

@TBCH

TENNESSEE BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOMES
SPRING 2019

WHAT ROADS LIE AHEAD?



A NOTE FROM GREG

I commute from north of Nashville to the office on our Brentwood campus. When I get to the south side of the city, I often see the word "ADVENTURE." This word adorns the front of the Adventure Science Center. The idea is that you can take an adventure as you learn about the different aspects of science. An adventure is "an exciting experience that is typically a bold, sometimes risky, undertaking." We are told that you can go on an adventure by reading a book, even watching a movie. Who doesn't love a good adventure?

Personally, I like going on adventures. I've been blessed through the years to have had the opportunity to serve on mission trip adventures in Tennessee, Kentucky, Alabama, North Dakota, Iowa, South Carolina, Honduras, Guatemala and The Czech Republic. I also enjoy adventures with my family. Besides all the adventurous beach trips we've made to the gulf, I've also enjoyed Hawaii, a train trip from Chicago to Montana (and back) and a few cruises with friends!



But the "Great Adventure," according to Stephen Curtis Chapman's 1992 song, leads us through the "wild blue yonder of God's amazing grace following our leader through the glorious unknown!"

Wouldn't you agree that following Jesus is indeed the greatest adventure of all?



Following Him was certainly an adventure for Jesus' disciples. They went places they wouldn't have gone, saw things they wouldn't have seen, did things they wouldn't have done and died in ways they wouldn't have died. The call to follow Him consumed their whole lives.

The call to follow Jesus today is no less expensive. Responding to His call on my life literally changed the trajectory of what is now my present and what will be my future! Following Him is the only reason I ever went to college, moved to Texas with my wife to attend seminary, pastored two churches and now serve with people I thank God for every day at TBCH.

What I already knew has been confirmed over the past few years about TBCH. The people who serve in this ministry of caring for children from hard places do so because of the Great Adventure of following Jesus. Our team does this work in the name of Jesus and at His prompting.

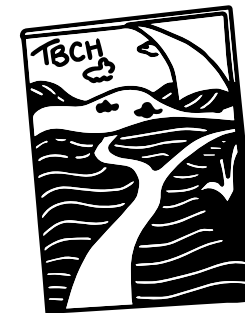
I would like to thank you for joining us in this mission of introducing the love of Christ to children and their families who are having some serious struggles. Thank you for praying for us. Thank you for visiting us and serving on our campuses. Thank you for investing financially in this ministry. And because of all the ways you participate, all our children will hear about the Great Adventure and many of them will one day say, "Thank you," when they meet you in heaven!

Defending the Defenseless,

Greg McCoy, President / Treasurer *Bu. Grey*

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"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and he will make your paths straight." (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Welcoming children from hard places can be the most rewarding path you take, but you may



encounter pitfalls and obstacles that can hinder or even stop you in your tracks. *Scripture reminds us that a guide to follow and a map to read can make even the most difficult trek successful and fulfilling.*

When you want to take a child by the hand and help him or her with the up-hills and down-hills of life, TBCH is glad to serve as your seasoned traveling companion!



Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes

Residential Care

Christian houseparents serving in family-style homes on three campuses across the state, providing safety and biblical guidance so children can thrive.

Foster Care

Training and support for Christian foster parents through The George Shinn Foster Care Program, providing certified foster homes for children across TN.

Family Care

Working with churches and other organizations to create a network of local resources, changing the trajectory of families for the better.

1-800-624-8591

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Follow us!



NEW TRUSTEES WELCOME

TBCH warmly welcomes three new members of our Board of Trustees. Sherry Copeland from First Baptist Church in Adamsville, Sharon Sartain from Beaver Creek Baptist Church in Strawberry Plains, and Rev. Bert Spann from First Baptist Church in Hohenwald were introduced at the annual board meeting in Brentwood back in December. Thank you to these and the rest of the members who willingly give their time, talents, resources and leadership for the sake of the children in our care. Members of the TBCH Board of Trustees are elected by the Tennessee Baptist Convention, and 24 trustees are currently serving. To see the entire list of trustees, visit www.tennesseechildren.org/leadership.

