

## BRIGHTER FUTURES AHEAD FOR OUR KIDDOS



One of our kiddos preparing for launch at the Houston Space Station.

There's an old saying in life, "It doesn't matter how you start. It matters how you finish." Another adage is, "You don't get to choose where you're born." So, what happens when these two worlds collide?

We are so very privileged to be part of this ministry at Texarkana Baptist Children's Home. Our kiddos have had no opportunities to make choices in their young lives. But once here, the process of decision making, life direction, and planning for their future begins.

In this edition of the Homeline, we wanted to share a few stories of "Life on Campus." For the sake of privacy, pseudonyms have been used instead of their real names. We hope you enjoy getting to know these sweet, baby angels. May you celebrate the accomplishments of their present journeys and pray for the successes of their future endeavors.

## BRIGHTER FUTURE AHEAD FOR OUR CAMPUS



If you have visited our Home in the past few years, you have noticed some upgrades and additions. We have been blessed with a remodeled gymnasium and new flooring in our cafeteria. But it's also amazing how the addition of bright, vibrant paint has brought our playgrounds and play areas to life again!!

We are hoping to replace our playground mulch with a dazzling, colored rubber mulch by spring of next year. In preparation for that, we are repainting our monkey bars, swing set and ring of swings with fun, kid friendly colors.



In addition to these upgrades, we have painted a huge Four Square, Hopscotch, and Bean Bag Toss on the pavement around the playground. We LOVE to be outdoors and active on campus! We owe many thanks to our House Parents who put in many hours of painting to make campus even more beautiful.



SINCE  
1907

# HOMELINE

Texarkana Baptist  
Children's Home  
...changing legacies

Fall / Winter 2021





## ADMINISTRATIVE MEMOS

*My Update Notes*  
*Heather A. Thompson*

In this edition of our newsletter, we'd like to take the time to share some slice of life stories on campus. Perhaps a small way to meet our kiddos, but with pseudonyms. We often have more pictures than stories. And although they say a picture is worth a thousand words, sometimes a word in detail is worth a thousand pictures.

The inspiration for sharing these short stories comes from a student we'll call Paul. His story isn't an umbrella story that glosses highpoints of transformation meant to be generic or representative of the kiddos who come here. It is his story. And I hope to share it in a way that grips your heart the way the Lord grasped mine.

Paul came to our Home just a few months ago. July to be exact. It is a day I will never soon forget, for I had been prepared by previous phone calls to meet a quiet and docile 12-year-old boy. He was coming from a group home and had been described as almost ... invisible. What walked through the door was a fire storm. A raw honesty of brokenness, disbelief in God and anger. He needed someone, anyone, to hear him. To hear the hurt of the unfairness of his young life all the while trying his best to push us away. As if to preemptively create rejection to lessen his pain.

His story broke me in a way I had not been broken in a long time.

About five weeks ago, an ensemble at Northern Hills Baptist Church sang "The Goodness of God." I love that song. Yet when the lyrics came to "...all my life you have been faithful. All my life you have been so, so good to me....", I could only think of Paul. At 12 years old, and having only known the crushing pain of rejection, were these lyrics like water on fallow ground, or were they like daggers from the enemy accusing God that He is not good?

To my shame, I admit I grew angry at God for the unfairness in Paul's life, and I had doubt creep in as to how Paul could see God as a Good Father or run to Him for salvation. For the next few days, I pondered Paul's plight. Although the Father granted me the space to doubt, He proved Himself faithful beyond

my disbelief. He is too good and too active.

While I was shamefully and secretly doubting God, the Holy Spirit was faithfully, gently, and consistently working on the heart and mind of Paul. Unbeknownst to me, Paul had been asking many, many questions about God, Jesus, and Salvation. He had been taking moments to have discussions with his house parent to better understand the increasing desire in his heart to understand salvation, the cross and repentance. What a juxtaposition! There I was, a believer lost in doubt while the lost was being found. And there was God pursuing both of us.

God is such a Good Father, and the power of His Gospel is undeniable. Like Saul, the transformation of our Paul has been immediate and dramatic. All our lives He HAS been faithful. All our lives He HAS been so, so good. With every breath that we are able, let us sing of the Goodness of God.



