

SPRING

@TBCH



tennesseechildren.org

Vision 2023: New Home Model for the Safety of our Children

It is a historical time in the ministry of TBCH. Our present home model has served us well over the past 50+ years. Today, the culture in which our children grow up is drastically different from what it was 50 years ago. Our kids have access to everything and anything under the sun through the world wide web and social media. I know, I know . . . the internet can be used for good or for bad. Well, for the children we serve, it has been bad. To have a cell phone or computer with unrestricted internet access spells T-R-O-U-B-L-E!

For these reasons and others, it is time for TBCH to move to a new model of home which will allow us to continue to provide a safe environment for the children and young people we serve. This new model will consist of individual bedrooms and bathrooms for each child. Our houseparents are dealing with behaviors that these new homes will help prevent, not to mention that our three campuses are all dealing with aging infrastructures.

Will you help us make this vision a reality for the sake of children in hard places? Here is how:

Pray – pray for the children in our care. They need to feel safe and secure. They need to know that Jesus is the answer to all our brokenness. They are dealing with strong emotions due to trauma of various kinds. Pray for our staff who serve the kids. Pray for God's financial provision.

Serve – Come to one of our campuses and get personally involved. There is something for everyone! Contact your desired location and our team will help guide you to a worthwhile project. Is the Lord leading you to become a foster parent? We may be able to help you with that!

Give – Please make sure your church is collecting a Mother's Day Offering! If your church gives to mission causes another way, will you make sure TBCH gets a slice of the pie? Our churches are our largest contributors year after year through the Cooperative Program and direct gifts. We depend on you as we do not accept any type of government funding. Some of you reading this edition of @TBCH have worked hard, honored the Lord with your finances, saved regularly, invested wisely and God has blessed the work of your hands. Would you like to make a significant gift to help finance this vision for new homes? I'm asking the Lord for \$30 million this year. That's \$10 million per campus to get our homes to where they need to be. If the Lord speaks to your heart about this, would you please reach out? I would love to speak with you!

"Ah Lord God! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and by Your outstretched arm! Nothing is too difficult for You . . .!" (Jeremiah 32:17 - my daily reminder for 2023!)

Thank you for helping us defend the defenseless,



Greg McCoy, President/Treasurer



Home Provided for Girls at The Ranch

In 1988, Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes opened its doors to The Ranch at Millington. This working cattle ranch in West Tennessee has given hundreds of middle and high school boys a safe and structured place to call home.

With the most recent hiring of staff at The Ranch comes a milestone change. Now, residential care services at The Ranch will be provided to girls, too. Beginning with one existing home with room for eight resident girls, plans include adding facilities to accommodate up to 16 girls.

Boys and girls will reside in separate homes, and all residents will continue participating in supervised ranch activities, including the animal programs, ranch work, trade experience, and recreation.

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.

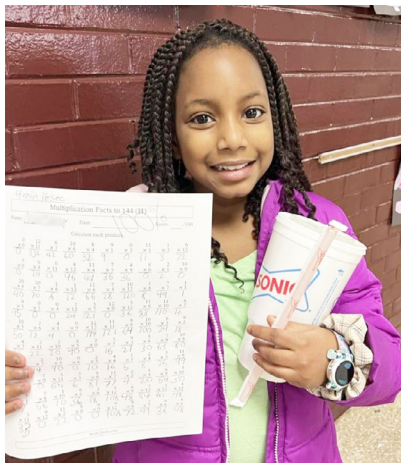
Family Care: Working with churches and other organizations to create a network of local resources, changing the trajectory of families for the better.

☎ 1-800-624-8591
🌐 www.tennesseechildren.org
✉ office@tennesseechildren.org
🏠 P.O. Box 2206, Brentwood, TN 37024





Some of the houseparents and kids from The Ranch were blessed and a blessing as they served at Calvary Union Mission in Memphis.



What do you get for correctly completing 100 multiplication facts in 4 minutes and 16 seconds? A frozen treat and bragging rights for winning the School Slushie Challenge!



It was a very Merry Christmas for these sweet brothers who were adopted after more than three years in foster care just before the holidays.



A young man at The Ranch was baptized recently after saying "yes" to Jesus!

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.

