# SUNSHINE

THE MAGAZINE OF METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME | SPRING 2021





# Save the

Wednesday June 30, 2021





### Methodist Children's Home Offering Hope Since 1890

FRIDAY

# OK **GIVING DAY**

A ONE-DAY MATCHING GIFT CHALLENGE

### PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



Trey Oakley President and CEO

hank you for your support of Methodist Children's Home (MCH) and our mission to equip children, youth and families to flourish by offering hope through Christ-centered relationships, services and support.

As we enjoy a beautiful spring in Texas and New Mexico, we prayerfully remember the many people in our communities who are still recovering from the effects of severe weather earlier

this year. Some are struggling through financial hardships related to economic conditions and battling health issues from the pandemic that has plagued our nation and world for more than a year. It is in adverse and challenging conditions that ministries such as ours rise to meet the needs of the hurting and desperate.

As mandated COVID-19 guidelines begin to ease, we continue to seek input from licensing, healthcare professionals and other trusted resources to make the best decisions for those we serve and our staff members. We are modeling best practices regarding safety and health protocols while being mindful of the unique circumstances needed to operate our ministries.

MCH exists to offer hope and serve as both a lighthouse and a safety net for those in need. I am thankful to our Lord for the way MCH has not just survived, but has flourished in these trying times. This is certainly due to the faithfulness and goodness of God and also the generosity of benefactors who believe in our transformational ministry.

In this issue of Sunshine magazine, you will find examples of families being changed through the compassionate work of MCH. You will learn about innovative ways we engage youth in our residential programs. During the early days of the pandemic, staff at the MCH Boys Ranch expanded the outdoor education program to help our young people develop new skillsets to grow their confidence and vision for the future. The projects and activities that have been produced over the last few months are truly outstanding.

You will read about recognitions MCH received for our strong record of professionalism and transparency. It is gratifying to be acknowledged for our consistent and faithful commitment to our mission, and I am pleased to share them with you.

The achievements and growth we see each day at Methodist Children's Home are a direct result of the many friends like you who make it possible for life-changing work to continue and for children, youth and families to encounter the love of Christ. Thank you.

Jufahley

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# Foundsh

#### BY RUSSELL RANKIN

ichele Silva doesn't mince words when talking about the impact MCH Family Outreach has had on her family.

"We were in a place of chaos and needed help," said the mother of four children ages 8, 7, 4, and 17 months. "MCH met me in that chaos and helped me get to the other side. I'll forever be grateful."

Silva's dreams of a loving, happy family were crushed when abuse destroyed her marriage. With the well-being of her young children foremost in her mind, Silva sought emergency shelter at a local family abuse center in the spring of 2020.

"I was shattered and had no idea what to do," she said. "You plan everything in life. You don't plan to be in the midst of trauma. How do I become a divorced mom of four? Who plans for that?"

At the family abuse center, Silva received a list of community organizations that could provide assistance. One of the contacts was for Hannah Osborne, a case manager with MCH Family Outreach in Waco.

"I didn't have a clue about what resources might be available for me, and I didn't know anything about MCH at the time," Silva said. "Others I reached out to didn't quite feel right and involved maybe even being apart from my children. I couldn't just give up my kids.

"I called Hannah and the first thing I learned is that MCH is all about keeping families together," she said.

Osborne and Silva met in a local park to adhere to new health protocols instituted in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"In our first meeting the word 'chaos' was used a lot," Osborne recalled. "But still, Michele had clear goals – she wanted to care for her children, and she desired to parent each of them according to their individual needs."

Silva participated in the Family Solutions program through Waco Outreach, where she learned about Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI®), an attachment-based, trauma-informed intervention designed to meet the complex needs of vulnerable children. Osborne introduced her to *The Whole Brain Child*, a TBRI® parenting book explaining the science behind how children's brains are wired and strategies for developing nurturing relationships.

Silva was eager to learn. She immediately identified and implemented principles to bring stability to her home and help heal from the trauma they experienced.

"It was all about developing a plan," Silva said. "The book and the principles it introduced are so impactful and so simple. It helped me understand what was happening in my children's brains and helped me understand what we were doing and why."

"Michele had many needs, but she's a strong mom," Osborne said. "It was never 'How do I change my kids?' but rather 'What do I do? I need to learn this for my kids.' She soaked it up."

In addition to learning about the effects of trauma and implementing TBRI® practices in her home, Osborne helped Silva articulate and set goals. These included connecting to counseling and other community resources for her specific needs, finding support and advocacy within the school system for each child and building stronger connection with her children.

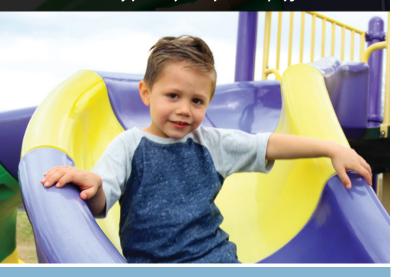


"We were in a place of chaos and needed help. MCH met me in that chaos and helped me get to the other side. I'll forever be grateful."

- Michele Silva



Silva's sons enjoy a family fun day at a local playground.



#### TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE

MCH was an early adopter of trauma-informed methodology and has partnered for more than a decade with the Karyn Purvis Institute of Child Development (KPICD) at Texas Christian University, which pioneered TBRI®. MCH has received numerous training scholarships to allow MCH employees to become TBRI® practitioners and engage in joint research with KPICD staff.

MCH was endorsed by KPICD to develop curricula offering trauma-informed principles in a variety of settings.

#### The modules include:

- **Connected Caregivers**, which is applicable for any home setting;
- **Connected Churches**, written for church staff and volunteers; and
- Connected Classrooms, which takes trauma-informed principles and applies them to the classroom setting for educators, paraprofessionals and school administrators.

More recently, KPICD named MCH as one of the first TBRI® Ambassador Organizations (see page 6).



Outreach case manager Hannah Osborne (right) helps Silva navigate legal documents during a meeting.

"It is beautiful seeing all five of them work together," Osborne added. "I've seen her become so confident. She's such an intentional mom in her heart and actions. She models TBRI® principles authentically for her children and as a result her kids have grasped them."

In addition to TBRI®, MCH utilizes a variety of trauma-wise principles and programs in its full continuum of ministry. Trauma-informed care recognizes and responds to the signs, symptoms and risks of trauma to better support the health needs of those who have experienced Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and toxic stress.

