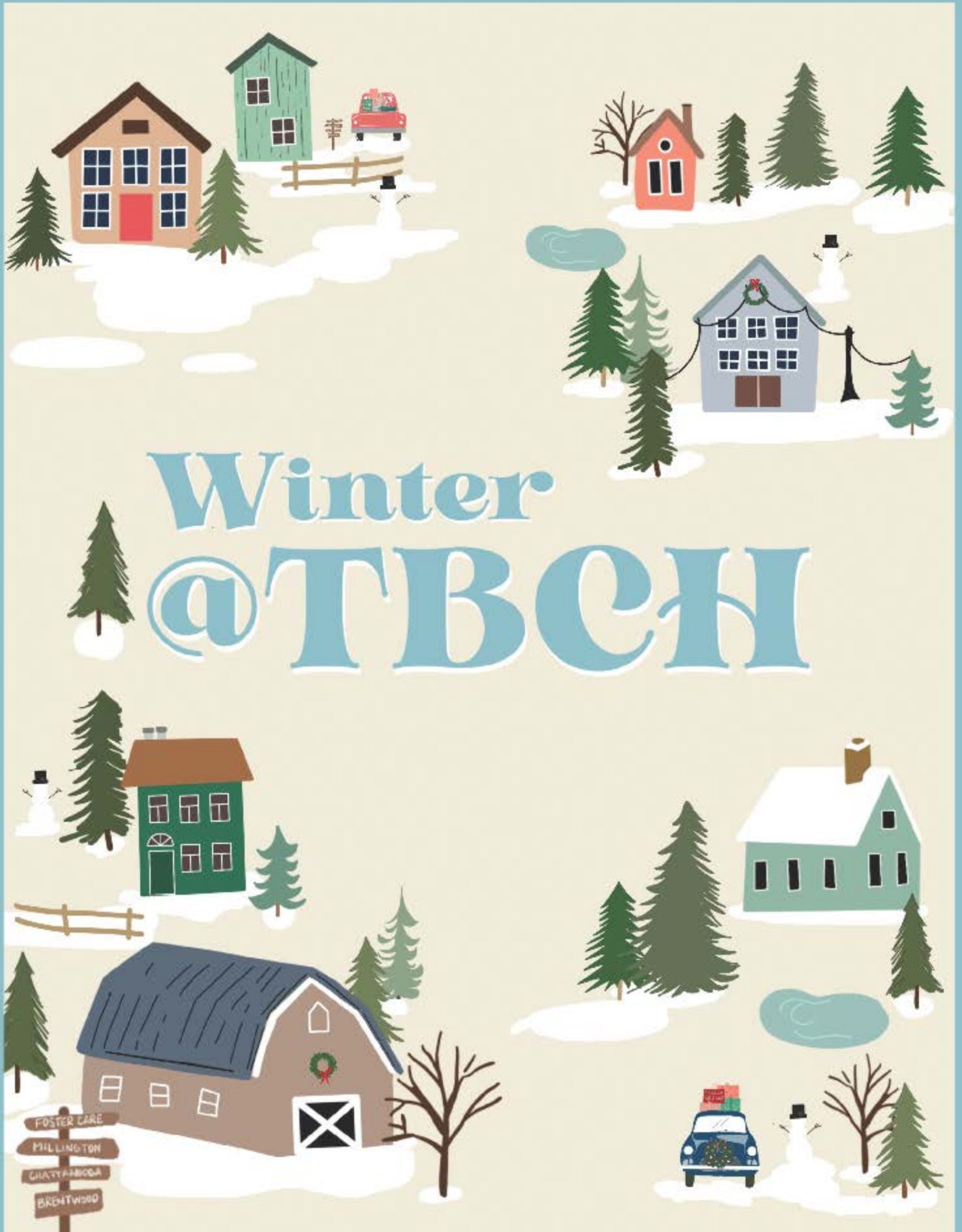


2024-2025



A PUBLICATION OF TENNESSEE BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOMES



A Note from our President:

'Tis the season of gift giving!

