SUNSHINE

THE MAGAZINE OF METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME | SUMMER 2023





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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



Trey Oakley President and CEO

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

In this issue of Sunshine magazine, you will learn how this ministry works to focus its energy, resources and talents to provide transformational

services at a high level and in a way that addresses existing and emerging needs in our communities. As you read about our new strategic plan on the following pages, I hope you will come away with a deeper understanding of the intentionality by which we strive to operate as a ministry committed to empowering all we serve to experience life to the fullest.

The theme of our strategic plan, "Imagine 2028," is based on Ephesians 3:20, which reminds us God is at work in and through us as Christ-followers, equipping us for service but also providing more than we could ask or imagine as we remain committed to Him. As we advance through this strategic plan, we must remain faithful in prayer and think intentionally about who God is calling MCH to be in this season. We know God can fulfill our goals and objectives far beyond what we are capable of imagining if we are disciplined stewards of His plan. This is great news for those we serve, as well as our staff, supporters, communities, and all connected to the future of our ministry.

MCH has carried out life-changing ministry for nearly 134 years because of God's leadership, the prayers and support of faithful friends, and a committed workforce who shows up daily in amazing ways, ready to do whatever it takes to change lives across Texas and New Mexico. We know the work we are called to is challenging, but we serve a great God; through Him we have confidence that even greater days are ahead for Methodist Children's Home.

An overview of the strategic plan is presented on p. 6 of this issue. If you would like to read the strategic plan in its entirety, please visit the MCH Resources page on our website, MCH.org. If you have additional questions about specifics within the strategic plan, you are welcome to contact me or our Advancement department.

CONTENTS

Imagine 2028: A Five-Year Vision for MCH 7 Youth Profile -Destiny: One of a Kind 8 **Youth Work Program** 10 **Summer Fun at MCH** 12 Honoring Bryan Mize -A Legacy of Service **News & Notes** 14 16 **Advancement News** 18 **Transition Services Profile –** Deborah: Graceful Adapter

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19

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BY RUSSELL RANKIN

n June the Methodist Children's Home Board of Directors unanimously approved a new strategic plan titled, "Imagine 2028." This plan, designed to guide the ministry for the next five years, "will keep us focused on key areas of growth while allowing us to be flexible with timing and funding plans," said MCH President and CEO Trey Oakley.

Oakley explained the theme of the strategic plan is inspired by Ephesians 3:20, "an important promise that has sustained Methodist Children's Home since 1890: 'Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by His power at work within us."

"This verse reminds us that we are not alone as we carry out this strategic plan and our daily work, and that God's power is working in and through us to achieve far beyond what we could ask or imagine," Oakley said. "It is also a reminder that we, as Christfollowers, must give our best for the children, youth and families we serve.

"We are called to imagine – to dream big – through this strategic plan for what MCH can

accomplish during the next five years," he added. "What an encouragement, what a vision and what an amazing God who empowers us to do great things."

Bryan Mize, strategic initiatives specialist, guided the strategic planning process with the executive management team for nearly a year, looking at how the ministry would springboard from the previous three-year strategic plan. The team saw the heart of the 2019 plan as one to build upon for the future.

"Four years ago, nearly 180 employees, Board members and other stakeholders participated in focus groups to contribute to the strategic planning process," Mize said. "When the executive management team evaluated the status of the strategic plan earlier this year, one of the priorities was to continue to benefit from the outstanding work conducted by the previous planning groups. This led to the decision to carry over some of the action steps that remain relevant and will continue to challenge MCH to strengthen programs, services and operations at the highest level."

Completed action steps were eliminated, others addressing similar needs were revised and consolidated and new action steps were proposed.

"Imagine 2028 was intentionally developed with the flexibility that will enable MCH to add or revise action steps based on changing priorities during the next five years," Mize said.

The last four years taught the entire organization the necessity of being nimble and to expect the unexpected, Oakley noted. MCH navigated and weathered a global pandemic, substantial changes in external influences on ministries like MCH and changes to the workplace in large part through the intentionality of the organization's strategic plan, he said.

"It is a tremendous source of encouragement to look back and see how our commitment to the strategic plan has kept us going," Oakley emphasized. "We didn't approve the plan and then set it aside. It became a living, breathing document that truly served to propel us forward and keep us focused during some uncertain and unpredictable times.

"So, we know as we adopt Imagine 2028 that whatever conflict arises, we have what it takes to stay focused and push through," he said. "Secondly, this structure allows us to have the creativity that we do need as an organization to ensure our vision and mission positively impact all we serve."

Imagine 2028 consists of three priorities addressing the MCH Continuum of Care, Organizational Culture & Communication, and Funding, Stewardship & Collaboration (See complete summary on p. 6).

"In developing this strategic plan, we determined that these three pillars, or headings, were paramount," Oakley said. "You're not going to find anything better to propel MCH forward than our continuum of care, our organizational culture, and funding, financing and external connections."

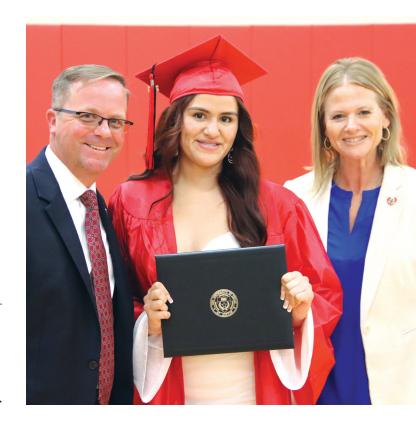
Having a strong and focused continuum of care framed in the strategic plan gives MCH vision to care for children, youth and families in the most effective manner. Residential programming, education, in-home care, and community services are all impacted by the priorities outlined in Imagine 2028.

First and foremost, we are a ministry and aim to point people toward the love and hope that only flows from Jesus. But we are also a skilled team of professionals who pride ourselves on embracing a focused and flexible mindset. To serve well, we must have a plan. Otherwise, we can easily get distracted, interject individual agendas and become inconsistent, and that is when priorities get jumbled. The agency strategic plan is well thought-out and prayed-over, with the flexibility to pivot quickly to meet changing needs.

