

**Back to  
School!**



**SUMMER**

**@TBCH**

**TENNESSEECHILDREN.ORG**

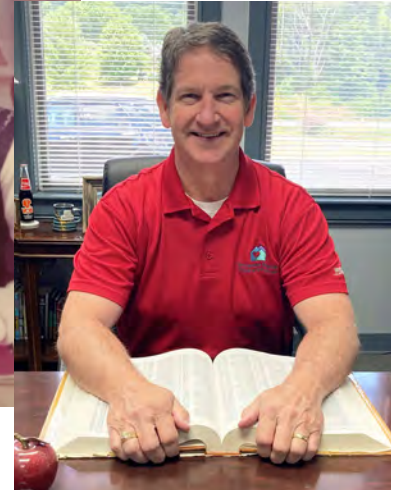


# A NOTE FROM GREG

The children and young people of TBCH are getting ready to head back to school! This is always a time to gear up for transitions. Our schedules transition to more structured time frames. Bedtime transitions to an earlier hour which means wake time does as well. We are making sure every child has the proper clothes and shoes to wear to school as well as making sure that every student has the necessary school supplies. We are doing our best to prepare our children for success!

Speaking of transitions, TBCH stands in great need of some transitions on our residential campuses. As we deal with an aging infrastructure and desire to serve today's children more adequately, we sense the need to provide new homes for our children. To keep our children in safe environments these new homes will provide individual bedrooms and bathrooms for each child in our care. This transition will begin on the Brentwood campus this fall! While a portion of the campus will be developed and sold, the rest of the campus will take on an exciting new look with new residences for our children and staff.

We have already begun the conversation of how this will look on our Chattanooga campus. And while I'm throwing out this God-sized vision for

