

# SUNSHINE

THE MAGAZINE OF METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME | FALL 2020

## Bond of Brothers



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# PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



Trey Oakley

There is a passage in the book of Malachi in the Old Testament about how the extreme heat of a refiner's fire purifies precious metals. As the metal is heated, the impurities pool to the surface and are filtered off, leaving only the pure and stronger element.

With the economic and emotional intensity brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic this year, many individuals, families and organizations might say they have been in the fire. While 2020 has offered a unique set of challenges, at Methodist Children's Home (MCH) we approached COVID-19 as another opportunity to make innovative changes and develop strategies to continue our long legacy of providing care to those in need.

As we fulfill our mission to equip children, youth and families to flourish by offering hope through Christ-centered relationships, services and support, our goal is to be marked by compassion, creativity and innovation. Much like the refiner's fire, our goal, especially in tumultuous times such as these, is to evaluate our programs and services and refine them in the best possible way to enable MCH to continue offering hope to those in need.

In this issue of Sunshine magazine, you will read examples of ways creativity and innovation are displayed at MCH as we strive to bring hope and healing to children, youth and families in Texas and New Mexico. Through safety measures, technological advances and collaboration between program areas to better serve children and families, we are looking at the challenges before us as opportunities rather than roadblocks.

MCH has flourished through the years because of the selfless love of families, churches and individuals like you coming alongside this ministry through prayer and generosity. Thank you for your support, which is making a difference in this transformational ministry.

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**MCH.org**



# Bond of Brothers

**MCH Family Outreach and residential programs collaborate to bring stability to young men's lives.**

**Laderius** was preparing for his freshman year in high school in 2017 when Hurricane Harvey made landfall and devastated his hometown of Houston and his sense of normalcy.

Instead of school, fall football and basketball tryouts, Laderius, his older brother and mother found themselves homeless and living in a church's makeshift emergency shelter, carrying everything they owned. After a couple of weeks they moved to NRG Center, a conference hall and football stadium, sharing space with 10,000 other evacuees. It was during this time Laderius and his family encountered staff from MCH Family Outreach in Houston.

"Following Hurricane Harvey, MCH visited families at shelters and housing facilities and provided resources for food, clothes, fuel cards, school supplies, and other things," said Nicole Washington, director of MCH Family Outreach in Houston. "We also helped families navigate through programs to obtain additional assistance and therapy services to help address their trauma."

Laderius's family received assistance and also learned about the MCH residential program in Waco from the Houston staff. The decision for Laderius to move to the MCH Boys Ranch made sense for them considering the uncertainty of when and where the family would find a place to call home.

In the 13 MCH Family Outreach communities across Texas and New Mexico, case managers work with families in a variety of ways, including parent education and other family solutions combining individual and

family services, case management and advocacy. Programs are designed to help families and children grow to be healthy and successful at home, at school and in the community.

"Each family has a unique set of circumstances that brings them to MCH," said Traci Wagner, vice president for programs. "Our goal is to keep families together and children at home. However, sometimes the best option is out-of-home care through our residential or foster care programs. Even then, we want to serve the family unit."

"I had never been away from my family, but the biggest thing I needed was stability so I could go to school," Laderius said. "After the hurricane we were moving around a lot. Coming here was a good choice."

Laderius's mother wanted him to stay in public school, so he enrolled in Axtell High School near the Boys Ranch. After growing up in Houston, attending a smaller school in a tight-knit community and living at MCH was the stability Laderius needed.

"It was an adjustment starting a new school and meeting new people, but it has changed my life," he said. "Seeing life from a different perspective being here and having people like my caseworker supporting me have helped me grow a lot."

"Laderius has overcome many challenges that have inspired him to mature into the young man he is today," said Lasonia King, Laderius's case manager. "Laderius has maintained good grades in his classes while also working at a local restaurant and participating in sports in school."



Laderius



"It's been a joy to see him transform into such an intelligent and respectful young man," she said. "We are very proud of Ladarius's accomplishments and can't wait to see what the future brings him."

Now a senior, Laderius is doing well in his classes and is a standout athlete. A star cornerback and receiver in football, he made the difficult decision to pass on playing his senior year due to concerns related to COVID-19, but he looks forward to his final basketball campaign and hopes to receive an offer to play basketball in college.

"If I had not come to the Boys Ranch, college probably wouldn't have been in the equation otherwise," he said. "I've grown and made friends here. You can't isolate yourself when you're living and sharing space with a bunch of other guys."

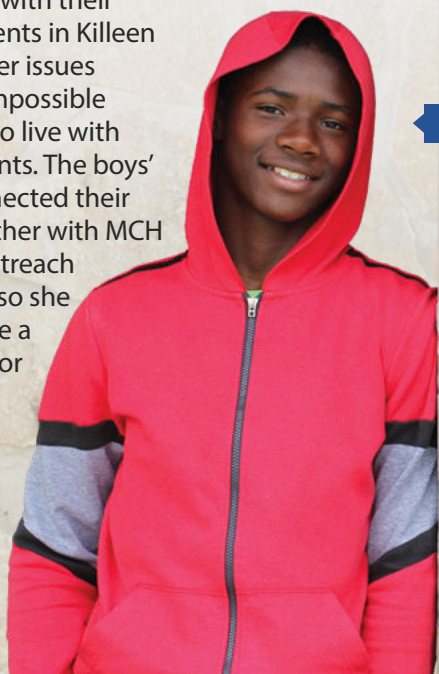
"I know how it feels to be the new, younger guy, and now they look to me for advice about life and athletics," he added. "I try to help them build character and confidence."

Joining Laderius at the Boys Ranch are six other young men – three sets of brothers: Bryce and Londen, Daniel and Yassir, and Sterling and Ryland – all whose connections to MCH also uniquely originated through Family Outreach programs.

"It has been a joy to get to work with these guys and their families," said Laura Bonner, program administrator of the Boys Ranch. "I have had the privilege to see these families flourish through the collaborative work between the residential and outreach programs. I love the innovative mindset and the hope we provide through our ministry."

## Bryce and Londen

moved in with their grandparents in Killeen when other issues made it impossible for them to live with their parents. The boys' aunt connected their grandmother with MCH Family Outreach in Killeen so she could have a resource for advocacy and caregiver support.



Londen

"She is a great caregiver and loves her grandsons, but she was reaching the point of feeling desperate because – in her words – she was getting older and just didn't have the capacity to parent anymore," said Frankie Cones, director of MCH Family Outreach in Killeen. "She just didn't know what to do."

While participating in a nurture group facilitated by the Killeen Outreach office, Bryce and Londen's grandmother learned about the MCH residential program in Waco.

"She really became interested in the Waco campus and Boys Ranch," Cones said. "She is really involved, bright and asks great questions. We knew if we got the boys into a nurturing environment they would be able to flourish."

At first Bryce and Londen were skeptical about the move, but after watching the MCH annual video and seeing pictures of the campuses, they both saw it as a great opportunity.

"I wanted to go because it looked like a cool place with activities and choices of things to do," said Bryce. Londen agreed with his brother.

