

MAKING A SPLASH! @TBCH



Summer/Fall 2025
A Publication of Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes

A Note from our President:

When you make a splash, it's not just about the splash. It's about the ripple effect! I'm sure you've heard of it. A single act of kindness, an earnest prayer, or a financial gift will generate an immediate impact, but it will also continue its influence beyond the initial splash.

Like the proverbial rock thrown into the middle of a pond there will be a splash and the waves created by that rock will flow outward until they hit the bank. When you give to TBCH you make an initial impact. It immediately enables our team to care for a child in a crisis situation. And please know, this initial impact will continue to bless that child and other children in ways you might not ever know this side of Heaven.

Thank you for making a splash!

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.

Welcoming children in hard places with the love of Christ!

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Changing the trajectory of
a child's life has a
RIPPLE EFFECT...

237 children served in the past year

19 adoptions in the last fiscal year
and **14** so far this year

24 professions of faith in the last
fiscal year and **6** so far this year!

70 foster homes statewide

135 children in care (at time of printing)

I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. *Philippians 3:14*

It has been said if you talk the talk, you should walk the walk. Brad Boucher, Pastor of Students and Young Adults at Second Baptist Church in Union City, has literally walked the walk to raise funds and awareness for TBCH by participating in an ultramarathon, known as the Vol-State Road Race. Brad also serves on our Board of Trustees.

This was no stroll through the park. The Vol-State Road Race, according to the official website, "begins with a ferry ride across the Mississippi River, from Missouri to Kentucky, and finishes at The Rock high atop Sand Mountain in Northwest Georgia. What lies in between are 314 miles of the great unknown."

You read that right—**three hundred and fourteen miles, on foot.**

Participants had ten days in the July heat to traverse a route of highways and backroads on foot, "over hills and across rivers, up mountains and down long valleys, all the while accounting for all their most basic needs; what will I eat? When will I find water? Where will I sleep?"

Brad acknowledges both the physical and mental strain of the endeavor. At one point he ran out of sunscreen and had to cover all but a spot to breathe through while he traveled. Aside from that, an occasional dog barking at him, and a car or two getting a little too close, he says he felt generally well-prepared and safe. In talking with him afterwards, he seemed most encouraged by the opportunity to share his faith in Christ with fellow runners, some of whom he stuck with closely throughout the final miles. "I'm still trying to figure out how something can be so painstakingly miserable but yet fun at the same time...the kindness we have experienced from people from the beginning to this point has been overwhelming."

Through word of mouth and social media, pledgers donated to TBCH amounts based on how many miles he completed. He blew way past his original goal, doubling it to raise almost \$20,000 for the kids in our care, and pledged gifts keep arriving. Brad expressed his gratitude in update videos on social media during the trek. "Thank you for all the support that just continues to come in not just for me, but for the Children's Homes, I can't say how much I appreciate that!" he shared in one.

The race began on July 10, and a third of those who began dropped out before the end. Brad completed the entire 314 miles. He gave God the glory by crossing the finish line with a very respectable time of **7 days, 13 hours, 18 minutes and 51 seconds.**

Our thanks and admiration go out to our champion, Brad Boucher, for all he does for TBCH, and to the supporters he has rallied for our kids. (And we thought just serving on our Board of Trustees was a commitment!)



Moving forward, giving back





Can You Dig It? The kids have been watching the construction on our campuses from a safe distance, but recently one of the crew invited this little guy up for a closer look, and to drive one of the loaders (with some help). After getting to dig *the biggest hole ever*, he ran up and gave him a big thank you hug!



NEW HOMES, NEW NAMES

As Phase 1 of the Firm Foundations Project nears completion at the Brentwood campus, the new homes and the main office have received new names, honoring the significant support from Hope Hines, the Ramser family, and the Sumter Yeaman Foundation. In addition, our state office facility will now be known as the Winningham Administration Building to acknowledge Dwyte Winningham's 40 years of service at TBCH.



Take a Step

Our Firm Foundations Project is seeing construction progress on all three campuses. Check out TENNESSEECHILDREN.ORG/FIRM-FOUNDATIONS for more details and to find out how you can help.

**“Cast your bread on the
surface of the waters, for
you will find it after many days.”**

-Ecclesiastes 11:1

Every child deserves a safe home.
When you **PRAY, SERVE, and GIVE**
you are joining us in welcoming children
in hard places with the love of Christ.
Thank you!



How do you like to give?

Our champions support us in a variety of ways, including employer giving campaigns, donor advised funds, our Neighbors monthly giving program, and estate planning. Contact us for info or help!

TBCH is COA accredited, and a registered 501(c)(3) organization.

Honor and Memorial Gifts

have been given in tribute to those named here, and we are deeply grateful for their love and support of the children in our care.