**A captivating and contemplating moment at The Ark Encounter while reflecting on this painting of Calvary.**

The Homeline is produced by the staff of the Texarkana Baptist Children's Home, Dr. W. A. Dillard, Editor. Heather Thompson is Administrator and point of contact at the Home. Crys Adams is Office Manager. Trustees are Allen Hagood, Chairman; Dr. W. A. Dillard, Fred A. Penny Sec.-treas., Doney Blackerby, Nathan Rogers. Dr. Morris L. Cloud is Trustee-emeritus. Address all correspondence to Texarkana Baptist Children's Home, P.O. Box 611, Texarkana, AR\TX 75504. The physical address of the Home is 5401 E. 9th Street, Texarkana, AR 71854. Telephone (870)774-8214. TKBCH is supported by the churches of the American Baptist Association. Email is received at: [office@baptistkids.org](mailto:office@baptistkids.org) Visit us online at [www.baptistkids.org](http://www.baptistkids.org) and on Facebook at BaptistKids



**TRUSTEES  
NOTES**  
*Allen Hagood  
Chairman*

I am thankful to be able to bring this report to you. It is with joy I share that the Lord continues to bless TBCH. As you support the Home with your prayers and offerings you share in all the good things God is doing.

The greatest news that I can share is that we continue to have children being saved. This is the exciting part of our ministry at TBCH. We are so thankful to have such a great church like Northern Hills, their pastor and teaching staff, so our kids are taught the Word of God. We also have a wonderful group of house parents that model the love of Jesus to the kids.

We continue to receive children into the Home, and we could use extra help if you

feel the Lord could use you in this ministry.

New flooring is being put down in our office area. It is hard to describe what a difference it makes in the appearance of the Home.

It is really hard to say goodbye to our office manager, Crystal Adams. She has served in this position for 23 years. She is faithful, organized and a very fine Christian lady who always sets the right example for our children. We will all miss her, but she and Ken want to spend more time with family and spoil their grandchildren.

Farm Manager Byron Myers and Trustee Doney Blackerby are doing a good job with the farm and cattle. We have been able to put up ample hay for the winter and have sold a good number of calves

throughout the year.

We have one apartment vacant at the counseling center after Sister Jimmie Powers passed away. Please contact us if you want to discuss moving into the apartment.

**FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK**

We appreciate our friends and supporters who follow us on Facebook as well as view our web page:

[www.baptistkids.org](http://www.baptistkids.org). We ask that our friends who really like receiving our paper in the mail to be sure to advise us of any change of address as that saves us money on post-

**Crystal Adams to Celebrate Retirement Soon**

It has been said more than once, “All good things must come to an end.”

For some, “the end” means a finality with a forthcoming sadness. For others, “the end” means a beginning to something new and wonderful. And sometimes, “the end” means both.

Mrs. Crystal Adams recently announced her plans to retire from Texarkana Baptist Children’s Home after 23 ½ years of illustrious and faithful ministry in her role as Office Manager.

Let’s put into context what Ms. Crys means to our Home. Ms. Crys’ office is “Grand Central Station”, and Ms. Crys holds the titles of “The Glue That Holds Us All Together”, “The Heart and Soul of the Operation”, and “The Holy Grail of Wisdom and Knowledge.” Not to mention, her desktop candy dish always makes Willy Wonka proud.

In short, Ms. Crys is one of the best chapters to ever be written in the book of Texarkana Baptist Children’s Home. She is the chapter you wish could never end, because she is everything the writer of Proverbs 31 commends: virtuous, trustworthy, diligent, generous, wise, strong, hard-working, compassionate, skillful, wise, kind, and beautiful – on the inside and out.

They say the best part about retirement is spending time with your grandchildren. We are so very proud for Ms. Crys to be full time Mimi! And although she is retiring as Office Manager, Ms. Crys can never retire from being great.



**\*\*If you or your church would like to send Ms. Crys a note of congratulations or a card of kind words, please note her retirement from “Full Time Ministry” will be October 29, 2021. Ms. Crys will remain part-time for a brief transition period through January 2022.\*\***

**BENEFACTOR  
BLESSINGS**  
*In-kind Goods  
and Services*

All of us who have to do with Texarkana Baptist Children's Home are so blessed and thankful for individuals, corporate, and civic partners who aid us in the care of needful children. Because of the love and compassion of so many kind folks, the ministry of the churches to children at large who need a helping hand in a safe environment is doing well. Many thanks to you, dear friends, and to our Heavenly Father for the many in-kind goods and services we continue to receive. Each gift helps us to carry on this ministry in a manner commensurate with high community standards.

