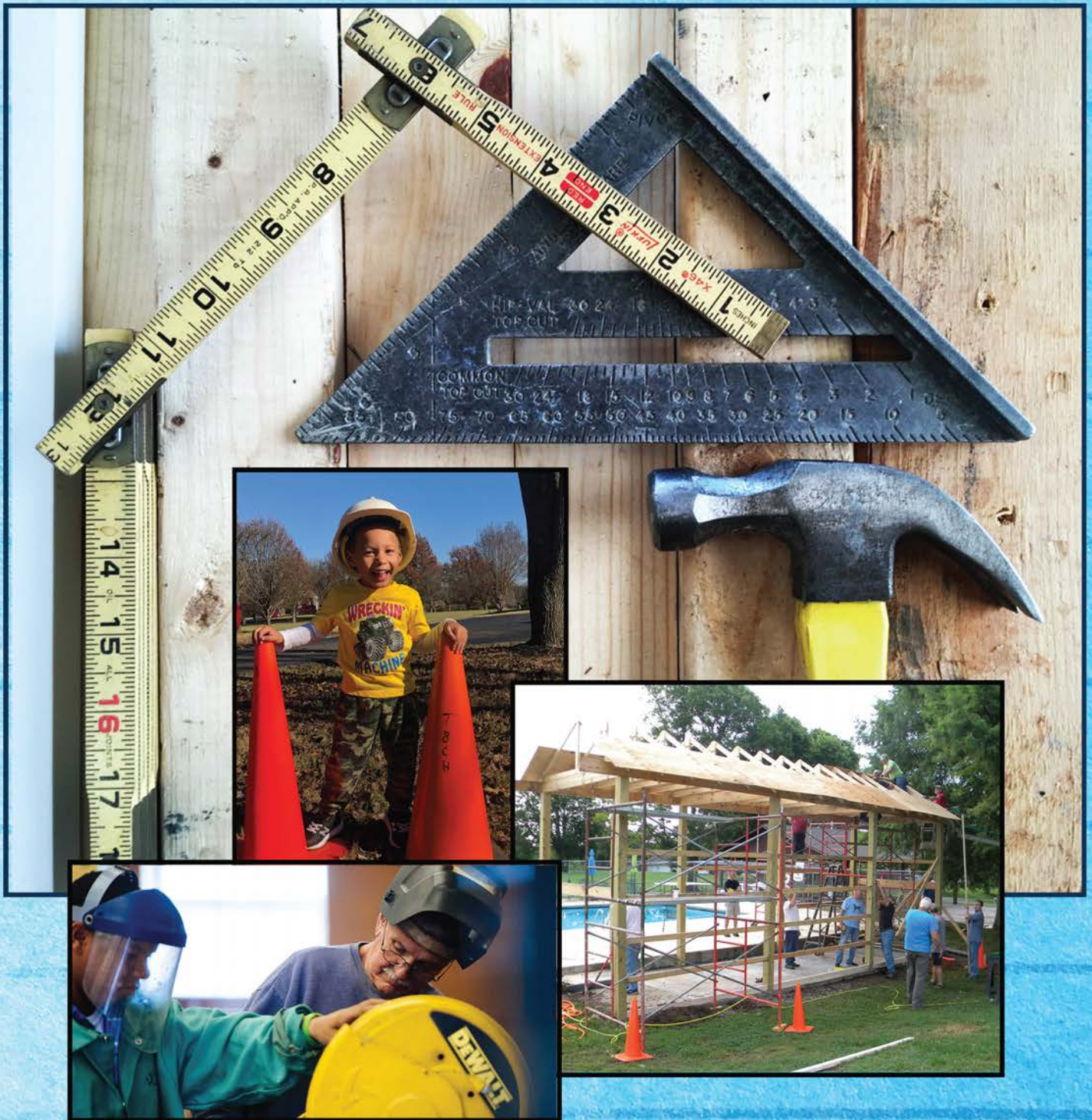


@TBCH



"Building Up" Winter 2019

A Note From Greg

My wife, Jeri, and I have had two houses built over the past 20 years. I hear a lot of horror stories about this process, but we thoroughly enjoyed both of these events. I would have to say that the biggest reason for our enjoyment would be our builders. Our friends, Gravis and Rhonda Birdwell, have built the only two houses we (and the bank) have ever owned. They know the business. They knew what needed to be done first and what needed to be done last. They knew who to call and who to hire. Jeri designed it and they took care of it!