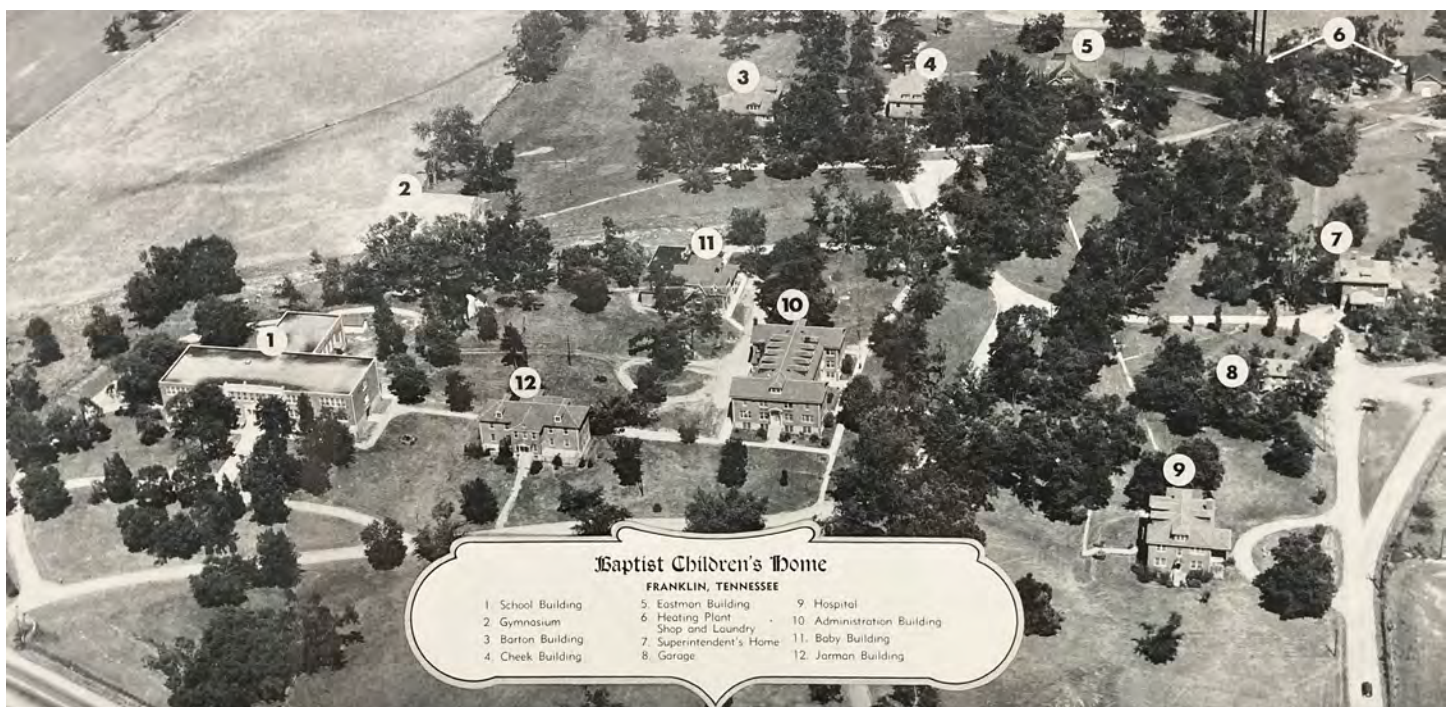


you, TBCH desires to add two new homes on The Ranch at Millington to get the transition started there!

Friends of TBCH, we need your support as much as we have ever needed it before for this vision to become a reality. Want to learn more about these plans and how you can be involved? Feel free to give me a call. I would love to share the vision with you as we continue to...

Defend the defenseless,

Greg McCoy, President/Treasurer







*Proposed plan for the transitions at our Brentwood Campus*

**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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# FORMER TBCH PRESIDENT REMEMBERED AS 'TREMENDOUS LEADER'

(Reprinted with permission from the Baptist and Reflector, June 14, 2022)

FRANKLIN — Bryant Millsaps, who became synonymous with Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes during his nearly two-decade tenure with the ministry, passed away June 13 after battling Alzheimer's Disease.

"The Tennessee Baptist Convention has lost a giant servant of the Kingdom," said Randy C. Davis, president and executive director of the Tennessee Baptist Mission Board.

Millsaps served on staff with Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes for 18 years, including a 15-year tenure as president and treasurer. He retired from that position in 2015.

"Dr. Millsaps was a tremendous leader who poured himself into serving Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes," said Davis. "He was an encourager to me personally. He will be missed as a friend."

Millsaps joined the TBCH staff in 1998 as assistant to then-president/treasurer Gerald Stow. He was selected as Stow's successor and began his service as president and treasurer in 2000.

Greg McCoy, current president of TBCH, said Millsaps was a constant source of encouragement for those associated with the ministry.

"When he asked me to start serving on the board of trustees for TBCH, back in 2000, I could have never imagined the impact that he would end up having on my life," said McCoy. "He was such a positive influence on me, and certainly, he is a large part of why I am at TBCH."

McCoy served alongside Millsaps for one year before Millsaps retired in 2015. "That time with him was invaluable for me," McCoy said.

Millsaps' legacy with TBCH includes a passionate stance on the organization's allotted percentage of Cooperative





Program dollars. He developed and initiated a campaign called "A nickel for the children" that raised awareness and funding for TBCH.

"We never quite made it to the nickel," said McCoy, "but his valiant efforts led us to a better place financially. We are now at four cents on the dollar — and that represents significant ministry to children. Thanks in large part to what he did, we are now in a really great position with Tennessee Baptists and our ministry partners."

Before joining TBCH, Millsaps served in the House of Representatives as chief clerk, assistant chief clerk and assistant to the speaker.

McCoy noted that Millsaps maintained a humble and compassionate disposition.

"Dr. Millsaps carried an aura, I guess you could say, in terms of his presence and the respect that others had for him," McCoy said. "And yet, he was such a gentle person, tenderhearted, and he loved our ministry. He loved making a difference in the lives of kids."



"When I became president (of TBCH), I inherited a team, a senior-staff team, that he had put together — and what a team it was," said McCoy. "When I left the pastorate, I left a strong team at First Baptist Portland and I joined another strong team at TBCH, many of whom are still in place today. The team that he built made my life so much easier in terms of the transition."

