



HOMELINE

Texarkana Baptist
Children's Home
...changing legacies

Fall/Winter 2022

Looking Forward With Hope



The providence of the Lord is always at work. He gives us the hope for a brighter tomorrow. Or as some would say, it's "the dawn of a new day."

Ministry can come with a lot of bumps and bruises, but it also comes with the joy of victories and blessings. Some of the greatest of these are when children are adopted into a new forever family and when kiddos are reunified with safe family members.

Within the next few months, three kiddos will be adopted into new forever families and four will have permanent homes with other members of their family. We are so very thankful for these blessings. These moments keep us looking forward with hope to a wonderful day.

Reunited! And It Feels So Good

(**The pseudonym of Ariel is used in this article.)

Ariel has been in our Home for a little over one year. There are many circumstances in play when a child is placed in foster care or in our Home. And there are various reasons (beyond our control) that sibling groups are sometimes not placed together.

It was such a joyous day and a sweet reunion when Ariel's brother came to live here with her.

When she saw her brother and realized he was moving here, she literally hugged him so hard that she tackled him into our copy machine in the office. These two are peas in a pod and almost inseparable. So very thankful the Lord has brought them back together.

"A friend is always loyal, and a brother is born to help in time of need" Proverbs 17:17.





ADMINISTRATIVE MEMOS

*My Update Notes
Heather A. Thompson*

“...we look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed...” Titus 2:13.

One of the greatest foundations of joy and peace as a Christian is that “we look forward with hope.” Regardless of the circumstance or current situation, we have the hope of a certain future because of Jesus. Jesus is our hope.

The joy of ministry at Texarkana Baptist Children’s Home (and for other Christians serving in foster care) is not merely the offering of a *temporary home*. Our greatest joy comes through offering an **eternal hope** in Jesus Christ.

These are conservative numbers, but at least half a million children per year enter foster care, and over 2.5 million children are homeless. Can you even imagine yourself, as a child, homeless? Or imagine yourself, as a child, uprooted from familiarity to living with strangers?

The uncertainty and ambiguity of no hope would feel staggering. Where do you go? Who do you trust?

But the providence of the Lord is always at work. He guides steps. He directs paths. He engineers circumstances. He opens doors. Every child who enters our Home is a divine appointment. A divine appointment to be fed, to be clothed, to be parented, to be prayed over, to be loved and to be shown the gospel of Jesus.

At Texarkana Baptist Children’s Home, our prayer is for the changing of legacies. May the children we serve today be a future generation of Godly parents leaving a spiritual heritage to their future generations. When children come, they may come from a perilous past. But when they leave, may they leave looking forward with hope to a wonderful day.

FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DESK

By: Deby Turrentine



My name is Deby Turrentine, the new Office Manager. I have worked at the Children’s Home before, just on the other side of the desk, as a house parent. I started that journey in 2001 after graduating from Texas A&M University-Commerce, TX with a BS degree.

I enjoyed working with Ms. Crys because she knew where every place imaginable was and she could relay simple directions to get me there. I was always amazed how she took time to listen and be a friend along with being a great Office Manager.

After God let her retire, He allowed me to apply for this position after working for the Baptist Sunday School Committee in Texarkana for over 15 years. There have been many changes on campus, yet one purpose remains the same - to help children in need.

I get to fulfill this purpose by assisting the other team-players. Ezekiel 22:30 states there went out a search for a man “to stand in the gap.” Granted, I am not a man, but I do have a gap to stand in and am hopeful my service will give God the glory He deserves.

I accepted Jesus as my Savior at the age of fifteen, and I feel blessed by having a dad who enjoyed God. He loved Greek and Hebrew and preaching the Bible verse by verse. I have a unique preacher’s kid life. After my parent’s divorce, God gave me a great stepfather who became a deacon. Truly, God has been with me to have such a Christian family.

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. Deby Turrentine is Office Manager. Trustees are Allen Hagood, Chairman; Dr. W. A. Dillard, Fred A. Penny Sec.-treas., Doney Blackerby, and Nathan Rogers. 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 Visit us online at www.baptistkids.org and on Facebook at BaptistKids



TRUSTEES NOTES

*Allen Hagood
Chairman*

September 7, 2022, we celebrated David Barker's 5 year anniversary at Texarkana Baptist Children's Home.

Like many of you, Bro. Dave was familiar with our Home through newsletters and his home church, Lighthouse Baptist Church, and Pastor Gary Hubble. But wanting to know more about our Home, Dave took several vacation days from his job and drove over 19 hours to spend a few days on our campus.

There are many things we could say about Bro. Dave. He is an avid sports fan, he is a true student of the Bible,

and he loves the Lord with all his heart. But most importantly, he is passionate about soul winning.

Dave could have very easily stayed in Maryland with his family. He could have very easily remained in a familiar career. But Dave responded with immediate obedience to the Lord when called to be a House Parent.