So, I wonder, what is it that makes a great gift? Is it the size of the gift? Is it the thought put into the gift? What about the time it took to find the gift? Could it be the time spent listening to a person that prompted the idea of the gift? For some people, it might be the price paid for the gift! Or could it be what the giver had to sacrifice to give the gift? You decide.

Here is where I am on the subject: I think the best part of a gift is the heart behind the gift. And that is what I am humbled by when you send a gift to TBCH. Your heart for children in hard places that compels you to share your resources to meet their needs makes a great gift!

You will see a couple of stories in this edition of @TBCH that makes my point. You will read about a property gift given by Henry and Janet Ramser to honor the memory of Henry's brother, Richard. Don't miss the heart behind this generous gift that enabled us to add a building to Phase One of our Firm Foundations Project! The Ramser's heart is to serve children and young people in Jesus' name. This has been their life's work and now will continue for years to come!

You will also read about a generous gift given by Bill Yeaman who has set up the Sumpter Yeaman Charitable Foundation. This gift is a major boost to Phase One of the Firm Foundations Project! But don't miss the heart behind the gift. Bill's heart is to honor the memory of his father, Sumpter Yeaman, by providing for children and young people who have found themselves in a crisis situation. He loves what TBCH is about and wants us to be able to continue serving children well into the future!

My prayer is that these stories of love and generosity will inspire you to be a great gift giver! May your heart be stirred and if prompted to send a gift for the kids. Remember, the size of the gift is not the most important thing, it's the heart behind it!

Finally, "Thanks be to God for His unspeakable gift!" Remember, God's heart behind His amazing gift of Jesus is His love for you,



Greg

Greg McCoy
President/Treasurer





Residential Care

Providing safe, Christ-centered homes on campuses in Millington, Brentwood and Chattanooga for children aged 5-18, and Independent Living Services for residents transitioning to adulthood.



Foster Care

Providing safe homes across the state through free training and support of Christian foster parents, and placement services through a no-cost contract with the Department of Children's Services.



WWW.TENNESSEECHILDREN.ORG

office@tennesseechildren.org • 615-376-3140 • P.O. Box 2206, Brentwood, TN 37024

Studies of at-risk youth indicate that homes designed to provide individual bedrooms and bathrooms are safer. Safety is our compelling reason for the **Firm Foundations Project**. With the help of our champion supporters, completing this project will give us the ability to provide safe homes for thousands of children over the next several decades.

F FIRM **F** FOUNDATIONS PROJECT



At our **Brentwood** campus, at a projected cost of \$21.5 million and completed in three phases, we will have six new homes for children and houseparents, two staff homes, a new commissary, and new recreational areas. Phase one includes the first three of six homes, as well as extensive infrastructure improvements, including storm drains, sewer, and retaining walls, all of which are now completed. Home sites have been cleared, and new roads and entrances are being constructed.

The **Ranch at Millington** will see the construction of two new homes, four remodeled or replaced homes, a horse barn and an equipment storage facility. The first phase of the project for the Ranch will cost \$4.4 million. Our campus in **Chattanooga** will see the construction of new homes for kids and staff, and a new Independent Living facility. The total cost of completion for the Ranch and the campus in Chattanooga are yet to be determined as those plans are still under development.

Funding for the **Firm Foundations Project** began with the sale of a portion of the Brentwood campus property and is expected to net \$10.5 million. The property is being developed privately into a neighborhood named Eastman's Preserve, to honor Mrs. Georgia Eastman who founded TBCH in 1891. In addition to the property sale, a lead donor and friend of TBCH, Bill Yeaman, has given a gift of \$3 million to the project—the largest individual cash gift we've ever received! Other support includes a gifted property in Georgia from the Ramser family, liquidated for an additional \$800,000, and a \$150,000 grant from the Speer Foundation for furnishing the homes in our first building phase in Brentwood.