According to ACEs Aware, an initiative led by the Office of the California Surgeon General and the Department of Health, trauma-informed care is a framework that involves understanding the impact of trauma and adversity on health and behavior; training personnel in best practices; integrating knowledge of trauma and adversity into policies, procedures, practices and treatment planning; and providing nonjudgmental support to resist retraumatization.

"To use trauma-informed care is to have an understanding of the impact of trauma and using techniques that create paths to healing," explained Traci Wagner, MCH vice president for programs. "Trauma-wise techniques can be used in everyday life and relationships, not just in our professional lives."

Examples of trauma-wise techniques are talking plainly instead of shaming, using empathy, creating consistency, encouraging healthy habits such as hydration and a high-protein diet, and creating felt safety.

"MCH has worked diligently to weave traumawise practices through all areas of service and into daily life at MCH," Wagner said. "As we carefully select programs, curricula and models, we provide consistency across all programs and service areas."

Trauma-wise practices Silva adopted to bring stability to her home include such things as having intentional family meetings, defining roles, learning

healthy ways to address hurts and disappointment, and "learning to be OK with messing up, because it's all about getting back up," she said.

As an example, Silva described a trauma-wise lesson the family practices using Band-Aids to acknowledge pain in a healthy manner. Just as someone quickly puts on a bandage to cover up a cut or injury, "our tendency with emotional pain is to cover it up and not talk about it," she said.

"But instead, let's talk about the hurt and allow someone else to give a Band-Aid to physically acknowledge the other person's pain and to offer a

"It is beautiful seeing all five of them work together. I've seen her become so confident. She's such an intentional mom in her heart and actions. She models TBRI® principles authentically for her children and as a result her kids have grasped them."

- Hannah Osborne

gesture of a healing touch," she said. Silva said her 8-year-old daughter even used the method at school by giving her friend a Band-Aid to apologize and acknowledge the pain she caused her.

Additionally, when the family was still in crisismode, "we would not eat dinner together; I would rush to prepare something and feed the kids, but not engage them," Silva said. "Now, we've changed structures and habits. We set the table together, clean up together and everyone has a job in the process."

Silva also changed her approach to disciplining her children.

"Before, I would send my children away into time out when they did something," Silva said. "Now, it's about 'time in.' Rather than sending my child away, we spend time together talking about the issue and what we can learn from it. This is definitely an area where I have seen my children come alive."

Silva said all her children are finding strength and beginning to flourish as they become a traumainformed family.

"Through this process the kids are finding their way to be OK," Silva said. "Before, we didn't know what to do. If we just pretend we are OK, aren't we OK? But the kids had experienced trauma. MCH taught me how to really engage with my children."

Her children have "become strong little people who know how to confidently communicate," Silva said.
"I've given them this ability – a permission to articulate



things. They're thriving. Although it is a process, we are on the other side of chaos and we are healing."

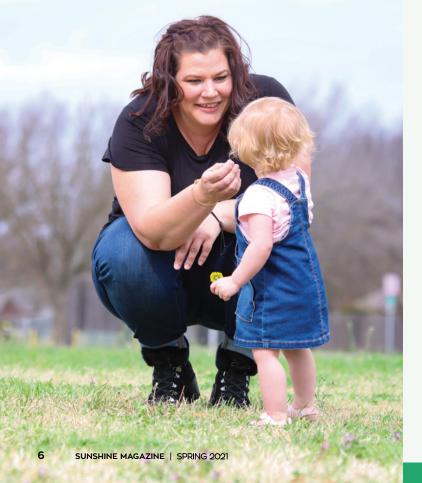
Osborne said she continues to be impressed by Silva's strength, determination and resiliency.

"This family experienced many transitions over the past year, but Michele worked so hard to be the best parent she can be for her children and provide a safe, loving and intentional environment," Osborne said. "She is a strong advocate for her children in school and works to provide for all their physical, mental and emotional needs."

A year removed from the traumatic crisis that redefined her family, Silva said she is now dreaming about her future rather than being in fear of tomorrow. Part of that dream is a desire to one day go back to school and become a legal advocate for children and women in abusive situations.

"MCH gave me the ability to change my life," she said. "I will look back and see our time with Hannah and MCH as a pivotal moment. It was a powerful experience to realize I have what it takes. I received life back.

"Today, my sole identity is that I'm a child of God and a mom," she added. "When everything falls apart, it's time to pick up the pieces and put them back together. I have confidence now because I know I have resources and information to boldly go forward. I think about the future and smile, not cry. I won't live in fear anymore. I am capable."





#### MCH Named TBRI® Ambassador Organization

n January, Methodist Children's Home was named an inaugural TBRI® Ambassador Organization by the Karyn Purvis Institute of Child Development at Texas Christian University (KPICD).

TBRI® is an attachment-based, trauma-informed intervention designed to meet the complex needs of vulnerable children. According to KPICD, TBRI® Ambassador Organizations "are identified as key partners who have long-term relationships with the Purvis Institute and are furthering its mission at a systemic level using Trust-Based Relational Intervention® (TBRI®)."

Previous MCH president Tim Brown first explored TBRI® through his interest in neuroscience and early brain development in children, and he established a relationship with Dr. Purvis and Dr. David Cross, cofounders of the Institute of Child Development at TCU. In 2011, MCH formed an official partnership with the KPICD to implement TBRI® in its residential and MCH Family Outreach programs.

"Our ministry has benefited in many ways from this valuable relationship as we strive to equip our staff with the knowledge to meet the ever-changing needs of children, youth and families who have experienced trauma," said Trey Oakley, MCH president and CEO. "This designation recognizes our long-standing relationship and unique experiences in the trauma-informed field. This is a high honor as we are one of only four organizations globally to be recognized with this distinction."

"As MCH offers hope to children, youth and families, KPICD continues their mission to equip providers and practitioners to meet the needs of clients," said Traci Wagner, vice president for programs. "MCH is proud to have been selected to be among the first TBRI® Ambassador Organizations. We are eager to continue our use and understanding of TBRI® as one of our many tools in service delivery and case management."

While the work of the Purvis Institute has evolved over the years, the mission has remained the same: changing the world for children. The Institute has trained more than 4,000 professionals worldwide as TBRI® Practitioners, individuals who spread TBRI® within their scope of work through training and implementation.

Joining MCH in being named as the inaugural group of TBRI® Ambassador Organizations are All God's Children International in Vancouver, Wash., Crossroads NOLA in New Orleans, La., and Global Impact International/ Restoration Rome located in Rome, Ga. •



led him to be placed at MCH. "My anger was an issue, but I never lost my faith and that has played a big role in my life." Devin's school performance improved at the charter school, and he is on the MCH football and

at school and at home," Devin said, explaining what

basketball teams. "I really enjoy being part of a team," he said.

