

Fall 2019



Recipe for Care

@TBCH

A Note from Greg

Over the past 128 years, the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes has developed a secret recipe for welcoming children in hard places with the love of Christ. This recipe has been developed much like some of your grandmother's favorite dishes: through trial and error! Today is a historical day as I am about to share this secret recipe with you!



Instructions:

- Pour equal portions of the following ingredients into the family bowl.
- Mix thoroughly. (Don't worry about lumps as no family is perfectly smooth!)
- Expose the mixture to the Word of God by talking about it at home and taking the mixture to worship on a regular basis.
- Pray fervently for it to turn out like God intends.

Ingredient #1: Faith, Grace & Trust

Placing our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the most important decision we will ever make. When our own faith is placed in Him, we realize just how much grace we have been shown as Jesus washed away all our sin. He then begins teaching us the importance of showing grace to others, helping us live a lifestyle of trusting the Lord during every life event. (See John 3:5-8; Romans 5:1-11; 2 Corinthians 5:17)

Ingredient #2: Excellence

Do your dead level best in everything you do, especially at home. Behave like your whole life belongs to the Lord because it does! Treat your family like it is His because it is! (See Colossians 3:23-24)

Ingredient #3: Safe Environment

Children need to know that home is a safe place: physically safe, emotionally safe and spiritually safe. Make sure every child is safe and feels safe. (See Psalm 146:9; Ephesians 6:4)

Ingredient #4: People

Homes are made up of people. Children are people too! People matter more than things. People are not perfect, but they are still created by God in His image and should be treated with love, patience and respect. (See Genesis 1:26-27; Psalm 139:13-16)

Ingredient #5: Stewardship

The Lord owns it all. We are stewards of lives, of time, of energy, of creation, of financial resources and anything else the Lord chooses to make available to us. Therefore, we are ultimately accountable to Him for the way we treat our family. (See Genesis 1; Psalm 24:1; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2; 1 Peter 4:10-11)

Note: The end result of your recipe might turn out a little different than your neighbor's, and that's okay!

Defending the defenseless,
Greg McCoy, President/Treasurer

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Bro. Greg'.



If the kitchen is the heart of the home, perhaps the dinner table is where you'd take its pulse. The thousands of meals served in our homes are often lively heartbeats of laughter, prayer, conversation, and compliments to the chefs. In the coming weeks as we look forward to gathering for fellowship and holiday meals, we want to thank our friends and supporters who provide the necessary ingredients for the "recipe of care" at TBCH. *(And speaking of recipes, please enjoy a few included throughout this issue of @TBCH, submitted by staff and friends!)*

Recipe for Care

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Recipe

BEST SUGAR COOKIES EVER

1 cup unsalted butter	2 teaspoons baking powder
1 cup granulated white sugar	1/2 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon vanilla extract	3 cups all-purpose flour
1/2 teaspoon almond extract	1 egg

Preheat oven to 350° F. In a mixer bowl, cream butter & sugar until smooth (at least 3 min). Beat in extracts and egg. In a separate bowl combine baking powder, salt and flour, then add a little at a time to the wet ingredients. If the dough is too stiff for mixer, knead with wet hands. DO NOT CHILL THE DOUGH. Divide into workable amounts, roll out onto a floured surface 1/4-1/8 inch (closer to 1/4 in. is better), then cut. Bake at 350 degrees, 6-8 minutes. Let cool until firm enough to move and decorate. Makes 3 dozen cookies. (Submitted by Laurie G., State Office)



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.

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Follow us!



Special to TBCH



Friends Filling Freezers

Take a couple of friends, add a simple idea, then mix well with plenty of donors and volunteers, and this recipe serves a whole campus! For the last four years, Ellie Dowling and Jennifer Bell have been behind a cornucopia of blessings for the Brentwood campus.

Ellie and Jennifer became aware of TBCH when she found out that some of the girls in their Brentwood Baptist Church life group were residents. After getting to know some of the girls' houseparents, they cooked up the idea to raise funds and gather volunteers to purchase and prepare freezer meals for the campus homes.

Ellie's marketing strategy includes a simple social media blitz with posts like "Let's Stock the Freezer at Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes...Give your \$ or your time!"

The semi-annual project consistently draws around 25 participants and raises enough donations to pay for shopping trips that overwhelm even the most seasoned Sam's Club cashiers.

Speaking of "seasoned"—before the pounds and pounds of chicken, beef and pork are packed into freezers, Ellie and the volunteers pack into a TBCH kitchen, where they season and repackage the meat for future use. Group-sized servings go into freezer-bags as anything from teriyaki chops to fajita chicken.