TBCH is donor-supported, doesn't receive any government funding, and operates debt-free. We celebrate God's provision through champion supporters like these, who are enabling us to continue welcoming children in hard places into safe homes with the love of Christ. *For more information and updates about the Firm Foundations Project, visit our website (tennesseechildren.org) and click the banner at the top.*



Champion Supporter Gives \$3 Million to Firm Foundations Project

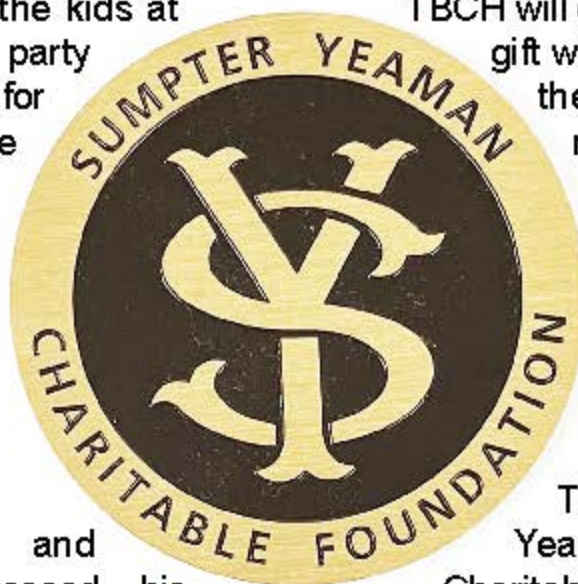
In direct answer to our prayers, and through the kindness and generosity of our friend and supporter **Bill Yeaman**, Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes in Brentwood received a \$3,000,000 gift recently from the Sumpter Yeaman Charitable Foundation. The funds will be used for our Firm Foundations Project to replace our aging facilities with new campus homes for our Residential Care program.



This is the largest single monetary donation ever received in the 133-year history of TBCH!

Mr. Yeaman began helping the kids at TBCH in 2022 with a dinner party and Christmas presents for them, funded through the foundation which is named in honor of his father. Since then, he has become a faithful friend and supporter of the ministry, leading to his most recent and largest gift to TBCH.

Greg McCoy, president and treasurer of TBCH, expressed his excitement, "We were just amazed by this act of generosity. It's a serious, historic gift. He has become a good friend; someone who really cares about what we are doing."



TBCH will commemorate the impact of his gift with another important aspect of the building plan. "We're going to name the Brentwood campus in his father's honor," said Bro. Greg, "It will be called the Sumpter Yeaman Campus, and that name will be on the sign (in front of the campus) on the street in Brentwood."

TBCH is deeply grateful for Mr. Yeaman and the Sumpter Yeaman Charitable Foundation, and our hope is that his example of generosity will inspire others to join us in welcoming children in hard places who need safe homes now and for decades to come.

Pray • Serve • Give



(To give a gift now,
just scan here!)

Ramser Family Gift Boosts Plan for Brentwood Campus

The Firm Foundations Project, and the plan for our Brentwood campus, have received a big boost, thanks to a Tennessee family who decided to bless the kids at TBCH.

Henry and Janet Ramser live in Clarksville, and inherited a piece of property in Georgia when Henry's brother, Richard, passed away. The almost four-acre parcel was the original home place where Henry and Richard grew up. To honor the memory of his brother, the Ramser family deeded the land to TBCH.

Proceeds from the sale of the land, totaling more than \$800,000, allowed TBCH to expand the first phase of construction in Brentwood to include an entire additional home—taking us a massive step closer to reaching our goals for the campus.

Receiving legacy gifts like this is both humbling and inspirational, and TBCH accepts them with deep gratitude. Mr. and Mrs. Ramser turned their excitement for our Firm Foundations Project into support, and that blessing will ultimately help us provide new, safe homes for the kids in our care.