One way we promote consistency and highest-level service is through program models. A program model offers a framework or visual roadmap that illustrates the destination of a program and identifies how to get there. As needs change and tools evolve, we must continually evaluate program models, as well as expand them to many areas of programming. This takes a steadfast commitment and discipline to reject the "this is the way we've always done it" mentality. We must continually assess what we do, how we do it and be able to explain the why. The strategic plan and program models help us follow the path God has laid before us as a ministry.



TRACI WAGNERVice President for Programs



Tasked with resourcing this ministry and building relationships with generous individuals looking to make an impact in the lives of children, youth and families, the Department for Advancement sees many opportunities within the strategic plan to involve others in our mission. As child and family needs arise, more programming and greater funding is needed. With new projects on the horizon, we look forward to inviting even more donors into the joy of making a Kingdom impact at MCH.

Collaborating with like-minded, transformative organizations has been an area of tremendous growth at MCH. This strategic plan addresses the goal of continuing to pour resources – both tangible and intellectual – into this growth. Our desire is to maximize and steward our resources for ministry through collective impact, generosity and support in order to achieve the MCH vision and mission in a greater way.

LYLE MASON

Vice President for Advancement

"This discussion and planning is at the heart of this current budget year that bridges the previous strategic plan with this one," Oakley said. "The budget is dominated by the allocation of resources that we will need to support an upstart program at the Boys Ranch and carry it out with excellence."

In preparing for the change to serve

In preparing for the change to serve higher-need placements at the Boys Ranch, MCH leadership also identified a great upside to relocating all aspects of the basic-care residential program to the Waco campus.

"In the past, residents participating in spiritual development programs, extracurricular activities, school events, and athletics had to be shuttled back and forth, sometimes multiple times a day," Oakley said. "There is great benefit for our residents served in our basic care program to be on the same campus. I know our staff will maximize these efficiencies and the opportunities that arise for our residents in this new approach."

But at the heart of this change is the calling to be part of the solution facing young people who require an extra layer of services that often go unmet due to lack of providers, he added.

"When faced with a huge challenge, it is a much easier place to pass on the big risky moves," Oakley said. "Our Board of Directors joins with our leadership in asking, 'But if not us, then who?' We have to at least try to stretch ourselves and see if we can be

IMPROVING SERVICE DELIVERY

One of the major goals addressed in the strategic plan involves starting, implementing and evaluating what the next version of the MCH Boys Ranch will look like. Following extensive study, MCH leadership approved transitioning programming at the Boys Ranch to integrate youth with higher levels of needs, Oakley said.

The strategic plan gives guidance for carrying out a new vision for the MCH Boys Ranch. Facilities at the Ranch continue to provide outdoor education experiences for MCH residents and community partners but will also house adolescent males requiring a higher level of care.



successful in this area. This situation is so desperate for those who fit these higher-need categories."

Further details about developments at the Boys Ranch will be shared soon with supporters and likeminded service providers, Oakley noted.

ONE MCH

The Imagine 2028 logo incorporates visual elements of the four statements found within ONE MCH, the strategic commitments introduced in 2019: Five-Star Service, Authentic Accountability, Focused and Flexible Ministries, and Culture of Learning.

In the strategic plan, the goal to update service delivery to meet current and emerging needs calls for a wraparound strategy incorporating ONE MCH through the entire continuum of service. Promoting a culture of valued employees committed to the mission of the ministry and ONE MCH is also emphasized in the priority addressing organizational culture and communication.

"The gospel is first," Oakley said. "You don't have ONE MCH without our mission and vision and commitment to be Christ-centered, ONE MCH is a tool and framework for employees to translate our mission and vision practically as they go about their daily work.

"It's how we communicate; it's our introduction - from the literature used during the admissions process to the first moment people come in contact with this organization whether they are seeking help, employment or to support with resources," he explained. "We want ONE MCH to be our first hello, and also influence how we make big decisions and navigate daily to-do lists. And even on the other side of it, when someone leaves our care or program, we hope the skillset they take with them whether or not they ever call it ONE MCH would become a part of who they are as they go reinvest themselves in their communities and families."





Focused and Flexible Ministries Award Recipients Killeen Family Outreach









Frankie Cones Director of Family Outreach

Nancy Lechuga Administrative Secretary

Case Manager

Case Manager

MCH celebrates employees who exemplify the values of the ONE MCH commitments. Individuals and teams are nominated by colleagues and recipients are recognized at MCH all-staff meetings. Awards are given for Five-Star Service, Authentic Accountability, Focused and Flexible Ministries, and Culture of Learning.

The Imagine 2028 strategic plan is about a collective responsibility to work with excellence, which, for believers in Christ, is supplemented by the fact that God is already at work accomplishing far more than we can even imagine, Oakley said.



JULIE MITCHELL Vice President for Finance

The strategic plan is the roadmap that helps us all stay on the same page – focused on our mission – as we move forward each day giving our different contributions to this ministry.

In order for our organization to make an impact, it takes all of us moving in the same direction towards planned goals. The strategic plan solidifies what our planned goals are for the next several years based on many factors. Some of these factors are our commitment to God's work, social services trends, workforce concerns, governmental regulations, and cost considerations. The strategic plan provides an intentional opportunity for us to collaborate throughout MCH to ensure employees and Board members alike have an active voice in the ongoing future of our ministry. We aim to help develop and sustain a culture of excellence and engagement to improve individual, team, department, and organizational effectiveness.

The strategic plan is a guide that shapes our plans and execution with a balance of data-driven information and wisdom.

BROOKE DAVILLA

Vice President for Organizational Effectiveness



"In my 24 years of being connected to MCH and in my current role as president since 2019, this is the most confident and excited I have been that great days are ahead for this ministry," he said. "I am grateful to our staff, Board members, supporters, and other stakeholders who spoke into and helped influence the creation of this strategic plan. I have no doubt that in 2028 when we look back at where we began and what we expected from this plan, we will once again be amazed and grateful that God did so much more than we could have ever imagined." •

If you would like to read the strategic plan in its entirety or download your own copy, please visit the MCH Resources page on our website, MCH.org.

2023-2028 STRATEGIC PLAN SUMMARY

PRIORITY 1: Continuum of Care

Goal 1 – Update service delivery to meet current and emerging needs.

Goal 2 – Increase effectiveness of service delivery through all programs.

PRIORITY 2: Organizational Culture & Communication

Goal 1 – Foster a culture rooted in unified purpose, employee empowerment and agency-wide teamwork.