"We had a home with our grandparents – three meals a day and a roof over our heads," he said. "But they were getting older and Bryce and I were doing a lot of work to care for them. Coming to the Boys Ranch has been good for us."

Both brothers radiate joy when talking about the activities they are involved in at MCH, which runs the gamut from junior varsity football, reader's theater and learning to work with animals through the ag program at the Boys Ranch.

"We're city boys," said Londen, giggling. "It's been fun learning how to do country stuff."

"Both of them have unique personalities and they are so kind and intelligent," Cones said. "It has been good to check in on them and see they are both thriving."



Bryce

Londen said the investment of MCH staff has helped him overcome issues he has carried from his past.

"I had a lot of anger because that's how I saw my dad and stepmom act," he said. "I've learned how to regulate my anger since I've been here. I see my



homeparents, when they get frustrated, they'll take a breather or will just stop and pray. I've really learned from them."

"It's been good to be here," Bryce said. "I feel like I'm at home with a big family of brothers and people that care about us. They are consistent and always here for us."

"This is a great example of how MCH Family Outreach can serve in a bigger purpose – by bridging the gap between the programs we provide in outreach and the services available through residential, if that is a fit for families," Cones said. "This is what being a focused and flexible ministry is all about. To know we have these additional resources is so valuable for us and for the families we serve."

## Daniel and Yassir,

along with five other siblings, lived with their grandmother in El Paso. In 2018 she reached out to the MCH Family Outreach office in El Paso because caring for the group of grandchildren was taking a toll on her.

"She was having a tough time with seven children at all different ages," said Cynthia Hurtado, a case manager with MCH Family Outreach in El Paso. "She had started caring for them in 2015 and things became increasingly difficult when she lost her husband in 2018." Hurtado said Yassir and Daniel spent a brief time at another children's home in Texas, but the environment and experience was not good for the brothers.

As part of MCH training, Hurtado visited the Boys Ranch for the first time and came away impressed with the residential program offered in Central Texas.

"I came home and suggested the Boys Ranch to the grandmother and she agreed it sounded like a good solution for the boys," Hurtado said.

Yassir arrived at MCH first as a sixth grader.

"Moving so far away from my family was hard and I didn't know what to expect," Yassir said.

Hurtado traveled to Waco to visit Yassir the following year and said "he was a completely different young man. Before he was shy and difficult to draw out, but now was outgoing, talkative and offering to help with chores. His grades had improved a lot, too."

Daniel joined his brother the following year and Hurtado witnessed the same transformation.

"At first Daniel was very quiet and avoided eye contact," she said. "When he came home to El Paso at Christmas, he was bright, considerate and had even saved all his allowance to give to his grandmother for Christmas."

"I've grown a lot mentally, physically and emotionally since I've been here," Daniel said. "The people here care about us, spend time with us and listen to us when we're going through stuff."

"That right there is what it's all about," Hurtado said. "Everybody deserves to be happy. Sometimes all you need is a second chance to thrive."

"Having the option to recommend the residential program from the MCH Family Outreach side is helpful and wonderful," she continued. "There are grandparents and other caregivers who love their children and grandchildren very much, but they are struggling. It can be a struggle for the children as well. They've never been presented with other options and some are stuck in bad cycles. For this family, the Boys Ranch was a chance for something different."

Daniel, a sophomore at the MCH charter school, plays on the MCH Bulldogs six-man football and basketball teams and hopes to one day serve in the United States Air Force.

Yassir, a freshman at the charter school, plays on the basketball team and wants to ultimately become a lawyer.

"I want to be one of those people that helps others," he said.

Yassir

Daniel



"I'd love to see them graduate and be the first in their family to go to college," Hurtado said. "By going to the Boys Ranch, Yassir and Daniel are changing and writing a new story."

## Ryland and Sterling

have had a close relationship with their paternal grandparents since they were young. Their grandparents lovingly circled around the twin brothers and their parents over the years when they experienced challenges. Ryland and Sterling eventually began to live full time with their grandparents at the age of 4. However, when their grandfather was diagnosed with final-stage ALS, the boys went to live with their mother so their grandmother could focus on caring for her husband.

"This was a difficult season for the boys," said Marissa Smith, director of MCH Family Outreach in Waco. "They ended up missing a lot of school and experienced increased instability at home." After her husband passed away a year and a half later, the grandmother recognized the need for additional family support.

"It was a difficult time for all of them, because Karen, their grandmother, was still grieving her husband yet needing to get the boys back on track," Smith said. "They clashed a lot and it was exhausting for all of them." After being introduced to MCH Family Outreach by a family member, Karen became involved in case management to learn parenting skills and tactics such as setting boundaries, healthy compromise, shared power, and making wise choices.

"Through this, our conversations kept coming back to the idea of having Sterling and Ryland live at MCH," Smith said.

"Karen had retirement plans that she had put on the shelf. She yearned to have a relationship with the boys as their grandmother, not as rule-maker and disciplinarian.

Smith said it became

increasingly evident that the best option for the boys would be campus placement.

"They needed community," Smith said. "They needed male role models in their life."

Ryland, Sterling and their grandmother took a tour of MCH and connected with coaches and teachers. Smith said Ryland wanted to move in that same day.

"God brought us here and I can see why," Sterling said. "There are amazing people here that we can lean on, we've got father and mother figures in our homeparents, and being at the Boys Ranch has given us a whole group of new brothers."

The smaller classes at the MCH charter school were an adjustment for the boys coming from a large middle school, but the individualized attention has helped them both get back to where they need to be in academics. Having experience in organized football helped the ninth-grade brothers make an immediate impact on the MCH Bulldogs six-man football team when fall sports kicked off, with Sterling playing receiver and kick returner on the varsity squad and Ryland anchoring the line on junior varsity.

"Growing up, we didn't have a lot of other people helping us along the way," Ryland said. "I like it here because everyone is coming from different places and experiences and we all help each other. It's peaceful, and I've got a whole bunch of brothers."

Smith said the bottom line for MCH Family Outreach "is to see families healthy and thriving. Most will stay together through the process, but in this case, having the boys at MCH allowed Karen to become their biggest cheerleader in her right role as their grandmother. For this family, it is a win."

According to Traci Wagner, "one of the most responsible ways we can serve children is to invest in their family. This is why we continue to build

focused but flexible programs and services to offer a robust continuum of care, from support groups for caregivers to out-of-home care for children. MCH is committed to helping children, youth and families flourish."



Ryland

Sterling





# INNOVATION, CREATIVITY HELP MCH FLOURISH THROUGH PANDEMIC

*The COVID-19 pandemic dramatically impacted plans, processes and procedures at Methodist Children's Home in 2020. While not the path on which any organization would have chosen to learn and grow, MCH has a long history of adapting in crisis and finding ways to continue meeting the needs of others.*

**T**here have been numerous defining events in the 130-year history of MCH that stretched and strained this ministry. While 2020 has offered a unique set of challenges, MCH approached COVID-19 as another opportunity to make innovative changes and develop strategies that enable services to continue and contribute to the legacy of providing care in crisis.