One of the things I really like to do is to see a house as it is constructed. I like to walk around and look at things when it has just been framed, wired and plumbed—all the while imagining what the finished product will look like. It doesn't matter if I own the house, I just like to see things as progress is made!

Speaking of building, TBCH is in the business of building. Yes, we need some new homes to meet the needs of our 21st Century children, but I'm not talking about building buildings at this point. We are in the business of building children! We are welcoming children in hard places with the love of Christ. Our team begins where a child is when they come to us and from that point attempts to build that child up as best we can with the Lord's help.

While Paul was explaining to the Thessalonians the fact that Jesus could come at any moment and that they would not face His wrath but enjoy His salvation because of their faith in Him, he told them to continue encouraging one another and to build up one another (1 Thess. 5).



“Build up!”

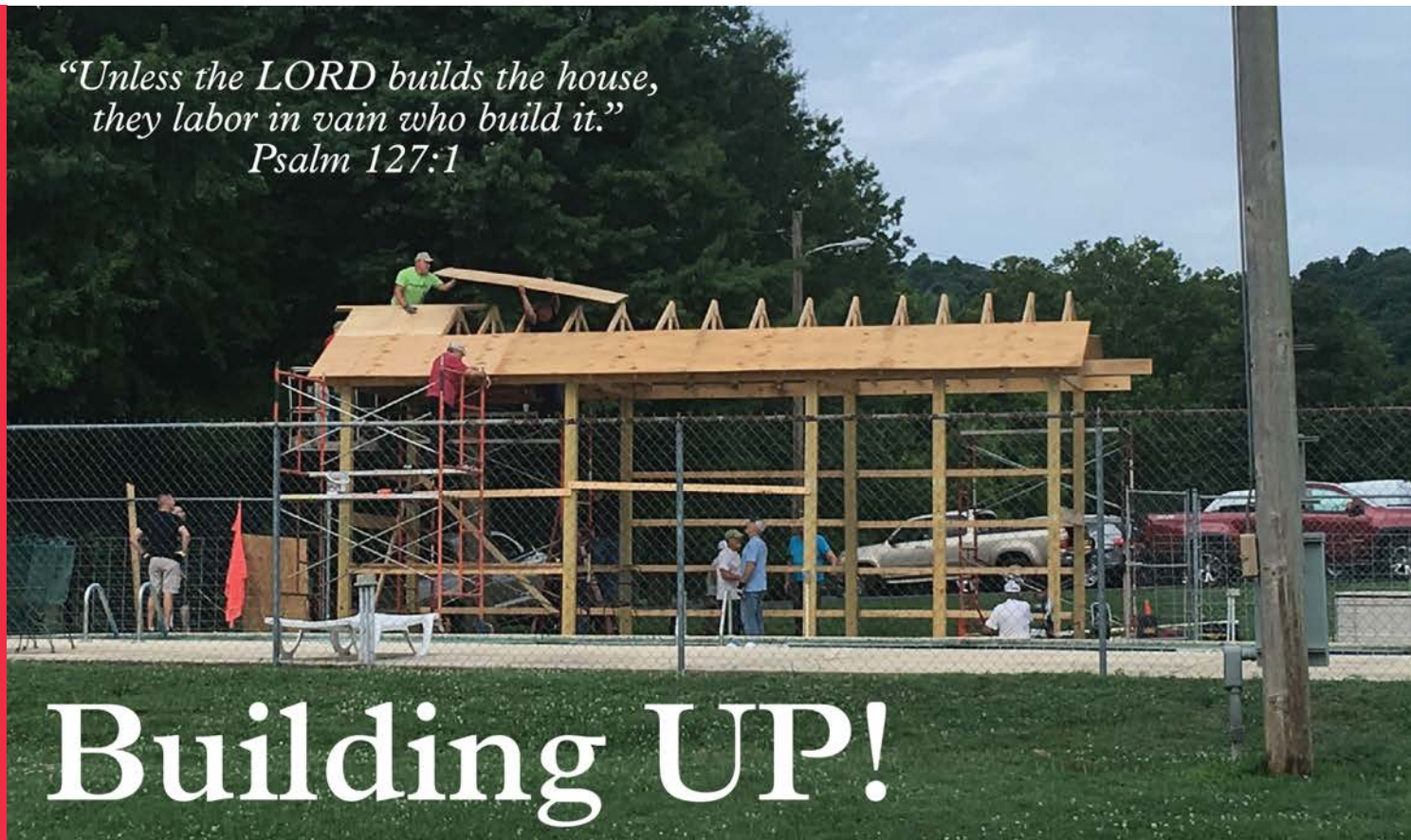
Interesting words! Our team at TBCH is determined to build up children with the words we use to speak to them, with the way we provide for them, with the people we allow to be around them, with the way we protect them, with the way we love them, with the way we advocate for them, and by helping them understand their value because of Who made them.

