

# Fall

@ TBCH



**Far More  
Abundantly**

# A Note From Greg

**Over the last several weeks I have sensed the Lord challenging me in my prayer life.** I have sensed that I have been asking too small!

Have my small requests been due to a lack of faith? Have they been due to a lack of vision? Have I been afraid to test God's limits? Do I think that I have the right to ask for things that, in my mind, might be too much to ask? Is the problem with me? The answer would have to be, "Yes!"

Is He incapable of meeting my requests? Are His resources finite? Does He really care about all the things I am bringing before Him? Is He too busy to worry about me and my stuff? Is the problem with God? The answer would have to be, "No!"

So, in these days I am reminding myself of Who I am talking to when I pray. I am submitting my requests to "Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think..." The word translated "abundantly" in Paul's letter to the Christians in Ephesus literally means immeasurably more. Why should my requests ever be small when the Lord's power, ability, and resources are always immeasurably more?! My mind has not thought about a request that is too much to ask of Him.

Our God is able to take the broken heart and mend it. Our God is able

to provide all of the money we need to welcome children in hard places with the love of Christ. Our God is able to lead us to the right people who will serve as houseparents, foster parents, case managers and support staff that TBCH must have in order to serve children. Join me in my new motto for the requests I bring before the Lord: "Go big or go home!"

And thank you for being a part of the answer to my prayers by supporting TBCH through your prayers, your service projects, and your giving,

**Greg, President/Treasurer**

*Greg*





# Now to Him who is able...

**...to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.  
(Ephesians 3:20-21)**

As autumn sets in at TBCH, we want to proclaim God's glory! We have asked for and imagined great things for the children in our care, and He has provided abundantly by raising up champions on their behalf who have helped us in so many ways through the challenges of the last year. During a time when it would be expected for people to hold on tightly to their resources, we have been surprised with faithful gifts of money, food, supplies, and other support. We step into the future with confidence that we will continue welcoming children in hard places with the love of Christ—*because He is able!*

**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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🏠 P.O. Box 2206, Brentwood, TN 37024





# Work & Play



**“Work and play are words used to describe the same thing under differing conditions.” – Mark Twain**

We encourage our kids to play a little (like flying kites, creating art, DIY water slides, and just hanging out on pretty days) and work a little (like helping with a remodel project and breaking up debris for the dumpster). Twain might be right, but there is always some of each at TBCH.

## Interested in our Residential Care Program?

Visit us online at [www.tennesseechildren.org](http://www.tennesseechildren.org) for information about our campuses, houseparenting, and getting involved in your part of the state.

# ...far more abundantly...



## Good Fence, Good Neighbor

Neighbors driving by might notice a change to the road front view of our Chattanooga campus—a 1,400 linear foot change!

As part of our efforts to improve the safety of our campus for our children and our guests, we were able to install a new fence along the Lee Highway portion of the property. Volunteer friends from Silverdale Baptist Church provided labor to install the fence, which consists of more than 200 posts and 750 1x6 boards, all locally milled. The fence also includes a custom gate near our recently updated campus sign.

Residential Campus VP Patrick Addison points out that the gate is a safer way to welcome guests, not keep them out. Guests arriving to visit, volunteer, or drop off gifts can easily use the keypad to gain entry. “*Safe Environment* is one of our core values. We want our campus to be a place that is not only physically safe for our residents and staff, but also helps them to feel safe. Investing in a fence and gate system is a great example of our commitment to this core value.”

We hope our neighbors and the community share our feeling that a good fence helps make good neighbors.



# Grateful for Support after Fire in Chattanooga

## In case you didn't see our post—Yes, we had a fire!

Most importantly, we praise and thank God that our kids and staff in Chattanooga are safe and uninjured. We are also incredibly grateful for your prayers, concern, and the outpouring of support in the form of supplies and donations.

On August 20th, an electrical fire started in the clothing room of the commissary in the basement of Cobble Home on the Chattanooga campus. Three staff members who were there quickly got two of our Independent Living residents out safely and called 911, then did what they could with fire extinguishers. Fire fighters put out the fire quickly and efficiently, and even rescued a cat from upstairs! Although it was contained to one room, we had quite a bit of smoke, water, and other damage throughout the home.

Clean up and repair is still on-going, but almost immediately, our supporters and community friends came to our aid, providing donations and supplies to help offset the loss of food, commissary supplies, personal items, and other necessities.

What easily could have become a tragedy was averted by the grace of God, who blessed us with a level-headed staff, a remarkably efficient team of local firefighters and emergency workers, and a community of champions who care about the kids at TBCH, all of whom deserve our sincerest gratitude.