"The unprecedented events brought on by the pandemic certainly had the potential to derail our services to children youth and families," said Trey Oakley, president of MCH. "However, the opposite proved true for us. It is said that one's true character is revealed in times of crisis; I believe the same can be said for ministries and organizations. While challenging, the crisis actually emboldened us and gave us momentum to find and create innovative ways to continue serving hurting and struggling families and communities."

Backed by the support of the ministry's Board of Directors, all programs and services at MCH received assessment and evaluation to ensure best processes and delivery systems were in place.

"It is no accident that when the coronavirus began to affect our country, we were deep into an organizational strategic planning process," Oakley said. "With the pandemic as a backdrop, we took a deep dive to understand how our plans should be implemented in light of the current needs."

The MCH strategic plan articulates four strategic commitments cumulatively called ONE MCH. [For more information about ONE MCH and the MCH strategic plan, visit [MCH.org](http://MCH.org) and read the summer 2020 issue of Sunshine magazine.] According to Oakley, the commitment titled "Focused and Flexible Ministries" specifically challenges MCH to answer the call in this time of crisis. The commitment reads:

"We commit to achieving our strategic plan, guided by best practices, to ensure we remain focused on our vision and mission. While we are committed to planned change, we are blessed with expertise and resources that enable us to respond quickly to unanticipated challenges and new opportunities in communities throughout Texas and New Mexico."

Oakley noted that during the months impacted by COVID-19, MCH has been marked by innovation and creativity in fulfilling the ministry's mission to equip children, youth and families to flourish by offering hope through Christ-centered relationships, services and support.

"Every program and department across the scope of MCH was called upon to use resources and staff ingenuity to find ways to innovatively serve children and families – including those who work for MCH – while taking into account safety measures and guidelines required by health services," Oakley said.



*The following examples provide a picture of the innovative ways MCH programs have risen to the challenge during the pandemic:*

## **SAFETY AND MEDICAL**

At the onset of COVID-19, MCH implemented a screening protocol for youth on the Waco campus and MCH Boys Ranch, including a drive-by nurse screening for youth returning from spring break and Easter home visits.

To provide breaking news and other health and safety information, a COVID-19 resource page was quickly constructed and housed on the MCH intranet, called "MCH Connect." From this platform, employees can access messages from Oakley related to actions being taken, procedures and organizational changes impacting staff. This proved to be particularly helpful for direct-care staff serving youth on MCH campuses.

"The COVID-19 resource page was a game-changer for us working in the homes with the youth," said Monica Rose, case manager at the Tom Mitchell Home. "Not only could we access the information from our computers, but also our cell phones. Having



resources about safety issues, health tips and even weekly Bible verses so readily available gave us the ability to quickly provide vital information and encouragement to our staff, parents, community partners, and youth."

In all MCH facilities and activities, screening measures, including temperature checks for all residents, visitors and activity participants, continue to be enforced to maintain the health and safety of MCH youth and staff.

## **SERVICE TO FAMILIES**

As shelter-at-home protocols were ordered in many areas, staff in MCH Family Outreach offices across Texas and New Mexico served families as they would in the event of a natural disaster, such as a hurricane.

"When a natural disaster happens, once our teams are safe we immediately reach out to and assess the needs of those families in our care," said Traci Wagner, vice president for programs. "Knowing many families were in desperate situations, our outreach offices approached COVID-19 in the same way. Those early days were spent reaching out to families, finding out the pressing needs and working to meet those needs."

The quick response and continuing needs have led to an escalation of services from the 13 outreach offices. Offices increased the availability of classes and hosted resources and community fairs online in English and Spanish. Teams focused on reducing barriers of childcare, transportation, or fears of attending a class in person, which has led to an increased utilization of parent education and Circle of Security resources by schools, churches and community groups.

MCH case managers also increased their in-person visits to client families to provide much-needed socially distanced face-to-face time for families sheltering at home. Wagner said case managers



traveled with lawn chairs and boxes of essential supplies for visits in yards, front porches and parks.

In Las Cruces, a client diagnosed with IDD (Intellectual Development Disorder) was required to complete a state-mandated parent education course in person. Due to struggles and fear about the pandemic, the mother felt defeated. Through creative planning, the Las Cruces Outreach team hosted Parent Education classes in a local park with limited participants to follow COVID-safe practices, which enabled this mother to fulfill her needs.

"We felt drawn to become creative in assisting this mom and supporting her autonomy in her unique situation as she expressed her need to experience felt safety," said Tiffany Gonzales, director of MCH Family Outreach in Las Cruces. "The drive to support her came from our mission and vision to empower all we serve to experience life to the fullest."





*Kelly Lawson, director of annual giving, speaks to a class at Christ United Methodist Church in Plano via Zoom.*



*President Trey Oakley meets with the Board of Directors, physically distanced and online, during a scheduled meeting.*

## TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNICATIONS

With travel restrictions and shelter-at-home orders in place, MCH turned to technology to stay connected. Meetings of the MCH Board of Directors are held virtually, as was the annual meeting of the MCH Commissioners in October. In addition, Oakley moved leadership team meetings to online platforms to maintain safety protocols.

In the Development department, members of the MCH fundraising team, accustomed to traveling across Texas and New Mexico meeting with donors and speaking in churches, developed electronic messages and visited with benefactors online instead of face to face. As churches and community groups continue to delay in-person meetings, development officers share the MCH story with groups and classes through virtual church visits and messages.

Utilizing the organization's intranet and Microsoft Teams platforms enable various MCH departments and service areas to remain connected and collaborative.

"The rise in virtual meetings led to an increase in collaboration between staff all over Texas and New Mexico," Oakley said. "A true culture of learning has been fostered at MCH that will only grow in the months and years ahead."

MCH employees shared ideas and innovations through virtual meetings of several new work groups launched during the pandemic, including the Five-Star Service committee formed to reward staff going above and beyond during the crisis, a social justice work group, an on-call work group, social media and cell phone use work group, and the SOS program planning group.

Each MCH youth received a laptop to use for online schooling and for virtual meetings and tutoring sessions with their teachers at the charter school.



*Johnny, an MCH transition services student, oversees the live feed of the varsity football game.*



*Londen, a Boys Ranch resident and JV football player, works the camera for the livestream broadcast of a Bulldogs varsity football game.*



*MCH students take a study break from their online classes at the charter school.*

## SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Teachers and staff at the MCH charter school developed an innovative plan to keep students and staff safe while maintaining a comprehensive learning environment (see p. 15).

On the Waco campus, the Spiritual Development team developed interactive church services for youth and staff to be viewed online, and drew from

staff all across the ministry to be involved through sharing video testimonies to encourage the youth.

With the decision to launch fall sports with a strict plan to protect the health and safety of athletes and coaches (see p. 12), MCH began livestreaming football and volleyball games to increase support and viewership of games at a time when in-person spectators are limited due to safety measures.