Goal 2 - Create professional learning opportunities for employees.

Goal 3 – Enhance performance measures throughout the organization.

PRIORITY 3: Funding, Stewardship & Collaboration

Goal 1 – Increase funding from a variety of sources.

Goal 2 – Ensure the highest level of stewardship of resources.

Goal 3 – Increase investment of resources in collaborations with like-minded, transformative organizations.

Specific action steps associated with each goal are reported and updated quarterly.



estiny came to Methodist Children's Home in the summer of 2022 with her twin brother, Devin. The two 16-year-olds are the youngest in a family that consists of five sets of twins. MCH has become a haven for Destiny after a health crisis disrupted her homelife.

"Destiny and her brother came to MCH because their mother had some serious health issues which led to loss of work and financial hardship," explained Emily Stambaugh, Destiny's case manager. Transitioning to MCH was not easy for Destiny.

"When I first came to MCH, I really didn't know what to think about everything," Destiny admitted. "I thought we would just go to school every day and then go back to the house and do chores."

What she found instead was a staff intent on meeting her needs, a school environment in which she could flourish and catch up, and more than enough activities she could explore.

"I didn't know there would be so much going on, that it would be as fun as it is with all the activities," she said. "This summer, especially, we had so much to do with camps and events."

Looking back on the year she has spent at MCH, Destiny knows the nurturing environment has helped her grow as an individual, especially by having adults in her life interested in her well-being.

"At first I was closed off and didn't really trust anyone," she said. "I disliked a bunch of people and staff right away without trying to get to know them."

Teresa Benavides, one of her home parents, said, "Destiny stole my heart. She was very quiet and very shy at first. I told her she has what it takes to be a leader. I try to encourage her a lot to keep her head up high and remember she can be or do anything she wants in life."

Destiny said she has grown to cherish staff "who really try and connect with us, even if it's something like making our favorite food.

"I didn't think adults really tried to understand kids or get in their life, so it feels so amazing to receive this kind of attention where adults really care about me and want to know me and help me," she said.

Destiny has participated in volleyball, basketball and track, where she competed in discus and ran on the 4x100 and 4x200 relay teams.

"If they brought back the powderpuff football, I'd love to play that, too," she said, adding how proud she was to receive athletic letter patches at the yearend awards ceremony.

Destiny said being at the MCH charter school has helped her as she works on her credit recovery.

"The teachers really work with students to help them succeed, whether in test prep or giving extra tutoring," she said. Destiny is intent on catching up on coursework so she can regain her standing as a junior in high school and graduate with her age group.

"After graduation, I have thought about joining the Army like my sister, who is stationed in Hawaii," Destiny said. "But I would love to go to college and get a degree, too."

Jeanne Ashley, another of Destiny's home parents, said she encourages Destiny and the other girls in the home to believe in themselves, because they are unique and special.

"Destiny is such a sweet and smart young lady," Ashley said. "She has what it takes to go places in life. She is one of a kind."

Destiny believes she is on the right track at MCH.

"MCH is a good place for me," she said. "They have cared for me and given me opportunities that I never would have had otherwise." •

Youth Work Program

BY SARAH BELLAFIORE

Since Methodist Children's Home opened its doors 133 years ago, youth have developed life skills through work opportunities within MCH and the local community. In the early years when the organization was known as Methodist Orphanage, children helped tend to daily needs. Girls helped with household tasks like cooking, cleaning and managing the laundry while boys worked on the farms and maintained the dairies.

By the 1920s, the orphanage operated a full-scale work and vocational training program that included a woodworking shop, broom factory, canning factory, garage and filling station, printing press, barber shop, shoe shop, laundry service, and bakery. The youth work program saw even more development in the following decades as MCH transitioned from an orphanage to a multiservice agency and with the addition of the MCH Boys Ranch in 1971.

The program continues to evolve and expand to meet the changing needs of youth at MCH. Currently, departments within the organization offering part-time employment and internship opportunities for youth include Accounting, Advancement, Outdoor Education, the Plant, and Technology. Residents and Day Students are also able to have jobs in the Waco community. There are currently 24 youth with part-time jobs or internships.

"Our youth have access to mentors through this program and can begin to grow a professional network," said Traci Wagner, vice president for programs. "These opportunities allow them to explore career paths, develop transferrable skills, experience different work environments, and contribute to MCH and the community."

Kristopher is one of several youth with a part-time job. The 16-year-old junior works at a local shoe store and said he has a passion for the work.

"I have always loved shoes ever since I was little,"
Kristopher said. "I enjoy helping others find the perfect pair."
Kristopher said while he has not decided what

direction he will take after graduation, he often imagines what his future in the workforce will look like.

"Those closest to me have encouraged me to become a salesman," he said. "I'd like to sell luxury cars one day. I'm great at customer service and know I have the voice, charisma and talent to sell. I'm continuing to perfect my skills in this job."

Other student workers on the Waco campus experienced their first job role this summer. They describe learning applicable life skills such as time management, professional behavior and dress, and how to develop relationships with peers and supervisors in the workplace.

"I was pretty nervous when I started in the Accounting department," said Kat, a 16-year-old junior. "I am more comfortable now and have opened up more to others in the office. I'm still learning but feel more confident than when I started. I think this role helps me take initiative."

"We hope this position will prepare Kat for an off-campus job eventually," said Amelia Cluke, Kat's residential case manager. "We are working together to develop a work, school and life balance as the new school year starts. Kat is very involved in athletics and spiritual development activities. She has learned to get ahead of the game and is communicating with her coaches about a possible schedule."

Focus and flexibility are key in adulthood and are exercised effectively throughout the youth work program.

"Learning how to keep and find a job is critical and we ensure each of our youth are supported," said Dorothy Phillips, residential services program administrator. "Our case managers and residential staff coordinate transportation as needed for youth who work on and off



campus. Our staff also does a great job at making sure our students have flexibility in their schedules for student enrichment activities like agriculture sciences, athletics, cheer, dance, drumline, and spiritual development."

Many of the student workers develop special, Christcentered relationships with their supervisors and coworkers as they work toward common goals.

"Youth are able to connect with the mission of MCH on a different level through their service side-by-side with staff," Wagner said. "They understand the value of their roles and keep up the hard work well after their time at MCH."