# ...beyond all that we ask or think...



## 5K to Christ Race Almost Unbelievable

**It all started with a broken church projector.** When Macy Reid, worship leader at Kodak Community Baptist Church, tackled that problem over this summer, her solution took her and her church down a 5-kilometer path to helping TBCH in an unexpected way, a story she says is a little unbelievable.

“We didn’t have the funds to replace the projector so I figured maybe we could try fundraising for it. I like running so I said we might could do a 5K and began planning one,” she explains. A family ended up offering to buy a new projector for the church, and indeed they did, but her plans for the run already had momentum.

“I didn’t want to just give up on the 5k. I have a passion for sharing the gospel with youth and when I read about what TBCH does, I decided it would be a great place to donate the money to.” Macy had one potential hurdle moving forward, though. “The reason I say you won’t believe the whole story is because I am a 15-year-old.” Where she may have lacked experience, she made up for it with determination. “When the adults at the church saw me really begin to look into it and make the phone calls, they began to help me and take me seriously. I will be the first to tell you, without the help from the individuals at my church, this race would not have taken place. God blessed me with many passionate helping hands. I didn’t tell anyone that I was 15 though because I was afraid most people would not take me seriously.”

Macy spoke about the race at the annual meeting of Sevier County Association of Baptists, and was then invited to a few other churches, where she drummed up support and participants. Dubbed 5K to Christ, the race took place in August at Camp Smoky Christian Retreat in Sevierville. During lunch that followed, TBCH was represented by some of our Foster Care team who had the opportunity to share about the ministry with those in attendance.

To say the race exceeded expectations is an understatement. Considering that this young lady stepped out in faithful confidence to organize a major fundraising event which she had never done before, bringing together a multi-church community to successfully support TBCH, the story really is almost unbelievable. “Our goal was to raise \$1,500 but we actually made over \$2,000,” says Macy, “I was only expecting about 30 people to register, and we had 57. I am absolutely amazed that so many people showed up to come together for something like this. God provided us with everything we needed to have this race. It was crazy to see Him working to help us pull it off.”



**MACY REID**, 5K to Christ organizer

# Pray. Serve. Give.



At TBCH, “abundance” can mean many things. An abundance of joy was shared recently by our entire staff at the news that one of our foster families officially adopted the child in their care. An abundance of supplies replaced what was destroyed by the fire at the Chattanooga commissary. An abundance of laughter came from the activities building while volunteers played with the kids. An abundance of gratitude is felt by the staff and kids at TBCH when you pray, serve, and give.

**PRAY** for the kids in our Residential Care and Foster Care programs, and the adults responsible for their well-being.

**SERVE** with your talents, by volunteering, tutoring, delivering a meal, helping in one of our offices, or leading a fundraiser at your church or business.

**GIVE** faithfully and generously so we can continue welcoming children in hard places with the love of Christ. Whether you give one time or monthly, your donation today makes a difference. And if you’ve ever considered putting TBCH in your will or estate plan, your legacy gifts can make a difference in the future.

Contact us for more info or volunteer opportunities, and donate today online at [tennesseechildren.org](http://tennesseechildren.org), by phone at 1-800-624-8591, or by mail to P.O. Box 2206, Brentwood, TN 37024.

2022 is right around the corner...remember us as you plan for your “End of Year” giving!

## New Envelopes for Better Stewardship

Every day your generous donations come to us through many different avenues. Sometimes checks or cash are dropped off in person at one of our campuses. Sometimes donors click a digital link and fill out an online form. Most often, though, we receive tried and true envelopes daily via the US Postal Service.

We consider stewardship to be an important responsibility, so beginning with this issue, we are moving away from postage-paid return envelopes in favor of a new design including a friendly reminder in the upper right corner to “Place Stamp Here.” Our new

envelopes also include our website and a QR Code on the back for easy online giving.

Envelope postage may seem like a small thing, but on average, a postage-paid envelope is much more expensive to TBCH than a first-class stamp. When you put stamps on your gifts to TBCH it saves us almost enough money each year to cover the annual food budget for one of our campus homes! Thank you for helping us better use our resources, and thank you for helping our kids with your generous gifts, no matter how you choose to get them to us.