*Amber Twyman (left), recruitment coordinator and SOS member, helps Eshana make necklaces and bracelets during their playdate.*



*SOS members Denise Ondrey (left), executive assistant, and Rosemary Chavarria (right), administrative assistant, fill bags with supplies for MCH youth before their first day of school.*

## THE STAFF ON STANDBY (SOS) PROGRAM

The SOS program is designed for employees who do not serve in direct childcare roles to lend their support by assisting with short-term projects and other childcare needs. The goal is to alleviate some of the additional burdens placed on childcare staff during COVID-19 and also provide employee engagement opportunities that support the mission.

The SOS program was nominated for the 2020 Council on Accreditation (COA) Innovative Practices Award for the ministry's creative response to COVID-19 and commitment to providing innovative solutions in crisis.

To date, the SOS program has provided 204 service hours to support frontline staff operations. Projects have included special employee appreciation efforts, meal deliveries and a series of service opportunities at organized youth events. These efforts have helped MCH to continue providing care at full census while navigating the many restrictions due to COVID-19.

The program has also strengthened organizational culture at MCH by fostering a community of mission-focused employees rooted in unified purpose and agency-wide teamwork – a key goal in the ministry's strategic plan. The SOS program has approached each request for support with a mission mindset.

Below are three examples of how the SOS program has provided an innovative solution during the pandemic that has contributed to positive service delivery and organizational success.

**First Day of School:** In an effort to help make the first day of school successful, members of the SOS program developed a plan to prepare and deliver goodie bags of school supplies to students attending the MCH charter school. Members worked

together to fill dozens of bags with notebooks, pens, snacks, travel-sized bottles of hand sanitizer, and cards with handwritten inspirational messages and words of encouragement.

**Playdates:** The SOS program was asked to provide "playdates" for residents who are considerably younger than the average youth in care at MCH. With summer camps and other recreational activities being cancelled due to COVID-19, playdates were scheduled three times a week for each child and included interactive activities such as board games, arts and crafts, outside play, and baking snacks. The playdates offered the children individualized time and attention and also provided short-term respite for childcare staff juggling additional responsibilities.

**Special Events:** Students were unable to attend their annual "MCH Prom Night" in the spring due to social-distancing protocols. The SOS program helped create special events for the students unable to participate in this tradition by providing decorations, food, planning and attending basketball lock-ins, "fancy" dinners, video game parties, and spa nights.

"The SOS program is one example of the many ways MCH remains committed to finding solutions to challenges, coming together to support one another and prioritizing the well-being of others," Trey Oakley said. "The response by MCH to COVID-19 will be a symbol of hope in the ministry's long history of providing lifesaving care in crisis through its dedicated employees and by the grace of God."

"I am proud of the many ways MCH has demonstrated resiliency while managing the uncertainties of COVID-19," Oakley said. "I am also honored to serve with so many employees who do not just talk about our mission, they live it day in and day out as we creatively equip children, youth and families to flourish." •



## A TRIBUTE TO

# Judy Broadway



*Broadway holds a gift commemorating her three decades of service to MCH.*



*Broadway and the MCH HR team (from left): Amber Twyman, recruitment coordinator; Mary Rollins, HR manager; Anita Tovar, admin. service assoc.; and Miranda Peña, dir. of HR.*



*Broadway helps students during a 2012 training course prepare for their careers.*



*Broadway organized annual employee events to provide a fun experience for staff.*



*MCH President Trey Oakley presents Broadway with a gift of an oak tree to be planted in her honor on the Waco campus.*

Judy Broadway, vice president for human resources at Methodist Children's Home, was celebrated upon her retirement on Sept. 30, 2020, for her tenure of service to the ministry that spanned 28 years.

Due to restrictions on large gatherings, Broadway's retirement reception was held virtually and broadcast to MCH employees, members of the Board of Directors, friends, and family. MCH President Trey Oakley hosted the reception and colleagues presented gifts and words of gratitude to Broadway for her service and leadership.

Broadway joined MCH in 1992 as director of the personnel department and served alongside four MCH presidents. At the time of her hire the ministry had approximately 100 employees. After a promotion to administrator, then-president Jack K. Daniels named her vice president in 2000. Today MCH employs 320 individuals across Texas and New Mexico.

Broadway helped lead the organization's efforts to develop a comprehensive employee handbook, initiated and led a risk management committee, expanded a competitive employee benefits and incentives program, and implemented an education assistance program for employees. The program has led to numerous staff members completing degrees and achieving advanced education. She also participated in eight different organizational reviews conducted by the Council on Accreditation (COA).

Oakley noted that Broadway exemplifies the ministry's Core Value of growth for her advocacy for employee training, education and professional development.

"Judy's leadership has made a significant impact on how we carry out the ministry of Methodist Children's Home today," Oakley said. "The love and respect she has for MCH, paired with her experience and innovative mindset have been tremendous assets to our employees. She understands the importance of having a strong, talented and encouraged workforce that can carry out the life-changing work we do every day for children, youth and families."

Broadway's philosophy of "happy employees make happy kids" affected all areas of MCH.

"Treating our employees well provides them with a sense of security that helps them focus on the children, youth and families they are serving," she said. "Our primary responsibility is to serve others. The best way we can do that is by providing great benefits and showing appreciation to employees."

Broadway admitted that when she joined MCH she thought the job would be for a few years and then she would move back home to her native Houston, "but I fell in love with MCH because it was obvious that when people come to work here, they come to make a difference in the lives of others," she said. •



# NIKKIE

## FINDING VALUE



**N**ikkie speaks about Methodist Children's Home (MCH) with gratitude and a warm smile.

Reflecting on her life before she came to MCH four years ago, Nikkie is transparent about how she was making poor choices and feeling very unloved. At first she was angry that her grandparents – her primary caregivers – placed her at MCH. But now she says she can see it was out of love.

"I found love here at MCH," she said. "I learned that staff love me and I learned to love myself. If they didn't love me then why would they show up every day to help me? Who knows where I would be if I had not come to MCH."

Nikkie is a senior at the MCH charter school and maintains an active schedule. She holds an off-campus job, cheers on the MCH cheer team, sings in the youth choir and is part of the praise dance team. Participating in choir and dance through the Spiritual Development program has been particularly meaningful to Nikkie.

"I accepted Christ at age 11 and would attend church alone," she said. "When I came to MCH I had more opportunities to become involved in church and really grow in my faith. I have been on mission trips and feel I have grown closer to God."

Staff who have worked with Nikkie say she is an example to other MCH youth.

Spiritual Development Minister Ron Britton said Nikkie "is in her element on mission trips. She is always one of the first to volunteer and has a way of connecting with the people we serve in meaningful ways."

"I have seen Nikkie perfect her skills in cheer while becoming more responsible, hardworking, trustworthy, respectful, and kind," said Kellie Bennett, afterschool coordinator and coach for the MCH cheer squad. "She is an ideal MCH cheerleader. She came into the program as a very shy girl and will leave as a confident young lady." This fall Nikkie was selected to the MCH homecoming court.

Nikkie's plans after graduating in May 2021 are to attend college and work toward a nursing degree, with a vision of one day working in a neonatal unit.

Nikkie said she tries to encourage her peers toward confidence and growth by telling them "no matter how hard it gets, keep looking forward and take advantage of what MCH has to offer."