"I find myself encouraging others when I see my teammates frustrated.

"Sports has helped me with my own frustration, but the football field is a great place to get that out," Devin said with a smile. "The staff and coaches encourage me a lot and have helped me be a better team member."

In the past three years, Devin has improved his relationships with his family.

"I am more open to following the rules and understand how structure at home is helpful," he said. "My dad and I are closer. He really guides me and is open to listening to me."

Enos Peniston, residential supervisor at MCH, described Devin as inspirational.

Peniston said. "Devin had a lot of struggles, but it was easy to bring him back into focus when the conversation carried a spiritual tone."

Today Devin said he is more confident and focused. He believes MCH staff have played a role in helping him make changes in his life, especially in relation to his faith.

"I read my Bible and pray for guidance daily," Devin said.

"Devin has showed a great deal of growth and maturity since he arrived at MCH," said Jeanna Odom, MCH case manager. "He has developed the skills needed to better self-regulate and recognize triggers which allow him to use those skills. Devin is an amazing young man and I expect awesome things from him."

If his life was a book, Devin said the title would be A New Creation.

"I have been given a new beginning," he said. "I appreciate the many opportunities MCH has offered me to grow.".

in MCH athletics.





# ONE HEART PROJECT PARTNERSHIP EXPANDS MENTORING TO MCH YOUTH

#### BY RUSSELL RANKIN

ethodist Children's Home launched a collaborative partnership in March with One Heart Project (OHP) to provide holistic, evidence-based mentoring for youth in the MCH residential and aftercare programs in Waco.

One Heart Project, a national organization headquartered in Southlake, Texas, is a division of Heart of a Champion, a 501c3 nonprofit founded in 1997. The organization has a history of producing positive change in youth in schools, afterschool settings, juvenile facilities, and children's homes through mentoring, life and gap-skill training, social and emotional intelligence, and job training. The nonprofit has impacted nearly 700,000 youth in 26 states, leading the organization to be recognized by the White House and invited to testify before the United States Congress on multiple occasions.

MCH President and CEO Trey Oakley said OHP "does an outstanding job working with and mentoring young people who are getting ready to take that next step in life moving toward independence. They have a well-established method of drawing mentors from the business community, professional sports and others and are committed to coming alongside the programs we already have in place to strengthen and enhance how we work."

As part of the collaboration, OHP facilitators work to solely focus on building the mentor program at MCH, explained Traci Wagner, MCH vice president for programs.

"This partnership enhances our organizational structure and culture at MCH, but more importantly this is yet another way to support and wrap around the young people and their families," Wagner said. "One Heart Project helps us expand the support system and network for young people when they leave our program after they graduate."

Oakley noted the partnership "aligns so well with initiatives outlined in our strategic plan to find likeminded organizations with which we can work and benefit from. Additionally, we have an action step

in our strategic plan that addresses our mentoring program. One Heart Project is a wonderful response to those needs."

Oakley and Wagner introduced the collaboration to MCH staff in February through "Let's Talk," Oakley's weekly video message. After orientating staff, OHP leadership and facilitators hosted two kick-off events for MCH youth participating in the mentoring program. The events included dinner, games and conversations about how the program would evolve and grow at MCH.

"Launching a new program with MCH is exciting," said Kendra Williams, who serves as residential curriculum facilitator for OHP at MCH. "We look forward to coming alongside the youth and helping them any way we can."

Sonya Martinez, director of operations for One Heart Project, said the mentoring programs are ultimately successful because they are collaborative in nature.

"Our work is collaborative and doesn't happen without the contributions of other partners like Methodist Children's Home," she said. "It is our intention to support and mentor the young people at MCH but also that the caregivers – those who are active in service to others – will feel cared for, supported and encouraged."

Wagner said One Heart Project "doesn't replace anything we are already doing at MCH in the way we are investing in the lives of young people and their families, but rather it adds to and contributes to our mission and is a clear path to what we know gives young people the best opportunity for success at the next level of life."

"I don't think we can surround our young people with too many caring, loving adults," Oakley added. "Certainly our young people have those relationships with the caring staff at MCH, but this partnership with One Heart Project and the caliber of their expertise and connections helps us expand that commitment." •

# 2020 MCH EMPLOYEE Service Recognition

#### CELEBRATING 3 Years OF SERVICE

- ERIN BAIRD Director (Dallas Family Outreach)
- **DENASHA BOUYE** Youth Care Counselor (Residential Services Dept.)
- NATASHA BROWN Youth Care Counselor (Residential Services Dept.)
- TROY BROWN Case Manager (Residential Services Dept.)
- LISA CANADY Youth Care Counselor (Residential Services Dept.)
- ROSEMARY CHAVARRIA Administrative Assistant (Facilities/Plant)
- FRANKIE CONES Director (Killeen Family Outreach)
- DAVID EASTMAN Home Parent (Residential Services Dept.)
- GAYLE EDWARDS Youth Care Counselor (Residential Services Dept.)
- BLAKE JONES Home Parent (Residential Services Dept.)
- MONTISHA MILLER Case Manager (Dallas Family Outreach)
- ANTOINETTE NUNN Cook (Charter School)
- ROSARIO REYES Youth Care Counselor (Residential Services Dept.)
- **LEONARD RHOADS** Home Parent (Residential Services Dept.)
- DARIA RINGO Administrative Secretary (Las Cruces Family Outreach)
- **ERNESTINE SAMPLE** Home Parent (Independent Living Dept.)
- MARISSA SMITH Director (Waco Family Outreach)
- SHARON TITORENKO-EASTMAN Home Parent (Residential Services Dept.)
- WHITNEY TREVINO Staff Trainer (Strategic Initiatives Dept.)
- AMBER TWYMAN Human Resources Coordinator (Strategic Initiatives Dept.)
- BILLY TYNES Security Officer (Security)
- SCOTT STANLEY Home Parent (Residential Services Dept.)