Henry and Janet Ramser, and their granddaughters

TBCH is a registered 501(c)(3) organization and accredited by the Council on Accreditation.



Honor and Memorial Gifts

have been given in tribute to those named here.

We are deeply grateful for their love and support of the children at TBCH.

Albert C. Sutton, Albert M. Neely, Alexis Houston, Alice Myers, Barbara DeJean, Barbara K. Stow, Barbara Sewell, Beecher Seegraves, Belle Wolard, Beth Cole, Bettye J. Knisley, Bill Young, Bob Cawthorn, Carl S. LeLand, Carlos Wilson, Charlene Varden, Charles Edwin Owens, Christine Stark, Connie Gibson, Daniel and Katheryn Regan, Debra Vaughn, Delilah Kestner, Devoa Gibson, Don Jones, Doris Burton, Dorothy Miller, E. G. Mullinax, Edna Valentine, Ellie Durrett, Elnora Luna Hall, Esther Bray, Evelyn C. Rogers, Evelyn Crage, Madeline Floyd, Gary Francis, Gayle Haywood, Gerald L. Stow, Gloria Dickson, Gloria Hallum, Gordon Clark, Henry & Kathleen Howell, J. E. Kimbrough, Jackie Wells, James H. Ragsdale, Jarrett B. Millsaps, Jerry Sullivan, Jim Adcock, Jim Martin, Joe M. Schussler, Jordan McClanahan, Judy Davenport, Judy Ray, Kathy Harmon, Leroy Nessen, Lloyd A. Carter, Lynn Cawthorne, Marcus Spiller, Margaret Paschall Lamb, Margaret Whitfield, Marie Carlton, Marvin Downing, Mary Cannoy, Mary Felts, Mary Shannon, Mary Young, Max Wood, Melvin Sloan, Mildred Roberts, Myron G. Biggs, Nola Escue, Norma Hancock, Norma Mobbs, Parnell Suttle, Patricia Raymer, Patty Keen, Paula Moore, Ralph Inman, Ramona Gilliam, Rayburn L. Ward, Reba Caudell, Rebecca Krieger, Reginald F. Gunnells, Robert Eli Clendenin, Ron and Mardi Lucas, Rosella Ross, Roy Dennis, Ruby Sloan, Ruth P. Neely, Sammy Elder, Sandra Martin, Sara Gilchrist, Shirley Porter, Stanley Scott, Susie Suiter, Tabatha Hyten, Terry Jennings, Thenia George, Theresa Lee, William Teeters



SILENT AUCTION CHARITY EVENT IS TRULY "KINGDOM" WORK

Kingdom Builders, a residential construction company in Nashville, holds an annual Appreciation Luncheon for their industry connections, which includes a silent auction to raise money for local charities. This year they chose to bless the kids at TBCH.

Company founder, Hugh Nelson, explains what motivates their generosity, **"I really believe that God has put us all here on this earth to serve Him and to serve others.** I felt that I really needed to tie my occupation and my faith together, and the result is 'Kingdom Builders'. We are all working to 'build' something in our lives, aren't we? I wanted to be sure that I was working for the right reasons" (from kingdombuilderstn.com/about).

At the time of this reporting, their event had already **raised more than \$20,000** for our *Firm Foundations Project!*



Sweets, Shirts, & Smiles raise funds for our Kids

The sweet folks at Bean Acres, a performance and event venue in Estill Springs, TN, hosted a t-shirt and bake sale recently to raise money for the kids at TBCH. Our own president, Greg McCoy was on hand to answer questions (and we suspect he did some quality control, too).

Monika Rosenwald who attends Grace Baptist Church in Tullahoma, got the idea to design some t-shirts as a fundraiser and chose TBCH to benefit from the effort. After teaming up with Bean Acres owners Lyndi and Darrin Bean and raising more than \$2,200 for our kids, they already have plans to make it an annual event.