Tim Price, director of outdoor education and recreation, said his student workers are some of the hardest-working people he knows.

"They make our events happen," he said. "A teambuilding day for community partners or a fun day for our kids takes an enormous amount of work and planning. Our student workers perform vital roles in setting up games, helping participants with fishing, kayaking, horsemanship and other outdoor activities."

Bryce is one of several youth who serve in the Outdoor Education program. The 17-year-old has worked with Price for two years and describes how gratifying it feels to work outdoors.

"I live at the MCH Boys Ranch and my love for horses has really grown since I've been here," Bryce said. "I have learned how to care for them, including how to administer their medicine. Learning about horses' body structures also fascinates me because I want to become a chiropractor one day. I hope to help people. When I help other people discover something new in outdoor education and see them smile, it makes me smile."

Timothy, 14, spent the summer working outdoors as well. From cutting down tree limbs and weed-eating to helping move furniture, Timothy expressed his gratitude for the unique opportunity to work in the Plant department.

"Everyone I work with is really nice," he said. "I have grown more as a person in my understanding of how to work with others. Working at the Plant allows me to give back to the people who have given me so much."•



Summer Fun at MCH



Summer 2023 at Methodist Children's Home was packed with fun and growth across our programs! Youth participated in a faith formation camp at Glen Lake Camp & Retreat Center in Glen Rose, Texas. Youth also explored and learned during field trips, including trips to Sea Life Aquarium and Legoland in Dallas. Day Students and staff volunteered with Meals on Wheels in Waco, delivering meals to those in need. Staff taught youth about healthy relationships and other beneficial topics during summer camp. Youth were further strengthened by motivational speakers who visited groups at the Waco campus. Family Outreach staff educated and supported families with a variety of activities, gatherings and services in our 14 communities across Texas and New Mexico.



HONORING BRYAN MIZE:

A Legacy of Service

BY JEAN WRIGHT



Over the course of a remarkable career which began in 2002, Bryan Mize has left an indelible mark on the Methodist Children's Home community, embodying compassion and unwavering commitment. In his roles as director of public relations (PR), vice president for quality improvement, vice president for strategic initiatives, and now as

strategic initiatives specialist, Mize's story is a testament to his deep-rooted appreciation and connection to the mission of MCH. Mize transitioned into the part-time role as strategic initiatives specialist on July 1 where he assists the president and executive team on selected projects based on his experience and expertise.

Mize started his educational pursuits at Texas Christian University, completing his bachelor's degree in journalism in 1986 and earning a master's degree in liberal arts in 1988. He earned another master's in organizational development from Abilene Christian University in 2020, an example of his pledge to lifelong learning.

Much of Mize's journey is defined by education and ministry. His professional career began in 1988 when he became PR director at Howard Payne University (HPU) in Brownwood, Texas. It was during this time he met his wife, Kristi, who was a graduate assistant coach for women's athletics. He and Kristi married in 1990 and their family grew with the birth of their son, Brandon six years later.

Mize's path eventually led him to MCH, a place that merged his communications expertise with his passion for serving a mission close to his heart.

"At the end of my interview, my wife and son picked me up from the Waco campus," Mize said. "I remember Dr. (Jack Kyle) Daniels, MCH president from 1978-2003, got down on one knee and was talking to Brandon about his trip to the zoo. That to me, as much as anything, affirmed this would be a great place for me to serve."

Throughout his tenure at MCH, Mize spearheaded numerous projects that left a lasting impact on the organization. As director of PR, he led the development of the Visitors Center in the Perkins Heritage Home where displays show the history of the ministry and highlight current

programs and services. Mize said the Visitors Center laid the groundwork for the creation of the *Legacy of Hope* book as he and his staff collected and organized archives of historical information essential to his research.

"The book was my opportunity to make a lasting impact by continuing to share our story with supporters," said Mize. "The longer I'm at MCH, the more I appreciate the history and past decisions that influence our work today. It helps me understand how what we do today will affect others years from now."

In addition to these strategic projects, Mize always found opportunities to encourage children, youth and families. He remembers asking Bobby Gilliam, MCH president from 2003-2010, if he could take time off from his job to teach a photography class to support MCH summer programming.

"I'll never forget his response when he said, 'Bryan, you're not taking off work, it's your job – it's all of our jobs – to support the childcare program," he reflected. "That influenced my perspective of how every employee has a role in supporting the mission regardless of where they work."

Mize is grateful for the opportunity Tim Brown, MCH president from 2010-2019, gave him to join the executive team in 2014 as a vice president. In this role, Mize oversaw





the Training, Human Resources, Public Relations, Quality Improvement, and Employee Communication and Engagement areas of the agency. He provided leadership during five strategic planning processes and directed the organization through the reaccreditation process with the Council on Accreditation (COA) in 2018 and 2022.

Leading through various phases of planning and accreditation, Mize exemplified his attention to detail, care and dedication to MCH. He was recognized for these efforts in 2010 when he was awarded the Distinguished Staff Award which is presented annually by the MCH Alumni Association.

Throughout his MCH journey, Mize's faith has been a cornerstone, guiding his decisions and shaping his interactions with others. His unique connection to Trey Oakley, current president and CEO of MCH, was not only built on experiences at Howard Payne University, Oakley's alma mater, but also on a commitment to their faith. Mize emphasized their bond is rooted in their love for the Lord and shared devotion to advancing the MCH mission.

"Bryan's reliable and detailed work has positively impacted many during his time at MCH," Oakley said. "He conducts himself and carries out his responsibilities at the highest level, regardless of who receives the credit. I am a better employee, leader and person because of my service with Bryan."

One of the most remarkable aspects of Mize's career has been his ability to build meaningful relationships. Teaching in children's ministry at his church and extending into his roles at MCH, his desire to invest in others has been evident.

"Teaching children helped me understand the importance and value of investing in others," Mize stated. "Of all the opportunities I've been given that I didn't deserve, the most fulfilling part of my career are the

relationships I've been able to build. To know God has been able to use me to support and encourage others brings value to my work."

As Mize transitions into his new role as the agency's strategic initiatives specialist, he remains excited about the future of MCH.