When Ms. Crys Adams announced her retirement, the Trustees knew her position would be almost impossible to fill. She was a solid rock of stability for over 20 years. As you can imagine, we were thankful to have Deby Turrentine apply.

Ms. Deby is a faithful servant of the Lord, and she too is passionate about reaching the lost.

The Lord has used her on several Outreach Bible Projects at three Olympics, five Super Bowls, The Pan Am Games, Jeep Fest, Long Beach Gran Prix and the World Games. She is a member of Northern Hills Baptist Church, spearheads donations for Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes and works in children's ministry.

We are grateful and thankful to have Bro. Dave and Ms. Deby on our team at Texarkana Baptist Children's Home helping to change legacies.

In Bro. Dave's Own Words

What to say...I've been thinking for a couple of days on that subject, and I know that I want to glorify God with my words. I'll start by saying that never in my wildest dreams did I ever think I would move almost 1200 miles from home after living in the same area for the first 47 years of my life. It was hard leaving my family, especially my son Aaron who was 24 at the time. But God didn't call me when Aaron was a child, but a man. So I prayerfully left him in God's hands and headed for Texarkana, AR. Will you please pray for Aaron? Thank you.

We all know hindsight is 20/20, but there had been signs all over the place pointing me to TBCH. There was a lot of prayer from the time I first met Bro. Ryan Smith in his office, who told me there was an opening for the teen boys' house parent position, until the time I got the phone call 3 months later that it was a go. So, with sadness about leaving home and joy and excitement about what God had in store, I hit the road to Arkansas.

I've been here for 5 years, and I know this is where God wants me. I would be happy if the Lord kept me here until He calls me Home to Heaven. I've been highly blessed to be used as a vessel in His reaching children here at the Home and I am so thankful and humbled that our Lord would use one such as I in His glorious work.

Please pray that I can be a blessing to both the children and the staff here at TBCH for as long as God has me here. Thank you so much and may God bless you and yours. Philippians 1:6 "Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."



Bro. Dave and his son, Aaron

**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.

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Clothing, Deer Corn,
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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!*

In memory of:
Wilma Weeks
Given by:
Johnnie and Ileen Doyle
Fort Smith, AR

In memory of:
Wilma Weeks
Given by:
Cliff and Mary O'Neal
Wichita Falls, TX

In memory of:
Wilma Weeks
Given by:
Julie and Matt Ketchum
Fort Smith, AR

In memory of:
Wilma Weeks
Given by:
Thelma J Jones
Fayetteville, AR

In memory and honor of:
All Fathers
Given by:
Bethany Missionary
Baptist Church
Ruth Circle
White Hall, AR

In memory and honor of:
All Mothers
Given by:
Bethany Missionary
Baptist Church
Ruth Circle
White Hall, AR

In memory of:
Dennis Quattlebaum
Given by:
Agape Class
Spring Creek
Baptist Church
Benton, AR

In memory of:
**Charles Terrence
"Terry" Lee**
Given by:
Family,
Jerry and Ann Gundy
College Station, TX

In memory of:
Rita Flores
Given by:
Peggy Morse
Sarepta, LA

In memory of:
Lorraine Bradford
Given by:
Pleasant Valley Baptist
Nashville, AR

In memory of:
Shirley Standridge
Given by:
Aubria Cross

*"Blessed are the
dead which die in
the Lord from
henceforth: Yea,
saith the Spirit,
that they may rest
from their labours;
and their works do
follow them."
Rev. 14:13*

*"Precious in the
sight of the Lord is
the death of his
saints."
Psalm 116:15*

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. Tim Simons

Eld. Norman Pierce

Eld. Jimmie Tooke

Eld. Bobby Bryant

Eld. Robert Cullifer

Eld. Eugene Derryberry

Eld. Carl E. Fitzgerald

Eld. Richard L. Freeman

Eld. Robert L. Smith

Eld. Lindon Sparks

Eld. O. L. Strickland

Eld. Harold Suttle

Eld. Hunter Wilkes

Eld. Harold Williams

Eld. Levy Cooper

Eld. Jerry Wallace

Eld. Nelson Bracy

Eld. Leon Crutchfield

Eld. Larry Jacobs

ANNOUNCING UPDATE

Complying with your
requests, the Home's
website
(www.baptistkids.org)
now has the capacity to
receive contributions
both of "Memorial" and
"Honor" tributes to
loved ones. Thank you so
much for your request.
We trust this will make
it easier for readers to
make loving tributes.

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

Please follow us on
Facebook: Baptistkids
-Texarkana Baptist
Children's Home. As
we slowly transition
from the printed page
to the electronic one,
we will continue to
issue a couple of
editions annually of
The Homeline for the
foreseeable future, but
we will increase our
news and other
postings on Facebook
for the enjoyment of
our readers.

A SLICE OF LIFE ON CAMPUS



One Nation Under God!



Prepare For Landing.

