

Winter

@ TBCH



A Note From Greg

“But God . . .” These two words found in Ephesians 2:4 are undoubtedly two of the most powerful words in all of Scripture! In his Layman’s Bible Book Commentary, David George says this verse “shines like the sun against the early morning sky. Hopelessness disappears with two little words . . .”

I was dead in my trespasses and sins, **but God** because of His mercy, love and grace has made me alive with Christ! I had no standing with God as a child of wrath, **but God** has now raised me up with Christ and seated me with Him in the heavenly places!

As we approach the end of 2022, I would encourage you to dwell on your **“But God”** experience. How has He worked in your life? Think about how things would be much different if God had not intervened. Thinking like this moves us to praise the Lord for His kindness and goodness!

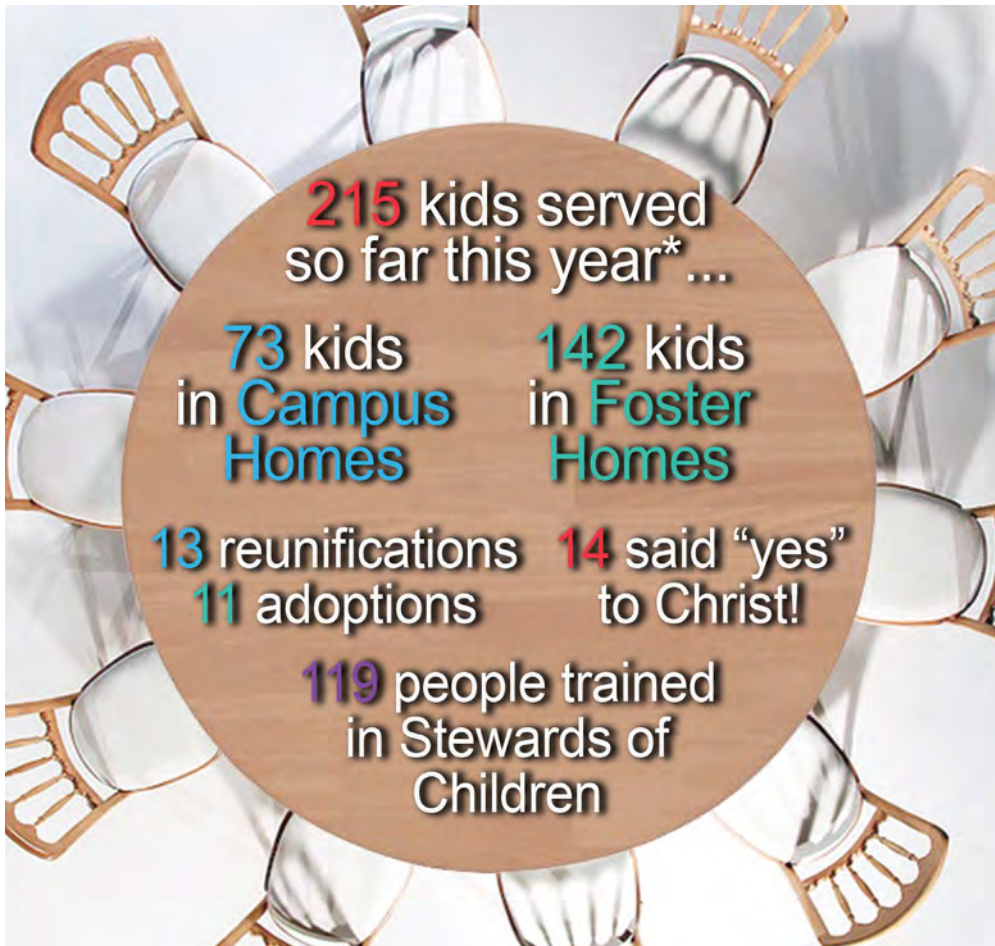
My prayer is that the children of TBCH will one day have a **“But God”** testimony and that they will look back on their time in one of our foster homes or on one of our campuses as a time when God took something hard and turned it into something good. Your end of year gift does more than just help us pay the bills. Your gift helps us create **“But God”** stories! Thank you for all you have done and for all you will do to help TBCH fulfill its mission of welcoming children in hard places with the love of Christ.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,



Greg McCoy, President/Treasurer





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





Thinking about getting involved in Foster Care?