FOSTER CARE

FROM THE FOSTER CARE FUN FILES

OUR CASE MANAGERS USUALLY KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT DURING A COURT HEARING, BUT SOMETIMES SURPRISES POP UP. HERE'S WHAT HAPPENED WHEN THE HALLS OF JUSTICE RANG WITH WORDS FROM THE INNOCENT HEART OF A CHILD (AS SHARED BY THE CASE MANAGER IN ATTENDANCE):

This seemed as if it would be a normal court hearing consisting of the judge asking questions, reviewing the status of the parents and either approving the plan or setting a date to approve it later. It was a normal step in the process that would lead to adoption. After being called into the court room, the family, along with the children (siblings—a toddler and 5-year-old little girl) were with the attorney. The judge proceeded to ask some questions, review the little girl's "awesome" report card, etc. Out of nowhere, the little girl asked the judge a question. No one could hear her tiny voice, so they bent the microphone down to her, and she asked again, "can I share a Bible verse?" The judge, smiling ear to ear, responded by inviting her up to share with everyone—from his own chair! She climbed up there and quoted Genesis 1:1, and based on the reaction, it was a blessing to the judge and everyone else in the courtroom.

**Someone bang a gavel and yell,
"Case closed!"**

In foster care, court hearings can be stressful events for the children and the adults involved. But in this case an unexpected moment of levity was a sweet reminder that God is the ultimate advocate for these children.

CARRYING SHATTERED GLASS

Josh and Jamie Cunningham serve as foster parents for TBCH through The George Shinn Foster Care Program. Privacy, for families and the children in their care, is a sensitive and important aspect of fostering. Obviously certain details are off-limits, but this couple has been willing to offer valuable insight into the burdens carried by foster parents. They occasionally get the opportunity to participate in panel discussions as part of the required training offered by TBCH, where illustrations like the following help to shape the understanding of potential foster parents who follow in their steps.

"Last night, Josh and I shared our story and sat on a panel at PATH foster training class. I cried most of the way there because I knew the questions that were coming because we had the same ones two years ago.

I have compared this journey to walking and trying to carry shattered glass. You try not to drop any pieces, get cut, and cut others all while knowing that even if you could glue it all back together, it will never be the same.

One of the most difficult parts of this journey is the carrying of stories. There are moments when it feels like the grief will swallow us whole. And the perceived notion that Josh and I are in some way exceptional humans because this is our walk is both isolating and incorrect. We felt the call, saw the need, and stepped out in faith. We still don't know what the future holds. We can't see the end of the road. All the fruit and all the good that has come from this belong to God and this just isn't about us.

This walk is not easy. I wish I could say that it was. Buying back lives is costly but who better to understand and meet us in the trenches than God who sent His only Son to buy back ours. It's worth it. They are worth it. I hope and pray we conveyed that message last night."



GRATEFUL FOR HELP ALONG THE WAY

When foster parents agree to open their homes to care for children, sometimes the path ahead of them takes some stressful twists and turns. The following was recently shared by one of our foster moms, who was grateful to find help along the way during a critical time:

"My heart is so full! Last night we got to meet two heroes...They were the first responders to the call on our little man and literally saved his life when he didn't have a chance of survival at only 3 pounds. He is a fighter and now a healthy 10 pounds and thriving! We know God has big plans for his life. Thank you FFP Mike S. and FFEMT Zach L. for your daily bravery and the way you step into danger in order to keep our city safe. You have a special place in our hearts and it was an honor to meet you."

**"LET US NOT LOSE HEART IN DOING GOOD, FOR IN DUE TIME WE WILL REAP
IF WE DO NOT GROW WEARY" (GALATIANS 6:9).**

Thinking about getting involved in Foster Care?