**TBO INKIND GIFTS**

**Gift:**

Clothing, Shoes, Accessories, Handbags, Jewelry, Reading Glasses,

**Given by:**Cato, Texarkana, TX

**Gift:**

Accessories, Clothing, Handbags, Jewelry, Sandals

**Given by:**Cato, Texarkana, AR

**Gift:**

Accessories, Clothing, Handbags, Jewelry, Shoes

**Given by:**Cato, New Boston, TX

**Gift:**

Aluminum foil, Cereal/Pop Tarts, Deodorant, Disinfectant spray, Facial/body cleansers/lotions/bath puffs, Feminine hygiene products, Hair products/accessories, Hand sanitizer/antibacterial wipes, Outdoor games, Paper products, Razors/shave cream, Sandwich zip locks, Kitchen trash bags, Toothbrushes/toothpaste, Totes

**Given by:**Medical Practice Success, Texarkana, TX

**Gift:**

Discounted dental work

**Given by:**Chris Ferguson, DDS, Texarkana, TX

**Gift:**

Batteries, Cereal/Pop Tarts, Disinfectant wipes, Face Masks, Hand soap/sanitizer, Paper products

**Given by:**Oakview Elementary, New Boston, TX

**Gift:**

Health and Beauty Aids, Hand sanitizer/face masks, Cleaning supplies, Clothing, Batteries, School supplies/toys, Household items

**Given by:**Walmart, Texarkana, AR

**Gift:**

Pop Tarts, Candy, Chips/snacks/popcorn/popcorn seasoning, Disposable cutlery/dinnerware, Paper products, Aluminum foil, Kids' DVDs, Dental hygiene items, Men's/women's shave cream/razors, Men's/women's deodorant/bath items, Men's/women's body lotion, Toothbrushes/toothpaste, Socks, Disinfectant wipes, Cleaning supplies

**Given by:**Hamilton, MBC, Carlisle, AR

**Gift:**

Canned vegetables, Dry beans, Cereal, Pancake mix, Pasta, Potatoes, Chili, Instant milk/mashed potatoes, Macaroni and Cheese

**Given by:**

Victory MBC, Bossier City, LA

**Gift:**

Paper products, Ground beef

**Given by:**

Eastside MBC, Gary, TX

**Gift:**

Cereal/pop Tarts, Pancake mix/maple syrup, Animal crackers, Microwave popcorn, Paper towels

**Given by:**

Hardy Memorial UMC, Texarkana, TX

**ARKANSAS MISSION  
BUILDERS ASSOCIATION**

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**TKBCH**

**THE OBJECT OF WILLS AND TESTAMENTS**

Texarkana Baptist Children's Home and its children have benefited by the kindness and love of others who remembered this Home when making their Last Will and Testament. Some have left the bulk of their estate to the Home. Others have elected to leave a part of their estate, while sharing the remainder with others.

Certainly Texarkana Baptist Children's Home is a worthy recipient of Wills and Bequests. Should our readers desire to share their earthly goods after death with this ministry, it would be good to contact the Home. at 870-774-8214.

# EXPRESSIONS OF LOVE, HONOR AND APPRECIATION FOR THOSE DEAR TO OUR HEART

*God Bless you for  
Remembering*

*Memorial and Honor Gifts Helping our Home*

*Thank You  
So Much!*

## **TBCH MEMORIALS:**

In memory of: **Tom McCoy**  
Given by:  
Evergreen MBC, Marston, MO

In memory of: **Dennis Powell**  
Given by:  
Leroy & Carolyn Kyzer,  
Alexander, AR  
George Murry, Little Rock, AR

In memory of:  
**Jay Phillips & Leon Whitman**  
Given by:  
Aubria Cross, Tulsa, OK  
Lynn Strong, Tulsa, OK

In memory of: **Dexter Winn**  
Given by:  
Anonymous  
Joe & Sue Hudgens, Texarkana, AR

In memory of:  
**Hubbard & Polly Breitweiser**  
Given by:  
Gerald & Janelle Haley, Benton, AR