Millsaps earned a doctor of education degree in higher education administration from Vanderbilt University's George Peabody College. He also held a bachelor of science degree in political science and a master of education in secondary school administration and supervision from Middle Tennessee State University, where he served as director of alumni and government relations.

A native of Soddy Daisy, Millsaps surrendered to a call to ministry in 1997 and was ordained at Two Rivers Baptist Church in May of 1999.

Millsaps is survived by his wife, Robbie, and their adult children.



# ON OUR CAMPUSES



BT was celebrated recently for receiving both a Student of the Month Award and a JROTC Award.



CB's talent was rewarded with a \$400 Art Scholarship from his school.



More than 130 classic cars, trucks and motorcycles lined up at our Brentwood Campus for the 22nd Annual Kars4Kids car show. Presented by Music City Antique Automobile Club of America, this event raises money and friends for TBCH.





Earlier this spring, Central Church-Tipton, and volunteers from Beaver Baptist Church and Munford Baptist Church came together to make the First Annual Wildlife Feast at the TBCH a fun and delicious event.



Plenty of extra hands from Keller Williams showed up for their annual Red Day volunteer service event. These helpful folks tackled work projects all over our Brentwood Campus.

## 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.

# PRAY. SERVE. GIVE.

Something about the phrase “Back to School” elicits a wide range of responses. Some kids groan and others cheer, parents collectively sigh with relief, educators go into hyperdrive, and certain retailers might imagine a chorus of cash registers going “cha-ching!”

At TBCH, the Back to School season can be a mix of joy and trepidation. For children in substitute care, it can be one of the most challenging transition times of the year. During this time, please pray for our kids, and their teachers, coaches, tutors, counselors—and especially for their houseparents and foster parents. If you’d also like to find ways to serve or support financially, visit us at [TENNESSEECHILDREN.ORG](https://TENNESSEECHILDREN.ORG) or give us a call at 1-800-624-8591.

*Is your church or organization hosting an event to raise support for TBCH? We’d love to know about it! Email: [office@tennesseechildren.org](mailto:office@tennesseechildren.org) or visit [www.tennesseechildren.org/resources](https://www.tennesseechildren.org/resources)*





# the **BIG** PAYBACK

*Presented by The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee*

Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes is totally donor supported and does not receive any government funding. Since 1891 we have relied on the faithful generosity of individuals, churches, and other organizations to provide the funding necessary for us to welcome children in hard places into safe homes across Tennessee.

Many of our supporters participate in giving events like The Big Payback and through charitable initiatives like Giving Matters. These venues have the benefit of drawing attention to our ministry, often resulting in more people making donations.

While The Big Payback is a single day event, Giving Matters vets TBCH and other charitable organizations throughout the

year and provides a secure way to give online every day. Donations can be made to TBCH through Giving Matters at **[GivingMatters.civicore.com/TBCH](https://givingmatters.civicore.com/TBCH)**. Supporters can also use this link to set up their own fundraising page.

We would like to acknowledge our thanks to those who helped us kick off The Big Payback this year with their gifts of matching funds: Jane Richards, Mike Roberts, Deron Myers, Sara Jane Via, Sherry Copeland, David Seay and the Stow Sunday School Class, the Speer Foundation, and Joe and Kim Burke. With their generous leadership, and the support of dozens of others including Rob Dixon with ServPro of Belle Meade/West Nashville and FBC Portland, we raised nearly \$50,000 in a single 24-hour period!



# NETWORKING LEADS TO TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

A meet-and-greet at the Conclave conference earlier this year opened a door of opportunity to some valuable training at one of our supporting churches. John Templeton, Associate Pastor of Students at First Baptist Church in Lawrenceburg met Kelly Campbell, TBCH Family Care VP, and heard his presentation about Stewards of Children training for churches. He then connected Kelly with Tammy Trembley, their Director of Children's Ministry, and under the leadership of Pastor Jeff Vanlandingham, they got the class added to the calendar. Eventually, 23 staff members and volunteers were trained in how to recognize and respond appropriately to child sexual abuse through the program. TBCH welcomes these opportunities to help churches and other organizations take steps to keep children safe.