Visit our website at www.tennesseechildren.org/foster-care. There you can find FAQs and our Foster Parent Application. You can also email us at fostercare@tennesseechildren.org, or call 1-800-624-8591.

RESIDENTIAL CARE

ON THE RIGHT ROAD

A startling statistic hasn't stopped this young man from setting his sights high and reaching a milestone achievement. According to the National Foster Youth Institute, less than 3 percent of kids in substitute care earn a four-year degree, but DeQuan did it! He lived at Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes through his middle and high school years, and it was his home-away-from-college while he earned his degree at East Tennessee State University. Beating the odds — and doing so with style — he graduated from that school recently with a major in criminal justice and a minor in merchandising.

Now he's 23, and ready to keep pushing ahead on the path to success. He has his eye on entering the police academy, but his creative interest in fashion has him developing his own clothing line as well. He also remembers the long road he's already come down. Ten years ago, he entered the care of TBCH. "I didn't know why I was here...I thought I was a bad kid." DeQuan knows better than most that it's not easy for a child placed into the care of strangers, but he found his way through the help of loving houseparents and a supportive staff. He is quick to give a shout-out to the Martin, Sandridge and Williams houseparent couples with whom he lived over the years, but adds that there were so many folks who helped him that all the names are hard to remember. He even stays in touch and enjoys visiting the campus and seeing familiar faces.



"They helped me grow a lot, and saved me from a troubled life. I could've been in jail or doing things I knew weren't the right things to do." Fortunately, he met a turning point at TBCH. "The people there wanted me to succeed and so it made me want to succeed. I appreciate all the opportunities I've had and them always pulling for me to reach my goals."

Transitioning into college and adulthood, and pursuing goals like his are a part of the program for children in the care of TBCH. His opportunities are a direct result of supporters who have been willing to step out in faith and make a difference with prayers, service and giving. And for children who might have to follow the challenging steps he's taken, he gives this advice, "It's a great place for kids that are going through rough times. You come here and get real love. The people are always on you, but it's what you need. They kept me on the right road and the right path."

FORMER RANCH RESIDENT

One of our board members, Bryan Lyle, had an opportunity to meet a former resident of The Ranch at Millington. As a result, he was able to get a glimpse into the on-going work of the Lord in the lives of children in our care. The time they spend at TBCH may be some of the most chaotic and difficult moments in their lives, but when our paths cross later in their lives, we are often reminded that our investment is never in vain.

Bryan was in need of some home repairs, and by what seemed like a chance encounter, met Andy (name changed out of respect for his privacy), who worked for just such a company. Later that week, by what seemed like another chance encounter, Bryan met the owner of that company, and decided to hire them for the work.

On the scheduled day for the repairs, Andy showed up at Bryan's home to do the work. While there he noticed the TBCH logo and asked Bryan about his affiliation with the organization. The conversation unfolded to reveal that Andy had lived at The Ranch for a couple of years during his middle-school days. He shared about the circumstances that lead him to The Ranch, including bouncing in and out of schools, family drug addiction and gang influence. Andy not only thanked Bryan for the work of TBCH but gave this ministry credit for changing the course of his life, saying he "would have probably ended up doing drugs and didn't know where he would be today."

After leaving the care of The Ranch, he eventually reunified with his family, graduated from college, and was considering a move to another city to help add a branch of the company for which he worked. He also shared that he nailed down his salvation just last year!

Bryan passed along this encounter as an encouragement, but Andy's story also illustrates an important principle about ministry to children. Investing in the lives of children, whether through prayer, service or gifts, does not guarantee that we will get to see a return on that investment in their lives. But we trust that the Lord uses each of us (from our board members to supporters like you!), to impact their lives beyond the short time they spend in our care.



ADVENTURES IN TUTORING

As the coordinator for volunteers and special events at the Brentwood campus, one of my responsibilities is scheduling tutors for our kids. Recently I had the opportunity to speak with one of our brand-new tutors. Gail, a sweet retired teacher and former foster parent, told me about her first session in the Dyer Home.