In memory of: **Garland Hudson**  
Given by:  
Edith Hudson, Van Buren, AR

In memory of: **Diane Robbins**  
Given by:  
Ray & Johnnie Whisenhunt,  
Hot Springs, AR  
Johnny Weatherford,  
Hot Springs, AR  
Q. Byrum Hurst, Hot Springs, AR

In memory of:  
**Laura Afton Ennis**  
Given by:  
Jack, Patty, Jack-Marlin & Kim Fra-  
ser, Baton Rouge, LA  
Stacy, Shawn & Austin Lear  
Tricia, Jason, Leah Ann & Lauren  
Gendusa

In memory of:  
**J. C. & Martha James**  
Given by:  
Jim & Sarah Eppler, Malvern, AR

In memory of: **Nada Clement**  
**Marie White Hackett**  
**Olene McCarley**  
**Beth Taylor Moltz**  
**Elmer Moltz**  
**Ethyle Jones**  
**Tommy Wright**  
Given by:  
Shirley Morris, Harrison, AR  
Vicky & Perry Taylor Family  
Rita & Sonny Smith Family  
Sarah & Wayne Powell  
Family

In memory of: **Fran Black**  
**Helen McGuffey**  
Given by:  
Peggy Morse, Sarepta, LA

In memory of:  
**Carolyn Thomas Goff**  
Given by:  
Charles Goff & Family, Cypress,  
TX

In memory of: **John Dudley**  
Given by:  
Jerry & Anna Gundy,  
College Station, TX

In memory of: **Huey Kenzel**  
Given by:  
Floyd & Elsie Mae Alexander,  
Hensley, AR

In memory of: **Joneva Holcombe**  
Given by:  
Jimmy Morton, Little Rock, AR

In memory of:  
**Jackson Mangum & Jamie Mangum**  
Given by:  
Vera King Mangum, Marlow, OK

In memory of: **Travis Rice**  
Given by:  
Dwight & Karen Rice, Sanford, TX

In memory of:  
**James Calvin Shelton**  
Given by:  
Nikita Rodrigues, Washington, D. C.  
Alan Shor, Dallas, TX  
Jim & Ann Streeter, Farmersville, TX

In memory of: **Vernell Jeffreys**  
Given by:  
Sharon Johnson, Horatio, AR

In memory of: **Linda Glosup**  
Given by:  
Pleasant Valley BC, Nashville, AR

In memory of:  
**Tammy Berberette Smith**  
Given by:  
Allen & Jackie Shepherd, Sydney, FL  
Kelvin & Leslie Shepherd  
Brian & Kari Shepherd  
Jalen & Kerrie Shepherd

## **TBCH HONORARIUMS:**

In honor of: **Barbara Kenzel**  
Given by:  
Floyd & Elsie Mae Alexander,  
Hensley, AR

In honor and in memory of:  
**All Mothers of Bethany MBC,**  
**White Hall, AR**  
**All Fathers of Bethany MBC,**  
**White Hall, AR**

Given by:  
Bethany MBC Ruth Circle, White  
Hall, AR

The Trustees, Staff, and  
Children of the Home, in  
grateful appreciation, and in  
special honor, present the  
names of known pastors of  
the Lord's Churches who  
have recently gone to  
Heaven's Glory.

**Eld. Richard Crawford**

**Eld. Dan Malone**

**Eld. Leon Jasper**

**Eld. David Keeling**

**Eld. William H. Hall, Sr.**

**Eld. Loyd H. Ashenfelter**

**Eld. Jimmy D. Creel**

**Eld. Roy (Rick) Adams**

**Eld. John Williams**

**Eld. Harold Williams**

**Eld. Abel S. Dimatulac**

**Eld. William H. Ashcraft**

**Eld. F. Timothy Lankford**

**Eld. Ernest Lawson**

**Eld. Mark Simmons**

**Eld. John T. Adams**

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## **ANNOUNCING UPDATE**

Complying with your requests,  
the Home's website  
( [www.baptistkids.org](http://www.baptistkids.org) ) now  
has the capacity to receive  
contributions both of  
"Memorial" and "Honor" trib-  
utes to loved ones.

## HOME LIFE THROUGH A PEEPHOLE



Fun in the sun at Beaver's Bend Lake!

### Determined to Defeat Dyslexia

In this short story of "Life on Campus", we shall use the name Sadie for our kiddo.