"Bee" Reece, Abby Moore, Abe Mauk, Amy Jarman Bain, Barbara A. Poe, Barbara K. Stow, Baylus and Bernice Fultz, Becca Warren, Betty Bollinger, Betty C. Wimberley, Betty Haynes, Betty Patton, Betty Sue Bradley Goodwin, Brenda Bell, Brenda Smith, Brent Allison, Bud Nail, Carole Main, Carolyn Dickson, Cecil England, Cedric Patton, Charles Ogg, Charlie Brock, Christine Teems, Clara Nixon, Cory Kellum, Debbie Chamberlain, Dianna Hallmeyer, Donald Busha, Dorothy 'Nell' Brumfield Kieff, Erlene Williams, Ernie Jones, Estelle L. White, Evelyn Samuels Stewart, Frank Evans, Gerald L. Stow, Gloria C. Mulwee, Gloria Dickson, Harry L. Patterson, Ivan N. Raley, J. T. Haston, Jack Abbott, Jackie Shumpert, Jacqueline W. Scott, James E. Caldwell, James McCracken, James R. Hammontree, James Sewell, Jane Walker, Jarrett B. Millsaps, Jarrett C. Bigbee, Jeanette Breeden, Jeannie Green Watson, Jim Scarbrough, Jimmie Juanita Winningham, JoAnn Cannon, Joann Nail, JoAnn Williamson, John Crafton, John David Hangstefer, John Williams, Juanita Hammontree, Kathy Warren, Kent Hyder, Lanny Bernard, Leann Drinnen, Lela Denney, Lily Ann Johnson, Liz King, Lorisa Birdyshaw, Louise Bales, Letha Fletcher, Louise Garrison, Louise Parish, Mabel Clodfelter, Mae Sparks, Margaret Heron, Maria Gann, Marie Peltier, Marilyn Sorrells, Mary Young, Max Carroll, Mazelle B. Lamb, Melissa Gale Wix, Melvin Sloan, Mendi Brackey, Mildred Garrett, Mitzi Wilhite, Nancy E. Sharum, Nora and Ella Hicks, Patsy Warren, Paulette Hart, Peggy S. Patterson, Phyllis Firestone, Rachael Jent, Rebecca Leimer, Rita Dodds, Robert Cantrell, Robert W. Segrest, Ron and Mardi Lucas, Ron McMillin, Ruby Akin, Rufene Hunt, Sandra McKee, Sandy White Griffis, Scott and Susan McDonald, Sharon Gregory, Stanley Scott, Steve Jager, Sue Marlow, Sybil Holland, Terri Lynn Hardin, Vera Curry, William 'Billy' Copeland, William B. McCoy, Yolanda Townson, Yvonne Kendall, Zada Pinegar

A Little Church Tradition



Recently at Six Mile Missionary Baptist Church near Maryville, TN, the children of the church came forward to sing and take up an offering. They passed around a small plastic church bank with a removable steeple in lieu of an offering plate.

Six Mile uses the little bank, and the offering, to support the children who live at TBCH, and they are not alone. Many churches across the state have a similar tradition in place since the banks were first used in a fundraising campaign many years ago. According to member Karen Huffstetler, Six Mile has given over \$28,000 since 2002 in this way. More significantly, they have disciplined the kids in their church to care for the kids at TBCH through faithful and generous giving.

Thank you to Pastor Jeff Welshan and Six Mile MBC for the support and the example!

Project Impact Report: **A DEEPER DIVE** into data and impact measurement



We want everything we do for our kids, from making breakfast to building new campus homes, to have a meaningful, measurable, and lasting effect on them.

Recently, we completed a research project to measure the **IMPACT** our services have on the children in our care. Through interviews and surveys, we compiled data in nine different impact areas. Here's a little bit of what we found, and what the children said:

EDUCATION: Residents at TBCH experience growth in academic progress and learn the importance of continuing education. *"I used to do good in school just to play sports...but now I'm getting to reap the reward of working hard academically."*

SPIRITUAL GROWTH: Many children experience spiritual growth after living on a TBCH campus. *"They're teaching me not to hold anything back from the Lord...to give it all to Him."*

EMPATHY: The residents at TBCH are developing significant emotional maturity through empathy. *"When you care for others, it teaches you to care for yourself, too."*

The full Project Impact Report is available online at tennesseechildren.org/financials



Forever Families: Last year, our Foster Care Program celebrated 19 adoptions, and nearly a dozen so far this year (some are in progress at this printing)! Each one is a precious story, like the adoptive family who are committed to nurturing a connection with the birth grandmother, or the little one who took her very first steps in the courtroom. One group had matching shirts printed for their family, *For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord—Jeremiah 29:11*, and a special one for their newly added daughter with a response which read *The Plan*. What a beautiful reflection of God's grace toward His own adopted children!



Visit us at online for info about our Foster Care Program or becoming a foster parent.