She arrived prepared to be the homework helper since we have four elementary students living there. Three of them had been in the care of TBCH less than a week. When she walked in she noticed that one of the boys was not motivated to do his homework since he was pretending to be asleep on the couch. Unfazed, Gail made her way to the table and began to help the three students who were ready, as the housemother came to give some bubble gum to the three that were ready. Gail told me about how the little girl who is in kindergarten had been given an assignment to write out her family tree, and how she wanted help writing all the names of the kids in her home. Then Gail moved on to help a third-grade boy with this homework, but before they could begin he wanted to show her the chalkboard on the wall that lists what is on the menu for the week. As he showed her, he said "look, if I forget what I ate for breakfast it tells me right here. I love knowing what to expect!"

Back at the table, one of the children was talking about chores which he says are his favorite thing to do at the Dyer home. After the three kids had finished their homework the "sleeping boy" came to the table and wanted her to help him as well.

Gail spoke so highly of Nathan and Laura Mankin, and how they run their home. She told me about how the older boys came and went from the other homework table, and how they knew what was expected and functioned so well within those expectations. Every day is not a win here at TBCH, but this particular day was. We are so thankful for people who give of their time, talents and money so that together we can make a difference for Christ in the lives of the children whom He has entrusted to us.

Thank you to Nicole Andrus for sharing this reminder that volunteers often do much more than they (or any of us) realize, and for a glimpse into the routines of our homes. Our supporters make this possible for children not just in the Dyer home, but all across the state!

Interested in our Residential Care Program?

Visit our website at www.tennesseechildren.org/residential-care for information about our campuses across the state, houseparenting, and how to contact us about getting involved in your region.

THE MOTHER'S DAY OFFERING



BENEFITTING TENNESSEE BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOMES

Being donor-supported is a difficult way to operate. Many people assume that our budget is easily met with the help of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. The fact is, the TBC Cooperative Program only makes up about one fifth of our budget, and we don't receive any funds from the Golden Offering. Instead, each year TBCH is given the freedom to ask every TBC church to promote and generously give to the Mother's Day Offering. Direct gifts from churches make up another one third of our budget. **This means that one half of our annual needs are met by the churches.**

If you already participate through your church, thank you! If not, please prayerfully consider the need and encourage your church to act on their faith by joining us in a work that is near and dear to the heart of God. **Your support matters, and so does the support of each member of each church in Tennessee.** A single branch of a vine may only bear a handful of fruit, but all the branches together produce an abundant crop!

Visit our website to see how you and your church can participate in this year's Mother's Day Offering.

PRAY FOR US

As you pray for TBCH, please consider these suggestions:

Springtime means outside time! Pray for the safety of our children, even as they play, go to school, and travel to and from activities.