Reflecting on her time at MCH, Nikkie clearly sees how caring staff impacted her life and helped her realize her value and worth.

"I know I am a child of God," she said. "My value is not in what others think of me. I am one of the kids that made it! I am graduating and will be an MCH alumna and that is something I am proud to say." •



CELEBRATING

# OUR STUDENT ATHLETES

*Congratulations to our Bulldogs and Lady Bulldogs on a great fall season!*

Students at the Methodist Children's Home charter school kicked off the fall sports schedule in September with protocols to ensure the health and safety of MCH athletes, coaches, fans, and visiting teams.

"After months of scaled-back activities due to COVID-19, resuming athletics and other related extracurricular activities energized our young people and brought a palpable sense of excitement across MCH," said Trey Oakley,





MCH president. The MCH Bulldogs six-man football team and the Lady Bulldogs volleyball team competed against other schools in the Texas Christian Athletic Fellowship (TCAF) and were supported at games by the MCH cheer squad and drumline.

Matt Rodgers, MCH athletic director, said extra work to account for safety measures involved many people around MCH volunteering their time to help the athletics program with tasks such as setting up physically distanced seating, taking

temperatures at entrances, making sure masks are worn at all times, and sanitizing before and after competitions.

"We received feedback from a referee at one of our volleyball games that our safety measures and setup was one of the best and most thorough he had seen in all of Waco," Rodgers said. In both football and volleyball, Rodgers said the extra safety steps "are things we have adjusted to, and the kids have bought into the fact that if they want to keep playing, they need to follow these protocols."

Even with limited game attendance, Oakley noted that

the audience of MCH fall sports actually expanded greatly with the adoption of livestream broadcasts.

"Livestreaming our volleyball and football games is such an exciting option that we are happy to offer to our MCH supporters, families and youth who are unable to attend games," Oakley said. "Some parents who have never seen their child compete in MCH athletics are now able to support their growth and achievement by watching games online."





## ■ A SHARED HERITAGE

Trey Oakley, president of Methodist Children's Home, hosted a first-time visitor to MCH who actually shares in the heritage of the ministry. Pat Garrison of San Antonio is the great-grandson of W.F. Barnett, who served as administrator of MCH from 1919-1933. Oakley and Lyle Mason, vice president for development, gave Garrison a tour of the Waco campus and shared photos, letters and publications related to "Dad Barnett," as he was affectionately known.

Garrison expressed gratitude for the opportunity to hear stories and see evidence of his great-grandfather's legacy. Barnett is credited with a number of innovations and leading MCH through the challenging era of the Great Depression.

"I've heard stories about my great-grandfather's legacy and work with Methodist Children's Home

all my life, but seeing the actual place where he cared for hundreds of children makes it all the more real," Garrison said. Oakley, who was named president 100 years after Barnett started his tenure, said Barnett's reputation has inspired him as well.

"Dad Barnett led this ministry through a challenging time, and I have thought about that as we lead MCH through the challenges of a pandemic," Oakley said, listing a number of significant achievements and innovations Barnett instituted such as vocational programs, a school for the children, a band program, Sunshine magazine, and strengthened ties with the Methodist Church. "The stories of Dad Barnett were that he never let the job cause him to lose touch with the children in his care. That has always inspired me." •



▲ *Trey Oakley shares photos, letters and publications related to "Dad" Barnett with Pat Garrison.*



▲ *Photos and a publication signed by W.F. "Dad" Barnett from his years at MCH.*

◀ *From left: MCH President Trey Oakley, Pat Garrison and Lyle Mason, vice president for development.*



# MCH STUDENTS RETURN TO SCHOOL



*Girls from the Bowen Home make their way to the charter school.*



*Placement of desks in classrooms are outlined in tape to maintain proper physical distancing.*



*Jennifer Pendleton, assistant principal at the MCH charter school, greets students as they enter the school building.*



*Michelle Arocha, executive principal of the charter school, and MCH President Trey Oakley welcome students on the first day of school.*

Youth at Methodist Children's Home spent the first six weeks of the fall semester engaged in a remote learning environment from their homes on the Waco campus and MCH Boys Ranch before resuming in-person classes at the MCH charter school in October.

The charter school is operated in partnership with the University of Texas—University Charter School (UTUCS) system. Staff at the charter school prepared lesson plans to keep youth engaged during the weeks of remote learning and each student received a laptop to work on assignments posted online. Technology also provided opportunities to engage in virtual meetings and tutoring sessions with teachers.

To prepare for the first day of on-campus school, staff at the charter school implemented COVID-19 safety measures to minimize contact between students and teachers. Signs with reminders to wear a mask and practice safe distancing are posted at each entrance alongside hand sanitizer dispensers. Where possible, hallways are routed as one-way passages and marked by vinyl floor stickers. In classrooms, desk spaces are outlined by tape to maintain proper distancing. Students also eat lunch at their desks in the classroom to avoid congregating in the cafeteria.

Boys and girls have classes separately on a hybrid calendar, attending in-person at the school on alternating days. The hybrid model of instruction will be continued for the entire 2020-2021 school year, according to Michelle Arocha, executive principal of the MCH charter school.

"The first day of in-person school went really well and teachers were thrilled to have actual people in their rooms that they could visit with and instruct in the face-to-face format," Arocha said. "Even with masks, you could see the smiles on everyone's faces as they enjoyed their first day back at school."

Arocha also noted the students "did a wonderful job of following the new traffic patterns established in the school and following the social distance guidelines that have been put in place."

Dorothy Phillips, director of educational services, said transition back to school was a team effort.

"Our MCH staff and UTUCS staff have done an amazing job working together to educate our youth and I am excited to see how we will continue to adapt and offer hands-on and engaging learning opportunities in this hybrid model," Phillips said. "I enjoyed seeing the smiling faces of students, staff and teachers on the first day back."





DEVELOPMENT NEWS

# BUILDING HOPE

*CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE*

The Building Hope capital campaign enters its sixth year in 2021. Following initiatives set forth in the strategic plan of MCH, the goal of the campaign is to modernize all aspects of the Waco campus and its programs to better meet the needs of youth served today and in the future.

To date, five new homes have been completed. Construction

on four additional homes, shown above, began earlier in 2020 and will be completed in 2021.

The four new homes join the Bowen Home and the Greathouse Home – seen in the background in the above photo – in an area known as “Chapel Hill,” the highest point on the MCH campus and location of the Harrell Memorial Chapel.

One of the homes will be named in honor of former MCH president Tim Brown and his wife, Susan.