Some of the folks at Ramsey Solutions recently blessed our Brentwood campus by dropping off a load of donated snacks and supplies for going back to school, and our kids and staff are so thankful! Helping to stock the commissaries on our three campuses is a simple and practical way to show that kids matter. **Visit [www.tennesseechildren.org](http://www.tennesseechildren.org) to find the campus nearest to you and to find out our current commissary needs.**

# YOU CAN BE THE FACE OF CHANGE



Every year for the past 60 years, federal government employees have been given the chance to support their favorite causes by participating in the Combined Federal Campaign, and TBCH has been blessed and grateful for their consistent and generous donations. The Combined Federal Campaign is currently underway, and we want to say **thank you to all the federal government employees who work hard on behalf of our nation.** We also want to thank those who have chosen to become champions for the kids at TBCH by supporting us with CFC gifts.

## WE NEEDED EXTRA HELP AND YOU CAME THROUGH!

DOZENS of friends of TBCH gave extra \$\$, signed up to bring MealTrain meals, and braved the rain for porch drop-offs.



Your support carried us through a difficult couple of weeks, and brought smiles to a lot of faces (even behind those masks)!

## THANK YOU FOR BEING A BLESSING TO TBCH!

...according to the power that works within us...

# A Message in the Mums

**Like some mums, the LaFerry family's love and support for TBCH has become a perennial blessing.** Thank you to Lilly LaFerry for the following message about their motivation to partner with us. It was originally sent out to members of GRACE, a resource group at Lilly's company, and shared here with permission. We hope you are blessed and challenged by these encouraging words:

Every summer, my family and I volunteer at the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes. We've washed their family cars and sorted and cleaned their pantry, but these last two years have presented a problem with the limitation of visitors due to COVID. We decided to love on TBCH in a new way this year – by selling mums grown by a local farmer! We partnered with a couple of neighbors and spent the weekend making deliveries. We kicked off the fundraiser with a lesson on our duty as Christians to serve widows and orphans:

God commands us to care for orphans and widows. When He gave the Law to Moses and the Israelites, He gave instructions for how to treat the orphans and widows among them—with harsh consequences promised if they failed in their responsibility.

“You must not mistreat any widow or fatherless child. If you do mistreat them, they will no doubt cry to Me, and I will certainly hear their cry” (Exodus 22:22-23, HCSB). In the New Testament, James says that taking care of the needs of orphans and widows is part of religion that is *pure and faultless*. “Pure and undefiled religion before our God and Father is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself unstained by the world” (James 1:27).

Caring for those in distress is not optional for followers of Christ. There is tremendous

blessing in serving and standing up for orphans and widows. In considering what our own attitude should be toward the orphans and widows around us, it's helpful to remember that all of us were adopted into God's family through Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:3-7) and betrothed to Christ (Ephesians 5:32, Revelation 19:7). It is our joy and privilege to partner with God in loving, serving, and protecting the orphans and widows among us.

*(Devotional content excerpted from “What does the Bible say about orphans and widows?” GotQuestions.org. <https://www.gotquestions.org/orphans-and-widows.html>.)*



*This year, Lilly's company matched the proceeds from their mum sale, doubling their donation!*



*Lilly and Jason LaFerry, their kids (Lolo, Jude, and Lucy), and other friends who helped with the mum sale*



# Champion Examples

## Champions come in many forms.

Although they may not see themselves this way, we know the people who generously share their resources to help provide homes for children in hard places are our champions. Some are mentors and tutors, some cook or clean, and some write checks or birthday cards. One thing they all have in common is their love for the children in our care. Here are a just a few examples of the champions who have served our kids recently. What kind of champion might you be?



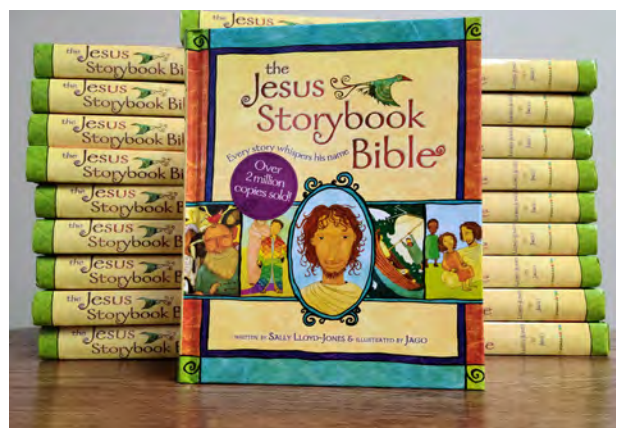
Philip Chambers and friends provided the boys at The Ranch at Millington with a freezer full of meat.



Volunteers from Clearview Baptist Church pitched in to complete a much-needed kitchen remodel in one of our Brentwood homes.