Visit us online at 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 or call 1-800-624-8591.

“Stepping Up” Safety at Knoxville Office

Safety is a core value at TBCH, and that applies to more than just the homes in which our children live. As some of our Foster Care staff began settling into their office in Knoxville, they realized the porch and stairs leading from their back door needed to be rebuilt. It took a little bit of coordination between Wallace Memorial Baptist Church, who graciously provides the space, the Knox County Baptist Association, and project leader Stan Johnson, who is a member of Central Bearden Baptist Church. Stan’s connection with the Knoxville Leadership Foundation helped procure materials and other resources, and his team’s hard work resulted in a safe and secure deck and stairs for staff and visitors.



Kids Blessed with Huggy Hymns

When a child comes into substitute care (like a residential campus or foster home), being welcomed with comfort can be a lifeline that eases fear and builds trust. Tennessee Baptist Children’s Homes is thrilled that *Huggy Hymns* is helping us show the love of Christ through a gift of comfort to the kids coming into our care. Thank you to Huggy Hymns and their compassionate customers for providing adorable plush animals that play calm and soothing hymns. What a sweet and unique way to bless these children!



Interested in our Residential Care Program?

Visit us online at www.tennesseechildren.org for information about our campuses, houseparenting, and getting involved in your part of the state.

Freedom Reigns

This summer, residents from the Brentwood Campus were able to experience an equine therapy session at Freedom Reigns Ranch. Freedom Reigns Ranch is a Christian charitable organization that provides equine-assisted mentor sessions to children and young adults who have experienced trauma and other life challenges. Freedom Reigns Ranch also cares for and rehabilitates horses recovering from abuse and neglect. During their session, which was offered free of charge, the children and houseparents walked through the whole process of caring for the horses. This process included grooming, saddling, and even cleaning out stalls. The children were first paired with ranch hands who led them around the arena, and by the end of the session the children were proudly riding with hands in the air and smiles on their faces. We are thankful for opportunities like this one that build character and confidence and broaden the horizons of the kids at TBCH. Learn more about this unique ministry at freedomreignsranch.com.



Please Pray

The TBCH Middle Tennessee Campus is currently going through a major transition as we begin building new residential homes for children in care to keep them in safe and more efficient environments. Please pray for the children in care during this time of change. Children thrive in structure and when things change it can be very difficult to adapt, especially for children who have had so much transition in their lives already. Pray that the Lord would meet them where they are, help them to feel His great love and have a peace even in the middle of these changes.

Pray. Serve. Give.

Ephesians 2:4-7 reads:

But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Think of all the places we take a seat—school desks, automobiles, waiting rooms, dinner tables. Some seats are in hard places, especially for the children at TBCH, and some are places of comfort and hopeful anticipation. As we reflect and celebrate this holiday season, consider what an honor it is to be seated in heavenly places in Christ Jesus, experiencing His grace and kindness toward us!

Please pray that this truth brings peace and joy to our kids, and the staff and volunteers who care for them. And thank YOU for your support which makes it possible for us to share this truth with them.



Scan to
make
a gift

Is your church or organization hosting an event to raise support for TBCH? We'd love to know about it! Email: office@tennesseechildren.org or visit www.tennesseechildren.org/resources

Junior Fundraisers

This summer, two young men, Parker and Barrett, applied their entrepreneurial efforts to blessing the kids at TBCH with a unique fundraising opportunity. This dynamic duo, who are both students at Scales Elementary and members of Brentwood Baptist Church collected, washed and sorted buckets full of golf balls from behind the home of their grandmother, Anita Simmons, who happens to live near the edge of a golf course. Then they set up shop in front of her home and sold them, along with a variety of lemonades. Their front-yard storefront was also decorated with posters to raise awareness for TBCH. Proceeds from the sales and donations from customers totaled \$500 which they presented to our state office in Brentwood. Their creativity and generosity are both exemplary and appreciated!