TBCH Report Shows Program Goals

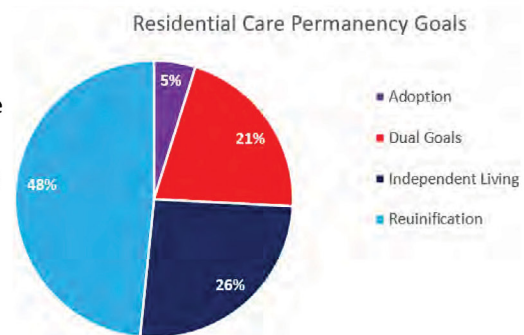
Each year as part of the accreditation process, the TBCH publishes a report on Performance and Quality Improvement (PQI). This report informs decisions regarding best practices in services and goal-setting for our residents, as we strive to provide the highest quality programs possible. The following excerpts from that report focus on “permanency goals,” which vary from child to child, and help to answer the questions about the future plans for the kids in our care. The full report is available on our website, www.tennesseechildren.org.

RESIDENTIAL CARE

TBCH served 75 children on its three campuses in the 2021-2022 fiscal year. This is down from 85 children served in the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Staffing shortages and limited housing capacity due to pending construction were major factors in this 12% decrease.

Permanency Goals for Children in Residential Care

Reunification with parents, guardians or other family members was the goal for 48% of TBCH’s residents, while 5% plan to move to an adoptive home at some point in the future. TBCH is expected to provide Independent Living services for 26% of its current residents in the future. 21% of TBCH residents have Dual Goals which means they are preparing for more than one possible permanency goal (i.e., Reunification or Independent Living).

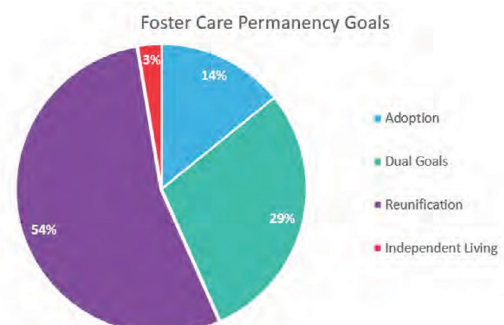


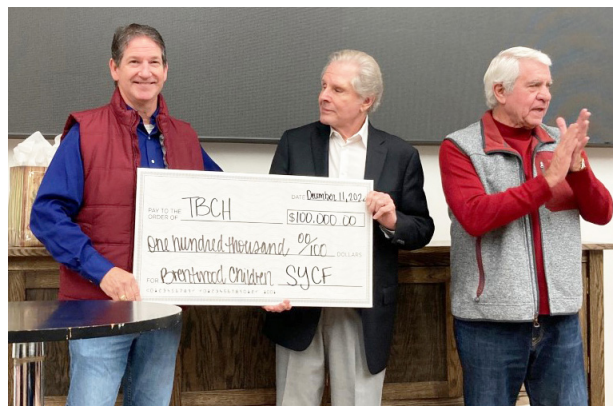
FOSTER CARE

TBCH served 148 children in foster homes across the state during the 2021-2022 fiscal year. This is down from 175 children served in the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Staffing shortages and longer term placements were factors in 15% reduction in placements.

Permanency Goals for Children in Foster Care

Reunification with parents, guardians or other family members was the goal for 54% of children placed in TBCH’s foster homes, while 14% plan to move to an adoptive home at some point in the future. TBCH and DCS are working on Dual Goals (adoption/reunification) for 29% of the foster children in TBCH foster homes. Independent Living either with TBCH or through DCS’s extension of foster care is the goal for 3% of the children/youth in TBCH foster care.





Sumpter Yeaman Foundation Brings Christmas Cheer to Brentwood

By Hope Hines, TBCH friend and supporter

Young smiling faces with voices of eager expectation filled the conference room at the TBCH Brentwood Campus office building last December 11. Children, houseparents, staff members and friends of the “Home” gathered to enjoy a Christmas dinner, with all the extras, and of course, presents under the tree.

TBCH President Greg McCoy welcomed everyone to enjoy the festivities and to honor the evening’s special guest, Mr. Bill Yeaman, for the sizeable donation he had given to the home through his Sumpter Yeaman Charitable Foundation. His very generous donation provided the Christmas dinner and all the gifts, handed out to the children by Bill himself.