#### CELEBRATING 5 Years OF SERVICE

- BIBIANA ALMANZA Case Manager (El Paso Family Outreach)
- CRYSTAL ANTHONY Case Manager (Transition Services Dept.)
- JANA BELTRAN Home Services Specialist (Residential Services Dept.)
- MAEGAN BENNIGHT Case Manager (Waco Family Outreach)
- ROLANDA BROOKS Home Services Specialist (Residential Services Dept.)
- LAKESHA CHAVIS Residential Supervisor (Residential Services Dept.)
- SHANE DAVIS Craftsman (Facilities/Plant)
- LIZA DE LOS SANTOS Case Manager (Corpus Christi Family Outreach)
- DERRAEL DICKERSON Youth Care Counselor II (Residential Services Dept.)
- CANDYCE FRENCH Home Services Specialist (Residential Services Dept.)
- CYNTHIA HURTADO Case Manager (El Paso Family Outreach)
- JASON JACKSON Youth Care Counselor (Residential Services Dept.)
- ASHLEY KENDRICK Student Events Coordinator (Residential Services Dept.)
- MIKE KERR Home Parent (Residential Services Dept.)
- MALINDA LEE Case Manager (Dallas Family Outreach)
- STRANGER MARTINEZ Youth Care Counselor (Residential Services Dept.)
- JAYSON MITCHELL Associate Director of Athletics (Athletics Dept.)
- JANNETTE OROZCO Case Manager (Albuquerque Family Outreach)
- PRESTON POWELL Assistant Coach (Athletics Dept.)
- **REBEKAH POWELL** Director of Quality Improvement (Strategic Initiatives Dept.)
- OKEETA PULLEN Youth Care Counselor (Residential Services Dept.
- JILLIAN SIMS Spiritual Development Minister (Development Dept.)





SARAH AROCHA Athletic Trainer (Athletics Dept.)



VICKI BLEDSOE School Support Specialist (Charter School)



RON BRITTON
Spiritual Dev. Minister
(Development Dept.)



LASHAN BROWN Youth Care Counselor (Residential Services Dept.)



MARISOL GOMEZ
Director
(Corpus Christi Family Outreach)



JUAN HERNANDEZ-TRUJILLO Home Services Specialist (Residential Services Dept.)



BEN PINCKNEY
Youth Care Counselor
(Residential Services Dept.)



TYRONE ROBINSON
School Support Specialist
(Charter School)



MICHAEL BAXLEY
Director of Technology
(IT Dept.)



BRIDGETTE JOHNSON School Support Specialist (Charter School)



KIMBERLY CLARK
Director of Spiritual Dev.
(Development Dept.)



ANDY MCGLOTHLIN School Support Specialist (Charter School)



WILL DAILEY
Residential Supervisor
(Residential Services Dept.)



JOHN WARREN
Director of Training
(Strategic Initiatives Dept.)

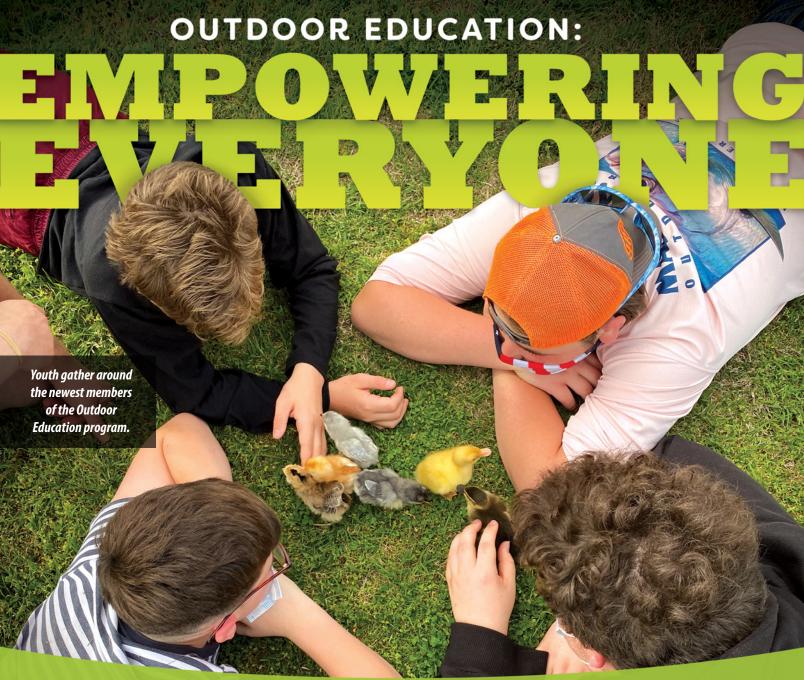


RITA JACKSON Stewardship Specialist (Development Dept.)



FREDDIE WILLIAMS Youth Care Counselor (Charter School)

15 Years
OF SERVICE



**BY SARAH BEY** 

uilding a sense of courage to live life to the fullest and to help youth grow into the best versions of themselves. This is how Tim Price, director of outdoor education at Methodist Children's Home, passionately describes the goal of the program.

"The objective is to give these kids every opportunity they didn't have before," Price said. "We want to make sure they take something valuable away from MCH after their time with us. Our priority is for them to understand we will always be there for them and support them."

The Outdoor Education program, set on the sprawling, 500-acre MCH Boys Ranch, is open to boys living on the ranch as well as youth from the Waco campus. MCH hopes to open up these opportunities to others outside the organization in the future.

The program expanded in the latter half of 2020 as staff looked for ways to keep youth at the ranch engaged and active during the ongoing pandemic. The team focused on nurturing a culture of learning while being flexible with added safety and health guidelines during the uncertain times.

"Our program is comprehensive," Price said. "We have just about everything you'd want to do outdoors."

Activities are centered on building relationships and skills participants can apply in other areas of their lives. They include the 50-foot Alpine Tower challenge course, fishing, kayaking, horsemanship, and gardening. Classes in hunter's safety and agriculture science are also available to everyone. In addition, youth are taught how to care for chicks and ducklings in the poultry barn and how to maintain the fisheries at the ranch. Several youth recently

built an aquaponics lab which has already yielded a crop of vegetables and herbs. Aquaponics is a form of agriculture in which nutrient-rich water from fish tanks provides a natural fertilizer for plants, which in turn help purify the water for the fish.

"The guys do it all," Price said. "They take ownership of the projects and really want to be here. There's a lot of responsibility and I'm very proud of them. There's a measurable outcome. So, I can actually track their growth."

Price said he maintains a database that shows each person's progress on a weekly and monthly basis. Participants are scored on each activity and given a rank such as "beginner" or "apprentice." Price said the ranking system is something the students pride themselves on and work to level up.