Federal employees working in our communities have been and continue to be ESSENTIAL to us. THANK YOU to our supporters for helping Tennessee's children in hard places with your payroll deduction gift through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC#66838). The campaign began in September and runs through January 14. Not a government employee? You can still help TBCH by sharing this opportunity with government employees you know!

Milestone—an action or event marking a significant change or stage in development.

I grew up in a small town in rural Missouri—population 2,000 and famous for having white squirrels. We lived on a little farm in the country and raised a couple of cows and a few pigs. I learned to drive my dad's stick shift station wagon on back woods gravel roads (I killed it once when my granny was with me, and we had to roll back down the hill and start over). My aunt and uncle lived a couple miles away, and he trained specialized horses from all over the country. In our small town everyone came out to football games on Friday nights to support the band and the football team, naturally. Ours was a town where everyone knew you and your business.



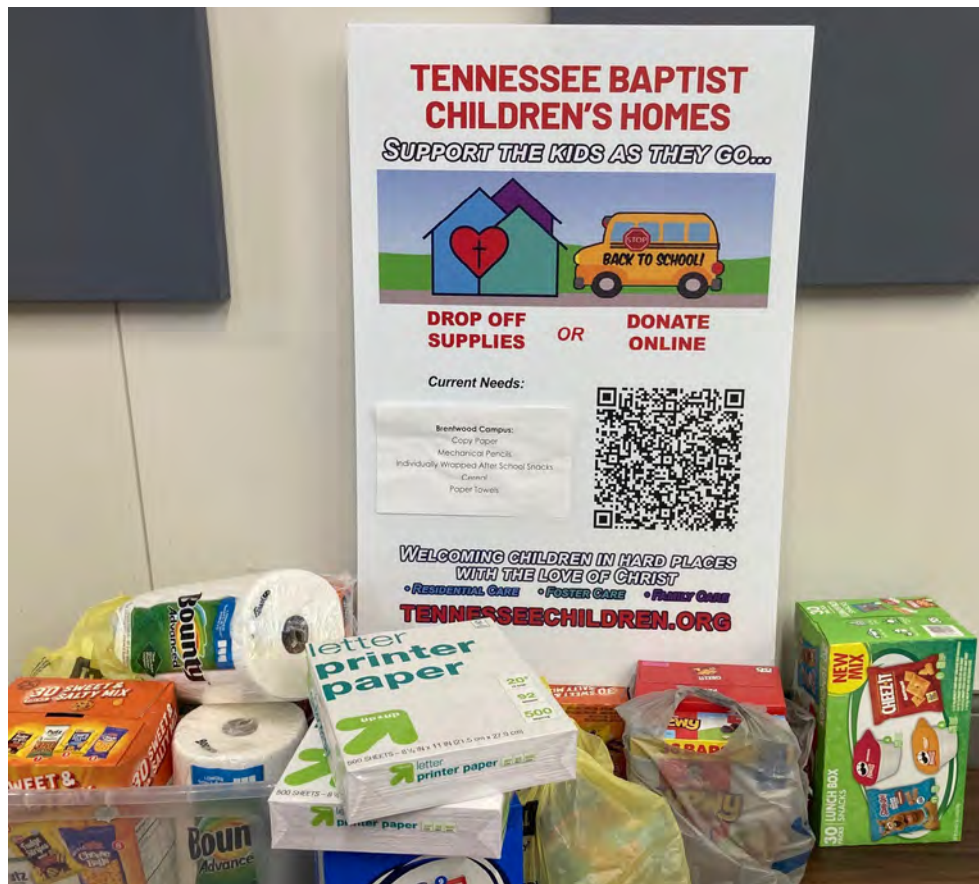
When it came time for students to move up to high school, the school hosted an eighth grade graduation ceremony, a special day that students and families prepared for and looked forward to for weeks. My aunt wanted the honor of taking me shopping for a special graduation dress. After a day at the mall and a differing opinion or two we selected a cute, bright pink, off the shoulder option. It was a special day full of family support and celebrating. Although it happened back in the early 1990's, I remember passing that milestone to this day.