“I’ve never seen anything like it,” he exclaimed, gesturing with open arms toward the children, “And I’ve never had so much fun...maybe even more than the kids! It’s the best Christmas I’ve ever had,” he said, as a small boy hurried past him with a gift hidden in a box wrapped with bright red paper almost as big as he was. The look on his face made it abundantly evident that the children of the Tennessee Baptist Children’s Homes had a firm grip on Bill’s heart, and there would be more surprises in store for them in the future.

Bill wants everyone to know, however, his generosity and the foundation he formed is not about him but all about his father, Sumpter Yeaman, for whom the charitable institution is named. Sumpter Yeaman was an L&N engineer for 33 years, who died just 11 days after his retirement, never seeing his son’s business success as owner of Acton Mobile Industries.

“My father was a very simple man who took care of his family, my mother and me,” Bill said, “He was a hard worker who coached me to have a no-quit attitude. I believe the foundation in his name would make both of my parents happy.” Bill says he is honored to be involved with the Tennessee Baptist Children’s Homes. It not only gives him an opportunity to honor his father but also to see the good work that TBCH is doing for the children.

Brother Greg summed up the evening and what it meant saying, “This generous gift made by Mr. Yeaman from the Sumpter Yeaman Charitable Foundation is truly a blessing as well as a window into the heart of Mr. Yeaman who has a huge heart for children in hard places. In addition to a great Christmas party, these funds will provide food, clothing, educational needs and more for the children on our Brentwood campus. I am thankful for the Lord connecting us with folks like Bill Yeaman who care about what we do and realize that we are dependent on people like him to continue caring for the children and young people we serve.”

Mother's Day is May 14, 2023!

During the annual Mother's Day Offering, thousands of people will be praying and giving in support of our kids, many in honor of someone special who filled a mother's role in their lives. Mark your calendar and join us in this important event!

We invite you to come have a seat at our table by giving generously to the Mother's Day Offering.

"And they will come from east and west and from north and south and will recline at the table in the kingdom of God."

- Luke 13:29

The Mother's Day offering is a major source of funding for the programs of TBCH.

Your gifts help us provide safe homes across Tennessee, so we can continue welcoming children in hard places with the love of Christ.

If you prefer to make a gift online, scan our code:



TennesseeChildren.org

Residential Care • Foster Care • Family Care

1-800-624-8591

P.O. Box 2206, Brentwood, TN 37024



Pray.Serve.Give.

*For this child I prayed; and the Lord hath given me my petition which I asked of Him.
(1 Samuel 1:27)*

The Bible gives us many great examples of faithful mothers, and Hannah stands out as one of the most prayerful. She also cared for Samuel by meeting his needs while he grew up outside of her home.

We know we can't take the place of a mother, but we can be prayer warriors and champion supporters to meet the needs of children in hard places who find a home with us. As we celebrate Mother's Day this year, would you join us in honoring mothers like Hannah? Please pray for our kids and staff, ask us about ways to serve, and consider giving to the Mother's Day Offering at your church or online at www.tennesseechildren.org.



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

Shout-Outs to Our Champion Supporters!

Because TBCH doesn't take any government funding, we rely on the goodwill and kindness of volunteers who serve and share their resources with the children in our campus and foster homes. Sometimes they are cleaning up one of our backyards and sometimes they are hosting an event in theirs. Either way, we love our Champion Supporters!



Clearview Baptist Church brought a big, friendly group of volunteers to the Brentwood campus for a clean up day in January. Thanks to their hard work, the grounds look great!



Governor Bill Lee and First Lady Maria Lee blessed TBCH (again!) by inviting guests to bring donations to their annual "Christmas at the Capitol" tree lighting event to support the kids in our care.



Country Music entertainer Steven Cade used his talents to bring awareness about TBCH to a concert crowd at Puckett's in Chattanooga. He also blessed our campus residents there with a visit, some songs, and a signed guitar to be used for encouraging the kids to enjoy learning music. We were one of dozens of stops on his "Giving Guitars Tour" with a mission of bringing guitars to shelters, foster homes, and at-risk youth centers across the nation.



Longtime friend of TBCH Larry Boone led a "Songwriter's Night" event at his home. During the evening, the crowd enjoyed food, fellowship and music, and a message shared by housedad Jordan Frazier. Money raised from the event was used to take the kids in Brentwood on a trip to Dollywood.