> Dalton and Austen, 15-year-old residents at the ranch, are avid participants in the program and have excelled in

horsemanship. "My favorite part of the program is definitely

being able to ride and build

a relationship with the horses," Dalton said, "If you don't build a relationship, they won't get to know you and they won't really listen to you." Not all students

are as comfortable around the animals in the beginning. Price recalled \*Sam's journey in the program and said his story is just one of many that exemplifies the program's purpose. He said the 16-year-old

Lilyanna, a resident of

the Waco campus,

participates in

a kayaking

activity.

was terrified of horses but gradually started to feed them from across a fence. Sam began to develop more trust in the horses and Price shared that Sam

can confidently ride horses now.

"We empower kids to feel confident," Price said. "When they are confident with a 1,200-pound horse, it helps them realize they can feel the same way in their relationships with other people in any situation."

Price explained he teaches his students how to apply the "Ask, Tell, Command" strategies when handling the horses.

"Every single aspect of the program is built to teach them something, including how to interact in different

relationships," Price said. "They can develop a bond with an animal and apply those lessons to their human connections. They learn to gain and give the respect needed in those relationships."

Londen, a resident of the Boys Ranch, spends time working on the aquaponics system he and other MCH youth have created.

Another goal of the Outdoor Education program is to help participants develop marketable products. Youth have made ant poison – which is not harmful to humans – to help control fire ants. They have also made their own version of fertilizer using the emulsion from the fish in the aquaponics lab and fisheries with other ingredients. Price said their next goal is to start making soaps and other products to sell at local farmers markets.

The future for the program will include building a campground near one of the six lakes on the

Boys Ranch. After Price and his team developed the ideas, the First United Methodist Church of Rockwall stepped in and provided the funds for the project through the church's Lenten offering. The contribution will build a canopy at the site and have crushed gravel laid down in those areas. Price hopes the new campground will create a greater sense of comradery among the youth.

"I believe it will help them build comradery and trust as they share stories around the campfire," Price said. "The new campsite

will transform into another safe place where they can freely express themselves away from whatever situation they were in previously."

Opportunities through the Outdoor Education program help youth develop a sense of hope for the future and a sense of satisfaction for a job well done. For Price, working with the boys is a true calling. "It should be all about them and that's how the

Outdoor Education program at MCH operates," Price said. "We're not just molding our kids to be better - we're helping our staff grow into better

> caregivers as well. This certainly has made me a better person.

Our program is just an evolution of goodness." •



We empower kids to feel confident. When they are confident with a 1,200-pound horse, it helps them realize they can feel the same way in their relationships with other people in any situation.

**TIM PRICE Director of Outdoor Education** 

\* Name has been changed for this article.

#### **NEWS & NOTES**



#### MCH RECEIVES 2021 GUIDESTAR PLATINUM SEAL

Methodist Children's Home earned the Platinum Seal of Transparency, the highest level of recognition offered by GuideStar, the world's largest source of information on nonprofit organizations.

Very few nonprofits listed on GuideStar achieve the Platinum level and this is the first Platinum designation for MCH after several years as a Gold Seal organization, noted MCH President and CEO Trey Oakley. To earn the Platinum Seal of Transparency, MCH added comprehensive material to its nonprofit profile on GuideStar related to goals and strategies, as well as results and progress toward its mission.

"As an organization, we have intentionally enhanced our ability to achieve this Platinum status by building on steps in our strategic plan to expand internal assessments

and outcome measurements,"
Oakley said. "When a third party
such as GuideStar acknowledges
our level of transparency, it is a vote
of confidence that we are moving in
a good direction with our ministry."

GuideStar.com receives more than 13 million visitors each year searching for information on nonprofit organizations for the purpose of research, community collaboration and charitable giving. Information is shared with more than 200 philanthropic websites and applications that are powered by GuideStar data, such as AmazonSmile, Facebook and Network for Good.

"Sound stewardship and transparency are essential tenets of Methodist Children's Home as we work to equip children, youth and families to flourish," Oakley said. "Receiving the Platinum Seal of Transparency designation from GuideStar shows we are committed to integrity as a top-rated nonprofit organization through the way we share our goals, strategies, capabilities, and outcomes.

"This designation is yet another way our faithful supporters and the public can be assured MCH is worthy of their investment of time, talent and treasure," he added.

MCH is also rated as a four-star charity by Charity Navigator, the highest rating available from the nation's largest charity evaluator. MCH is accredited through the Council on Accreditation (COA), an independent, nonprofit accreditor of the full continuum of community-based behavioral healthcare and social service organizations in the United States and Canada.

#### IN MEMORY OF RUTH EVELYN DANIELS

Ruth Evelyn Daniels, wife of former Methodist Children's Home President Dr. Jack Kyle Daniels, passed away Saturday, Jan. 23.

A native of Grand Saline, Texas, she graduated from Baylor University, where she also met her husband, Jack.

Dr. Daniels, who served as president of MCH from 1978-2003, arrived at MCH at the age of 2 along with his siblings and spent his formative years at MCH. The couple's 64-year marriage always involved MCH in some manner.

"The Danielses have been faithful supporters and encouragers to many people, including me," said Trey Oakley, MCH president and CEO. "When I arrived at MCH 21 years ago, my family and I were warmly welcomed by Dr. Jack and Evelyn. It was a joy to serve with and learn from them both. While Dr. Daniels was the one on the payroll, everyone knew the couple was a package deal."

Oakley said his wife, Karen, always described Evelyn as the "model First Lady who truly loved and gave her best to MCH."

"Not long after joining MCH, Karen and I were expecting our first child," Oakley said. "Karen fondly recalls Evelyn pulling out all the stops and hosting the most wonderful baby shower for us. She didn't have to do that for a young midlevel manager as I was then, but Evelyn was all about serving others and had a gift for making others feel valued and loved."

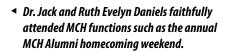
In retirement, the Danielses faithfully attended the annual homecoming weekend of the MCH Alumni Association to reconnect with lifelong friends. Amy Barley, a member of the MCH Board of Directors and daughter of an MCH alumna, reflected that "Jack and Evelyn have been a part of our lives for as long as I can remember. Evelyn was an example to each young girl she came into contact with."

Jimmy Hammond, a former MCH resident, returned to serve as a home parent during Dr. Daniels' tenure as president. He remembers Evelyn as welcoming and hospitable.

"When my wife and I came to work as home parents, Mrs. Daniels was the first person to tell me that Dr. Daniels and I shared a special bond of both being former students who returned as full-time staff.

"Dr. Daniels always wanted to make sure the children of MCH were taken care of because it was 'their' mission, not just his," Hammond added.