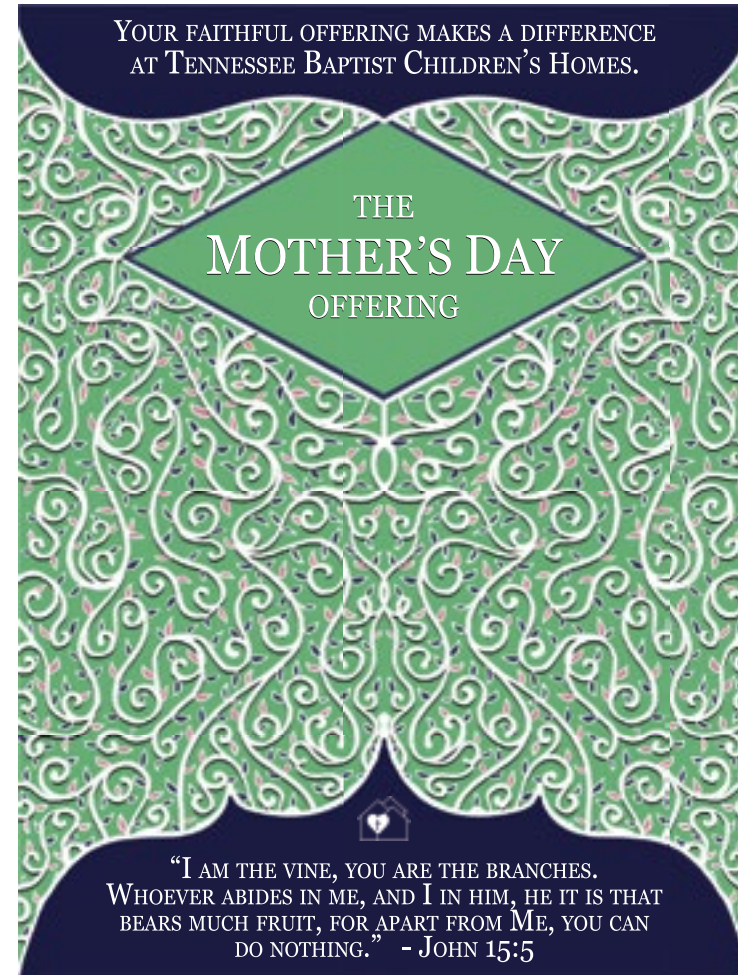
- Our Foster Care program has seen an unusual increase in placements recently. Pray for these children, but also for Christian couples to act on their faith by opening their homes to foster children.

- Please pray that the upcoming Mother's Day Offering will not only be a way God provides for our budget, but that those who give will be blessed with a deeper faith and a sense of God's pleasure in their generosity.



"Blessed be God,
Who has not turned away
my prayer nor his
lovingkindness from me."

(Psalm 66:20)



A UNIQUE MOTHER'S DAY PERSPECTIVE

Our feelings on Mother's Day greatly depends on our experiences, and can range from gratitude to grief. TBCH houseparents Robert and Amy Hefner have at least two good reasons to celebrate Mother's Day from a very unique perspective, explained in the following excerpt from an article by the National Embryo Donation Center (reprinted with permission).



"Keep on asking, and you will receive. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you." It doesn't take long for Christians to realize those famous words from Matthew 7 aren't a formula, as if God is some sort of genie in the sky. Rather, they're His gracious invitation to keep asking for guidance and answers- to walk in obedience and trust Him, even when the path ahead looks murky. In turn, He'll provide what we need. It's a process embryo adoption parents Amy and Robert Hefner know well. "All I ever wanted to be was a wife and mom," Amy recalls. Robert was on board with Amy's parenthood vision. They had dreams of a large family and figured adoption would

be part of that picture. Naturally, they tried to get pregnant a couple years into marriage. That was when they encountered something they never planned on: infertility. Testing and treatment followed, but those stopped when Amy's employer closed her department, leaving her jobless.

"We saw that as the Lord saying, 'Not now,'" Amy says.

A couple years later, the desire for children was back. They went through more treatments, but to no avail. "Again we felt the Lord closing the door on us having a baby," Robert and Amy remember. In hindsight, the Hefners know the timing wouldn't have been right. They'd just begun serving as houseparents at the

Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes. "We were instant parents to eight teenage boys at a time...We couldn't even think about having a baby!"

Once they adjusted to ministry as houseparents, the Hefners started asking God for children again. "But it just wasn't God's plan for us," Amy says. Finally, their ultimate answer came into view. A friend sent the Hefners articles about embryo adoption, and they ran across a video testimony of a couple who had children through the National Embryo Donation Center. Instantly, Robert and Amy felt like embryo adoption through the NEDC was what they were meant to do.

In 2018, as a result of her frozen embryo transfer at the NEDC, Amy gave birth to twins Eliana and Aliza. "They have given comfort, brought joy and so much more. Not only for us, but also their grandparents and 'big brothers' as we continue to houseparent," the Hefners share.