Doing the work in a campus kitchen gives volunteers an up-close and personal opportunity to visit one of our homes. For many, this is the first time they have ever been on campus.

"It's a two-part mission," Ellie explains, "to help houseparents with meals and healthy options for the kids, and to introduce volunteers to TBCH."

Twenty-five volunteers in a kitchen, preparing hundreds of pounds of meat in one morning might sound overwhelming, but the prep team has remained undaunted. "We work it like a machine," says Ellie.

Their assembly-line labor saves houseparents hours of difficult work, and the well-organized and convenient portions make menu planning easier as well. Time saved can then be spent in precious one-on-one or group activities with the kids, which is more like the desert after the main course provided by these freezer-filling friends.



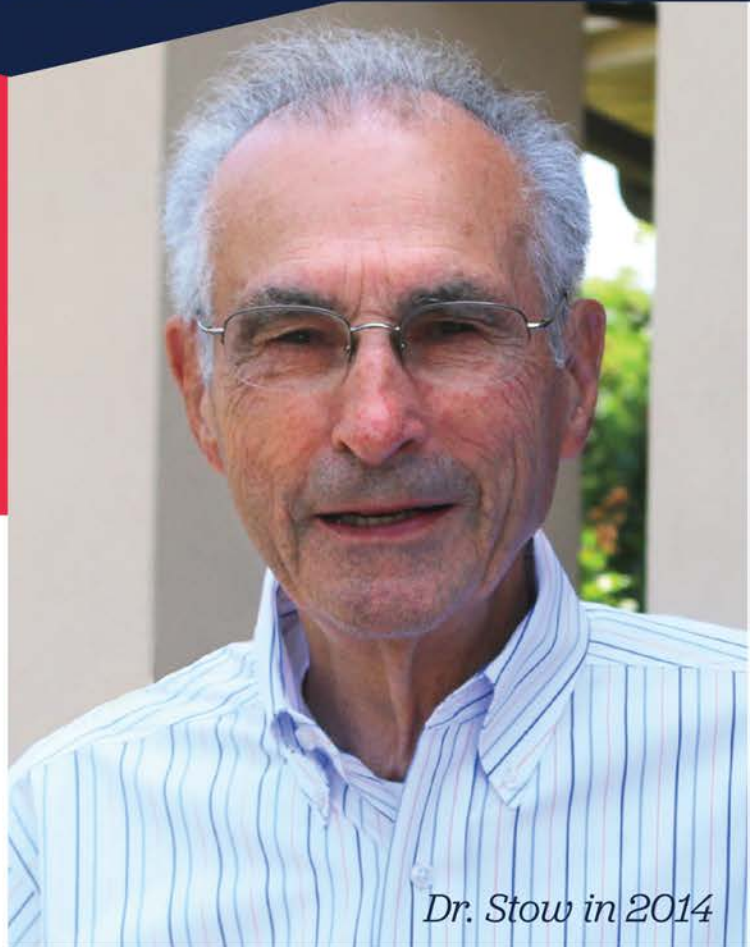
Special to TBCH

More than two decades ago, four men decided to begin meeting weekly for Bible study, and TBCH has been the home of the Stow Bible Study Class ever since.

In 1998, Dr. Gerald Stow (then President/Treasurer of TBCH), Jimmy Dalrymple, Chuck Jamison, and Gary Holbrook chartered the class. As then President/Treasurer of TBCH, Dr. Stow gladly offered use of a meeting room at TBCH at the campus in Brentwood, an offer of welcome which current President/Treasurer Greg McCoy still extends.

Dr. Stow passed away in 2016, but not before inspiring a legacy of commitment to this gathering of faithful students of the Bible. They meet early over coffee and a little breakfast, and some of their meetings include a hymn, the men's voices sweetly echoing in the halls of the state office building. And without fail, they pray and study Scripture together. Over the years, at least 78 men have attended the class, and at least one member prayed to receive Christ as his Savior as a result of their gathering.