Many kiddos who come into care are behind educationally. Most often, we begin their journey by trying to discover any hidden obstacles that may have obstructed their learning. In one such case, it took an entire semester of phone calls, teacher meetings and advocating for tests to discern a deeper issue. Since discovering Sadie is dyslexic, her efforts in the classroom have exceeded all expectations. She is currently on a 504 for accommodations in the classroom, and she has a nightly reading routine with her houseparent. Her first progress report for this current



Two of our boys are ready for Take Off at the Space Center in Houston.

school year just arrived. She had all A's compared to D's and F's the previous school year. She is so very proud of her accomplishments, and so are we!

### The Hope of a Forever Home...in Heaven and on Earth

In this short story of "Life on Campus", we shall use the name Derrick for our kiddo.

The dream of every child is a stable and loving home. When Derrick came here, it was only supposed to be for the weekend. Then the weekend grew into 3 years. Although we are a very good home, the Lord in His grace and mercy had not forgotten Derrick's hopes of a forever family. Earlier this year the phone call came of a potential family, and so began the process of adoption. By November, he will have a new family and the stability of which he has always dreamed. Yet, that is not the best part of Derrick's eternal story. Last summer, he recognized his need for repentance and faith in Christ thus receiving his greater adoption into God's family. How thankful we are for Derrick and those three years!



Blessed to take kiddos to The Ark Adventure in Kentucky after the National Meeting in Charleston, W.V.

## HOMELIFE THROUGH A PEEPHOLE (Continued)



### “Ms. Hershey” Wins Top Candy Bar Sales

In this short story of “Life on Campus”, we shall use the name “Ms. Hershey” for our kiddo.

Ms. Hershey is very new to ROTC, not starting until her junior year this year. Yet she was aiming high as the newest member of her class to be the top gun in sales. Before the school day ended, Ms. Hershey had already sold her entire box of 60 candy bars to her classmates and an additional second box to all of us at the Home. She was selling a box a day for the duration of the fundraiser. We are so very proud of her, not because she had top sales, but because of her determination to meet a goal - to raise the most money for new uniforms.

### Bent Tiaras and Broken Crowns

Inside one of our girl’s bedrooms were two tiaras sitting on the top shelf of a desk, as if on display. These tiaras were given to them by a kind young girl not too far from their ages. When they received them, they were in great condition. But over time, they became worn and eventually broken.

As children grow, they will learn life happens the same way. Just as a small child who stumbles, falls, and breaks their tiara, our world is cracked and crumbling. Our world sits in darkness, but we are commanded to show the light to those who wander in it. We should be burdened for the wounded and hurting.

Every child is born lost, but not every child is born broken. Unfortunately, that is satan’s goal. When we see a child or someone whose tiara is damaged, let us lead them to the One who can give them a crown that is unbreakable and incorruptible. Let us lead them to Jesus.



### Queen of the Road

In this short story of “Life on Campus”, we shall use the name “Ms. Daisy” for our kiddo.

Our “Miss Daisy” is proudly on the way to driving herself. She has put many miles on our Student Driver Vehicle with her permit and is ready to get her license.

Another milestone for our “Miss Daisy” is getting her first job at Cinemark 14 Movie Theater. She is known as a diligent and dependable employee. She is excited about this life stage of independence and learning what it is to “adult.”

Snapshots of fun life on the daily! Wish you were here!



**TEXARKANA BAPTIST  
CHILDREN'S HOME**  
P. O. Box 611  
Texarkana, AR\TX 75504

*"A Christian home for  
orphaned, dependent,  
and neglected  
children"*



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**God puts special ministries on special hearts. If He is calling you to extend love and a helping hand to children, please contact our home for details of special ministry at TKBCH. Please make this a matter of prayer.**

## **THE WISHING WELL**



## **OUR CURRENT WISH FROM THE WISHING WELL**

We hope you enjoyed reading "Life on Campus" stories. We have more than we could ever share. Perhaps you would like to help kiddos reach a brighter future and help them re-write their stories. You will never have a dull day. If you have the burning desire to affect eternity in this unique and dynamic way, please call today.

**Join our Team of House Parents!  
It will be the ride of your life!!**



(One of our boys having the ride of his life on vacation.)

***"Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." James 1:27***