As they reflect on all of this, Robert and Amy are thankful they kept asking, obeying and trusting. They're ecstatic at God's kind answer. But there's more. "We are so grateful for the 'gift' of infertility," they say. "It taught us dependence on our Heavenly Father, how to be content with Jesus, and it brought us closer together as a couple. We also believe we experienced it so we would be able to understand what other people are going through and possibly be a help to them."

Ask, and not only will you receive. What you receive may actually be far richer than what you desired in the first place.

THANK YOU WMU OF TN!

Women of Noble Character

FROM PROVERBS 31

You provide meals...

(14) She is like the merchant ships, bringing her food from afar.

You serve countless volunteer hours...

(17) She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks.

You show love and compassion to our children...

(20) She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy.

Your gifts help keep heat in our homes...

(21A) When it snows, she has no fear for her household;

...and coats on our kids...

(21B) for all of them are clothed in scarlet.

Some of you are tutors and mentors...

(26) She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue.

And all of you set worthy examples for us to follow.

(29) Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all.

GET-TOGETHER & CONNECTION



TennesseeWMU

T-M

Mark your calendar for the Get-Together & Connection in Gatlinburg April 5-7!

One of the greatest enemies to family life is comparing our families to those who attend church, play sports, and attend the same schools as our children. We all want to present a good face to the crowd. We see this every day in our use of social media. Feelings of jealousy and guilt overcome us when we open our social media feeds and see another perfect-looking picture of the family just down the street. When we think of what it would take to pose for the same picture at our house, we realize this would be an impossible task.

Thomas Moore is right. The image we hope to portray to others is nothing more than a mask of the pain and conflict we are experiencing on the other side of the beach photo where everyone is in their best white and khaki. Amid this desire to be the same as others, it is important that we find a place of authenticity. We must come to grips with who we are as a family and overcome the desire to be something we are not. Thomas Moore goes on to write,

"Care of the soul appreciates the mystery of human suffering and does not offer the illusion of a problem-free life."

A friend of mine who is also a counselor does this well. There is no pretense with her. When she speaks about her family, you are brought into the mix of things. Sometimes the events are as current as the morning before the meeting where she was invited to talk about how to help families who are loving children from hard places. The transparency of her struggles is what endears her to so many people. It is also what makes her one of the best counselors I know.



**TBCH SPONSORS
ETC CONFERENCE
SITES**

As a service of our Family Care Program, TBCH is sponsoring "host sites" across Tennessee for the upcoming Empowered To Connect event, April 5-6. Host sites in Paris, TN, and Chattanooga will give registrants the opportunity to participate in the conference via live simulcast from Fort Worth, TX.

This event, presented by Show Hope, features two days of practical teaching in a safe and supportive community to equip families, churches, and professionals to better serve children impacted by adoption and foster care. The conference content is beneficial for adoptive parents, foster parents, potential adoptive or foster parents, and professionals or ministry leaders serving children. By making opportunities like these available to communities, TBCH hopes to give our supporters the tools they need to make a difference in the lives of children across our state.

FAMILY CARE

FAMILIES BENEFIT FROM AUTHENTICITY.

"The sentimental image of family that we present publicly is a defense against the pain of proclaiming the family for what it is – a sometimes comforting, sometimes devastating house of life and memory."

Thomas Moore in Care of the Soul

When we can think less about how we might appear to others, and accept who we are as a family, then we are able to take ourselves not so seriously. We've learned not to ask David (a family friend) to take a picture of the family when he visits from overseas. As soon as he gets the phone he starts taking pictures. No one is ready, and there are a lot of strange faces being made. Looking back on those photos, they are the best. Uncensored and uncut reality causes us to realize: sometimes all you can do is laugh.

Lowering our expectations is another principle of self-care imperative to raising children from hard places. When we attempt to compare our children to other kids in the neighborhood who have not endured the trauma that our child has, then we do both children an injustice. There are times when the pressure to conform triggers memories from long ago that further differentiates our child from the others. Learning to love my child for who he is, and not for what I want him to be is a sure way to care for myself and my child as well.