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## GETTING TOGETHER IN PERSON!

This year's annual WMU Get-Together was finally back in person! The conference took place at the Gatlinburg Convention Center, April 1-3, after a two-year hiatus to go virtual due to concerns over COVID-19. The official count of attendees this year was 760, including participants, personnel, volunteers, and exhibitors. TBCH was excited to host our own booth to greet friends, make connections, and offer services and information about our ministry. Dozens of participants came to our breakout conference sessions to hear stories and learn more about our programs serving children across Tennessee. The conference also offered opportunities to raise money and gather supplies for various mission efforts and ministries.





# TRAINING TO KEEP KIDS SAFE



*One of our largest trainings to date was held recently at First Baptist Church McMinnville.*

TBCH has provided safe homes for children since 1891, and we are now in our fifth year of providing training to keep children safe in churches, too.

Our own staff members undergo sexual abuse awareness and prevention training through a program called *Stewards of Children*, and we have certified trainers available to facilitate this program for individuals, churches and other

organizations as well. With *Stewards of Children*, TBCH has equipped more than 100 people to recognize, prevent, and respond appropriately to child sexual abuse.

We are continually adding groups to our training calendar. Contact us today to find out how we can help your staff, members and volunteers keep children safe! *TBCH does not charge any fees for this training.* Contact Stephanie Bruce at 1-800-624-8591.



Tennessee Baptist  
Children's Homes



**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.

# THE MISSION OF THE TENNESSEE BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOMES IS PERSONAL FOR MY FAMILY.



*Ollie Walker Wiseman and her children in 1940. The following year, the children, including 6-month-old Jo Carolyn, came to live at TBCH.*



*The following story was shared on Mother's Day at FBC Portland by Lindsey Ellis.*

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My grandmother, Jo Carolyn Watson, grew-up in the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes.

My grandmother's father, Joseph Walker Wiseman, was killed in an accident while working for the H.K. Parmer Company in Nashville on May 22, 1940. He was repairing window frames on a building when the scaffolding broke. He was 44 years old at the time. My grandmother's mother, Ollie Walker Wiseman, had five children and was pregnant with my grandmother at the time of Joseph's passing. When my grandmother was born on August 11, 1940, just a couple of months after Joseph's passing, Ollie named my grandmother after him. She was given the name "Jo" Carolyn.

My grandmother's mother, Ollie, went through her own struggles after her husband's death and because of various circumstances, my grandmother along with her five siblings were brought to the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes in 1941. My grandmother's entire childhood was spent there, from the time she was six months old until around the age of 14 when she went to live with her eldest brother and his wife.

The Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes helped to mold and shape my grandmother into the

amazing person that she was.

My grandmother passed away in March of 2017, but she left behind a legacy of someone who loved others fiercely and sought out the "hard to love" people. She was the ultimate example of someone who loved God and loved others. Her influence and love for others is what inspired me to become a teacher where I can advocate and show Christ's love to kids each day. Children need hope, safety, and love, and this is what the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes gave to my grandmother. My grandmother went on to become a nurse, working at Sumner Regional Medical Center for 31 years and as a school nurse for two years. It was because of the Christian influence of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes providing my grandmother with hope, safety, and love that influenced her life's calling as a nurse, began her faith journey with the Lord, and provided me with the best example of a people-loving, God-fearing grandma. The work that the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes does is life changing. They are the hands and feet of Jesus to the children they serve. The work they do lasts lifetimes and impacts generations. My family and I are grateful for the investment they made in my grandmother so long ago, and for the investment they continue to make each day in the lives of the children they serve.

# FOSTER CARE HIGHLIGHTS

We are proud to share some of the “behind the scenes” successes in The George Shinn Foster Care Program of TBCH.