Current members appreciate having a home in which they can nurture faith in Christ and Biblical understanding much the same way TBCH nurtures those values in the lives of children living in our homes. The relationship between these men and TBCH has also become a two-way blessing, as expressed recently in a note from the class. "Thank you for hosting us, and also for recently helping the class get involved in The Big Payback as a mission opportunity." To which the TBCH staff on behalf of our children happily reply, *"likewise, good gentlemen!"*



Dr. Stow in 2014

Likewise, Good Gentlemen

Recipe

ELLIE'S MOM'S MEATLOAF

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 ½ pounds ground chuck | ½ cup finely chopped onions |
| 1 cup cracker crumbs | 3 tbsp chopped green pepper |
| 2 beaten eggs | 1 ½ tsp salt |
| 1 8-ounce can of tomato sauce | |
| 1 med bay leaf (or ¼ tsp ground) | |

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Combine all ingredients, mix well, shape mixture into a loaf in a shallow baking dish. Makes 1 large loaf or 2 smaller loaves which cook faster. Topping: Combine 1 cup ketchup, about 3 tbsp brown sugar, 1 tsp mustard. Mix and adjust to taste, then use to completely cover the meatloaf. Bake at 350 degrees for about one hour.

(Submitted by Ellie D., TBCH friend and volunteer)

Residential Care

Layla, a rising basketball phenom, who also happens to be a resident of our Chattanooga campus, has been impressing fans from East Tennessee to Atlanta over the past few months.

One such fan had a special connection with Layla. Mike Bradley, a basketball star in his own right, traveled to Birmingham to see Layla play. Having a 6'10" former power forward cheering for you is already impressive, but it seems to take on a deeper meaning when those cheers are also from a TBCH alum. Not only did he have his own impressive high school and college basketball career, Mike also lived at the TBCH Chattanooga campus for part of his childhood.

He gave Layla a Facebook shout-out after the game, "Congrats to Layla and her TN Thunder team on an exciting 2 pt win tonight. She played well and made key plays. As a former TBCH resident myself, I hope all your dreams and hoop dreams come true."

Layla's athletic endeavors are also supported by her houseparents Tony and Angie Cummings, possibly her biggest fans, who do their own share of cheering, as well as driving. Later in the season, spectators at the KB Sports Under Armour National Championship in Atlanta had a chance to enjoy watching Layla's team, the Tennessee Thunder, as they took third place in the tournament in June.

Because of the generosity of donors, whose support is an investment in the lives of children like Layla, many of our residents enjoy the opportunity to excel in activities they love, like basketball. Although Layla's Thunder season has now come to a close, we are sure that she will continue dreaming about hoops from now until next year!



Layla with Mike Bradley and houseparent Tony Cummings

Hoop Dreams Coming True



Good News from the Inbox: We love to find messages like this in our inbox!

From The Ranch at Millington: (This message went out in mid-June...): Thankful to the Lord that two young men from the Ranch, Steven and Caleb prayed to receive Christ last night!! Let's keep them and those who minister to them in prayer! (And then in early July...) We had a young man pray to receive Christ last night. It is awesome to see God move! (At The Ranch they have a big bell in the middle of the campus they ring as a celebration of salvations.)

From Brentwood: "CW" made a profession of faith while at Centrikid camp with Clearview Baptist! According to CW's houseparent, a children's ministry worker from Clearview called and said CW shared that she had accepted Christ into her heart when she returned to her room from worship the night before. "He was tugging at my heart getting my attention for Him, so I paid attention and accepted Him!" she said. Praise the Lord for her decision and for the churches in our area who love on our children!

From Chattanooga: "A" was saved at the Lift Conference last March! He has been growing in knowledge and in relationship with Christ since that time and told one of our new residents today that he is learning so much. "C" asked Jesus to be his Savior at Eastwood Baptist Church's VBS in June. He said they asked anyone who wanted to be saved to stay behind in the gym and he decided he wanted to! Continue to pray for these young men and those who continue to minister to them!



Exciting Changes in Independent Living

Transitions are a part of life for children in our care and for our organization as a whole.

Earlier this year, TBCH welcomed Paula Taylor as our new Independent Living Coordinator, and she is now spearheading some exciting changes to our Independent Living services, now located at our Chattanooga campus.

One of the challenges of welcoming children in hard places is the reality that some of these children will age out while in our care. Because the Residential Care program is licensed for children, residents turning 18 face some important adult decisions. They may legally sign themselves out of care and leave, which many do, but they also have the option of staying with TBCH and participating in our Independent Living program. Current participants include some who have relocated from other campuses to attend college in the Chattanooga area, and one young man who is currently engaged and in the process of buying his own home.

Becoming an independent adult is more than just a function of age. Simply celebrating a milestone birthday doesn't magically bestow the ability to manage living expenses, juggle work and/or college schedules, or navigate new social expectations. Paula, a Licensed Professional Counselor-Associate, is responsible for an arm of ministry that offers guidance, support, and resources to these young adults as they make this transition.