Thank you for helping us build up children! When you pray, when you give, and when you serve you are building up those whose lives are under construction. I enjoy seeing the building in progress all the while trusting Jesus to complete the finished product!

Bro. Greg, President/Treasurer

Bro. Greg

*"Unless the LORD builds the house,
they labor in vain who build it."
Psalm 127:1*



Building UP!

TBCH has been welcoming children in hard places with the love of Christ since 1891. A ministry that started in a Nashville hotel has been “built up” through the years with physical structures like dormitories, a school, and barns. Today, we have homes, offices, and other buildings all across Tennessee.

While these structures serve an important purpose, building up the thousands of children who have come through our doors is what really matters. A safe place to call home is so much more than the roof and walls—it is a foundation of faith, hope and love. We hope to encourage you in this issue of @TBCH to consider ways you can be a part of “Building Up” at TBCH!

In This Issue:

A Note from Greg.....	2
News about Oakdale.....	5
Foster Care.....	6-7
Pray-Serve-Give.....	8-9
Family Care.....	11-12
Residential Care.....	13-14



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

www.tennesseechildren.org

office@tennesseechildren.org
P.O. Box 2206, Brentwood, TN 37024

Follow us!



Innovation & Renovation

Creating a safe space in which our kids can thrive requires innovation, and sometimes renovation. Plans for improving our campuses and homes are motivated by the needs of our residents, which include more than just a place for meals and beds.

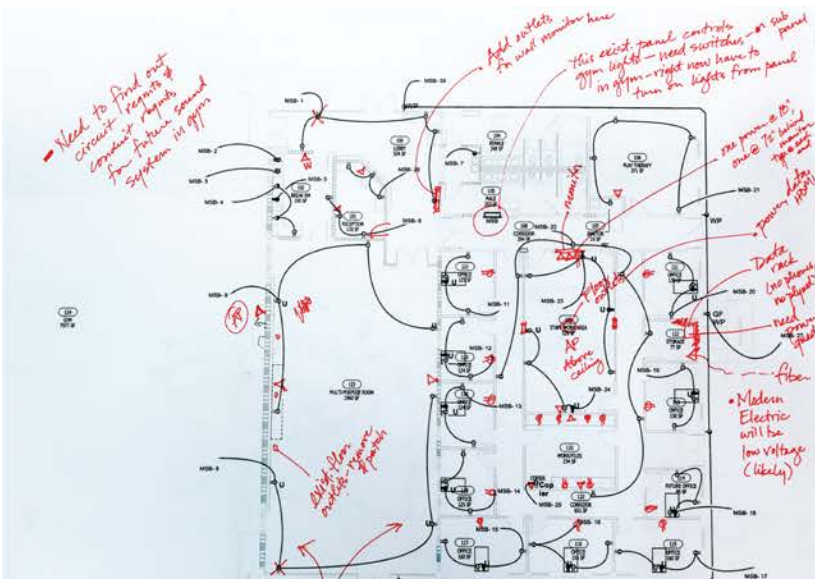
Children meet with case managers and counselors, and many participate in work programs. Family visits and training sessions require places of comfort and privacy, and recreation is also an important part of helping a child thrive in our care.