Evelyn is survived by her loving husband, Jack; two children, Lyn Koenning and Kyle "Stig" Daniels;





This portrait of Ruth Evelyn Daniels was taken during Jack K. Daniels' tenure at Methodist Children's Home.

four grandchildren, Stephen White, Lisa Atkins Matz, Kimberly Atkins Berger, and Cole Koenning; and three great-grandchildren, Kylie and Samantha White, and Vincent Matz.

MCH alumnus Jim Milam honored Evelyn by using a phrase Dr. Daniels often invoked when speaking of the passing of a friend: "As Jack was known to say: 'God gave us the gift of memory.' Evelyn will be remembered."

"Methodist Children's Home has such a rich history," said Oakley.
"I often say that we stand on the shoulders of giants – those who paved the way through their service, commitment, love, and expertise to make MCH what it is today. Ruth Evelyn Daniels certainly is one of those giants."•



#### **NEWS & NOTES**

#### YOUTH COMPETE IN THE MCLENNAN COUNTY JR. LIVESTOCK SHOW

From Feb. 8-12, Methodist Children's Home charter school students participated in the McLennan County Junior Livestock Show at the Extraco Events Center in Waco. Twelve FFA students had animals selected to be shown, with three advancing to the Sale of Champions.

"Like Mr. Oakley told our kids, it's not always about the placing but the memories and knowledge they gained," said Steve Kruse, AG teacher at the MCH charter school. "Thanks to everyone for thinking about our kids and encouraging them."

The process to showcase animals was adjusted to include COVID-19 protocols. Masks were required in the pen area, but could be removed when the youth presented their animals due to sufficient physical distancing. A limited number of guests per participant were allowed to attend to minimize crowd size.

The MCH charter school is operated in partnership with The University of Texas-University Charter School system and located on the Waco campus. Students participating in the junior livestock show learn about caring for and showing animals during agricultural sciences classes.

#### JR. LIVESTOCK SHOW RESULTS:

#### **SHEEP DIVISION**

- Abigail Participated (Hair Sheep)
- D'Nayjah 3<sup>rd</sup> (Med. Wool) (Sale)
- Emma Participated (Med. Wool)

#### **GOAT DIVISION**

- Destinee 9th
- Emma 10th

#### **STEER DIVISION**

• Dalton - Participated

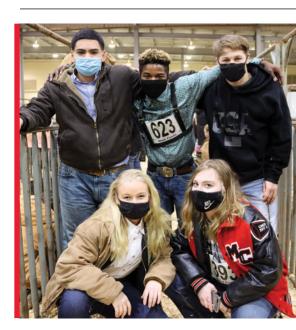
#### **SWINE DIVISION**

- Alex Participated (CROSSES\*)
- Austen 10th (CROSSES\*)
- Camray 8<sup>th</sup> (WOPB\*)
- Lacy 7th (HAMP\*) (Sale)
- Nikki 11<sup>th</sup> (BOPB\*)
- Taylor 9<sup>th</sup> (DUROC)
- Triston 5th (YORK\*) (Sale)





Dalton, a youth at the MCH Boys Ranch, is pictured with his steer.



Alex, Camray, Austen (top row), plus Taylor and Nikki (bottom row), hang out near the MCH swine pens before participating in the swine show.

**◆** D'Nayjah presents her medium wool goat.

#### \* SHOW SWINE BREEDS:

- BOPB: Black Other Pure Breed
- CROSSES: Cross Bred
- **HAMP:** Hampshire
- **WOPB:** White Other Pure Breed
- YORK: American Yorkshire



#### **NEWS & NOTES**

#### WINTER WEATHER RESPONSE FROM MCH

On Saturday, Feb. 13, 2021, a large storm system hit Texas and much of the region, bringing historic snowfall and subzero temperatures which taxed energy grids and supply chains. For more than a week, many in communities across the state endured power outages in addition to the bone-chilling temperatures, causing unprecedented emergencies and even loss of life. In response to inquiries from many concerned supporters of the ministry, MCH President and CEO Trey Oakley shared the following letter detailing how MCH fared through the storm:

Just like thousands of others in our communities, the children, youth and families we serve through our residential campuses, foster homes and 13 MCH Family Outreach offices in Texas and New Mexico had to adapt to the loss of electricity and water as well as other serious needs during this winter weather crisis. The worse conditions for MCH existed at the MCH Boys Ranch as pipes began to freeze and power was lost. In between the two storm systems that hit the Waco area, all Boys Ranch residents and staff were safely relocated to the Waco campus. Full service was finally restored to the Boys Ranch on Feb. 24.

The reports I received from across MCH service areas and the extraordinary efforts I had the privilege to personally witness during this time were truly amazing. For many of our staff, just leaving their home to cover job duties, complete a project or check on a family in need was exceptionally difficult due to the conditions. To add to this, there are stories of staff spending the night at work in order to cover extra duties, taking on new and essential roles out of necessity and transporting colleagues or families to ensure our crucial services never stopped.

Stories abound as well from our outreach locations, where staff members – some even without power in their own homes – continued to care for and check on families in the community and worked to ensure much-needed relief was provided.

Outreach staff in Bryan, Texas, came to the aid of a client whose apartment roof started to collapse in the winter weather. Our team was able to secure a warm place for her and her family and a case manager provided additional support by acting as an advocate to get repairs made to the roof.

An outreach case manager coordinated a group from a local church to deice the walkway and steps of a pregnant client's home, and further continued to check on her.

I am grateful to our faithful supporters for the prayers and resources that enable our amazing staff to bless others in such moments of uncertainty. Thanks to God's care, the dedication of our staff, the resiliency of those we serve, and the resources you entrusted to us, MCH did more than just endure another crisis, we delivered essential relief to children, youth and families throughout Texas and New Mexico.

As in most crisis situations, we deal with the needs and do our best to quickly restore a sense of normalcy at MCH for the sake of those in our care. However, we remain aware that for others in our communities there are hurting families still trying to rebuild and seeking services like those we offer. We will be there along with our many friends who are on the frontlines for children, youth and families. Because of the resources and expertise we have at MCH, we will remain diligent toward our vision to empower all we serve to experience life to the fullest.

On behalf of our ministry, thank you for giving us the tools we need to be there for children, youth and families from Texas and New Mexico. •

Toffally

### RESTORING HOLY GROUND

ince its construction and dedication in 1941, the Harrell Memorial Chapel on the Waco campus has been holy ground; the focal point of spiritual development for thousands of children and youth. While new homes continue to be built as part of the Building Hope capital campaign, the chapel is designated as a "Legacy Building;" a structure whose rich history will be preserved as the ministry makes necessary improvements to ensure it is equipped to meet the needs of those in care now and in the future.