Residents who decide to participate in the program enjoy many benefits, including the use of on-site efficiency apartments, access to mentors, monthly outings, and opportunities to celebrate successes over meals with Paula. Another positive aspect of the program is the proximity to campus life, which may lend a sense of familiarity to an otherwise difficult period of life. Paula plans to develop the mentoring aspect of IL with the hope of encouraging long-term support from mentors that would continue even after a resident is discharged from the program.

While in the past, the different residential campuses have administrated their own programs, TBCH has now restructured and moved all Independent Living Program services to the Chattanooga campus to improve the use of resources and to better meet the needs of the young adults who have chosen TBCH to be their transitional home.



Decorating a new IL apartment!



New IL Coordinator, Paula Taylor

Interested in our Residential Care Program?

Visit our website at www.tennesseechildren.org for information about our campuses, houseparenting, and how to contact us about getting involved in your region.

Recipe

SUTTON BOYS' FAVORITE ENCHILADAS

1+1/2 lbs ground beef	15 oz can refried beans
8 oz sour cream	1 pkg tortilla shells
1 can cream mushroom soup	1/2 soup can of milk
8 oz Velveeta cheese	1/2 can green enchilada sauce

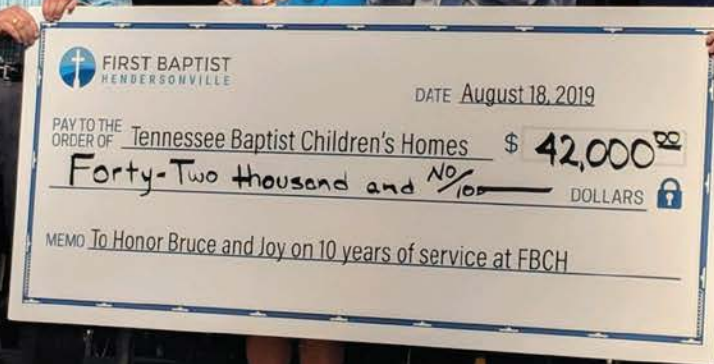
Brown meat and drain. Add refried beans and 1/2 sour cream. Stir until well mixed. In a large sauce pan, heat soup, milk, enchilada sauce, and cheese. Spread meat mixture on tortillas and roll up. Pour sauce over enchiladas. (I double the recipe for the boys!)

Bake at 325 degrees, 20-30 minutes. Yields 8 servings.

(Submitted by Kathy C., housemom)

Pray, Serve, Give

Church Gifts Show That Children Matter



TBCH is donor supported and does not receive any government funding. We are grateful for churches and their associations, and other organizations and individuals who believe as we do, that children matter, and show it with their generous and faithful support.

Recently, First Baptist Church in Hendersonville honored their pastor, Dr. Bruce Chesser, for ten years of service. He was completely surprised to find out they had taken a secret offering in his honor for Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, for whom he also serves as current chairman of the Board of Trustees. At a special service in July, this offering was presented to TBCH President Bro. Greg McCoy.

Another recent blessing came from the Mulberry Gap Association of Missionary Baptists under the leadership of their moderator Bro. Roger Porter, pastor of Sartain Springs Missionary Baptist Church in Talbott. In addition to a generous gift handed to Bro. McCoy at their associational meeting, Sartain Springs also named TBCH as the emphasis for their VBS offering, which raised an additional \$10,000.

These are a few of the many examples of many churches and associations who recognize the importance of providing Christ-centered, nurturing homes for children in hard places across Tennessee. On behalf of the children in our care, thank you to these and all our donors!

Your prayers make a difference to the children at TBCH!
We would love your prayers in the following areas:

- Physical, emotional, and spiritual health for the children in our care, and that the needs of each child are met at TBCH.
- That the families and guardians of these children feel God's presence as they interact with our staff and foster parents. No matter what our circumstances, we all need the grace and love of Christ.
- Our careful stewardship of the resources provided to TBCH by God through faithful and generous individuals, churches and organizations.

Pray For Us

"For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace." –John 1:16

Charitable Campaigns

During the last few months of each year, TBCH continues to be blessed by participants in many different Charitable Campaigns. Thank you to all federal, state, and municipal employees for your hard work, and for supporting the children in our care through campaigns like these:

- Combined Federal Campaign (Federal employees use CFC #668383)
- Tennessee Employees Charitable Campaign (State employees use TECC #IN031)
- Metro Employees Consolidated Charitable Campaign (Metro Nashville employees use MECCC# 7150)

Be sure to look for other campaigns in your local area!