In contrast to my experience, in May of this year we had the honor of celebrating a couple of milestones with two of our residents. One young lady was promoted from fifth to sixth grade, marking her exit from elementary and her entrance into middle school. Another young lady graduated from high school marking her exit from childhood and her entrance into adulthood. We prepared and celebrated with each young lady. Housemoms and case workers took them each to buy a dress and made appointments to get their nails done. There were pictures, cupcakes, and balloons, and a formal party for our high school graduate complete with personalized invitations, and of course friends and family who could attend.

While each resident felt loved and celebrated, I could not help but think about the gravity of the situation. These beautiful, sweet residents are marking important life events away from their families of origin. Houseparents and staff celebrate birthdays and graduations, and are there to cheer them on at various sporting events, concerts, and performances, but the passing of these two milestones hit me in a heavy way. We were able to experience the honor and responsibility of loving and celebrating these girls during some very important events in their lives. When they think back to these times, they will not be remembering special aunts who bought their dresses or learning to drive with their granny in the car. They will remember loving houseparents and case workers who all played a vital role in celebrating the good times and comforting them in the hard times.

We as a staff get to do these things because of you. Your support and prayers are vital to our residents and staff. Respectively, next time you attend a birthday party, football game, recital, or graduation, remember that we are thankful that you gave so that we can do those things with the children in our care.

(contributed by Brentwood staff member Nicole Andrus)



Chick-fil-A Brentwood hosted a Back-to-School drive for TBCH in August, and the event was a great success! The project came about through a connection when TBCH staff member Nicole Andrus connected with Emily LaCerra, Marketing Coordinator for the restaurant. Their customers loaded up a donation bin with school supplies, and QR codes on the tables allowed customers the opportunity to give online donations throughout the week, which totaled more than \$1,500! We are grateful to CFA, their staff, and their customers for the encouragement and practical support of the kids in our care.





We love our volunteers! It is our joy to experience community friends coming together and meeting the needs of the campus. We are grateful to all our volunteer groups, including our VitalChek friends who brought a big group, fed the campus a meal, put in some hard work, got dirty, and served us with excellence this summer!



Judson Baptist Church in Nashville recently kicked off their “Global Focus 2022-23” with a week-long missions conference that included a major gift of support for the children at TBCH. With a dual emphasis on local and global missions, the conference included a special offering shared between TBCH and Faith Comes by Hearing, an organization which creates audio recordings of Scripture for unreached people groups. The “One-Day Offering” resulted in Judson Baptist Church’s largest ever single donation to TBCH! Thank you to Pastor Jeff Mims and the members of this missions-minded and generous congregation.



Pastor Jeff interviewing Bro. Greg on stage during the conference

Lunch and Learn

Kelly Campbell, the vice president of our Family Care Program, recently had the privilege of leading a *Stewards of Children* training for Grow in Grace Preschool. This ministry is provided by Grace Baptist Church in Tullahoma, TN. Their time together was scheduled during lunch, so the group shared a meal as well as valuable information. *Stewards of Children* teaches participants how to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to child sexual abuse, through video-based curriculum using real stories from real people—professionals, counselors, and survivors. Kim McGehee, wife of TBCH trustee Tim McGehee, commented afterward, “I am thankful our preschool faculty had the opportunity to go through this course.”



Supporting #Goals

At TBCH, our concern for safety extends beyond our campus homes, foster homes, and even beyond our offices. Oasis Medical Center in Martin, TN, is a pregnancy care center for young women and men who find themselves facing an unwanted pregnancy. Our own Kelly Campbell was involved in starting this ministry in 1992. One of the extensions of this ministry is a program called #Goals, and is designed to reach high school juniors. For the last four years, TBCH has supported this event by providing gift cards to give away as prizes for participating students. John Hamrick with Oasis Medical extended his gratitude following this year’s event. “We finished our third day of #Goals yesterday. I want to thank you for your contribution to this program which influences the high school juniors in our area. We had a total of 471 students over three days. We appreciate the help you provided in making it a success. The feedback from the students and educators was overwhelmingly positive concerning our presentations of the risks of pornography, sexual activity, and unhealthy relationships. The investment in our students (our future) is priceless and immeasurable. We can only hope to get a glimpse of the impact of our work.” The Family Care Program of TBCH seeks out ways to create a safer community in which children can thrive, and it is our privilege to partner with and support other ministries like Oasis Medical Center in reaching that goal.