After almost three years, one of our oldest youths in the TBCH Foster Care Program has successfully transitioned out of state custody as he graduated high school in May. He is working and recently entered our Independent Living Program, where he will be able to pursue higher education and practice valuable life skills. He plans to pursue his interest in business by attending college in the fall, continuing to be supported by his TBCH family.

A new foster family has officially moved into TBCH’s Kingsport home. They are settling in well with a home full of foster children (as well as their own biological kids). Their willing heart to serve the Lord and to serve children make them a wonderful fit for TBCH Foster Care.

With the never-ceasing need for foster homes, TBCH is so

grateful for our partnership with Tennessee Alliance for Kids. This amazing foster care support ministry donates much-needed supplies, called “TAK Paks” for families receiving placements of children. They recently provided enough for 17 children in our East Tennessee region.

One of our Foster Care Case Managers was reminded that God is always working behind the scenes in the lives of our kids. “The first kiddo that I ever worked with six years ago messaged me on FB this morning to tell me how he was doing now and that he had been in a really dark place three months ago. Without a relationship with Christ, he prayed that if He was real would He please help him. He said on that day he gave his life to Christ and experienced His grace and peace and has continually felt His presence in his life since that day. Just a good reminder that what we do matters even years down the road, and I was honored that he reached out to me to tell me his story of giving his life to Christ.”

And finally, this young man is celebrating with his newly adoptive mom and his Foster Care Case Manager. During the adoption process, his foster dad passed away, so he chose to legally change his own middle name to honor his memory. We love adoption day pictures—and the stories behind them which testify to God’s amazing grace!



## 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.



# THE TBCH FAMILY IS GROWING!



**Josh and Heather Hill** served as houseparents at Alabama Children's Home and are continuing that calling at the Ranch at Millington. Josh has a master's degree in Physical Education from Jacksonville State University, taught PE and coached baseball and football. Heather worked at Auburn University and earned her bachelor's degree in Deaf Education and master's degree in Rehabilitation and Counseling for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Josh is looking forward to "building bonds with the boys and impacting their lives through Christ, and only with His help and guidance," and Heather anticipates "following the Lord's will in whatever way that may look like in the role of houseparent."



If you visit the State Office in Brentwood, the first greeting you get will likely be from **Nikki Roberts King**, our new Executive Office Assistant. Nikki is originally from Isola, MS, holds a Bachelor of Music from William Carey College and a Master of Arts in Christian Education from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, and was formerly a music teacher. As a single mom of four kids, Nikki has a heart for the ministry of TBCH. "I know just how tough life can be and there are times we all need a helping hand. I love being a part of an organization that reaches families at their most difficult moments with the love of Christ."



**Melissa Potts** is a returning team member and joins us now as our new Accountant at the State Office in Brentwood. She is originally from Michigan, now lives in Santa Fe, TN, and is currently working on her master's degree. "I enjoyed my time here and am looking forward to being back, and being a part of a ministry that is making such an impact."



**Kaylee Pell** interned with TBCH while earning her bachelor's degree in social work from Tennessee Wesleyan University, paving the way for her to come on staff as a Foster Care Case Manager in Chattanooga, not far from her home in Cleveland. "I knew the Lord was calling me to stay with TBCH in some way." She is most looking forward to sharing her faith with others while advocating for children and their families.



**Tracie McCormack** is a Foster Care Case Manager in Knoxville, and is a lifelong resident of Blount County. She has a bachelor's degree in Education from University of Tennessee, and learned about TBCH while job searching. "I have always wanted to be in ministry work and this job felt like an answered prayer. The more I have learned about TBCH, the more thankful I have become that the Lord brought me here." She is excited about working with children at a time they need people the most, forming friendships, and spreading the love of Christ.



**Hannah McLemore** joins TBCH as a Foster Care Case Manager in the Memphis area, pursuing the position upon a recommendation from one of her professors at Union University, where she earned her BSW degree. She also interned at Life Choices of Memphis. Hannah loves being able to implement and share her faith where she works. "I've always had a passion for foster care, and I'm excited to join the TBCH team and work with families in West Tennessee."

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## Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes

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

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