"I look forward to finding ways to support the Imagine 2028 strategic plan and seeing the continued growth of the organization guided by our current leadership team," Mize said. "It's been an absolute privilege to be a part of the history and timeline of MCH. I look forward to finding new ways to serve and support my community, church and MCH peers in this next phase." •

1.) Meaningful relationships with MCH alumni like Laura Milam and Tim Woodlock grew through Mize's support of the MCH Alumni Association. 2.) Mize and MCH President Trey Oakley with longtime supporter Dick Kenyon at an MCH event. 3.) MCH Public Relations Officers Lindsay Blagg (left) and Lindy Dehm worked closely with Mize on the creation of the Perkins Visitor's Center and research for the Legacy of Hope book. 4.) Mize demonstrating fun photography techniques with MCH youth on a snowy day on the Waco campus. 5.) Oakley with Mize and other staff – from left: Denise Nors, Gary Freeman, Anna Sims, and Regina Akers – receiving recognition for 20 years of service to MCH.







NEWS & NOTES

UTAH BEHAVIORAL TREATMENT STAFF VISITS WACO CAMPUS

MCH staff welcomed a group from Pine Ridge Behavioral Treatment in Fairview, Utah, to the Waco campus in July. Pine Ridge is a residential behavioral and educational program dedicated to influencing change and helping adolescent males, ages 14 to 18, understand themselves more through various therapies.

The agency is in the beginning stages of implementing Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) into their programs. The group spoke with MCH employees from various departments and toured a home and the charter

school. John Warren, MCH community engagement and training specialist, led the group throughout the day.

"Collaborating with childcare agencies from across the country only serves to better inform how we can deliver services here in Texas and New Mexico in a more effective manner," Warren said. "Pine Ridge serves adolescent boys with the types of needs that our new Boys Ranch program will be serving and their staff have years of experience caring for this population. Because of our connection with them

through our TBRI Ambassador Organization role, we have a resource in them we can look to for guidance as we build out our program.

"Nothing makes me feel more like we are working on a systemic level than working with other agencies to help them, their employees and their clients flourish, while we also flourish from our time with them," Warren added. •

For more information about community engagement opportunities, contact Warren at (254) 548-8360 or JWarren@MCH.org.



MCH team members at the charter school (above) and other MCH staff (right) share information about classrooms, the sensory room and other spaces with the group from Pine Ridge Behavioral Treatment.

FAMILY OUTREACH

PREPARES FAMILIES



the summer. Several teams also participated in back-to-school fairs and events alongside dozens of other agencies.

Staff presented information on Outreach programs including family case management and inhome services, grandparent and caregiver services, foster care, and parent education.

"These are just a few of the many examples of community engagement and collaboration



MCH staff from the newly opened MCH Family Outreach Permian Basin office present services to Communities in Schools in Odessa.

MCH Family Outreach staff

MCH Family Outreach staff educated and supported families through activities, gatherings and services in 14 communities across Texas and New Mexico during occurring throughout MCH Family Outreach," said Traci Wagner, vice president for programs. "It is vital youth and families know they have someone to turn to for support throughout the school year and I am proud of our staff who step up and into the communities we serve."•

NEWS & NOTES

'FISH CAMP' ORIENTATION FOR FRESHMEN

The University of Texas— University Charter School (UT-UCS) hosted incoming freshmen for Fish Camp in early August. The orientation began with ice-breaker games that reinforced how good instruction and teamwork can make tasks easier. Students then listened to a presentation from UT-UCS Principal Michelle Meister and Assistant Principal Raul Kastner about the district mission and school year theme, as well as opportunities available to high school students. Students then toured the school to visit some favorite teachers and meet new teaching staff.

"I am so excited to welcome the Class of 2027 to high school," Meister said. "Students learned about transcripts and grade point averages and how that impacts their high school career. I am looking forward to meeting with them again in the spring to review their first semester of high school and help them stay on track." •

Above right: UT-UCS Principal Michelle
Meister shares the district mission and school
year theme with freshmen at Fish Camp.
Right: Staff and freshmen enjoy ice-breaker
activities before an informational session at
orientation in the charter school.





ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STAFF BUILD TEAMWORK

The MCH Outdoor Education program hosted 75 staff members from Alta Vista Elementary School in Waco at the MCH Boys Ranch. Teachers, administrators and support staff gathered for teambuilding and trust exercises.

Tim Price, director of outdoor education and recreation, led the group throughout the day.

"It's awesome to see a huge group of adults have fun and learn from and with one another, especially those who are leading so many children in our community," Price said. "They are able to take what they learn from us and apply it in their classrooms with their students on a daily basis." •

For more information about the Outdoor Education program, contact Tim Price at (254) 867-6168 or TPrice@MCH.org.

Staff members from Alta Vista Elementary School in Waco work together during teambuilding activities and trust exercises at the MCH Boys Ranch.





ADVANCEMENT NEWS

MCH RENAMES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

On July 1, the MCH development department became the Department for Advancement, a change to reflect the broadened work assignment of the team tasked with benefactor relations.

"The term 'advancement' better clarifies our department's role, which is to advance the mission of MCH," said Lyle Mason, whose title was also changed to vice president for advancement. "The very nature of our work as we resource this ministry involves cultivating relationships and connecting with individuals,

community influencers and leaders, and churches. These connections do lead to financial support, but also often lead to client referrals, potential collaborations or community involvement that results in meeting program objectives and organization-wide goals."

The addition of the MCH public relations team to the department on July 1 further supports the name change, Mason noted.

"The work of the public relations team mirrors our goals in so many ways and is a natural connection in advancing the

mission of the organization," he said. "We are all excited about how these changes reflect our mandate so well and look forward to the way God will use the department to meet strategic goals and contribute to helping children, youth, families, clients, and supporters of MCH flourish for God's glory."

MCH advancement officers and other members of the team are available to speak to churches, community groups and businesses across Texas and New Mexico about the mission and vision of MCH.