An effort is underway at the Brentwood campus to remodel the activities building to include several new offices and a multi-use meeting area. This will better accommodate the campus staff as well as the expanding George Shinn Foster Care Program. A large contribution has helped make this expansion a reality.

The Chattanooga campus is hopeful that an area currently used for storage will soon become a sensory space where counselors and staff can work with residents in a child-friendly therapeutic environment. The Ranch at Millington is considering what it would take to construct a covered riding arena to enhance the horse and livestock program for the boys there.

In addition to these innovations, our facilities also require regular maintenance and sometimes major repairs. A recent pipe problem at one of our homes created the need for a total renovation of that kitchen. Thanks to a community of supporters who have rallied around the house-parents, donated meals are alleviating some of their stress while this project is being completed.

These are just a few examples of the current projects and future wishes TBCH has for our facilities, but it is the generosity of donors and supporters that provides more than just a roof and walls for the children in our care.



Remodeling for new office space in Brentwood requires some colorful schematics!



A covered arena would enhance the riding and livestock program for the boys at the Ranch.



Pipe problems created a major repair project in the Bidwell Home kitchen.

Robertsville BC Faithful for 25 Years



The love of a local church congregation has been faithfully shared with the children at our Oakdale facility for 25 years.

Photo courtesy of RBC member Betty McMahan

Robertsville Baptist Church in Oak Ridge sought out a place in need close to their community and found a grateful home to serve at TBCH. It started with the Robertsville youth going to play basketball on Wednesday nights with the resident children, and grew to include lessons on make-up and painting nails for the girls, scrapbooking, and raking mountains of leaves over the years. The holidays have also been a special time for the church and kids. Their youth have brought food and helped cook Thanksgiving dinner

alongside some of the residents, and the annual Angel Tree Christmas gifts and party have become a staple of the season. The folks from Robertsville continued serving even after Oakdale switched over to a foster care home, compassionately mindful that the children were the same, even if their circumstances were a little different.

Thank you to Robertsville Baptist Church for your faithful service in Oakdale!

TBCH is glad to have Barry Moore as an addition to our team. He will be taking care of the Oakdale property as an official member of the staff, something he has already been doing as a volunteer. He found out about TBCH through his church, Mossy Grove Baptist Church in Harriman, and as a result, he and his wife Amber have been instrumental in coordinating maintenance of the campus grounds for several seasons. They have three children, and Barry is a lifelong resident of Morgan County.

Building Up The Team



Unique Transition in Oakdale

For many years, roughly 75 acres in Oakdale has continued to be a place of ministry to children. Originally a church camp, the property was given to TBCH and used as a single-home campus decades ago. More recently, the location has transitioned into a unique ministry, meeting a pressing need better addressed by our Foster Care program. This picturesque property is now a home for large foster care sibling groups.

Part of this transition has been driven by changes in staff, and while the home is vacant, TBCH workers and volunteers have been giving the grounds and structures a much-needed facelift. Clean-up efforts, groundskeeping, and upgrades and repairs to the home will result in a place of safety and comfort for up to eight children in one or more sibling groups in foster care. By early 2020, a foster family should be able to take up residence in Oakdale and begin fostering children through the George Shinn Foster Care Program.

A lot of work must be completed between now and then, but with the addition of a talented maintenance person and the support of donors and volunteers, TBCH expects many more years of ministry to children in Oakdale.

**TBCH conducts satisfaction surveys
for program improvement.
The following are some of the comments from a recent
foster parent survey:**

"The TBCH team in Knoxville has been absolutely wonderful, and supportive of us! They have very difficult jobs that they manage very well. We're so grateful for them!"

"TBCH is an incredible agency!! I wish I had been with them from the beginning. They know their job and they do it with excellence!!"

"Our caseworker has gone above and beyond, and we have felt SO blessed by her."