To learn more about how you can support the Building Hope campaign, contact Lyle Mason, vice president for development, at 800-853-1272 or [LMason@MCH.org](mailto:LMason@MCH.org). For other giving opportunities, please visit [MCH.org](http://MCH.org). •





## ■ *LET MCH COME TO YOUR CHURCH!*

Representatives from the MCH Development team are available to visit churches to share about the life-changing impact gifts and support make for the ministry of MCH. If COVID-restrictions prohibit outside guests, MCH can send

a video to share in worship. For congregations not yet meeting in person, the MCH video is ideal to share through church websites and e-newsletters, or via email. •

**For more information, contact Kelly Lawson, director of annual giving, at 800-853-1272 or [KLawson@MCH.org](mailto:KLawson@MCH.org).**



# HAWA

## BUILDING BRIDGES

**B**uilding bridges did not always come naturally for Hawa. After struggling to form secure attachments with caregivers, Hawa made the personal decision at age 13 to come to Methodist Children's Home and learn how to build connections and reach her potential. In 2012, she moved to the Waco campus where her journey began.

Shortly after arriving at MCH, Hawa joined the choir and praise band, which allowed her to maintain her interest in music and complemented her love for leading worship. Her faith, along with the relationships she built with caregivers, gave her the confidence she needed to flourish.

Program Administrator Erica Reyes-Rosas remembers Hawa as a vivacious and caring girl searching for attachment, acceptance and guidance when she arrived.

"She quickly grew to be a confident and determined young lady," said Reyes-Rosas. "The connections Hawa formed gave her the reassurance and safety she needed to set goals and achieve them."

Hawa said the relationships she formed at MCH helped her recognize her own potential. She continues to use many of the skills learned at MCH as she navigates adulthood, which allow her to take responsibility for her actions and manage emotions better as an adult.

"Some of the staff were tough on me, but they also encouraged me to reach for my dreams," she said. "Looking back, I know they pushed me out of love and wanted the best for me."

Today, Hawa is an honors student pursuing a degree in music therapy at Texas Woman's University (TWU) in Denton, and working as a full-time caregiver. She also holds a leadership position in the Baptist Student Ministry at TWU, which has given her additional opportunities to stay connected to God and her Christian community. Her decision to study music therapy combines her passion for music and helping those with social challenges.

Hawa said she finds deep meaning in serving others, in part because she can relate to their struggles to process feelings and connection.

"At a young age, I became captivated with the autistic population after caring for a young boy with autism," Hawa explained. "His ability to accept others, show deep compassion and appreciate life was a real gift."

Hawa hopes to use her degree to open a school serving autistic children and adults who are often unable to verbalize their thoughts and feelings freely.

"Music has the ability to open pathways in our brain that help with speech patterns and physical movements, and also give people a vehicle to connect with others," she said, adding that adapting to the child or adult's needs allows them to learn more effectively and, ultimately, become more successful in society.

"People with autism are often misunderstood and capable of so much more than we realize," Hawa said. "I want to reach those that society does not seem to understand or appreciate."

The relationships Hawa formed at MCH continue to open doors for her today. Hawa received the Albaugh Scholarship for the 2020-2021 academic year, nominated by MCH staff.

Angie Vaughn, case manager for transition services, said students selected for this honors scholarship are those who strive for success and demonstrate good stewardship.

"Hawa has blossomed into the young woman she was always capable of becoming," Vaughn said. "She has grown in her maturity by taking on more responsibility, becoming more independent and earning an education that will enable her to serve the community."

"I have built a system of bridges from relationships with people who saw the potential in me and accepted me through my hard times," Hawa said. Her advice to youth in care today is that they focus on restoring and building bridges with those who accept them and challenge them to pursue their dreams. •

*Transition Services helps former residents and children served through MCH foster care make a successful transition to independent living and adjust to college or the workforce.*

*Photo courtesy of Texas Woman's University/Michael Modecki.*



# MEMORIAL GIFTS AND GIFTS OF HONOR

GIFTS MADE UP TO \$499 FROM JULY 2020 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2020

## HONORARIUMS

### Nevelyn (Crawford) Alexander

Mark and Melinda Koster

### Dr. Shera Atkinson

Northwest Texas Conference  
Amarillo District, Amarillo, TX

### Mike and Jackie Bain

Lori Wilhite

### Colbie Balsamo

Amy and Shelby Barley

### Lynn Blackwell

Ed and Marge Bryan

### Judy Broadway's Retirement

Shelby and Amy Barley  
Kelly E. Lawson  
Les Leskoven  
Lyle and Denise Mason  
Methodist Children's Home  
Board of Directors  
Trey and Karen Oakley  
Traci Wagner

### Dr. Erik Bucy

Kallie Barley

### Betty and Gene Casselberry

Mary Carolyn Dye

### Judy Childers

Sandy Robinson

### Carroll Choate

Julie and Maro Johnson

### Carroll and Joyce Choate's

### 70<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary

The Porters

### Debbie Cross

Shelby and Amy Barley

### First UMC Georgetown Staff

### Georgetown, TX

Helen Goethe

### Kathryn Goddard's Birthday

Kitty Gallman

### Tiffany Gonzales

Phyllis Dillard

### Dr. Zachary Hohman

Kallie Barley

### Paula Jack's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Pam Goergen

### Boyce Jones

Bryan Mize

### Dr. Justin Keene

Kallie Barley

### Chloe Lee Knust

Robert Hinnant Collins

### William Casey Knust

Robert H. Collins

### Las Cruces Outreach Staff

### Las Cruces, NM

Phyllis Dillard

### Mitchell Ledinski

Yvonne Padilla

### Grace Lewis

Mr. and Mrs. Neeley Lewis

### Graham Lewis

Mr. and Mrs. Neeley Lewis

### Shannon McCuaig

Kelly E. Lawson

### First UMC McGregor, TX

Charlie and Kerry Kasparian

### Dr. Bryan McLaughlin

Kallie Barley

### Kate Moore

Mr. and Mrs. Neeley Lewis

### Lauren Moore

Mr. and Mrs. Neeley Lewis

### Luke Moore

Mr. and Mrs. Neeley Lewis

### Mary A. Morehead's Birthday

Brian H. Morehead

### Staff Members of Nacogdoches

### Public Library, Nacogdoches, TX

Hunter and Totsy Cunningham

### Grandpa and Nana Oakley

Abby and Brady Oakley

### Grandma and Papa Oakley-

### Sowell

Abby and Brady Oakley

### Willis and Mary Osborne

Hannah Osborne

### Mason Rodriguez' Adoption

Kelly E. Lawson

### Mrs. Judy Rudoff

Mary Carolyn Dye

### Grandad and Grandmommy

### Schmidt

Abby and Brady Oakley

### Marene Shoaff

Allie M. Davenport

### Homer C. Spear

Belinda Makins

### Lloyd Sullivan

Hannah Osborne

### Bob and Betty Thompson

Neighborly Sunday School Class  
First UMC Bryan, TX

### Becky and Manny Torres'

### 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary

Alice Sappington

### Gerald R. Villarrial

Paul and Sydney Easley

### Sandra (Stoesser) Wallace's

### Birthday

Dr. Lowell and Betty (Stoesser)  
Carraway

### Nancy Salmon

Roy and Ruth Seaberg

### Ena Stoesser

### Men of Waples UMC

### Granbury, TX

Women of Waples, Granbury, TX

### Cheryl Weatherly's Birthday

Kitty Gallman

### Ryan Webster's Birthday

George and Cyndi Snokhous

## MEMORIALS

### Sharion K. Acker

Charles and Carol Brown

### James Amerson

Barbara Fitzgerald

### Edna Anderson

Bobbie E. Roberts

### Glenna Mae (Taylor) Anderson

Mary Carolyn Dye

### Edward "Ed" Applequist

Mae Teske

### Clarence Wesley Bahlmann, Sr.

All Saints SS Class

Monthalia UMC, Cost, TX

Allan and Elizabeth Fink

### Your beloved cousin

Kallie Barley

### Dr. Roy T. Bassett

Mary Bassett

### Montee Lee (Arnold) Bates

Loretta and Ray Day

### Madge (Brown) Bendrat

Grover and Sue Shade

### Michael "Mike" Bennett

Andrew McMahan

### Mona Gayle (Trice) Bennett

Herman, Shirley and Leesa Burnett

J.R. Trice

### Louin Berry III

Anonymous

Marjorie Amodei

Linda L. Crumley

Victoria, Jared and Sophie Fisher

Ladies' Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Mansfield UMC, Mansfield, TX