LYLE MASON
Vice President for Advancement



KELLY LAWSON

Advancement Administrator



JEREMY WEBB
Chief Advancement Officer



SUSAN BEATTY

Director of Stewardship



Advancement Officer, Central & Southeast Texas



SHANNON McCUAIG

Advancement Officer,

Northwest Texas & New Mexico



KRISTI PEREIRA

Advancement Officer,

DFW & Fast Texas



PAT FRANKLIN
Prospect Research Coordinator



ALLISON ALLEN

Advancement Coordinator



JOEY GROCE
Stewardship Specialist



TABATHA RILEY
Stewardship Specialist



RUSSELL RANKIN

Director of Public Relations



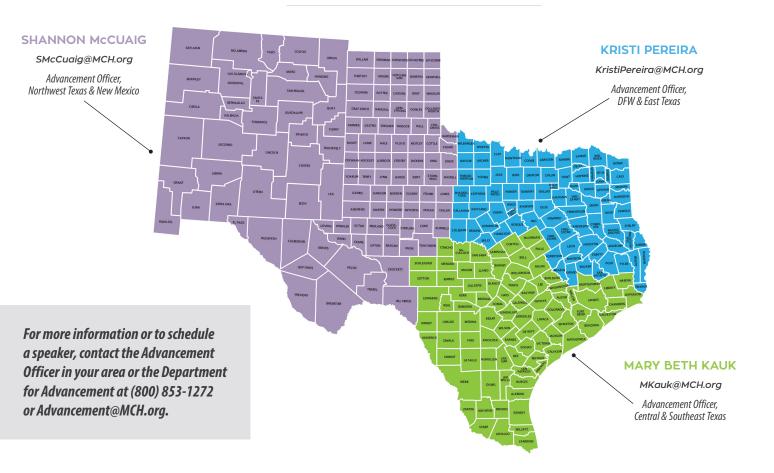
SARAH BELLAFIORE
Public Relations Officer



LUKE MAWHIRTER

Graphic Designer

ADVANCEMENT NEWS



TOP 25 CHURCHES FOR DIRECT GIFTS AND TOTAL GIVING IN 2022

DIRECT GIFTS

Offerings and donations received directly from churches.

- 1. First Methodist Church Odessa
- 2. First UMC Richardson
- 3. First UMC Grapevine
- **4.** Coker Methodist San Antonio
- 5. First Methodist Corsicana
- **6.** Coahoma Community Fellowship Church
- **7.** Marvin Methodist Church Tyler
- **8.** First Methodist Church of Center
- 9. First UMC Georgetown
- **10.** Laurel Heights UMC San Antonio
- 11. First Methodist Mansfield

- 13. First Frisco GMC
- **14.** The Woodlands Methodist Church
- 15. Lakeside UMC Streetman
- **16.** White's Chapel Methodist Church Southlake
- 17. First Methodist Gonzales
- 18. First UMC Boerne
- 19. Marble Falls Methodist
- **20.** Wheelock Methodist Church
- **21.** Grace UMC Copperas Cove
- **22.** *Grace Methodist Church*
- 23. Salado UMC
- 24. Crosby UMC
- 25. Premont UMC

TOTAL GIVING

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

- **1.** First Methodist Church of Center
- 2. First UMC Rockwall
- 3. First UMC Richardson
- 4. Lockney Methodist Church
- **5.** Marvin Methodist Church – Tyler
- 6. Salado UMC
- 7. First Methodist Corsicana
- **8.** Coker Methodist San Antonio
- 9. First UMC Grapevine
- **10.** First Methodist Church Odessa
- **11.** First UMC Georgetown
- **12.** Kingwood Methodist Church

- 13. First Methodist Big Spring
- 14. Highland Park UMC Dallas
- 15. First UMC Katy
- **16.** Christ Church Methodist College Station
- 17. First UMC Celina
- 18. Travis Park UMC San Antonio
- **19.** White's Chapel Methodist Church Southlake
- 20. First Methodist Waco
- **21.** First UMC Graham
- **22.** First UMC Los Alamos
- 23. First UMC Lubbock
- 24. Capitan UMC
- 25. First UMC Fort Worth

12. First UMC – Rockwall

TRANSITION SERVICES PROFILE

DEBORAH

GRACEFUL ADAPTER

BY SARAH BELLAFIORE

ager to connect with others, Deborah is all smiles when sharing about her passions. Pursuing a higher education is near the top of the list.

"I have always had education at the center of my life," said Deborah, a 21-year-old enrolled in the MCH Transition Services (TS) program. "Going to college was a non-negotiable goal I set for myself at a young age."

Deborah moved to Texas from Ethiopia when she was 14 years old. She lived with a relative for nearly a year before transitioning to the MCH Waco campus in 2017. Deborah describes being introduced to different cultures of people as a resident and building meaningful, lasting relationships. Acclimating to different environments in a short amount of time wasn't entirely easy though.

"When I was at MCH, I was very hesitant when it came to change," Deborah said. "I didn't want the people I became so familiar with to not be in my life anymore. Those closest to me at MCH really helped me cope with change. My faith has also been the one constant in my life and has kept me grounded."

Deborah graduated from the MCH charter school as salutatorian in 2019. She received the prestigious Albaugh Scholarship which funded her undergraduate education at the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA).

The Public Health program at UTA piqued Deborah's interests and her strong sense of purpose fueled her focus to pursue a career geared toward helping communities and vulnerable populations through emergency planning and disaster management.

"One of my biggest dreams is to give back to my community in Ethiopia," Deborah said. "I want to develop public health resources there and help others achieve health equity and resiliency."

"Deborah purely wants to learn everything she can in her field because she loves it," said Alyssa Lopez, Deborah's TS case manager. "Not many people take unpaid internships and she did. Deborah sent cover letters to different entities and explained what she could offer them, which further speaks to her impressive ambition."

During the COVID pandemic, Deborah worked as a contact tracer for UTA's Health Services. She "connected the dots between exposures around the university and

implemented quarantine and isolation measures to limit the spread," she explained. During that time, Deborah also interned with the Health Services department at the City of Arlington. She performed routine inspections and worked in the vector control program, which included obtaining mosquito samples to test for potential diseases.

"My later internships with Dallas County and the City of Mansfield really grew my love for emergency management," Deborah explained. "Emergency management is all about preparedness, risk mitigation and response. I really like the idea of being on the other side of crisis situations."

Navigating school and several internships while maintaining a healthy lifestyle required Deborah to adapt and grow.

"I shifted my perspective to think like an adult," Deborah said. "I made transitions in order to survive. I have grown so accustomed to change that assimilating to a new environment is a seamless process now."

Lopez said she doesn't remember ever having a conversation with Deborah that didn't involve discussing how to move forward toward her goals.