Kelly Campbell is our Vice President of Family Care. He also contributes articles related to foster care, residential care and family support to the Weakley County Press (excerpted here with permission).

TBCH host sites for the live simulcast include First Baptist Church in Paris and Concord Baptist Church in Chattanooga. Times for these locations are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Central/10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Eastern on the day of the event. A location in Knoxville is expected to be announced soon, with a scheduled date of April 25-26. Visit empoweredtoconnect.org for more information about this conference and other helpful resources.

DO YOU HAVE A HEART FOR HELPING FAMILIES?

You and your organization are invited to get involved in our Family Care Program and become a part of a community network connecting families with the resources they need. Visit our website at www.tennesseechildren.org/resources/family-care, or email kcampbell@tennesseechildren.org.

This report reflects the faith and dedication of our staff, board members, volunteers and supporters. As you consider this data, we hope you share our conviction that children matter. They are not simply beds filled, budget items, or "just numbers." They are wonderful individuals—beautiful, handsome, funny, troubled, brilliant, forgetful, hurting, talented, needy, grateful, happy, angry, loving, hopeful...fearfully and wonderfully made in the image of God.



2017-2018 Annual Report (November 1, 2017–October 31, 2018)



SUPPORT, REVENUE AND EXPENSES

SUPPORT AND REVENUE

SUPPORT	
Allocation from Tennessee Baptist Convention	\$1,487,697
Contributions	4,678,733
Contributions of beneficial interests in trusts held by trustees	62,810
Fundraising events	250,341
Bequests	389,363
Income from trusts	513,584
Noncash gifts	104,517
Noncash gifts – fundraising events	38,369
Total support	7,525,414

REVENUE	
Investment income	132,108
Investment gains (loss)	(123,917)
Investment gains (loss) on funds held by trustees	(233,594)
Child support payments	26,490
Rental income	52,035
Property sale	164,829
Other	60,003
Total revenue	77,954

Total support and revenue 7,603,368

EXPENSES

Program services	5,607,157
Supporting services	1,502,279

Total expenses 7,109,436

Find a copy of our audit in its entirety at www.tennesseechildren.org/financials
or call us at 1-800-624-8591



2017-2018 Annual Report
(November 1, 2017–October 31, 2018)

Children Served in Residential Care				
By Region	East	Middle	West	Total
TN Kids Served*	41	41	60	142
Professions of Faith	2	0	6	8
Baptisms	2	0	6	8
*Also served four kids from out of state (AL, MO, MS)				

Children Served in Foster Care				
By Region	East	Middle	West	Total
TN Kids Served	67	37	29	133
Professions of Faith	2	3	2	7
Baptisms	0	1	1	2

2018 Statewide Stats:

146 children served in residential care homes

133 children served in foster care homes

100% of children in our care heard the Gospel and were welcomed with the love of Christ!

Quotable & Reportable –from this year’s Report to the President and the Board of Trustees:

“When you see God work in the lives of boys and families that are broken and desperate for help and you work alongside of people who are vigilant in prayer and desperate to share the love of Christ, it humbles you and makes you appreciate God’s call in your life.” –VP Jeff Epps (West)

“We are in the process of revitalizing our Independent Living program...We are excited to improve in this area of our ministry. As always, thank you for your support and prayers for our staff, children, and families.” –VP Patrick Addison (East)

“Since November 2013, we have served over 182 children in foster care, ...taught more than 450 individuals in PATH classes, and approved approximately 130 homes.”–VP Alisha Worthey (Foster Care)

“Consulting, training, and connecting is what Family Care is about. Your support of this ministry provides us with the opportunity to engage even more churches in the caring for children and families right in their communities.”–VP Kelly Campbell (Family Care)

“The Lord is doing some incredible things in the life of our team members...Thank you for your encouraging support to our team and children at TBCH!”–VP Darren Andrus (Middle)

“The Lord has sustained His ministry here for 127 years, and lives are being changed for eternity every year...I believe if we continue to be faithful stewards, the Lord will continue to allow us to do His work. The Lord is calling each of us to more within this ministry.”–VP Jeff McGinnis (Advancement)



2017-2018 Annual Report
(November 1, 2017–October 31, 2018)



2018 marked 127 years of children being cared for in the name of Jesus by Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes! We love the number 127 because it reminds us of why we do what we do. James 1:27 says, "Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world."