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John and Keitha McCallum

Billy and Teresa Pickerill

Landon, Stacy, Eli, Madi and

Annie Preston

Linda Smith

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Jo Cato

### Reuben "Ashley" Blagrove

Bunkin and Candy Bennett

### John Robert Blankinship

Ann Blankinship

### Houston Odell "H.O." Blanks

Mr. and Mrs. J.R. Scarbrough

### James Blue

Bette Samford

### David Bruce Bonorden

Dan and Reba Fischer

### Bernice Bradfield

Deborah Hewitt

### Robert "Bob" Brandenberger

Jo Bonds

### Reverend Dr. Daniel S. Brewer

William and Janan Hall

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Mary E. Karges

### Dr. James Allan Buckingham

Hunter and Totsy Cunningham

### Miles Capehart

Betty E. Capehart

### Michael Carter

Susan Beatty

Charles and Carol Brown

David and Jennifer Carter

Uncle Elbert and Aunt Eileen Carter

Lyle and Denise Mason

Montgomery County CWS:

Denita Dickson-Tuffour

Angela English

Michelle Forney

Nathaniel Parks

Patricia Davis Spann

Crystal Stewart

Traci Wagner

### Russell Gordon Chalberg

Bill and Norma Neeley

### James "Jimmy" Armand

### Chionsini, Sr.

Neilson and Diana Davis

Chachi Hawkins

Charles and Cheryl Korbell

Leslie and Candy Mallonee

Andrew McMahan

Sherwood and Jane Parker

Phillip and Sharon Templeton

### John "Kellam" Coffin

Scott and Rayna Barefoot

Mr. and Mrs. C.V. Nelson

San Patricio Electric Cooperative

Sinton, TX

### Marjorie Lee (Hinnant) Collins

Robert H. Collins



**Rebecca Jane Cooper**  
Mike and Mary Ann Byrd

**Gwendolyn Cox**  
Kallie Barley

**Edith Elizabeth (Tomlinson) Craig**  
Debbie Daugherty  
Louis Gillispie  
Tim and Joyce Woodlock

**Freddie Cravens**  
Charles and Carol Brown

**Emma "Faye" Daily**  
Susan Beatty

**Oma Lee Davenport**  
Allie M. Davenport

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Fred and Sally Fifer

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Mr. Jim Donaldson

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Nancy A. Crim

**Mary Catherine (Gismant) Drennan**  
Tim and Joyce Woodlock

**Mary Phillips Droke**  
Mary Jane Caudill

**Theodore "Ted" Armand Dumas**  
Ralph and Bobbie Detwiler

**Betty Dunbar**  
David Dunbar

**Dr. Philip E. Duvall**  
Denver City (TX) High School  
Class of 1963

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Trey and Karen Oakley

**E. Jean English**  
Anonymous

**Dr. Ernest Jennings Erickson**  
Larry and Marty Maxwell

**Carl Ermel**  
Betty Roberts

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Mr. Alfred V. Evans, Jr.

**Ruth (Downes) Evans**  
Mr. Alfred V. Evans, Jr.

**Sue Ann "Suzie" Evans**  
Rebecca and Dub Narramore  
Erin Redden

**Roman Fierro**  
Alice Sappington

**Reverend James "Jimmy" Finley**  
Les Leskoven

**Delores "Dee" Flagler**  
Myrlene Weathers

**Elizabeth Ann Geeraerts**  
Pine UMC, Fort McCoy, FL

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Jill Anella

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Donald and Yvonne Clark

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Ms. Barbara Cole

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Mrs. Eddie (Hammonds) Weise

**Gloria (Lisenbe) Hess**  
Mel and Linda Bruggman

**Johnny Lee Hilliard**  
Marty Maxwell

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Joyce Hodges

**Betty Ruth (Christner) Hopper**  
Ralph and Bobbie Detwiler

**Bobbe Jean (Wilson) Humphrey**  
Beth and Ralph Bassett  
Keith and Jan Bullard  
Andy and Jeanne Caulo  
Bryan and Jenni Cole  
Johnna and Kevin Fullen  
Bill and Judy Humphrey  
Zanelle Kalmus  
Matt and Lisa Moore  
India Rader Stroope  
Mike Tate  
Liz Thompson  
Elizabeth and Gary Wicks  
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Travis and Pamela Wilson

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Debra Singler

**Justin "J.J." Johnson**  
Andrew McMahan

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Arledge Brashers  
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The Duncan Family  
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Reverend Andy James  
Marvel Kiewit  
Jamye McMillin  
Jessica M. Soriano  
Joyce and Gene Spencer  
Lisa Stephenson

**Randall W. Jones**  
Ladema Jones

**Logan Kainer**  
Steve and Norma Runyon

**Alice Marie (Schabow) Keener**  
Anonymous

**Dennis Kellogg**  
Pete and Darlene Smith

**Edward "Ed" J. Kilchenstein**  
Richard and Catherine Case Larson

**Dr. Richard Robert Klein**  
Pam Goergen

**Rudolf E. Krochman, Sr. and Flora Kay Krochman**  
Ann Krochman Young

**Joe Kudrna**  
Becky White

**Mitchell Ledinski**  
Yvonne Padilla

**Robert "Bob" William Lees**  
Glenn and Kay Furman

**Terri Leeth**  
Ora Lee Leeth

**Jack Levy**  
James and Wyona Riley

**Constance "Connie" (Stom) Liner**  
James J. Liner

**Elizabeth "Betty" (Patch) Lowman**  
Hart and Vicky VanMeter

**Albert "Brack" Manis**  
Ruth Wilkins

**Reverend Austin and Lee Masterson**  
Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Masterson

**Lee Ann McClatchy**  
Pat McClatchy

**Roy Lee "R.L." McClung**  
Robert and Lori Wilhite

**Mary Jo McCone**  
Dickie and Gerry Turner

**Joseph D. McGuill**  
Will and Monica Blackwell

**Patrick John "Pat" McKeever**  
John and Laura Armstrong  
Shelby and Amy Barley  
Arledge Brashers  
Ted and Frances Breihan  
Bill and Brenda Damron  
Victoria Lambdin  
Jarrett Louder and Summer Allen  
Kathy and Randall Morris and Family  
Gordon L. Sabin  
Tim and Joyce Woodlock