A Sibling Salute

What's better than being patriotic? Being doubly patriotic! One of our girls has been in JROTC for two years, and has been top candy sales producer in their annual fundraiser. She has also recruited her younger brother to join JROTC this year. Together, they are learning self-discipline, perseverance, leadership skills, problem solving, and how to be a productive citizen in society. We are excited to have this dynamic sibling duo take over the duties of changing out the American Flag on our campus.

TBCH Field Day 2022



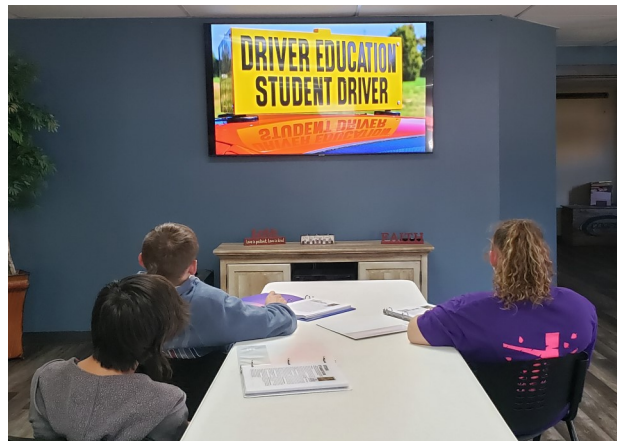
For curious minds that want to know...the girls out-tugged the boys.

Field Day has become a new tradition on campus. When Covid shut down schools in 2020, it cancelled this major, end of school year event. So, we have hosted our own TBCH Field Day each year. Kiddos love competing in traditional events such as long jump, relay races, sack races, shot put, obstacle course, egg toss, balloon pop, jump roping, 4-Square tournament, free throw challenge, tug of war, plus many more. It's a full day of fun, hot dogs, pickles, and popcorn all capped off with a ribbon ceremony for the winners.

Before We ... Hit the Road, Jack

(***)The pseudonyms Danica, Dale and Gordon are used in this article.)

Driving is not just a huge rite of passage; it is also fun. Most all kiddos are eager to get behind the wheel. But not so fast. Let's slow the roll and gain important knowledge before getting dizzy in the tin lizzie. Currently, Danica, Dale and Gordon are on the precipice of taking their driver's exam. This is such a fun stage in the driving process. Even we adults tend to learn (or re-learn) something new in the manuals and practice quizzes.



Pencil to Paper before Pedal to Metal.

A SLICE OF LIFE ON CAMPUS

Life Skills

(**The pseudonyms of Ariel and Michael are used in this article.)

Depending on the situation or the season, there are a variety of fundamentals we try to teach our kiddos. Many children who come into our care do not know how to swim, and swimming is a life saving skill that everyone should learn if they have the opportunity. During our kiddos' summer vacation, Ariel and Michael worked hard to learn this important skill. Their determination to learn was off the charts, and they refused to give up even when they were so tired. As our teen student drivers are learning Driver's Ed, we wanted to take the opportunity to teach them (and our other kids) how to change a tire. These teaching moments are not only beneficial for our kiddos, but a great joy for our team to teach. Bro. Ryan Smith is so great to lead in teaching these skills.



New swimmers got swagger!



Bro. Ryan demonstrating jack safety, how to change a flat, inflate a tire, and check for proper air pressure.



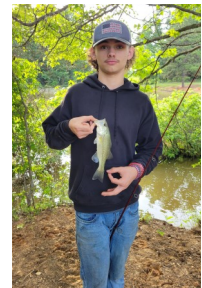
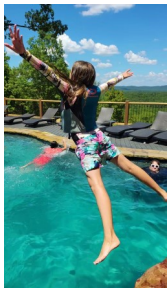
Michael's first attempt to swim across the pool by himself. AND HE DID IT! Bro. Ryan did a great job teaching him and Ariel!

Campus Life Under the Stars



We can't thank everyone enough for making the pavilion vision complete! From the amazing outdoor furniture to cornhole, card games, picnics and fellowship...you've given us our own little "Mayberry."

No Summertime Blues Here



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OUR CURRENT WISH FROM THE WISHING WELL

THE WISHING WELL



Help Replenish Bath, Bed, and Beyond Items at TBCH Campus

As children transition into and out of our Home, we use quite a bit of laundry pods/detergent, bath towels, kitchen towels, twin bed sheets, shower curtains and liners, bath mats, plastic hangers, and beyond.

Not everyone can make a trip to deliver household essentials, but many websites offer free shipping. Even if you only donate one of these items, you can help us replenish our bed and bath closet.

AND/OR

Help Replace Septic Systems at Retirement Center

We are hoping several churches and auxiliaries will help us with a heavy expense at the Minister's Center. After twenty plus years, the septic systems are worn out. The cost of replacing both systems is approximately forty thousand dollars. This is not optional per health department demands. Help with this project will be most appreciated.