"Our kids have not been with us long, but TBCH has done a great job taking care of us!"

"I feel TBCH hears my voice and supports me as a foster parent, as well as the children in my care. Even though it's extra requirements, I couldn't imagine fostering without the support of TBCH. Alyssa has been a wonderful support for me."

"We have loved being a foster family for TBCH! They are so helpful and listen to our concerns and are there to help the children in care as well as us as foster parents. We love Ms. Shelby! She is a wonderful case worker and she has made our first foster experience a wonderful one. So glad we are at TBCH!"



Foster Parents Appreciated

TBCH recruits, trains, and also greatly appreciates the families participating in the George Shinn Foster Care Program. More than 80 foster homes are active in the program across the state, currently caring for around 90 children.

Rachel McLean, who serves as the Foster Care Regional Supervisor in West Tennessee, recently hosted an appreciation dinner for our families in that area, which included a word of encouragement from Brother Greg and a special treat for the foster parents—free childcare for the evening!

Brownsville Baptist Church graciously shared their dining hall for the event, and the hope of TBCH is that these and all our foster families would know how grateful we are for their willingness to answer the call to fostering.

New Training Equips Foster Parents

Department of
Children's Services



*"What were we thinking?"
"We are in over our heads."
"I thought it would be easier..."
"Why didn't anyone tell me
how hard this was?"*

Without more information, these comments might refer to remodeling a home, starting a business, parenting, or even marriage, but these are the words of foster parents in the midst of crisis.

Fostering children can be both rewarding and challenging, sometimes in the same week, day or hour! TBCH has embraced a foster care model that allows our case managers to build foundations with foster parents from their first training class all the way to a child's reunification or adoption. Our lower caseloads mean that when TBCH places a child in a foster home, the training and home study process have already resulted in a closer and more helpful relationship between the foster parents and case managers.

The training we provide is required by the state in order for our homes to be approved by the Department of Children's Services. Beginning in January, the state will launch a new curriculum called TNKEY (Knowledge Empowers You). This will replace the previous PATH curriculum.

TBCH case managers have already been trained in TNKEY and are excited about the changes. This curriculum is more trauma-focused, helping foster parents understand how trauma and toxic stress affect brain development in children from hard places. It also prepares foster parents for the types of behaviors children exhibit and strategies for handling those behaviors. Trauma, especially chronic trauma, can literally change the way a child's brain functions, affecting how he or she interprets the world and relates to others.

Studies show that the single greatest factor in building resiliency in children in foster care is having at least one committed, consistent, caring adult in their lives. Foster parents have an amazing opportunity to be that person, and this training equips them to make the most of that opportunity. The training also stresses the importance of building strong support networks of people who also understand the challenges of fostering.

Thousands of children in Tennessee currently need caring, committed foster parents. If you or someone you know is interested in fostering children, or learning more to better support foster parents, contact TBCH for more information about the new TNKEY classes we will be offering in 2020.

From the heart of a foster mom: Building bridges while saying goodbye to foster children:

Yesterday...the day that the rug was pulled out from under our feet at the most unexpected time. According to my plan and my schedule, it wasn't even close to reunification day. But this is what we've prayed for all along, that one day they'd be restored to their family. Kids belong in families...and if at all possible, in their biological families. But that doesn't make the pain and suddenness of this loss any less. We rejoice with our bonus kids that they get to go home, while at the same time weeping over our own loss of those same precious kids. It can be a "both/and."

We can weep and rejoice. And most importantly, we can continue to pray.

Our God who has always been faithful will continue to be faithful even now...He is the one constant when nothing else is. He wasn't surprised yesterday when the judge made a decision that completely shocked the rest of us to the

Keep Saying Yes

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 foster parenting classes. You can also email us at fostercare@tennesseechildren.org, or call 1-800-624-8591.

So today, I choose to trust God and remind myself of His faithfulness and His promises in His Word. We will say goodbye while still building bridges with our bonus kids' family...letting them know they are not alone. We will allow ourselves to grieve, but we grieve with hope. We will give ourselves a moment to catch our breath and find our footing again.