The Grace Academy Girls High School Volleyball Team presented a check to TBCH Chattanooga campus following a fundraiser they did during their most recent season.

TBMB Webinar Spotlights Foster Care

The following article by Lonnie Wilkey appeared in the March 1 issue of Baptist and Reflector, reprinted with permission.

FRANKLIN — Educating and helping church members to understand the critical need for foster parents is an important element of compassion ministry, according to Beth Moore.

“Tennessee Baptist compassion ministries exist to serve churches as churches serve others,” said Moore, compassion ministries specialist for the Tennessee Baptist Mission Board.

“Churches serve their communities by meeting needs to build relationships and share the gospel. **One overwhelming need across our state right now is foster parents for children in the foster care system,” she said.**

As believers we know that pure religion is to care for the orphan. I believe that many of our Tennessee Baptist churches are just unaware of the need,” she observed.

In order to bring the need to the attention of Tennessee Baptists, Moore recently hosted a webinar with staff from the Tennessee Baptist Children’s Homes, including Kelly Campbell, vice president of family care for TBCH.

“This webinar allowed us to talk about this need and highlight some of the work TBCH does with children in foster care,” Moore noted.

Foster care is a large issue in the state of Tennessee, Campbell affirmed. “We want to let the churches know what we’re doing to impact that issue and how churches can help by providing foster families and help for those foster families through their churches,” he said.

Though TBCH still provides residential care in three regions of the state, foster care is needed all across the state, said Laurie Gardner, chief program officer for TBCH.

TBCH began providing foster care services in 2013. To date, they have trained hundreds of foster parents and currently provide Christian foster homes for around 80 children daily, she said.

Alisha Worthey, vice president of foster care for TBCH, acknowledged there is an “epidemic” in the need for safe families where children can be placed when there’s a need.

Unfortunately, Worthey continued, “there are not enough families to take all the children that are coming into care.”

In addition to just more children in the system, there are more children with “a lot more complicated needs than in years past,” she added.

Worthey said there were more than 13,000 children in Tennessee served by the foster care system at some point in 2022.

Campbell said 9,000 kids are currently in care. He noted their staff discussed the idea that if each of the 3,000 churches in Tennessee had one family that became foster parents, they could cut into the number of children who need to be cared for by one-third.

Bil Gardner, director of ministry advancement (fundraising) for TBCH, said the agency considers James 1:27 as its “mandate” to provide for orphans. He acknowledged that many children they deal with are not true orphans, according to the dictionary definition, but “any child that for whatever reason can’t stay in their home or is in need of a safe place to live” qualifies under the biblical definition.

As TBCH talks with churches, they fully understand that not everyone “is called to be a foster family.” Churches, however, have people who can pray, assist foster families in their church with “wraparound” work such as mowing their yards, and providing funds. “Providing care of children, especially children from trauma, takes money,” Gardner said. “It’s an expensive venture, but we’re talking about lives, so it’s worth it.”

The webinar participants reminded Tennessee Baptists that TBCH does not have a paid contract with DCS. TBCH also does not accept an agency fee from the state. DCS pays foster families directly, said Laurie Gardner.

Bil Gardner added, “Not only do we not take any state money, we don’t take government funding at all. TBCH is 100 percent donor funded,” he stressed.

*For more information on becoming a foster parent or how your church can be involved, visit tennesseechildren.org and click on the program tab for foster care. **B&R***

THE JOURNEY TO BECOMING A FOSTER PARENT

HERE'S WHAT YOU'LL NEED TO BRING: (your minimum requirements)

At least 21 years of age
Resident of TN for at least 6 months
Active member of an evangelic church
Married for at least a year...unmarried singles,
or people without kids are also welcome!



THEN COMPLETE YOUR APPLICATION...

You can access the application online at **tennesseechildren.org**. You will need to provide four references including a church leadership reference as well as financial and employment information.



STUDY + PREPARE

by attending training classes.

Weekly classes from 3-4 hours each for 8 weeks, including an initial informational meeting and topics such as navigating the child welfare system, trauma, resiliency, CPR/first aid and medication administration.



GET YOUR HOME IN ORDER

by completing a house study.

This includes family interviews, home safety checks, medical check-ups and background checks, among other things.