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Meredith Chacon

**James McMinn**  
Sheryl and John Preston

**Marilyn and H.W. Miller, Jr.**  
Phyllis M. Miller

**Van Miller**  
Ginger Swearengin

**Mickey Mills**  
Ken Mills

**Joyce Ann (Russell) Morman**  
Suzanne M. Kott

**Reverend John George Morrison**  
Woods UMC, Tenaha, TX

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Bunkin and Candy Bennett

**J.P. "Lucky" Mulqueen**  
Barbara and Charlie Luna

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Mel and Linda Bruggman

**Shirley Ann Pagel**  
Mel and Linda Bruggman

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Judy and Joel Mann  
Pam and Bobby Myers  
Kyle and Greta Peavy  
Reagan and Glenda Ramsower  
Rendell and Cristela Webb

**LaVerna (Gillam) Kilpatrick Perry**  
Amy Brinley

**John Hampton Persefield**  
Mr. and Mrs. John E. Braselton  
Douglas and Elizabeth Kilgore  
Peggy Sonnamaker

**Mr. and Mrs. K.L. Philips**  
Kenneth G. Philips

**Miriam (Wallace) Powell**  
Roy and Ruth Seaberg  
Mrs. Jack Stoesser

**Janis Mary (Forson) Raines**  
Marty Maxwell

**Fred Glen Ramey**  
Joe and Jami Lovelady

**William "Ray" Reid**  
Rebecca Bowden Narramore

**Dr. Sidney Roberts**  
Bobbie E. Roberts

**Vernon Keith Roberts**  
Betty Roberts

**Mildred and Elmer Rodgers**  
Gary and Cheryl Rodgers

**Evelyn Rolfe**  
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First UMC Bryan, TX

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Glenn and Kay Furman

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Deborah Boles



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Eleanor, David and Andy Ginn  
Ray and Judy Greubel  
Patsy Meck  
Bette Samford

**Marcella Ann (Porter) Samuel**

Bunkin and Candy Bennett

**Dr. Albert E. Sanders**

Andrew McMahan

**Donness (Balch) Shine**

Perry Cloud  
Becky Jolin

**Ma and Pa Shoemaker**

Herman and Pam Young

**Charles Everett Smith**

Jayne Schoonmaker

**Bill and Nola Springfield**

Andrew McMahan

**Dewey Douglas Stockbridge**

Andrew McMahan

**Donald "Donn" Stringer**

Polly Dalton and Family

**Rosa Lee (Woodlock) Strunck**

Tim and Joyce Woodlock

**Millie Frances (Hutchings) Stuck**

Beverly Davidson

**Jacob "Jake" Rawl Sullivan**

Sharon Petti

**Irene "Rene" Sustr**

Mr. and Mrs. A.C. Von Minden

**Colonel Bobby "Bob" Tarleton**

Jerry and Anne Beverly

Carole M. Elmer

Sandy Mandell

Robert and Susan Miller

**Myra June (Bulls) Terrell**

Becky and Mark Konen

Ron Roberts

**Ophalia Tilley**

Ginger Swearingin

**Reverend Erwin Van Essen**

Reverend Pam McCamant

**Dora S. Villarreal**

Mr. and Mrs. Rolando S. Villarreal

**Joe Walker**

Les Leskoven

**Ryan Webster's Birthday**

George and Cyndi Snokhous

**Joyce Wells**

Donna McAvoy

**Keith Coleman White**

Ms. Connie Smith

**Almer Earnestine Whittenburg**

Koinonia Sunday School Class

First UMC Garland, TX

**Ann Wilder**

Joe Wilder

**Cleo and Herbert Wiley**

Gary and Cheryl Rodgers

**Harold Wiley**

Julie Mitchell

**Allen Wayne Wilkerson**

Murray E. and Mary M. Brown

Orville Harris

Law Offices of Paup, Shutt and

Associates, Fort Worth, TX

The Harold Newman Family:

Cindy Newman Clines

Joanne Newman MacPherson

Jimmy Newman

**Mr. and Mrs. John R. Williams, Sr.**

Ed and Betsy Himmel

**Billy "Bill" Joe Wilson**

Patsy Wilson

**Lowell Graves Winkler**

Hunter and Totsy Cunningham

**Lorelle R. Woodard**

Nan Mann

**Doc Young**

Mary Lou Massengale

## MEMORIAL GIFTS AND GIFTS OF HONOR OVER \$500 ARE RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR LEVEL OF SUPPORT

**\$500 - \$999 GIFTS****John and Sue Farrell**

Houston, TX

*in honor of*

Moe Dozier

**Frances D. Swann**

Tyler, TX

*in honor of*

Tod and Laura Swann

**Millie and Galen Eads**

Houston, TX

*in memory of*

Daniel Anderl

**Genevia Hendricks**

Anchorage, AK

*in memory of*

Jerry L. Jarvis

**Rusty and Cindy Newsom**

Brownsboro, TX

*in memory of*

Reverend Dr. Michael "Mike"

Deaton

**Barbara and Richard Ochs**

Kingsland, TX

*in memory of*

Elrena and Pete Deel

Alice and Herman Ochs

**Ronald and Virginia Sandwina**

Las Vegas, NV

*in memory of*

Jerry L. Jarvis

**Debra Seaman**

Forney, TX

*in memory of*

Sydney Seaman

**Chris and Kristine Steely**

Mansfield, TX

*in memory of*

Pearl Sherlock

**Daniel and Kristine Thomason**

Houston, TX

*in memory of*

Christopher Wayne Thomason

**\$1,000 - \$3,499 GIFTS****Julie and John Diem**

Georgetown, TX

*in honor of*

Children in the John and Julie

Diem Family

**Winfield Davenport**

Floydada, TX

*in memory of*

Jerry McGuire

**Rex and Donna Mann**

Perryton, TX

*in memory of*

Katie Williams

**Barbara Persefield**

Dallas, TX

*in memory of*

John Hampton Persefield

**\$3,500 - \$5,000 GIFTS****John R. and Sandra L. Haldeman**

Waco, TX

*in honor of*

Pastor Wayne Williams

Renew Church Waco, TX

**Tina Jones**

Burnet, TX

*in memory of*

Michael "Mike" F. Jones

**\$10,000 AND OVER GIFTS****James C. Beard**

Bedford, TX

*in memory of*

Kathryn Riddle Beard

**William and Elizabeth Broll**

Arnold, CA

*in memory of*

John Marshall and Willie Mae Tyler

**Curtis W. Mewbourne**

Tyler, TX

*in memory of*

Grayson Monroe Cuenod

**Estate of Sylvia Ann Bowen Price**

Brenham, TX

*in memory of*

Albert Gus and Mabel Alice (King)

Bowen

Eva Marie Bowen

Faye Mildred (King) Harless



SUNSHINE MAGAZINE READER'S SURVEY

# WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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