Residential Care



FBC Portland Back at The Ranch

Our faithful friends at First Baptist Church in Portland were back at work recently at The Ranch at Millington for what they described as “an incredible time of fellowship and service.” This congregation has been sending mission teams for several years, and have plans to return in the spring. We are always glad to have the folks at FBC Portland back!



This fall, two of our Independent Living residents enjoyed the experience that is...

College Move-In Day

We are so proud of the hard work our residents are doing through Independent Living at our Chattanooga campus.

Beginning at age 14, this important aspect of our Residential Care program prepares kids for the transition to independence. They learn and practice life skills that will carry them into adulthood with confidence and a vision for their own futures. For some, this may involve trade school, military service or joining the workforce.

For these two, it helps them as they launch into their freshman semester in college.



Knob Creek BC Honored by Chattanooga Campus

For over 30 years, Knob Creek Baptist Church in Seymour has been a faithful Christmas sponsor for our Chattanooga Campus. As a show of gratitude, houseparents Ed and Shirley Caram presented Pastor Ed King with a gift. While visiting, some of our kids were doubly blessed to meet a special Knob Creek member, Ms. Neva Householder, who regularly sends birthday gifts to the campus.



Visit us at tennesseechildren.org for info about our campuses, houseparenting, and getting involved in our Residential Care Program.



Foster Care

A Case of Little Hope

The kids came into custody due to drug exposure of an infant. The father had not been involved with the three children, all under the age of three. He and the mother were both given parenting plans. Sitting in on the meeting and listening to all the things these parents needed to do, I immediately thought *"there is no way."*

The father was quick to say, "I will do whatever I have to do, to get my children back," but we hear parents say that almost every time a child is taken into custody. So, I had little to no hope for the case.

The parenting plan was a long list of things to do, including alcohol and drug assessment, anger management, outpatient rehab and psychological testing. They had to obtain a job, housing, a driver's license, vehicle, insurance. They also had to attend every 4-hour visitation—a 2-hour drive for the father, providing lunch and supplies for the children every time.

The biggest requirement was that he change his life drastically from a life of drugs to being clean. He would be randomly drug tested and have to pass every single one of them if he wanted a chance at getting his children back.

He did it—everything on this list! He showed up, got clean, got a job, housing, sent new shoes and clothes to the kids, fed them at visits....he did it all!

After almost a year, the father now has his three kids back. He worked hard, turned his life around, said goodbye to old friends and habits. He chose to love his kids more, and it has been an absolutely beautiful success story!

He will turn the hearts of the fathers back to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers (Malachi 4:6)

Shared by one of our Foster Care case managers



Visit us at tennesseechildren.org
for info about our Foster Care Program.





Our Foster Care team celebrated the love and commitment of our foster families this fall at three Foster Parent Appreciation events across the state. These events were generously provided for through a gift from Compassion Ministries of the TBMB.



Providence Church in Knoxville hosted a breakfast, and families were treated to a Smokies Baseball game. The event in West Tennessee was hosted by Bellevue Baptist Church in Cordova, and in Middle Tennessee by Clearview Baptist Church in Franklin. Families in West and Middle enjoyed trips to the local zoos. More than 140 foster parents, kids and support partners participated.

After 610 days in foster care, Jasper was adopted by the Simpson family in October! Jasper was so excited about the big day he asked people all week leading up to it "Are you coming to my adoption day?" He even got an embroidered stuffed animal that he was able to "adopt" that day as well! Jasper has been the perfect fit to the Simpson family, and they continuously give God the praise and the glory for making a way for this sweet boy to be a part of their family forever! It was also precious to see his previous TBCH foster family there to support and celebrate with them, and to watch God's plan unfold for this family.



Foster Care Case Managers Kaylee Pell and Leslie Morgan (and their helper Sarah pictured here) had a fun time representing TBCH at a "Trunk or Treat" event at Ridgedale Baptist Church in Chattanooga, where they passed out candy and answered questions about all things Foster Care with all the families who attended.



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