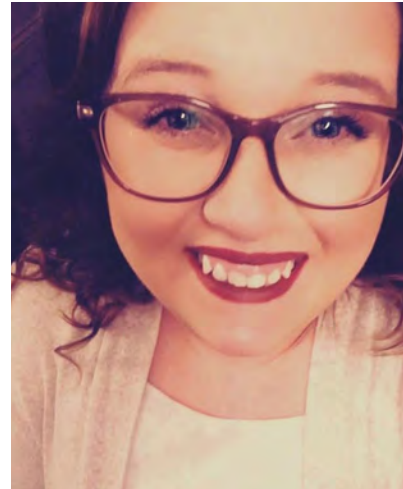
Folks at Tanslee Outdoor Power Equipment make sure kids at the Chattanooga campus get to celebrate with custom designed cakes.



Silverdale Baptist Church donated Storybook Bibles for the kids in TBCH foster homes in East Tennessee.

# Foster Care Q&A

*Samara Grant is our Regional Foster Care Supervisor in East Tennessee. In this follow-up to our interview with her we began in our last issue, she shares some of the struggles and successes foster care workers face serving kids and families.*



## **Q: First, what drew you to pursue a career in foster care?**

A: Do you remember those career assessments you would take in high school? My best fit was in the social sciences field, and I laughed and decided that was not for me, because let's be honest, people in the social sciences field aren't known for their high salaries. However, the Lord would make it very clear where I needed to be right before my senior year of undergrad. While I was working at a summer camp, there was a boy probably around 8 years old having a really hard time with other children and honestly even with the camp counselors. I remember my fellow counselors talking about how awful this kid was and how he just liked misbehaving. I remember saying there had to be more to it than him just wanting to act out, and they just rolled their eyes. So, I made it my mission to go out of my way to be extra friendly to this kid and it paid off. From that point forward, I knew I wanted to work on a personal level with misunderstood children, and to be able to educate adults and people who work with children regularly on how trauma impacts behavior. At the end of the day, we all want to feel loved, wanted, and heard. I get to show up and do that for people, big and little, every single day. I now know the Lord knew this was exactly where I would be, and no amount of money could ever replace the purpose and joy that I have found within my career.

## **Q: What advice would you give someone considering a foster care career?**

A: Foster care, in some ways, is a separate world from the rest of social work. Like foster parenting, there are times of immense joy and inevitable sadness, times when you want to control situations and times when tricky situations seem unending. I used to take on the weight of that until I realized it will all work out according to the Lord's plan. That does not mean you do not advocate your hardest or give your best for your families and the children, but it does mean you trust the Lord will take care of those children far better than you or anyone else can. Foster care can be overwhelming at first, but it is completely worth it. For me, knowing that I am able to show God's love to children who may have never experienced it before is my why. Some of my best advice for someone new to foster care would be to identify your why and hold on to that when things get rough.

## **Q: What would you consider to be the most difficult aspect of foster care?**

A: Even in a field of educated, dedicated people, there is still a lack of understanding of trauma. This is the hardest part of my job because I have worked with counselors, school staff, foster parents, and agency workers who struggle immensely with understanding how trauma can impact everything about a child. I hope one day we live in a world that can understand trauma and not make it an excuse for behaviors, but an explanation. Then I think we'll understand why it is so important to stay committed to children, even when it's hard, and we'll understand why it is so important as a social worker to show up, be vigilant, and genuinely listen to what a child is saying. The bright part is that we are now entering into a time when people are actually engaging in these conversations, so I am hopeful for the future!



# Service Project Gives New Perspective

TBCH has the privilege of working with many different organizations across the state, often participating alongside them in workshops for a common goal: providing services to children and families in hard places. Recently, TBCH staff members attended Brentwood Baptist Church's Community Partners event in Nashville, and their "homework" project took an interesting turn. They were tasked with shopping to fill TAK PAKS for TN Alliance for Kids. These are backpacks filled with necessities and niceties for kids coming into foster care.

After collecting the items, they delivered them to the new office of TAK which is about 10 minutes from the TBCH campus in Brentwood. The divine irony is that TN Alliance for Kids staff members have more than once dropped off TAK PAKs at TBCH for kids in our Foster Care Program! This time we got to celebrate the circle of goodness God builds into the relationships between people and organizations who do His will. The project gave everyone involved a chance to see our common purpose from a new perspective.