But then we will "keep saying yes," because there are more kids who need a home. More kids who need to know they are loved. More families that need to know the hope of Jesus in the Gospel.



If your employer uses Benevity, please consider helping TBCH welcome children in hard places by taking advantage of this employee charitable giving portal. Companies whose employees have given gifts through Benevity include Morgan Stanley, Experian, Optum, T-Mobile, Gilead Sciences, Altria and USTHQ. Some companies even match their employees' gifts! Benevity is a global leader in online workplace giving, matching, and volunteering to connect people personally to causes that matter to them. Benevity will process donations for more than 100,000 charities this year including gifts made to Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes. Thank you Benevity donors, we appreciate you!

We invite you pray with us:

- That the children in our campus homes and foster homes will be built up in faith and hope through the love and care they receive from their house parents and foster parents.
- That the Lord will direct donors and supporters to supply the physical needs of each home so that our staff can focus on the spiritual and emotional needs of the children.
- That TBCH will be an organization that honors the Lord through responsible planning and stewardship of our resources.

So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another. (Romans 14:19)

Pray, Serve, Give

We know the Lord has an amazing plan for TBCH and the children in our care.

YEAR AHEAD CAUTION: END OF YEAR AHEAD CAUTION: END OF YEAR AHEAD CAUTION: END OF YEAR AHEAD

The end of the year, with its holiday bustle and busy schedules, can become a real “hard hat area.” Watch out, and don’t let your generous intent slip away! If you’re planning a year-end gift to TBCH, make sure it’s postmarked or confirmed online before midnight December 31st, and if you’re bringing it in person, call in advance to check our office schedule. Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and Thank You from TBCH!



Building Through Technology

Chris Yoakum, the IT expert for TBCH, spent part of a November day getting some tech ready for the kids in our campus homes to use for school projects and homework. This is just one of many ways that supporters impact the lives of children with their gifts. More than a dozen of these laptops were provided through a gift from the Stow Bible Study Class.

Planning for Year End Generosity

A special thank you to Chris Kelly for the following article. Chris serves as Executive Vice-President and General Counsel for the Tennessee Baptist Foundation, which exists to raise awareness and to facilitate gifts to Tennessee Baptist institutions like TBCH. If you would like to talk more about any of the giving strategies mentioned in this article, contact TBCH or you can reach Chris directly at ckelly@tnbaptist.org, 615-371-2029 or 800-552-4644.

It's hard to believe that 2019 is almost over and the holiday season is upon us. Most of us are making our lists (and checking them twice, sometimes three times...) to make sure we're ready. Likewise, it's a great time to review a list of charitable giving ideas to see if any of these might make sense for you to implement before 2019 comes to a close, especially as you think of ways to support the kingdom ministry of TBCH. And I just happen to have a handy list of these ideas ready for you!

- **Make a Regular Donation.** The easiest way to make a gift to TBCH is simply by writing a check or donating online at tennesseechildren.org. If your check is postmarked by December 31 or if your online donation is completed before midnight December 31, you may be able to take a charitable deduction for the gift, depending on your particular tax situation.
- **Batching Contributions.** With the 2017 tax bill, Congress raised the standard deduction for individuals (\$12,000) and couples (\$24,400). Overall, this is great for taxpayers, but it does make it a bit harder to take advantage of deducting charitable contributions if your overall deductions don't exceed the standard deduction. One strategy around this issue is to "batch" your charitable contributions, meaning that you combine this year's gifts with what you anticipate giving next year and make both contributions in 2019. You're basically loading up two years of gifts in one tax year. Thus, you have a higher charitable amount to apply towards your deductions in 2019 which may result in a better tax situation for you than simply taking the standard deduction.
- **Give Gifts of Appreciated Assets.** With the improved financial markets, many people now find themselves holding stocks, bonds, mutual funds, or real estate that has significantly increased in value. Selling these assets may create substantial capital gains for the owner. However, rather than increasing your tax burden, you can donate the appreciated asset to TBCH. You get a receipt for the full market value of the asset. Whether you can deduct the contribution on your personal income tax is dependent on your unique tax situation, but you will definitely avoid the capital gains tax.