MAKE SURE EVERYTHING'S APPROVED, by TBCH and DCS.

Once a family is approved each foster parent must complete 15 hours of post-approval training annually to remain open.



...NOW, LET THE REAL
JOURNEY BEGIN.



Thinking about getting involved in Foster Care?

Visit us online at www.tennesseechildren.org/foster-care. There you can find resources like our "Journey to Foster Care" poster, FAQs, our Foster Parent Application, and more. You can also email us at fostercare@tennesseechildren.org or call 1-800-624-8591.

30 Years with Hope!

Hope Hines is not just a legend in the world of sports, he is also a dear friend and supporter of TBCH, and the namesake of one of our biggest annual fundraisers, the Hope Hines Fore Kids Golf Classic. This year we are excited to celebrate his 30th anniversary of hosting this tournament.

He has given more than his name to the tournament. His notoriety and influence have consistently translated into a full field of golfers and a long list of generous sponsors. Estimated gross revenue from this event exceeds \$1.25 million over the course of his three decades of involvement. He has also faithfully and actively participated in countless hours of meetings to plan and fundraise for the event, and introduced us to many new friends over the years.

Hope's career in sports broadcasting has spanned more than 50 years and was inducted into the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame in 2014. According to their website, he has won six broadcast Emmy Awards among many other accolades, but we are more impressed with his love for our ministry and concern for helping the kids in our care. The staff and kids at TBCH are grateful for our 30 years with Hope!



SAVE *The* DATE!



Monday, June 5, 2023

11 AM
Shotgun Start



NASHVILLE GOLF
& Athletic Club

Register or sponsor at www.tennesseechildren.org/events

or contact **Bil Gardner** at 615-376-3163 or
bgardner@tennesseechildren.org

The Hope Hines Fore Kids Golf Classic helps TBCH welcome children in hard places with the love of Christ into campus and foster homes across Tennessee.



Tennessee Baptist
Children's Homes

www.tennesseechildren.org

Welcome to Our Newest Team Members!



Bruce and Rhonda DeVoe are new houseparents at The Ranch at Millington. They served as IMB career missionaries in Costa Rica and Venezuela, and East Africa Field Coordinators in Uganda. They earned BA degrees at King University in Bristol and diplomas from The Spanish Language Institute. Bruce also received his MA from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and was a student and senior pastor, serving with Rhonda at churches throughout the Southeast. With a unified heart for serving children and youth, they came across the TBCH website and eventually visited The Ranch, to where they both felt a call from the Lord to serve. "I am looking forward to making a Godly difference in a child's life by living out the Christ-filled life in front of them and praying that one day that leads them to their own salvation experience," says Bruce. Rhonda echoes that sentiment and adds, "I am also looking forward to discipling those children who know Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and helping them grow in their faith."



Leslie Morgan is from Niota and joins the team in Chattanooga as a Foster Care Case Manager. Her master's degree is in Human Services Counseling, and she formerly worked as the program director for Upward Bound at Tennessee Wesleyan University. "I am most looking forward to utilizing my professional skills to share the love of Jesus with foster children and families."



Bryan and Ashley Myers are new houseparents in Chattanooga. They are from Huntington, IN. Bryan has a Bachelor of Arts in Broadcasting and a master's degree in Sports Management, and worked in security, corrections, and as a high school and college track coach. Ashley has a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education and was a teacher for 10 years. They are looking forward to "loving kids in a greater capacity than we could before."



Lindsey Peak is now a Foster Care Case Manager on our Knoxville team. She is from Paint Rock, and has a bachelor's degree in Human Services and a master's degree in Education. She has worked as a DCS social worker and a teacher. With an eye toward serving and growing, Lindsey wants "to use the gifts God gave me along with my passion to serve others."



Dustin Roberson is from Jackson and joins us as a Foster Care Case Manager in the West Tennessee region. He earned a Bachelor of Education degree from University of Memphis, a Master of Social Work and Master of Business Administration both from Union University, and is currently pursuing a Doctor of Social Work from University of Kentucky. He previously worked in outpatient substance abuse treatment and brings the experience of being a former TBCH foster parent. "I am looking forward to working with everyone involved in the TBCH ministry and providing families and children with the resources they need throughout their foster care journey."

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Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes

Welcoming children in hard places with the love of Christ

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