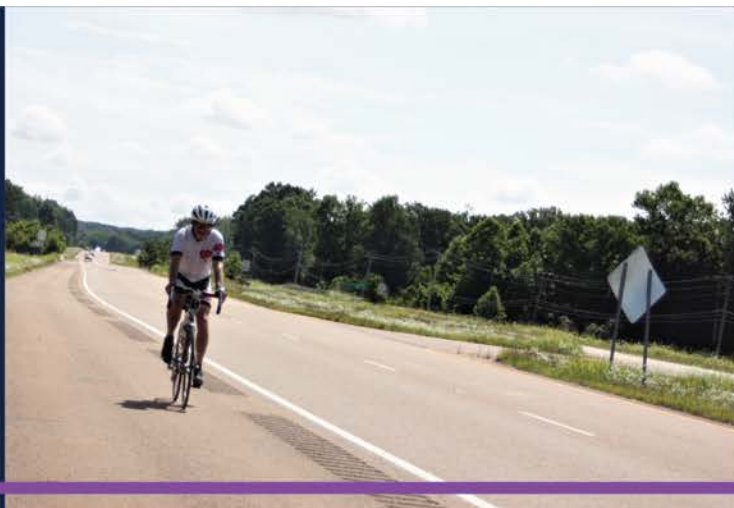


MECCC



TECC

Special to TBCH



Going the Distance: David Rides Across Tennessee

Milestones: For Pastor David Simmerman, his 50th birthday was more than just the celebration of a milestone. As a matter of fact, he celebrated 500 literal milestones, from Mountain City in the east all the way to Memphis in the west. And he celebrated those 500 milestones from the seat of a bicycle! David, who serves as the pastor of Leoma Baptist Church, decided to show his love and support of TBCH in a creative way through a pastime close to his heart, by cycling across the state. Rain or shine, uphill and down, he hit the road every morning from June 24-28, averaging 15 mph and traveling 100 miles each day. Not only did he surpass his goal, he also left an inspirational example of volunteerism from one end of Tennessee to the other.

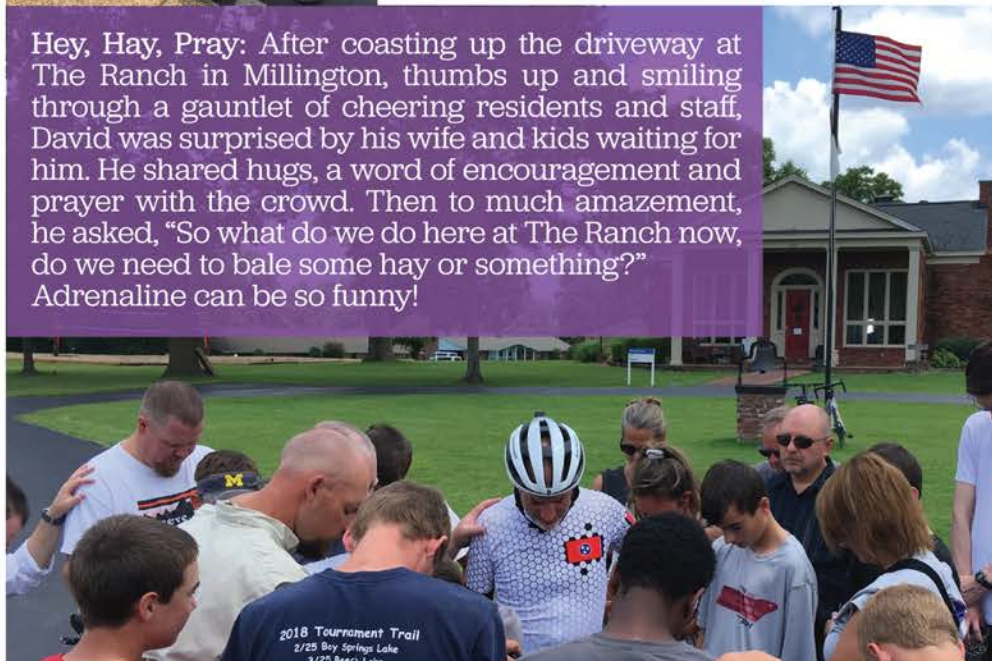
Long Stretches: David traversed the entire state 100 pedal-powered miles at a time for five consecutive days. For some stretches he was joined by friends and family, some on bicycles and some in a companion car, including his brother Stephen, who drove along for safety and to document the ride with pictures and videos.

Blowout: His trip was not without trouble. He was slowed down by an unexpected blowout, but ever the undaunted optimist, he not only got back on the road to stay on schedule, he made new friends at a nearby bike shop in the process.