During the 2017-18 fiscal year, your TBCH team provided direct care for more than 270 different children who were in distress. In addition to caring for each of these children, we have also done our best to minister to their biological and/or adoptive families. This means that the Lord has given us the privilege of ministering to some 3,000 individuals.

We continue to be grateful for our share of Cooperative Program dollars, and for those 1,484 Tennessee Baptist Churches who have us in their annual budgets and/or participated in the Mother's Day Offering for TBCH. These two sources of support provide one half of our operating budget. We are also very appreciative to those of you who personally invest in our children by sending monthly or annual gifts. All of you are a part of the Lord's provision for this ministry.

Thank you for helping us welcome children from hard places with the love of Christ. With your continued support we will speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves and God will be glorified as He works through us to be a Father to the fatherless.

Defending the defenseless,

Bro. Greg
President/Treasurer



2017-2018 Annual Report
(November 1, 2017–October 31, 2018)



**TBCH
101**



"There used to be 200 or more kids there, why aren't there that many these days?"

It's a question we hear quite a bit, and the answer is something many people might not know. When TBCH began 128 years ago, the goal was to provide food, clothing and shelter for orphans and homeless children.

There were, and still are, countless children in need of a safe home to call their own (nearly 8000 in Tennessee). During times like the Great Depression and following World War II, our campus in Brentwood sometimes housed hundreds of children. They lived in large dormitories with "dorm mothers" watching out for them and making sure they were fed, clothed and educated.

These needs were met, but one need went unnoticed—the need of a child to be a part of a family. Without healthy family roles and behaviors modeled for them, many former residents struggled with their own families later in life. Studies clearly show that

children thrive in family settings, and in the 1960s and 1970s, this became an important part of the care we provided for residents. Dormitories were replaced with family-style homes, and instead of "dorm mothers," TBCH began hiring and training "houseparents."

These Christian couples would live in the homes on our campuses full-time, caring for up to eight resident children and often their own biological children as well. Residents could then learn how a family works together, plays together and solves problems together—skills that come in handy no matter what your background!

Of course, this greatly reduced the number of children who could be cared for at a single location, and greatly increased the influence of individual supporters. This model of care is more expensive, requiring greater resources and more staff. A home has less space than a dormitory, so our Brentwood campus currently has room for 32 residents instead of hundreds.

But it's not about "children per square feet." We believe children matter, and we are not just concerned with food, clothing and shelter. Donors who recognize the value in the way we do things now allow us to care for each child in a way that impacts his or her life now and in the future.

Despite the perception, the number of children we care for is not that different than it was so many years back. The difference is found in our expanded locations and ministries. We now have campuses in all three regions of the state: the Brentwood and Chattanooga campuses in Middle and East Tennessee, and The Ranch at Millington in West Tennessee. We also train and support foster families, so they can open their homes to foster children all over the state—currently in more than 30 cities and towns. It's a great question with a not-so-simple answer. By the numbers, we're pretty consistent, but our quality of care for the children of Tennessee has greatly improved throughout the years!

UPCOMING EVENTS...



Thank you to the Franklin Noon Rotary Foundation for supporting this year's Kars4Kids event. The foundation recently awarded a \$2,000 grant to TBCH for the event. Proceeds from this event, and many like them across the state, directly impact the children in our care. Check our website and Facebook page for more opportunities & events!



**Tennessee Baptist
Children's Homes**

Reach out to us anytime!

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