hewitt

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Scott A. Simpson

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Allie Davenport

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Pat Tausch

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Julie Mitchell, and Bryan Mize

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In memory of Peggy Snider Gikas

Dr. William Lathan

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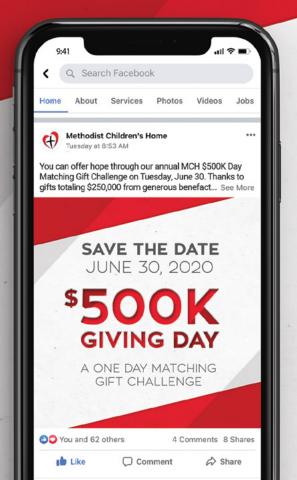
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