Do you have a heart for helping families and keeping kids safe?
Our Family Care Program helps connect families with the resources they need, and provides sexual abuse awareness and prevention training at no cost for churches. Visit our website or contact us for more information.



Heart for Ministry Began as a Child

To describe Susan Eller as a dedicated employee of TBCH is like calling the Tennessee River a steady flow of water. It's true, but vastly understated. Her faithful service of 35 years at our Chattanooga campus has left impressions on countless children, families, co-workers, and volunteers—as deep and meaningful as the impressions of that river across Tennessee's landscape. Staff and friends from across the state came together this summer to celebrate her anniversary and reflect on her time as part of the TBCH family, which started, in a sense, long before her first day on the job.

Susan was adopted as an infant by a couple who belonged to a Southern Baptist church that supported TBCH, and she became acquainted with our ministry at a very early age. "Somehow in my child-like mind I came to the conclusion that if I had not been adopted, I would have automatically grown up at TBCH because after all I was a Baptist and it was a Baptist Children's Home. My mother even remembers me playing Baptist Children's Home with my doll babies." Susan recounts that she also donated a portion of her chore money to the Mother's Day Offering. After teaching for one year at Ooltewah High School and earning a master's degree she joined TBCH and has worked here ever since.

She is known for enjoying kayaking and hiking, but her adventures as a Case Manager often rival the rivers and trails. "I have been blessed to work with some amazing people. They have inspired me to strive for excellence." She also finds most rewarding her connection with former residents, many of whom credit their success to TBCH. "A former resident asked me and my husband to stand in as parents at her wedding. She wanted everyone who had invested in her life to share in her special day. There was a grand total of six *mothers* and five *fathers*. When the minister said, 'who gives this woman to be married' we all stood up and said, 'we do,' and her children refer to us as Granny and Papa Eller."

Susan says she's stuck around for 35 years because of the opportunity to freely share the Gospel while working with children, families, and even other agencies. "I am honored to be an employee of TBCH, and I love for people to ask me where I work because it is always a joy to tell others about this ministry." It is our joy for Susan to be here, too.

Welcome to Our Newest Team Members!



Grace Hughes

Grace joins the Foster Care team as a Case Manager in Brentwood. She's from Gallatin, TN, holds a bachelor's degree in Kinesiology from University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and has worked as an ABA therapist for children with Autism. "I have been drawn to the ministry of foster care for several years now, and am so thankful for the opportunity to work in this field with an organization that presents children and families with the hope and truth of the gospel."



Morgan Knight

Morgan is a new Foster Care Case Manager in Knoxville, where she was born and raised. She earned her BA from University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and was formerly employed with her church's student ministry. "I have always been very passionate about what James 1:27 commands of Christ-followers and how the church should be leading the charge in taking care of orphans."



Beverly Puckett

Beverly is a native of Nashville and joins us in Brentwood as our new State Office Bookkeeper. She attended Union University, previously worked at Practice Resource Network/ERCM, and is looking forward to working in the Christian environment she'll find at TBCH.



Thank You, Uncle Johnny!

After nearly a quarter of a century of service, Johnny Mayhan is retiring from TBCH. He and his wife were longtime houseparents at the former campus in Bartlett for many years, caring for hundreds of children there who affectionately called them Aunt Bea and Uncle Johnny. At the end of their tenure, the campus home in which they served was renamed Mayhan Cottage in their honor. Johnny continued working on staff there and at The Ranch at Millington. The TBCH family is grateful for Uncle Johnny's hard work and dedication, and we wish him (and Bea) all the best in the future!



**Non Profit Org
US Postage Paid
Permit #973
Nashville, TN**



Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes

Welcoming children in hard places with the love of Christ

1-800-624-8591

www.tennesseechildren.org

office@tennesseechildren.org

P.O. Box 2206, Brentwood, TN 37024

Visit us, like us, follow us!

Facebook: [@tennesseechildren](https://www.facebook.com/tennesseechildren)

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

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

