



SPRING

@TBCH

THE EARTH IS THE LORD'S, AND ALL IT CONTAINS,
THE WORLD, AND THOSE WHO LIVE IN IT.

PSALM 24:1



A NOTE FROM GREG



We at the TN Baptist Children's Homes believe that we are stewards of the lives, time, energy, and financial resources God makes available to us. Stewardship is one of our core values and it is defined as the job of supervising or taking care of something.

For us, that something is welcoming children in hard places with the love of Christ. Therefore, it is our desire and commitment as a ministry to use the resources that God provides through churches, businesses, and individuals to minister to children and their families in a God honoring way. 1 Corinthians 4:2 says that "it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy."

I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your support. While we have had to limit the visitors to our campuses, learn to do some virtual ministry and cancel numerous training and equipping opportunities, many of you and your churches have stepped up and given generously so that TBCH has been found trustworthy to serve nearly 250 different children over the past year.

Thank you for helping us defend the defenseless,

Bro. Greg, President/Treasurer



TENNESSEE BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOMES

1-800-624-8591

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



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.

IN THIS ISSUE

There is something about springtime that encourages a spirit of renewal. As green grass starts poking up and sunshine helps us notice the winter dust on the windowsills, we become aware of the opportunities and responsibilities that come with warmer weather. Some of us even look forward to cranking the lawn mower or doing some Spring cleaning! At TBCH, welcoming new opportunities and accepting the responsibilities that go along with them are how we view stewardship, whether we are mowing grass, dusting windowsills, or providing safe, nurturing homes for children in hard places.

“We believe we are stewards of the lives, time, energy, and financial resources God makes available to us; therefore, we are ultimately accountable to Him.” (from TBCH Core Values)

The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains, the world, and those who live in it. (Psalm 24:1)

FOSTER PARENTS SAY...



SURVEY FEEDBACK IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR PROGRAM AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENT (PQI). HERE ARE A FEW QUOTES ABOUT TBCH AND THE GEORGE SHINN FOSTER CARE PROGRAM, STRAIGHT FROM FOSTER PARENT SURVEYS:

"We just LOVE all the support we have received from everyone at TBCH! We know that they are literally just a text or phone call away when we need them."

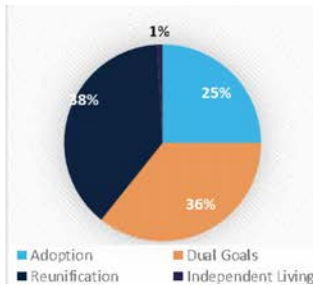
"They are caring and strive to meet the needs of the kiddos they serve. Wonderful organization that tries to have successful placements."

"We couldn't have done this without them. I am thankful to hear that they pray over our children and our family as a team weekly. They are the real deal and demonstrate Christ daily."

"Our case worker with TBCH has been such a blessing to us along our foster journey! She is available whenever we need her and always takes an interest in the kids in our home. We could not do this without her support!"

FOSTER CARE GOALS

TBCH SERVED 180 CHILDREN IN FOSTER HOMES ACROSS THE STATE DURING THE 2019-2020 FISCAL YEAR. THIS IS UP FROM 177 CHILDREN SERVED IN THE 2018-2019 FISCAL YEAR. DUE TO COVID SEVERAL FOSTER HOMES WERE UNABLE TO TAKE PLACEMENTS FOR A PERIOD OF TIME DUE TO REMOTE SCHOOL AND FOSTER PARENTS WORKING AT HOME.



PERMANENCY GOALS FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

Reunification with parents, guardians or other family members is the goal for 38% of children placed in TBCH's foster homes, while 25% plan to move to an adoptive home at some point in the future. TBCH and DCS are working on Dual Goals (adoption/reunification) for 36% of the foster children in TBCH foster homes.



IPP GOALS FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

66% (up from 54% last year) of children placed in TBCH's foster homes completed at least one of the goals on their Individualized Program Plan. The uncertainty of COVID led to difficulties scheduling case manager visits, counseling appointments and virtual schooling made it remarkable that children were completing more goals than in 2018-2019.

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
West	92%	97%	98%	97%
Middle	96%	95%	94%	93%
East	96%	98%	100%	100%

QCRR FOR FOSTER CARE

Quarterly Case Records Reviews evaluate the presence, clarity, quality, continuity, and completeness of required documents for children/youth in residential program. The accuracy of the foster files consistently continues to increase, and the statewide average has remained above 95% for the previous year.