Remember, when the ball drops on December 31, you will lose the ability to take advantage of these strategies for 2019. If any of these ideas interest you, begin the process now to make sure you allow plenty of time for the process to be completed by the year-end. I would be more than happy to work with you in crafting an approach that makes the most sense for you, and would love the opportunity to show you how you can support the TBCH's incredible ministry to children and families in the name of Christ.

From the Tennessee Baptist Foundation, we wish you the happiest of Christmas seasons as we celebrate Immanuel!

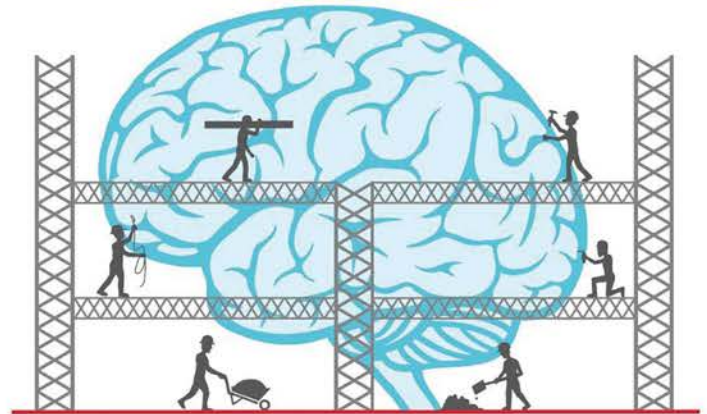


Please note that the advice offered in this article is not intended to be construed as tax, legal or accounting advice. This material has been prepared for informational purposes only and is not intended to provide, and should not be relied on for, tax, legal or accounting advice for the reader. You should consult your own tax, legal and accounting advisors before engaging in any transaction.

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) cause toxic stress in the life of a child. Left unchecked, toxic stress can affect the child in many negative ways, ranging from problems with tobacco and alcohol to heart disease and shortened life expectancy.

Raising awareness of the impact of ACEs enables adults to find ways to provide better emotional and physical support for children. A loving, caring, and consistent presence can bring healing and hope to a child born into or facing stressful situations. Without such a presence, that child may face a lifetime of mental and physical difficulties.

BUILDING STRONG BRAINS TENNESSEE



Building Strong Brains

Building Strong Brains is a state-wide effort to address this issue and empower adults to become that source of healing and hope for children. Not only does TBCH support this effort, our own Kelly Campbell is a trained instructor in Building Strong Brains, and actively pursues opportunities to share this resource with church leaders.

“By providing this training in your church, you are creating empathy for children who come from hard places. You let the families in your community know that children matter. Empowering your congregation through education brings hope and healing to children.”

Training times vary based on the needs of the church, from a simple 30-minute overview to a more intensive three-hour program. To learn more about hosting Building Strong Brains, please contact Kelly at kcampbell@tennesseechildren.org.

Keeping Kids Safe

One out of five children in Shelby County, TN, will be a victim of sexual abuse before the age of 18. This chilling statistic was shared recently at the “Keeping Kids Safe” event at The Ranch at Millington. TBCH is committed to creating a safe environment for children, not just on our campuses and in our foster homes, but everywhere.

One way we fulfill that commitment is through our Family Care program, which organized and promoted the event. Hosted by Kelly Campbell who serves as vice president of Family Care, “Keeping Kids Safe” brought church leaders from the Mid-South and the Big Hatchie Baptist associations in West Tennessee together with the directors of the Memphis Child Advocacy Center and the Carl Perkins Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse located in Covington.

Memphis CAC director Kris Crim presented information to those church leaders that included more than just the sobering truth that child sexual abuse is an epidemic. He also brought the hopeful message that churches can help stop the epidemic through education, policies and procedures, with a goal of encouraging a cultural shift toward child protection.

“There is a difference between living in fear and being informed,” he shared with those attending.

He was joined by Nicole Caldwell of the Carl Perkins Center. Together, their agencies provide services for three counties and a large population of West Tennessee.