Say Cheese: He planned his route to include visits to two of the three TBCH residential campuses. Here he poses for pictures with a couple of girls in Chattanooga. Social media played a big part of the fundraising aspect of his ride. Sharing pictures and videos online while biking raised awareness and got communities across Tennessee involved.

Hey, Hay, Pray: After coasting up the driveway at The Ranch in Millington, thumbs up and smiling through a gauntlet of cheering residents and staff, David was surprised by his wife and kids waiting for him. He shared hugs, a word of encouragement and prayer with the crowd. Then to much amazement, he asked, "So what do we do here at The Ranch now, do we need to bale some hay or something?" Adrenaline can be so funny!





WHAT CAN I DO?

Whether you are an individual or representing a group, supporters and volunteers make it possible for TBCH to welcome children in hard places with the love of Christ all over Tennessee. Perhaps the following will help you decide what your next step might be...

CONSIDER THE NEED

Providing for the physical, emotional, educational and spiritual needs of children coming from situations like this is expensive, so every dollar matters. Safe homes with utilities, clothing, food, counseling sessions, transportation, school supplies, and sports and recreation equipment are just some of the many needs of the children in our care.

BE CREATIVE

One little girl ran a lemonade stand. Pastor David celebrated his birthday by biking across the state for donations. One VBS group provided sports equipment for all three of our residential campuses, and then through a God-sized series of events, managed to have a gymnasium floor completely repaired and refinished at our Middle Tennessee activities building! Thinking outside the box has led to some amazing ways supporters have met the needs of our kids.

The Finish Line!

On the last day of the ride, David cruised across the Mississippi River at Big River Crossing, stopping at the state line with the Memphis skyline behind him. A journey of a lifetime, someone present asked him what on earth he would do to celebrate if he made it to 100 years old! Much more than just a noteworthy fundraising project, we consider David's ride to be an inspirational example of a passion for a hobby or interest being applied to compassion for others, and an honorable sacrifice in the name of Christ. We are grateful for all who have supported his effort, and we extend our congratulations to David for exceeding his goal, and our appreciation for his love and support of the children at TBCH.

SET A GOAL (AND STRIVE FOR IT!)

\$5, \$500, \$5 million—every dollar really does matter to the kids. If you can imagine reaching a goal of \$1,000, that's enough to:

- Feed a child in our care for almost an entire year (the actual budgeted amount is around \$1,300),
- Cover personal hygiene expenses for an entire home (up to eight resident children) for a year.
- Cover almost all clothing expenses for a home for a year. (A child who comes into our care often needs an entire new set of clothes.)
- Pay for a lot of haircuts. (A trip to the barber or hairdresser, depending on gender and location, can cost anywhere from \$15 to \$150!)
- Pay for 10 trauma-informed counseling sessions. Most of our children have experienced trauma before coming into our care and need the special help of trauma counselors.

Don't underestimate God or what He can do through you to accomplish great things!

THIS IS WHAT YOU CAN DO!

Foster Care

TBCH is always glad for the opportunities to participate in the community of like-minded organizations who serve children across Tennessee.



TBCH Participates at GiveLove Conference

The George Shinn Foster Care Program of TBCH was represented well at the recent GiveLove Foster & Adoption Conference at Brainerd Baptist Church in Chattanooga. This is the fourth year of the event, which draws participation from several different foster and adoptive agencies in the region, including Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes. Andrew Robinson, a TBCH case manager in Chattanooga, was given the opportunity to speak at this year's conference, which was held on August 17th.

Andrew addressed a crowd of nearly 70 attendees who came to the conference for support, networking, and to learn about available resources for families and agencies from a faith-based perspective. He shared about our Residential, Foster Care and Family Care programs, with an emphasis on volunteering and serving in support roles like visiting families. TBCH is always glad for the opportunities to participate in the community of like-minded organizations who serve children across Tennessee.

An excerpt from a foster mom's thoughts on Compassion for Birth Parents

When answering the call to foster, we didn't think twice.

The hard part was the idea of interacting with birth families. It was a scary proposition to have contact with the people who had to have their children removed. It was hard for us not to feel as though we would be seen as the bad guys, but God is so full of grace and mercy...

You just never know how you are going to be received by birth parents who are scared, confused and angry. When we got BB we had him for a few weeks before we met his birth mom (at a doctor appointment). I was terrified, my mind raced, and I thought of every horrible scenario that could happen.

I asked God to give me a soft heart for BB's mom, to have compassion and empathy for her and to remember that but for His grace that could easily be me. I needed God to remind me that I was no different from this woman and I needed Him to give me a heart that could provide her with what I would want to receive if the tables were turned.