	No change	Decrease	Increase
Relationship	65%	24%	12%
Safety	81%	12%	7%

*Relationship—Hyperactivity, Work/School, Interpersonal Relationships, Cognitive Performance, Behavior in the Home, Danger to Others

Safety—Socio-Legal, Substance Use, Security Management Needs, Danger to Self

Emotionality—Anxiety, Traumatic Stress, Depression

Disability—ADL (Activities of Daily Living) Functioning, Medical/Physical, Thought Process

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

"GOD KNEW OUR STORY"



God's Word is written into the ups and downs of this mom's fostering and adoption story:

I first became interested in adoption when I was 18, doing service work at a daycare. A little girl who was adopted from Russia piqued my interest, and I thought how great would it be to give a family to a child living in an orphanage in another country? Adoption, that is how I pictured it. Simple, just promise to love a child and provide them with a wonderful life, easy.

Eighteen years later I was single, had a good job, a nice house, two animals, and nobody to share it with. I leaned into Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you" declares the Lord, "plans for prosperity and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." I learned how expensive and heartbreaking adoption could potentially be, and fostering brought up so many negative images for me. I doubted my ability to foster on my own, make it financially, handle reunification? But, I silently began researching...

In 2016 I felt the urge to call and talk to someone about starting the process. I knew if I did not do it then, I would back out. I began to pray, "God, what is your desire for me? Can I do this? If you want me to do this Lord, please bring me a support system. I can't do it myself."

At church a few weeks later I found out about training classes offered by TBCH, then after asking for prayer from my small group that week, my leader introduced me to her best friend who was single and would be taking those classes. Here was the first step in the support system I had prayed for. It was so reassuring to have a friend who was walking the same path.

I didn't rush the process and was not in a big hurry, but in December I received a call about two little girls who needed a placement. I quickly became officially licensed, and they arrived two days before Christmas! I had already planned a quick trip to Indiana to visit my family, and while I was there my sisters loaded me up with gifts to have for the girls Christmas morning. I was also gifted bunk beds by a local contact, as well as car seats, a baby monitor, pajamas, toys and snacks, and a meal train was started. I had always been such an independent person, but I was overwhelmed by the help that poured out from people. So many people want to be part of the foster process, but not on the front line. I realized that accepting their help and support allowed them to be a blessing.

To say the first few weeks were easy would be untrue. I felt like I had no idea what I was doing. It was Christmas break, my 2-year-old was sick, I didn't know how to find her a doctor, and insurance, and all the forms! My mom and dad helped, but this was the hardest thing I had ever done. I doubted daily, and I was struggling. All I could do was to rely on God's Word, Phillipians 4:13, "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."

Eat, sleep, repeat. Another foster mother told me how it was the hardest thing she had ever done, but also the most rewarding. Through the tears, I asked her when the rewarding part would come. Would it come? After six months, I was exhausted. The girls were hard, with problems at daycare and home. Could I picture this for the rest of my life? Was I really cut out for this? Maybe I was just meant to be a steppingstone in their journey.

Then a judge decided to allow weekend visits with the biological mom. I prayed she would be successful, that she would keep in touch with me, that what the girls learned about Jesus and God would stick with them, that those seeds would sprout. One of my fears was coming true. The girls would be leaving me, and I was heartbroken.

In 2018, I received another placement, two girls whose other three siblings were placed with my friend from foster classes two year before! Eventually another home was able to take all five of them together. God's hand was all over this situation. As I prepared to for the transition, I got a call that my first two little girls were back in custody, and without a second of hesitation, I said I would take them back! It had all come full circle.

Our case was moving slowly, but I had to realize that I was not in control, God was. I had to trust Him. He knew their story beginning to end, He was their heavenly Father and the love He had for them was bigger than anything I could understand. I knew they were back with me for a reason, and after a few months I decided to pursue adoption if it was an option. I kept reading Esther 4:14, "And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this?"

Our adoption day was finally scheduled for December of 2020, but it almost didn't happen because our judge had COVID! God came through once again, though, and a friend of a friend was a judge who agreed to fill in if needed, and we became a family just a few days before Christmas! Looking back, God was present in every up and down. Just when I wanted to give up hope, He opened a door to keep me going. So much of this story I could not understand, but now I know it was part of our journey. God knew our story—it was written long before I ever even opened the book.

EXPERIENCE FUELS PASSION FOR TRAINING OTHERS

As an employee of TBCH, I was introduced to *Stewards of Children* through a training offered at our State Office. I knew instantly I wanted—and yes even needed—to teach that class. *Stewards of Children*, a program of the non-profit organization Darkness to Light, empowers adults to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. Why would I want to teach a class like that?