One of the best tools offered by the CACs across the state is Stewards of Children, a nationally distributed training program which has been proven to positively change the child protective behaviors of adults who complete the training. Stewards of Children provides practical skills adults can employ to protect children. These agencies offer training at a cost of \$10 per participant to cover materials, with scholarships available for qualifying organizations.

Currently there is a Child Advocacy Center in every judicial district in Tennessee, and TBCH has members of our own staff certified to train Stewards of Children as well. The breakfast event at the Ranch was the first of its kind, but our Family Care Program already has plans for future “Keeping Kids Safe” events to offer these opportunities to more churches across the state. For more information contact your local CAC or Stephanie Bruce at TBCH (1-800-624-8591).



Kelly with CAC staffers Kris Crim and Nicole Caldwell

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.



George and Denise Miller can speak from experience that sometimes the way is straight and sometimes it's more like a figure eight. They returned to the Ranch at Millington in November to serve as relief houseparents, after crossing paths with TBCH a few times in the past several years. They first served as houseparents at the Ranch and at the former campus in Bartlett for six years before George was called to pastor Smyrna Baptist Church in Burlison. They returned to the Ranch for another two years, but George was called again to lead a church, this time First Baptist

Church in Dover, where he served for ten years. Now they are back at the Ranch, again. George attended Union University, graduated from Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, served on the TBMB Committee on Arrangements, and was chaplain for the City of Dover Police. He has also written a devotional for hunters titled *Wisdom for the Woods*. Denise served as a member of the TBMB executive board for six years, and the children's director and mission coordinator for FBC Dover. The Ranch and the rest of the TBCH staff extend a warm "Welcome back, again!" to George and Denise.

A Warm Welcome Back

A Tradition of Generosity



The homes of TBCH each have their own holiday traditions, from annual parties hosted by supporting churches, to making ornaments and special favorite meals for the children. Houseparents at our campuses try to make Christmas a special time for the kids, many of whom are missing their families or have never celebrated in a Christian home before.

Several of our homes participate in Operation Christmas Child every year. This year, the residents of Bowen Home at our Chattanooga campus continued that tradition, and were the first to turn in their shoe boxes at Silverdale Baptist Church. With this simple gesture, these young men are supporting an effort to reach children around the world with the good news of Jesus Christ. May their joyful spirit of giving encourage us to share with others however we can and to begin our own traditions of being generous this Christmas.

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.



**Tennessee Baptist
Children's Homes**

TBMB Emphasizes Adoption and Foster Care



At the Summit, Brother Greg shared a TBCH video, then introduced and prayed for one of our foster families.

With more than 9,000 children in the custody of the state of Tennessee, and only about half that number of available foster homes, the churches of Tennessee have been called upon to do something about it.

Messengers to The Summit, the annual gathering of Tennessee Baptists, were officially challenged with a “Resolution and Support of Adoption, Foster Care, and Tennessee Baptist Children’s Homes.” This year’s Summit was held November 17-20 at First Baptist Church Concord.

Danielle Bryson, the chair of the Tennessee Baptist Mission Board Committee on Resolutions, in reading the resolution, reminded Baptists that adoption and foster care are Biblical concerns, citing James 1:27, which teaches:

“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” (NASB).

The resolution further described the great need of children in the custody of the state. Many of these children face lives of crime, addiction, affliction, and hopelessness. Most do not know Jesus when they age out of custody, and, as stated in the resolution, “a loving and engaged father and mother are by far the most effective evangelists to teach them about Jesus.”

The resolution also impressed upon Baptist churches in Tennessee to prayerfully consider adoption and foster care, that Tennessee pastors should preach on this topic, and that “all TBC churches are encouraged to pray, serve, and give to the work of Tennessee Baptist Children’s Homes in Residential, Foster Care, and Family Care.”

TBCH is committed to welcoming as many of these children as possible with the love of Christ, and are encouraged by the recognition and support afforded by this resolution.





**Tennessee Baptist
Children's Homes**

Reach out to us anytime!

Phone: 1-800-624-8591

Email: office@tennesseechildren.org

Website: www.tennesseechildren.org

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Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, PO Box 2206, Brentwood TN 37024