God showed up and He showed up BIG. As we left the appointment, we shook hands, she thanked me for caring for her baby, and let me know how relieved she was that he was in a safe place. I drove home on cloud nine. Since that first appointment God has done some amazing things.

BB's mom has come for visits in our home, we text and talk throughout the week, she has visited church with us, and we hug when we say goodbye.

When we first started fostering, we never thought we would get to a place of being comfortable interacting with birth parents, but God has done a work in our hearts and given us a compassion and a softness for birth parents that can only have come from Him.

Healthy and fulfilling relationships with birth parents are possible, all it takes is a little bit of compassion and a whole lot of Jesus.

Expansion Brings New Team Members

TBCH is excited about four recent additions to The George Shinn Foster Care Program staff. With the growth of this team, we can train and support foster families in new areas of the state, opening more homes to serve children in need. Please join us in welcoming these new case managers to the TBCH family.



Shelby Brown has an undergraduate degree in human development and a master's degree in holistic child development.

"I am looking forward for more opportunities to grow and use my passion for supporting and guiding foster families to provide homes for children in need. Also, continuing to build relationships with the children we serve and working to ensure their lives are positively impacted once they come into the care of our TBCH homes."



Samara Burress has a degree in psychology and is working on her master's in clinical mental health counseling, and she formerly worked at Youth Villages as an in-home intervention specialist. "I am looking forward to being able to surround myself with other Christ-like individuals who all have the same compassion for others in their hearts like I do...and to be a support for my team as well as the foster parents and kiddos I am blessed to spend time with!"



Brittany Naylor has a master's degree in psychology and is currently working on her master's degree in social work. As a former DCS case manager she often hoped her children would be placed with TBCH homes. "I firmly believe that a foundation in Christ is the best thing we can provide to any child. I am excited to be a part of a team that is dedicated to ensuring that each child that comes to us leaves with a seed planted that they can continue to grow with Christ long after our service to them is complete."



Zach Wishart worked in behavior intervention with Knoxville schools before coming to TBCH, and has also served as a student pastor. He is pursuing a master's degree in educational leadership. "TBCH truly fulfills biblical mandates of caring for orphans (James 1:27) and training up children in the way they should go (Proverbs 22:6). I am so excited to serve in this vitally important ministry that helps so many children and families across our great state."



Also joining the TBCH family is Daniel Regan. Although not serving directly in foster care, Daniel pursued joining our team as a state office accountant on the advice of his friend Brandon Rutledge, who happens to be a TBCH Foster Care Case Manager (and a pretty good recruiter, apparently!) Daniel has a master's degree in accounting and worked as an auditor for Ernst & Young. "Each and every morning, I get on my knees and look forward to how I can be a part of what God is doing: placing the lonely in families and being a father to the fatherless (Ps. 68:5-6)."

Thinking about getting involved in Foster Care?

Visit our website at www.tennesseechildren.org. There you can find FAQs, our Foster Parent Application, and info on PATH classes.

Recipe

GO-TO FALL PUMPKIN CAKE W/ CREAM CHEESE FROSTING

Cake ingredients:

2 large eggs	1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 cup granulated sugar	1 cup all-purpose flour
1 cup pumpkin puree	1 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 cup canola or vegetable oil	1/2 teaspoon baking soda
2 teaspoons pumpkin pie spice	1/2 teaspoon salt, to taste

Frosting Ingredients:

6 ounces cream cheese, softened (lite okay)
1/4 cup (half of 1 stick) unsalted butter, softened
1 1/2 cups confectioners' sugar
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
1/2 teaspoon salt, or to taste

Instructions for Cake: Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line an 8x8 pan with foil and coat with cooking spray; set aside. In a large bowl, whisk together eggs, sugar, pumpkin, oil, pumpkin pie spice and vanilla. Then add flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt, then stir until combined without overmixing. Turn batter out into the pan, smoothing top lightly with a spatula, then bake for about 35 to 40 minutes (A toothpick inserted into the center should come out clean with no batter.) Let cool completely before frosting!

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FROSTING: In a large bowl or stand mixer bowl, add cream cheese, butter, confectioners' sugar, vanilla, salt, and whisk until smooth and fluffy (or use paddle attachment for mixer). Frost cooled cake with spatula or knife. Enjoy!

(Submitted by Rachel M., Foster Care)

A Baptist and Reflector article earlier this year reported that the Tennessee Baptist Mission Board has announced the formation of a Sexual Abuse Prevention and Response Task Force “to work toward that goal of helping churches prevent sexual abuse in their congregations and to develop a response plan if it happens.”