When I was a very young child, my mother married my stepfather who also had small children. The best way to describe our household was chaotic, partly because there were five children and two adults living in a tiny home and partly because my stepfather was an abuser. I remember fear or the anticipation of fear being ever-present. I always knew a blow-up was inevitable. Because of my young age, I didn't always know what caused the blow-up, but I distinctly remember the fear.

Some of my fear was that my stepfather would hit my mom or hurt her in other ways. He beat her up many times in front of us children. Some of my fear was that he would hit us children. There were times of discipline but there were times of beatings as well.

Some of the fear was that mom would leave us alone with him, which always meant another kind of abuse. For whatever reason, maybe because I wasn't his biological child, he singled me out. When mom was gone, there were chores outside for my siblings and 'chores' inside for me. I never understood the fear or the disgust I felt being sexually abused, because later I was assured that this was *love*. In my young mind, he was my new father and he was supposed to love and care for me.

This is why I have such a passion for this class and want to teach it as often as possible. I identify with the survivors in the training videos and I never want another child to experience the things that I and so many others have experienced.

I became a trainer in 2019, had my first class scheduled for early 2020, and then the pandemic hit us all. There would be no classes in small rooms with people side by side learning how to recognize and prevent child sexual abuse. I was very disappointed until I heard there was a training for *virtual* classes—which I took. Then, I was ready to lead *Stewards of Children* again!

By the time this is printed, I will have been privileged to facilitate three trainings for 32 participants. My students have been wonderful people with a willingness to prevent child sexual abuse. I'm excited that they are taking the chance to be the light in a dark, dark area of our world, and I'm just getting started!

Even a few small trainings can have a big impact. In fiscal year 2019, Darkness to Light trained more than 1.7 million adults in 76 countries to protect children through the efforts of more than 12,000 Certified Instructors and Authorized Facilitators!

I would like to personally encourage you to take this training, to inform yourself, and to be a part of the solution. Classes are often made up of members of churches and organizations, and sometimes are just groups of concerned citizens. TBCH currently has two Authorized Facilitators who can lead virtual classes. Contact us at 1-800-624-8591 or www.tennesseechildren.org and we will do our best to get you or your group trained as soon as possible, and I hope to see you in one of my virtual classes soon!

Stephanie Bruce is the Executive Office Coordinator for TBCH, and an Authorized Facilitator of Stewards of Children.



What is *Stewards of Children*®?

Stewards of Children® is a prevention training that teaches adults how to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. The program is designed for organizations that serve youth and for individuals concerned about the safety of children. It is the only nationally distributed, evidence-informed program proven to increase knowledge, improve attitudes, and change child protective behaviors.



**Tennessee Baptist
Children's Homes**

As a part of our Family Care Program, TBCH has trainers on staff who can bring *Stewards of Children*® to your church.

A minimal cost covers materials per participant, but the training is provided for free.

For more information please contact Stephanie Bruce at 1-800-624-8591.



PRAY. SERVE. GIVE.

STEWARDSHIP OVER THIS MINISTRY IS BOTH REWARDING AND DIFFICULT, AND WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

PRAY

Pray for the physical, emotional, and spiritual health of our children and staff.

SERVE

Serve one of our campuses or a local foster family in practical ways, like volunteering, tutoring, or delivering a meal.

GIVE

Give a one-time gift or become a monthly donor to help cover the cost of the services we provide to children and their families. Legacy giving is also a wonderful way to support TBCH and help us continue our ministry well into the future.

Contact us for volunteer opportunities, and donate today online at tennesseechildren.org, by phone at 1-800-624-8591, or by mail to P.O. Box 2206, Brentwood, TN 37024.



The Big Payback, Middle Tennessee's online day of giving, begins May 5 this year. Since 2014, the event has raised nearly \$21 million in donations for schools, religious institutions, and other charities, including TBCH. Last year, TBCH had our highest ever total in the event. Mark your calendar and help us get there again this year!



Please give to the
MOTHER'S DAY OFFERING



Supporting the children at TBCH is a good way to practice your faith, “bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God” (Colossians 1:10).



Is your church or group participating in The Mother's Day Offering? This special day of giving makes up almost one third of our annual budget. TBCH does not receive any government funding, so MDO is an important way to provide for the children in our care. It is also a way to practice biblical generosity, honoring God by caring for “the least of these.”

Encourage your church leaders and members to participate. TBCH will gladly provide free print and digital materials to help make your MDO Offering as successful as possible.

The children in our care come from hard places, and while we know we can never replace a mother's love, with your help we can continue welcoming these children with the love of Christ!