"She gives herself grace when encountering challenges, adapts and then takes the next step," Lopez said.

Deborah graduated cum laude with a bachelor's degree in Public Health from UTA in May 2023. She hopes to eventually obtain a master's degree within the public health sector.

"It was a huge privilege to even have the chance to go to college," Deborah said. "The support I received from MCH carried me. They have taken care of me in practically every aspect I can think of. For that I'm eternally grateful."

Deborah is now settling into her new role as emergency management specialist at Texas Women's University in Denton.

"The people who supported me when I was at MCH are still the same ones cheering me on as I move forward in life," Deborah said. "I encourage youth and other young adults to not underestimate themselves. Give yourself grace, because everyone is still learning. Set a goal that's attainable, break it down into steps and then take one step at a time." •

GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORIAL GIFTS

GIFTS MADE FROM APRIL THROUGH JUNE 2023

HONORARIUMS

Mrs. Marianne Anderson

Mrs. Jami Lovelady

Susan Beatty

Les and Karen Leskoven

Eric and Melissa Becker

Amy and Shelby Barley

Mary Ann Boyd

Wray Boyd

Burl Coker

Les and Karen Leskoven

First Methodist Corsicana Congregation

Les and Karen Leskoven

In celebration of the marriage of Dr. Kallie and Mr. Colton Covington

Amy and Shelby Barley

Mrs. Mona Curington

Mrs. Jami Lovelady

Brooke Davilla

Les and Karen Leskoven

Nancy Dickerson

Mae Teske

Judy Johnson Dunavant

Les and Karen Leskoven

Mrs. Jackie Engelhart

Dorothy Metting

Father's Day

Women of Waples, Waples UMC

Bill and Sherry Files

Susan Molstad

C. Edwin Wilson

Marisol Gomez

Les and Karen Leskoven

Jim Green

Mae Teske

Pat and Anita Grimes

Belinda Price

Tommye Hall

Mae Teske

Benjamin Keith Hancock

Sarah Ann Brannan

Dr. David Hoffman

Jan and Tom Purdy

Andy and Debbie Hopkins

Amy and Shelby Barley

Robert and Sandra Houghton

Randy and Rhonda Sides

Howard Family Legacy

Charles and Ann Cantrell

Reverend Byron Jarratt

Ray and Jo Lynn Ayers Betty Jarratt Rosenbaum

Irma Jarratt

Betty Jarratt Rosenbaum

Joy Jones

RJ and Emily Claassen

Dean Patrick Jordan's Baptism at FUMC Corpus Christi

Bebe

Tammy Kearney

Amy and Shelby Barley

Sue Lagomarsino

Les and Karen Leskoven

Kelly E. Lawson

Les and Karen Leskoven

Joan Beth Leskoven

Carolyn L. Pena

Les and Karen Leskoven

Carolyn L. Pena

Lyle Mason

Les and Karen Leskoven

Barbara McGraw

Tommy and Sonja Galbraith

The Methodist Men of First Methodist Church of Center

Runnels Chapel Sunday School Class

Donna Thomason

Dorothy Metting

Pat Smith

Julie Mitchell

Les and Karen Leskoven

Bryan Mize

Les and Karen Leskoven

Teresa Faith Monroe

Mae Teske

Debi Moses

Leslie and Jim Randolph

Mother's Day

FUMC Longview Youth and Children Ministries

Jeremy and Stefanie Neilson

Amy and Shelby Barley

Beth Nemeth

Les and Karen Leskoven

Ralph O'Dell's 98th Birthday

Amy and Shelby Barley

Trey Oakley

Les and Karen Leskoven

Hanna and Aaron Odom

Amy and Shelby Barley

Denise Ondrey

Les and Karen Leskoven

Becky Parfait

Mae Teske

Priscilla Patterson

Les and Karen Leskoven

Warren and Judy Pedersen's 50th Wedding Anniversary

Carolyn Ferguson

Maggie Grace Pellicore

Les and Karen Leskoven

Doug and Emily Portis

Amy and Shelby Barley

Sherryl Pratt

Les and Karen Leskoven

Russell Rankin

Les and Karen Leskoven

Sherilyn Roskopf's Birthday

Fresh Faith Class, Custer Road UMC

Silas Schlecte's 10th Birthday

Charles and Diane Schlecte

Susan Seaberg

Ruth Seaberg

Meredith and Toby Settle

Amy and Shelby Barley

Cameron and Katie Shelgren Amy and Shelby Barley

Mr. and Mrs. George Smith

Dr. and Mrs. Marcus E. Young

Le'Ann Solmonson

Les and Karen Leskoven

Bill and Julia Stelzer

Amy and Shelby Barley

Katherine Elise Swafford

Kevin Beckwith Norma Beckwith Becky and Glenn Duncan James and Stephanie Garcia Lauralee Meyer

Chuck and Tricia Terrell's 50th Anniversary

Jaime and Ken Warren

Dorothy Metting

John Franklin Thomas

Totsy Cunningham

The Fathers of Tobin Park UMC

United Methodist Women

Traci Wagner

Les and Karen Leskoven

Chris Watlington

Mae Teske

Allan C. Wertz's Birthday

Sharon and Al Wertz

Allison Marie Wertz

Janet Burhoe Sallie Helm

Sharon and Al Wertz

William "Rick" White

Les and Karen Leskoven

Eddie and Claudia Whitley's

50th AnniversaryTotsy Cunningham

Pastor Wayne WilliamsJohn and Sandra Haldeman

Kyle and Lauren Wilson Amy and Shelby Barley

GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORIAL GIFTS

GIFTS MADE FROM APRIL THROUGH JUNE 2023

MEMORIALS

Linda Gayle Adams

Anonymous

Arnold and Wanda Alberts

Gary and Mary Alberts

Ken Ribble Baxter

Pete and Darlene Smith

Walter Bazarsky

Kenneth and Janna Byrd

Dr. J. Michael Benson

Charles and Carol Brown

James E. Berry

Joan M. Berry

John Blankinship

Ann Blankinship

Norbert James "Norb" Blohowiak

Gloria Peck

Gwendolyn Dixon Boehme

Reverend Lani Rousseau

Mae Dell Brannen

Carol and Leroy Newman

Jere Donald Brannon

Rebecca and Dub Narramore

Linda (Gaisser) Branson

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Kermit and Mildred Thiele

Patricia Jean Buie

Ed and Kay Buie

Susan Ward

Anna Katherine (Rowell) Byrd

Christine M. Williams, Cindy and Mike

Paul E. Cameron Jr.