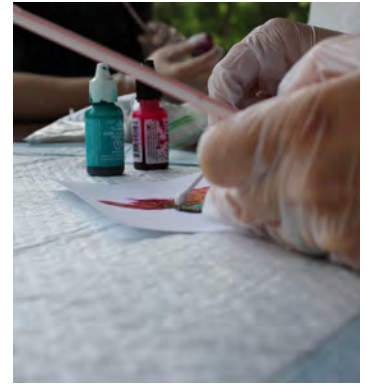
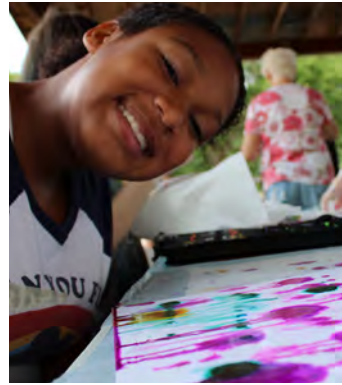
*TAK workers Sandy and Blair receiving a donated TAK PAK*



## Thinking about getting involved in Foster Care?

Visit us online at [www.tennesseechildren.org/foster-care](http://www.tennesseechildren.org/foster-care). There you can find FAQs, our Foster Parent Application, and info on training classes. You can also email us at [fostercare@tennesseechildren.org](mailto:fostercare@tennesseechildren.org) or call 1-800-624-8591.

# Let's Be Creative!



**The first verse in the Bible reveals that God is creative,** and one of the most appropriate ways to model that for our kids is by helping them explore creative expression through art. That is just what a group of volunteer artists from Brentwood Baptist Church did during three sessions over the summer. Led by Barbara Johnson, they provided plenty of supplies and guidance for the residents of our Brentwood campus to complete several different art projects, including foil art, ink, watercolor, and painted pottery. Their one-of-a-kind creations were then proudly displayed at a campus art show at the end of the summer. God loves all children, and He loves each child. We appreciate these volunteers who helped care for the kids at TBCH by celebrating their individuality and encouraging them to be creative.

*Special thanks to Brentwood resident William B., a student artist in the field of photography, who documented the summer art classes with the photographs shared here.*



# Welcome New Staff



**Megan Fuller** will be right at home as a Foster Care Case Manager in Knoxville where she's lived for about nine years. She is originally from Kingsport and has earned her bachelor's degree in Health and Human Sciences, majoring in Child and Family Studies. "I'm most looking forward to working with the children that are in need in my community, and working with the amazing families that are so graciously fostering these children."



**Sydney Mintz** was born in South Carolina and grew up in Kingsport, where she joins us as a Foster Care Case Manager. She recently graduated from East Tennessee State University with a bachelor's degree in social work and is now a Foster Care Case Manager in Kingsport. In addition to applying what she has learned and gaining experience working in Foster Care, she appreciates the chance to grow professionally and spiritually at TBCH. "I am so glad the Lord brought me here and is allowing me this opportunity in life. I am so glad to be a part of the TBCH family now!"



**Kim Morgan** is from East Liverpool, OH, earned her BA at University of Mount Union in Alliance, OH, and formerly worked at Northeast Ohio Adoption Services. Her husband's job transfer brings her to Knoxville, where she joins TBCH as a Foster Care Case Manager. Kim describes this as a perfect fit, where she can apply her passion for foster care and adoption, and openly express her faith. "I am excited to begin building relationships with my co-workers and getting to know the children and families I will be serving. I love the history of TBCH and look forward to sharing the love of Christ alongside my team for as long as He plants me here."



**Rob and Jennifer Hanson** are our newest Houseparents at The Ranch in Millington. Originally from West Virginia, they've lived in Portland, TN, for the past 19 years. Rob is retired from law enforcement after 31 years and Jennifer has worked for the preschool and children's ministry at FBC Portland for 15 years. Their experience as foster parents led to the adoption of one of their two sons, and they also have two daughters. Rob and Jennifer first connected with The Ranch through mission trips, and now look forward to serving full-time in a ministry that loves and cares for kids. "We are both excited and humbled that the Lord would choose us to be a part of this ministry."



**Ella Weiss** is now serving as a Foster Care Case Manager working at our Brentwood location. Ella is from Nashville, has a bachelor's degree in social work from Austin Peay State University, and is currently working on her MSW. Not only does she have experience as a Behavioral Health Specialist at Vanderbilt Psychiatric Hospital, she is also very familiar with TBCH, having served as a summer intern at our former campus in Memphis. "I'm most looking forward to working with families and getting to see a small part of a big picture," she says, "I'm very grateful to be working at TBCH and the Lord's provision as He has provided the opportunity to work with foster families."

**...to Him be the glory...**



## Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes

*Welcoming children in hard places with the love of Christ*

**1-800-624-8591**

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