According to Don McAvoy, benefactor relations officer and coordinator of the chapel project, MCH is asking friends and supporters, beginning with United Methodist congregations in the six Conferences of Texas and New Mexico, to provide gifts for the chapel restoration and renewal project.

McAvoy said the ultimate goal is to raise \$450,000, which includes funding for paint, pew restoration, a new sound system with cameras and projectors, and the addition of an

outdoor worship space and prayer labyrinth adjacent to the chapel.

"We believe and are asking the Lord to use the restoration and renewal of this historic, sacred space to draw

others to Jesus like never before," McAvoy said.

For more information about supporting the Harrell Memorial Chapel Restoration and Renewal project, contact Don McAvoy at DMcAvoy@MCH.org or (800) 853-1272.



The labyrinth will include connection to electricity for lighting and opportunities for additional multisensory worship, small group activities and a beautiful setting for prayer and reflection.

The chancel platform will be expanded. Storm glass will be installed over original stained glass windows for long-lasting protection. Hardware, paint, the roof, and carpet will be replaced for a fresh look.

## EASTER BLESSINGS

from Methodist Children's Home





Rebekah Powell, director of quality improvement, delivers Easter baskets for Corleone (right) and other youth on the Waco campus and Boys Ranch.





Lacy enjoys the sunny spring weather during her Easter egg hunt.



Raelynn dashes across the yard hoping to find more colorful Easter eggs.



Lilyanna shows her bunny-themed Easter basket.



Eshana proudly shows off Easter eggs she found.



Rafael shows his colorfully decorated Easter basket.









he day before Methodist Children's Home became Malcolm's new home, he had a sleepless night, worried he might miss his admissions appointment the next morning. Accountability and punctuality were values his military father instilled in him at an early age and would be what he relied on as he navigated the path that led him to MCH.

Malcolm's parents both died when he was teenager. Shortly afterward, the city repossessed his childhood home, leaving him and his siblings homeless. Without legal guardianship or stable housing, Malcolm and his younger sister, as minors, decided MCH was their best hope to get connected to a support system and complete their high school education.

When he arrived at the MCH Boys Ranch in 2009, Malcolm was determined to adjust to his new environment and meet the expectations of the program.

"I was personally driven to make it work and take advantage of the resources available," he explained.

Malcolm quickly gained the trust and respect of MCH staff which opened opportunities for him to pick up extra jobs at the Boys Ranch and in the community. He admitted that a full day of house chores, school, dinner, work crew, and dining hall duty did not leave him much time to get distracted.

"There were probably easier ways to make money and spend my time, but the hard work kept me focused," he said.

Malcolm's gratitude for MCH goes beyond the care he received during his most vulnerable times. He said one of the best gifts MCH provided him was access to opportunities.

"I learned that you have to do your part to achieve your ambitions," he said. "I worked hard for my success, but I give credit to MCH for providing opportunities that enabled me to execute my educational and financial goals."

Ken Alexander, case manager for transition services, worked with Malcolm during his senior year to help

him design a post-graduation plan. He described Malcolm as caring, resilient, reliable, and motivated.

"He is a true leader who takes care of his commitments for the benefit of those around him," Alexander said.

Malcolm graduated from the University of Texas Charter School at MCH and earned a band scholarship at a community college. Although he was a good student, he chose to take an extended break from school to focus on his finances. He shared that the most rewarding job he held at that time was with an organization that cared for children and young adults with special needs.

"The special needs world requires a lot of love and care," Malcolm said, adding that some individuals in this community are often disregarded because of their disability.

In his role as a caregiver, Malcolm would often brighten his clients' day by bringing them fun socks. He considered this small gesture as a way to be a light in the darkness, paying forward what MCH had done for him.

"Similar to my story, MCH played a short, but important role by putting socks on my feet and clothes on my back when I needed it most," he said.

Alexander remained connected with Malcolm during this time and encouraged him to complete his education.

In 2020, Malcolm became the first in his family to graduate college, earning a bachelor's degree in psychology from Prairie View A&M University. Currently, he serves as a caseworker for Child Protective Services in San Antonio and plans to pursue a master's degree in psychology.

"I am not finished yet, but I know I can always count on MCH to welcome me back with a warm hug," Malcolm shared. "My family is my foundation, but MCH is my home." •

#### GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORIAL GIFTS

GIFTS MADE UP TO \$499 FROM JANUARY THROUGH MARCH 2021

#### **HONORARIUMS**

Mary Ann Black

Laverne Ogden

**George and Betty Briggs** 

Dr. and Mrs. Rambie Briggs

The Dickerson Family -Ben, Mike, Clifton and Mary

The Dickerson Family

Reverend Cleon Flanagan's

90th Birthday

Bill and Lois Horton

Ricki and Joel Florsheim

Brvan and Carol Sedberry

Brad, Chloe, Emilie and **Paige Fouts** 

Alice Sappington

Jamie Gerlitz

Brian Harrison

**Katherine Griffin** 

Katherine Drummond-Griffin

Clara Arnold Harris' 92nd Birthday

Glenda Arnold and Marilyn Walker

Nelda Hazlewood

Cathy and Karl Herzog

Sheryl Jamail

Rick and Susan Cade

**Bruce and Linda Kennedy** 

Margaret Allison

**Betty Langley** 

Rick and Susan Cade

**Shirley Loges** 

Marline Toler

Kelly McCuaig's Birthday

Tularosa United Methodist Church

**Daniel Mead's Retirement** 

Gloria Gurkoff

**Barry Mertz** 

Dennis and Kay Griffin

Dan Moore's Birthday

Janie and Fain McDougal

**Our Police** 

Leslie Oelke

Reed Prince's Birthday

Kim and Brian Torstrick

**Melba Reeves** 

Lexie and Mary Lou Gregg

**Matt and Lauren Richter** 

Goldie L. Richter

Ron and Judy Richter

Goldie L. Richter

Jerry Sadler's Birthday

Steve and Norma Runyon

**Carol Schuelke** 

Connie Bond

**Elizabeth Springer** 

Linda Beckham

Robert and Betty Thompson's 70th Wedding Anniversary

Peggy Hollingsworth

Melodi and Lance Tripp

A.A. Schellenberg, Jr.