THANK YOU, MR. GROUNDHOG



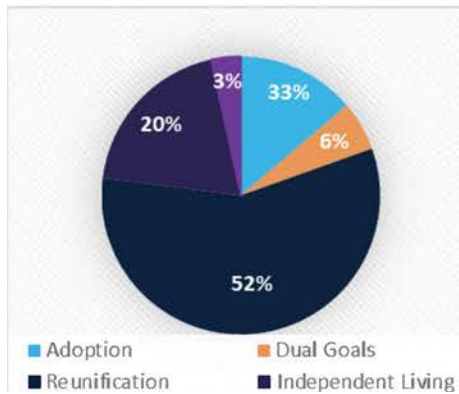
On a cold and snowy February day in Punxsutawney, PA, a groundhog named Phil peeked out of his hole, then disappeared. A couple of weeks later, any chance of Spring Fever was iced down all across Tennessee, as we experienced some of the deepest snow and coldest temperatures most of us can ever remember. The old American tradition of Groundhog Day seemed to come true this year!

We know that every day is truly a day the Lord has made, and rejoicing with gladness wasn't too difficult for some of the kids (and staff) on our Residential Care campuses. The snow and ice made for some good sledding, snow forts, snowball fights, and snowmen in all shapes and sizes. If groundhogs needed to hibernate a little longer, at least we got to enjoy a little frozen fun!



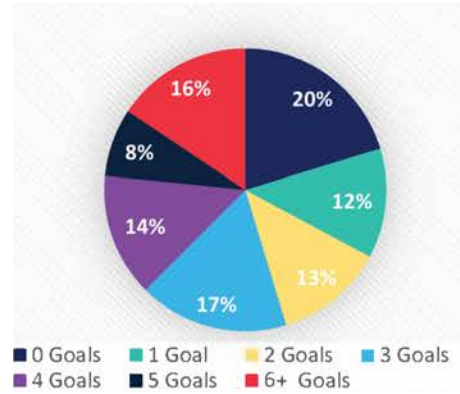
RESIDENTIAL CARE GOALS

TBCH SERVED 99 CHILDREN ON THEIR THREE CAMPUSES IN THE 2019-2020 FISCAL YEAR. THIS IS DOWN FROM 123 CHILDREN SERVED IN THE 2018-2019 FISCAL YEAR. DUE TO COVID RESIDENTIAL CAMPUSES SUSPENDED ADMISSION FOR APPROXIMATELY 90 DAYS IN THE SPRING WHICH EXPLAINS THE DECREASE IN CHILDREN SERVED.



PERMANENCY GOALS FOR CHILDREN IN RESIDENTIAL CARE

Reunification with parents, guardians or other family members is the goal for 52% of TBCH's residents, while 33% plan to move to an adoptive home at some point in the future. TBCH is expected to provide Independent Living services for 20% of its current residents in the future.



IPP GOALS FOR CHILDREN IN RESIDENTIAL CARE

80% (down from 83% last year) of TBCH youth in Residential Care completed at least one of the goals on their Individualized Program Plan. The uncertainty of COVID led to difficulties planning counseling sessions and family visitation. This coupled with school moving from remote to in-person learning sporadically made the decline in goal completion expected.

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Brentwood	100%	100%	100%	100%
Chattanooga	100%	100%	100%	100%
Millington	100%	100%	100%	100%

QCRR FOR RESIDENTIAL CARE

Quarterly Case Records Reviews evaluate the presence, clarity, quality, continuity, and completeness of required documents for children/youth in residential care. The accuracy of the residential files is consistently

	No change	Decrease	Increase
Relationship	65%	24%	12%
Safety	81%	12%	7%
Emotionality	62%	19%	19%
Disability	73%	19%	19%

*Relationship—Hyperactivity, Work/School, Interpersonal Relationships, Cognitive Performance, Behavior in the Home, Danger to Others
Safety—Socio-Legal, Substance Use, Security Management Needs, Danger to Self
Emotionality—Anxiety, Traumatic Stress, Depression
Disability—ADL (Activities of Daily Living) Functioning, Medical/Physical, Thought Process

CFARS FOR RESIDENTIAL CARE

The Child Functional Assessment Rating Scale rates children in 16 indexes* organized in 4 domains and scores them accordingly. Decreases in CFARS reflect decline in problems severity, increases show elevations in problem severity and no change shows stability in problem severity.

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.

EVENTS PROVIDE FRIENDS AND FUNDS

TBCH has always considered events as fun and engaging ways to raise money and awareness. In the past year, along with the rest of the world, TBCH has had to adapt to challenges affecting the way we interact with the public, and to rethink and recreate the way we host many of our events. Although the decisions have been difficult, they have brought about several new and exciting changes.