Randy and Lyn Mason

Arthur Capps

Anonymous

Juanita Ann Cassell

Karen Furman

Frances and Julian Caswell

Judith Caswell

Robert Wayne Cessna

Charidy and Zane McDonald

Joyce Marie Kilpatrick Choate

Ms. Nila Allen Joan Beil Coleman High School Epworth Sunday School Class Steven and Terelyn

(Hazlewood) Garlington Jane Jones John and Carol Phillips

Johnnie F. Ray Robert and Darla Rees Richard and Pam Steel Jacque and Martin del Valle

Tom Churchwell

Julie and Maro Johnson

Marjorie Lee (Hinnant) Collins

Robert Collins

Dr. Thomas Williams Comstock

Cathryn Comstock Thomas Comstock

Billie "BB" Connor

Homer and Maurene Lange

Wesley Crawford

Joan Wu

Shirley Daniell

Jack Daniell

John Madison Dennis

Charles and Carol Brown

George Thomas Dodd

Leroy W. Nellis

Jimmie and Berthamae Dollar

Donna Edwards

James H. DuBois

Cvnthia Wier

Larry Ducote

Barbara Casey Charles and Deanna Eastburn

W.L. Dubose and Chase DuBose

Bobbie DuBose

Mary and Jack Dwyer

Judy and Jim Dwyer

Katherine and Boyd Eaker

Judy and Jim Dwyer

John Charles Edwards

Donna Edwards

Wm. "Bill" Flanagan

Jim and Leah Chance

Richard John "Dick" Forrest Sr.

Alice Sappington

Danny Foster

Mae Teske

Patricia A. Furr

Anthony Sherrill

Fred Galbreath

Fran Galbreath

Ann Nell Gann

Jim and Diana Frankson

Bobby Gilliam

Jennifer and Luke Gilliam

Sharon Gayle (Rodgers) Goble

Cheryl and Gary Rodgers

Ryan Eugene Grace

Beverley and Craig Grace

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Barbara Cole

Charles Raymond Hall

Susan Beatty Kelly E. Lawson

Mr. John Hall

Mrs. Jami Lovelady

Herb Harding

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Donna Hayes

Anonymous David Lewis Builder, Inc.

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Nelda Hazlewood

Steven and Terelyn (Hazlewood) Garlington

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Joe Hoffman

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Annette Woodward

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Carolyn Saunders

Lovelyn English Hughes

Pat Hughes

Glen Dale Hunt

Leslie and Candy Mallonee

Oneida (Reding) Hutto

Rodney and Nora Hutto

Edwin C. Inglish Jr.

Peter and Flossie Gibson

Lynda Isensee

Pam and Jerry Goergen

Phillip Lewis Jackson

Leslie and Candy Mallonee

Jesse K. James

Susan James

Bennie Jarratt's Birthday

Betty Jarratt Rosenbaum

Boyce Loyd Jones

Forum Discussion Class Clear Lake UMC

Mitchell R. Jones

Tom and Janelle Brinck

Penelope (Hopkins) Jones

Johnny Milam

Timothy and Joyce I. Woodlock

Mae Ola Keel

Fred Nelle

Gwyn Carol Kelley

Marc and Becky Clark

David William Kerzee

Les and Karen Leskoven

Gloria "Coca" Kimbrough

Anonymous Kelly Alberts Elizabeth Kimbrough Bill and Ahnna Parker Cindy Rodgers Barbara Runge David and Willa Stork

Grea Whitfiled

Dan Krocker

Joan Wu

Harold Wayne Lilly

Les and Karen Leskoven

James Paul Long

Doris Long

Julie P. Martin

Charles Martin

Carol Young Marvin

Randy and Lyn Mason

Pat Masters

Kathy Day Anne Krampe

Ann Maze

Gail Stephens

Katherine Annette "Ann" Maze

Gail Stephens

Jerry McCarty

IBM

Anna M. McCoy

Thomas W. McCoy

Barbara June McDonald

Anonymous Karen Harris Janece and Scott McClung Brad and Vicki Shelton Sherry Smith

Peggy McGowan

Nancy Bush

Gary Tipton

Danny Leon Miller

Margie W. Marie

Dixilyn Miller

Margie W. Marie

Donnie Dale Miller

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Cilalia Leatii

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Louella Nolder

The Nolder Family

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Lionel W. Kina

Sue Patterson

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Cheryl and Gary Rodgers

G. Saxon "Sax" RodgersMarc, Becky and Bubba Clark

Jeff Samford

Kay and Joe Knight Templin Cousins

Rosemary (Cowser) Sancton

Anonymous

Darrell Lynn Sanford

Carol and Leroy Newman

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Charlene Schmidt

Flora Jean Schultz

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Mr. Lou Shipes

Sharon and Al Wertz

Ma and Pa Shoemaker

Herman and Pamela Young

Bill P. Smith

Reesa Roberts Smith

Glenn Ray Smith

John Moore Priscilla Tate

Kurtis Ray Smith

Hugh and Helon Norman

O.B. Smith

Creo Lynne Smith

Sandy Smith Garner

Creo Lynne Smith

Wayne Snider

Charles and Tommye Jo Clark

Emma Lillian (Mitchell) Staggs

Dolores Staggs

Verona 'Vickie' Thomas

The Wiemers Family

Billy Bob Thomason

Runnels Chapel Sunday School Class First Methodist

Church of Center Donna Thomason

Christopher Wayne Thomason

Daniel and Kristine Thomason

Ozzie Tibbets

Shirley Rhoads

Mark Trautmann

Keith and Pamela Trautmann

Melvin "Mel" TrousdaleJohn and Mary Deitz
Johnny Milam
Myra Posner

Sherry Vaughan

Virgil Vaughan

Beryl Joyce Walters

Jan and Tom Purdy

Lenora Jean Walton Leroy and Carol Newman

Dwain Warren Jerry Hall

Cleo and Herbert Wiley

Cheryl and Gary Rodgers

Nancy Williams

Anonymous

Ira John Williamson

Abe Harrison

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