**U.S. Military** 

Leslie Oelke

**Cindy Walker** 

Alice Sappington

John R. Warren

Becky and Quentin Warren

Allison Marie Wertz's 1st Birthday

Sharon D. Wertz

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David Calliham

Reverend John "Jack" Albright

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**Michael Andrews** 

Carolyn S. Andrews

Miriam "Margaret"

(Adams) Andrews David and Julie Artherholt

Ron and Becky Barker

Donna L. Bonvillain

Marcos and Linda Salgado

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Evelyn Dawson

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Scarlet Bray

Cecil and Mary Barton

Hunter and Totsy Cunningham

Dr. Roy T. Bassett

Mrs. Mary Bassett

**Richard Wayne Bateman** 

Linda Bateman

James Carrol Beard

Gene and Mary Chamness

Jackie Birdwell

Keith Bland

Keith Cox

Lt. Colonel Jacob Lenier Bland

Randy and Penny Long

Joseph Lawrence Boeckman

Charles and Cindy Huffman

Bernice (Canada) Bradfield

Robert Bradfield

Florence May Bratton

Eric Bratton

Patricia Bratton

Ralph and Pam Bratton

Heather Chapman

Steve and Sharon Chapman

Mike and Linda Dockal

Kim Kibby

Sandie Wray

Jeff Andrew Busch

Helen Goethe

Mark Allen Byrd

Pat and Sharon Wise George Vann Callcott

Ray and Lori Day

Milton Varnell Carroll

Grady and Kim Newton

Julian and Frances Caswell

Judith Ann Caswell

Elaine Marjorie (Babb) Chastain

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Amarillo, TX Friends at Central National

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Leah Cowart

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Therrell, P.C., Waco, TX Rick and Kathy Lemons

Jenee and William McHenry Terry and Kathleen Myers

Rose Marie Netzer Gene and Mary Lard, Sharen

Laurrell and Karen and Ron Snell

**Choi Mak Chow** 

Ronnie D. McCormick

Suzanna Cisnero's uncle

Kallie Barlie

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Ida S. Cooke

Linda Bateman

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Judy Ruthardt

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Jarret Mallon

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Elaine and Ronnie Lee James and Lynda Gorman Parry

and Family

Billy and Suzie Roberts

Dr. Ann Weiss Sue Wray

#### **Ryan Webster**

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#### **Sharon Wells**

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Randy Unfred and Tanya

Unfred Thomas

Carol White

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Betty Trapp Chapman
Mike and Kathy McGovern
Robert and Cindy Nash
Gail and Franklin Olson
John and Linda Riley
Rachel Shepherd
Southwest District of the UMC
Missouri City, TX
Dr. Ann Weiss

Bobby and Peggy Woodward

#### Shirley (Scott) Williams

Jim and Joyce Gray

#### Mr. and Mrs. Woodrow L. Wilson

Jane Wilson Ragan

#### Craig Logan Worsham

The Ed Davis Family

#### Richard "Dick" Yetter

Mrs. Richard Yetter

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#### RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR LEVEL OF SUPPORT

#### \$500 - \$999 GIFTS

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*In memory of* Abraham (Abe) Mulkey

#### Reverend and Mrs. Kenneth R. Byrd Hearne, TX

In memory of Henry Julius Bonorden Frank Walter "Ted" Crouch Randy Rains

#### Linda Conway Big Spring, TX

*In memory of*Larry Bob Conway

#### Chris and Christy Cowan Flower Mound, TX

*In memory of* Abraham (Abe) Mulkey

#### Wes and Wendy Green Amarillo, TX

*In memory of* Rick Wolfe

#### Home State Insurance Group, Inc. Waco, TX

In memory of Norman L. Hay, Jr.

#### Robert Hurst Tomball, TX

In memory of
Theodore "Ted" Dose

#### Debbie Louder San Angelo, TX

In memory of Ruth Evelyn Daniels Britain "Brit" Rice Webb IV

#### Brandon and Christina Mulkey Lubbock, TX

*In memory of* Abraham (Abe) Mulkey

#### Dan Mulkey Granbury, TX

*In memory of* Abraham (Abe) Mulkey

#### Jeff Mulkey Flower Mound, TX

*In memory of* Abraham (Abe) Mulkey

#### Tom and Mitzi Mulkey Lubbock, TX

*In memory of* Abraham (Abe) Mulkey

#### Leland White Tahoka, TX

In memory of Donald McGlashan Orville Ray Phifer Robert "Wayne" Poer Barbara Gayle (McNeely) White

#### John L. Wilson Paradise, TX

*In memory of* Augusta Bost

#### Women's Healthcare Associates Amarillo, TX

*In memory of*Elaine Marjorie (Babb) Chastain

#### \$1,000 - \$3,499 GIFTS

#### The Wilson and Iona Barfield Family New Boston, TX

*In memory of*The Wilson and Iona Barfield Family

#### Julie and John Diem Georgetown, TX

*In honor of*Children in the John and
Julie Diem Family

#### Betty C.W. Edwards Dallas, TX

In honor of Bettye K. Moore In memory of Wanda Ruth (Miller) Glenn

#### Dennis "Corky" Fowler Houston, TX

*In honor of*Charlene "Chicky" Fowler's Birthday

#### Nelda Hazlewood San Angelo, TX

*In memory of*Ruth Evelyn Daniels
Boyce Loyd Jones

#### Thomas Lash Centennial, CO

*In memory of* Harriet Gertrude (Haley) Lash

#### Rich Llewellyn Spring, TX

*In memory of*Kelly Rose Llewellyn

#### Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas, San Antonio, TX

*In memory of* Robert Terry "Bob" Rork

#### Phillip and Erin Prince Waco, TX

*In honor of*Reed Prince's Birthday

#### Lisa and Mac Tichenor Dallas, TX

*In memory of*Ruth Evelyn Daniels

#### United Methodist Castaways First UMC Rockport, TX

In memory of
Virginia Russell
Cynthia (Gandy) Thompson

#### \$3,500 - \$9,999 GIFTS

#### Les Leskoven Corsicana, TX

In honor of
Joan Leskoven
In memory of
Tanner Blake Birdwell
Ruth Evelyn Daniels
Boyce Loyd Jones
John M. Kocurek
Jimmy "Jim" Wayne Leskoven
Danny Kavanaugh Lord
Naomi Reed

#### Marjorie Mae Pyle Leander, TX

In memory of Lisa Millsaps



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## THE 2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT

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To receive a printed copy, please email **PR@MCH.org** or call **1-800-853-1272**.