The month of April will see two new TopGolf tournaments. Based on the success of the pilot event in October, we have scheduled our first Drive It Home TopGolf Tournament in Chattanooga (April 18), and a second round for Nashville (April 25). Participants can expect plenty of food, fellowship, and fun at a venue perfect for the whole family to get involved.

We are also going forward with the Hope Hines FORE Kids Golf Classic (June 14). Scheduled to be held at Nashville Golf & Athletic Club, we are bringing back assigned staggered tee times. Last year this promoted social distancing, but many players also appreciated the resulting smoother play.

Moving locations has also been a good option for other events. The annual KARS4KIDS Car Show (April 17), which benefits TBCH and has been held on our Brentwood campus for years, is relocated to the Elks Lodge property in Franklin, TN. Although we will miss the shiny lines of classics and antiques, we are grateful for our supporters joining us in the effort to make good alternative plans.

Many of these changes have been driven by helpful and encouraging feedback from our participants, who clearly have hearts for helping the children at TBCH. We are grateful to them, and to the Lord, who provides friends for our ministry and funding for our programs through all our events. For information and registration, visit us online at tennesseechildren.org/events.



UPCOMING EVENTS AT TBCH

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER, GO TO [TENNESSEECHILDREN.ORG/EVENTS](https://tennesseechildren.org/events)



Tennessee Baptist
Children's Homes



Monday
June 14, 2021



Hope Hines
FORE KIDS
Golf Classic



NASHVILLE GOLF
& Athletic Club



TOPGOLF



Tennessee Baptist
Children's Homes

2021
DRIVE IT HOME
TopGolf Tournaments

CHATTANOOGA	NASHVILLE
APRIL 18	APRIL 25
3-6 PM	5-8 PM

19TH ANNUAL
KARS4KIDS

PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE KIDS SUMMER ACTIVITY PROGRAM
TENNESSEE BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOMES, BRENTWOOD

SATURDAY, APRIL 17, 2021
"NEW SHOW LOCATION"



SHAPING MORE THAN BLOCKS OF WOOD

Some of the guys at the Chattanooga campus got a lesson in woodworking earlier this year thanks to volunteers, Bill and Anne Laroque. The Laroques walked them through the process of making their own custom ball-point pens from raw lumber. They were coached in design techniques, proper use of tools, and safety. Their finished pens were both beautiful and fully functional, and housemother Kim Robinson noted that the boys were “so well-behaved, appreciative, and genuinely excited about learning and making these pens from a block of wood!”

Volunteers like the Laroques, who have also served as tutors at the campus, are integral to giving our kids the chance to broaden their horizons and explore interests that shape so much more than just blocks of wood.



MEET OUR NEW STAFF MEMBERS



JEANNIE AND ED ARCHIE

Jeannie and Ed are from South Fulton, TN, and both grew up on farms, so they should be right at home as our new houseparents at The Ranch at Millington. Jeannie formerly worked at Tyson Foods for 22 years, and Ed worked at MTD/Cub Cadet for 29 years. Their journey leading to TBCH began about five years ago on a visit to The Ranch, and God prepared them through mission trips to Nicaragua and serving as adult leaders in their church. "We knew that we were called to be missionaries and TBCH is where we knew God called us to be."

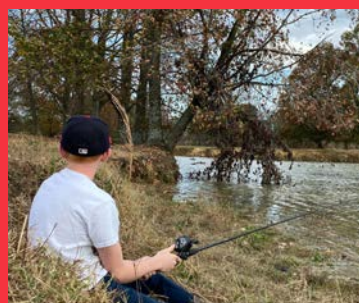


CANDY RUESS

Candy joins our staff as the newest member of our Accounting department, in the position of Bookkeeper. The winding road that brought her here started in Torrance, California, and she is currently studying psychology at Mid-America Christian University. After meeting some of her new co-workers and hearing the atmosphere described as "being like a family," she's excited and looking forward to serving in the ministry from the State Office in Brentwood.

LIFE GOES ON

Last spring brought challenges and circumstances that unexpectedly affected communities all over the world. Because of your faithful prayers, acts of service, and generous support, children in hard places are still being welcomed into our homes. They are doing well in school, building relationships with houseparents and foster parents, some are getting adopted, and some are even learning to catch fish and ride horses. In other words, life goes on at TBCH with joy through the difficulties and hope for the future!





Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes

Welcoming children in hard places with the love of Christ

1-800-624-8591

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Twitter: [@TBCH](https://twitter.com/TBCH)

Instagram: [@tennesseechildren](https://www.instagram.com/tennesseechildren)