TBCH President Bro. Greg McCoy agreed in his report to TBMB directors in May.

“We want to keep our kids safe.”

His clear message comes from the TBCH core value of the need for a safe environment, and is also being put into practice through our Family Care program. Kelly Campbell, who serves as the vice president of Family Care for TBCH, is serving on the task force, along with TBCH board members Bruce Chesser and Jeralyn Collins.

Our Family Care program is also taking steps to provide Stewards of Children training as a valuable resource for churches. Stewards of Children is an awareness and prevention training program developed by Darkness to Light, an organization committed to ending child sexual abuse. It is also promoted by many of the Child Advocacy Centers across the state. Kelly addressed a group of CAC executive directors recently at their meeting in Nashville to encourage local church awareness of these and other resources.

Family Care



DARKNESS TO LIGHT

END CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

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, or email kcampbell@tennesseechildren.org.

Recipe

CHICKEN HOT WING DIP

2 8-oz cream cheese
3/4 cup hot sauce (or 1/2 as preferred)
1 cup ranch dressing
2 cups diced chicken, *boiled*
1 cup shredded cheddar cheese

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a medium bowl stir cream cheese, hot sauce and ranch dressing. Fold in chicken and cheese. Spread in 9x13 pan. Bake for 30 minutes. Serve with chips, crackers or veggie sticks, and a football game.

(Submitted by Devan W., Ministry Advancement)

TBCH 101: What's with that little shield?



You may have noticed a little picture of a shield we use in places like email signatures, some publications and our website. This is the logo of COA, the Council on Accreditation, and it represents the heart and hard work of the TBCH staff, a transparency in the way we steward this ministry, and the work of God seen in the lives of our staff and children.

The Council on Accreditation was founded in 1977 by the Child Welfare League of America and Family Service America (now the Alliance for Strong Families and Communities. "(COA) is an international, independent, non-profit, human service accrediting organization...committed to championing quality by promoting best practice standards and advocating for accreditation" (coanet.org).

In order to receive accreditation, TBCH submits to an ongoing process that culminates every four years with an intensive review. In June of this year, we hosted the team of evaluators from COA responsible for that review, who carefully combed through files, conducted interviews of children and staff, and inspected our offices, homes, and properties.

So how did we do? This tough scrutiny revealed that our programs are efficient and effective, and that our core value of excellence is reflected in the care we provide for children in hard places.

Evaluators even noted that our status as a Christian organization was a strength, and that the faith of our staff members was a positive motivating factor directly influencing the quality of our services.

But the process is not about getting a pat on the back, it is a way to inform our efforts to strive for improvement, and to build trust with the communities we serve.

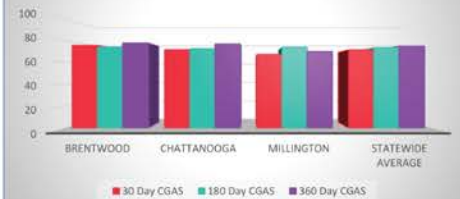
As a result of this process, for instance, we are better able to use tools such as the Children's Global Assessment Scale (CGAS). This measure can reveal trends in social, emotional and educational functioning, and helps us better understand and meet the individual needs of a child in our care.

CGAS Scores for Current Children After 180 Days



Statewide we see an average increase in CGAS scores of 6.2% after 180 days and 7.9% after 360 days for children currently in care who have been at TBCH for at least 6 months.

CGAS Scores for Children Discharged After 180 Days



Statewide we see an average increase in CGAS scores of 5.7% scores after 180 and 8.6% after 360 days for children who are currently in care and have been for at least 6 months.

So, that is what's with the little shield, and the next time you notice it in your inbox, in the mail, or on our website, remember that it is proudly displayed as a reflection of what God is doing through the ministry of TBCH.

Recipe

FAVORITE CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Stick of butter | 1 ¼ C brown sugar |
| 1 Cup shortening | 1 t vanilla |
| 1 ¼ Cup white sugar | |

Mix these together, then add 3 eggs.

Mix again then add the rest of these ingredients a little at a time:

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| 4 C flour | 1 t salt |
| 1 t baking soda | 1 12 oz pkg chocolate chips |
| 1 t baking powder | |

Drop 12 large spoon-fulls onto an ungreased cookie sheet.

Bake at 375 for approximately 9 minutes.

(Submitted by Nicole A., Brentwood campus)



**Tennessee Baptist
Children's Homes**

Reach out to us anytime!

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