Foster Care Blessed by Girl Scout Project

Nearly 40 of our foster kids will be sporting new backpacks full of supplies as they go back to school, thanks to Molly Brownfield's Girl Scout project. Molly, a student at Brentwood High School, started in January and has been working with various school clubs, organizations and other Girl Scout troops to bring her mission project to fruition. Not only is this a blessing for our kids, it also earned her a Gold Award, the highest award in Girl Scouting. Congratulations and thank you, Molly!



“Every Foster Home Needs a Mrs. Betty”

Mrs. Betty McMahan is a true champion and friend of the children being served by our Foster Care Program in Oakdale. Married to Ronnie McMahan and a member of Robertsville Baptist Church in Oak Ridge, Mrs. Betty began supporting TBCH in 1987, when she was asked to lead a Mission Education class for teenagers. One of the kids in her class brought a request, “Instead of reading about missions, we want to go and do something.” This led to a connection with our former Oakdale campus, where there happened to be a pressing need for socks and underwear for the kids. Meeting this need was just the beginning of a long and fruitful friendship between Mrs. Betty and TBCH.

In the years to come, she would spearhead many more efforts. A Thanksgiving dinner was planned, including donated food and volunteers to work alongside the resident kids to prepare it. Later, Mrs. Betty rallied her church for an Angel Tree project. A few years ago, when the Oakdale campus transitioned to a foster home, Scott and Melody Kellison moved in to serve as foster parents. Mrs. Betty enlisted help, including the Briceville (TN) Ministry Center, to provide clothing for the foster kids who would be living there.

The impact of her efforts has been enhanced by her connection to the kids, taking time to talk with and listen to each child, making sure the children get exactly what they want and need. When new children are placed with the Kellisons, they each receive a new pillow, covered with a handmade pillowcase—a keepsake they take with them when they leave Oakdale, compliments of Mrs. Betty and a team of local seamstresses. Even further, every child receives a birthday card from her, and she’s been known to bake a cake on occasion as well!

When asked about her favorite memory, Mrs. Betty recalled a young girl she met at Oakdale several years ago who was striking out on her own after her high school graduation and needed a suitcase. After the ceremony, Mrs. Betty met her backstage with a new suitcase as a gift. “Nobody from my family came to my graduation,” the girl said as tears pooled in her eyes, “but you did.” Through tears of her own, Mrs. Betty said, “I will never forget that moment.”

Although she’s leading the charge, she humbly gives credit to others—her church family, Pastor Jack Abbott (Associate Pastor of Missions and student minister at Robertsville), the Kellisons, and TBCH staff. But giving credit where it’s due, Pastor Abbott says, “Betty’s ministry is marked by her quiet strength, unwavering compassion, and a servant’s heart that reflects the love of Christ in everything she does.” And Mrs. Kellison echoes that sentiment, “Every foster home needs a Mrs. Betty; she is the grandmother who is here to spoil these children. Mrs. Betty is the steady and consistent friend amidst the chaos of these children’s lives.”

Thank You VBS Groups! More and more often, churches are blessing the kids at TBCH by raising money through their VBS missions offerings. This summer, several churches supported in this way, including Fairview Knox Church in Corryton, Bells Campground Baptist Church in Powell, and Providence Baptist Church in Seymour. We are grateful for these and many others who are shaping a generation to carry on this ministry!



WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS!



Volunteering at TBCH helps us steward our resources well. Even cleaning garages, painting shutters, cleaning gutters and planting flowers indirectly impacts the care we provide for the kids in our programs. Thank you to Willowbrook Baptist Church in Rocky Top, who did all this and more at our Knoxville office recently, and to all our supporting churches. Your focus on mission is a blessing to TBCH!



Katie Brown
Foster Care
Case Manager
(Kingsport)

Earned her BS in consumer and family studies, and her LMSW at Middle Tennessee State University. Formerly worked as an elementary school-based therapist and a Behavioral Health Provider for ETSU Pediatrics. "I feel blessed to have this opportunity to serve children in a place that's grounded in faith and love."

WELCOME TO THE



**Casey and
Sebastian
Pecora**
Houseparents
(The Ranch)

Casey and Sebastian come to the Ranch from Lawrenceburg, where Sebastian owned and operated a tool distribution business. They are excited to work with the kids and make an impact in their lives.



**Amanda
Spann**
Admin Assistant
for the Chief
Program Officer

Earned a BA from Henderson State University, and most recently worked as a tax practitioner. Amanda is looking forward to "working behind the scenes to help make sure everything runs smoothly."



**Makenna
Minor**
Foster Care
Case Manager
(Knoxville)

Earned her bachelor's degree in social work from Freed-Hardeman University and interned at the TBCH office in Jackson. Makenna is looking forward to "building relationships with my team, the kids, and the families!"

TBCH TEAM!



**Kenya
Williams**
Foster Care
Case Manager
(West)

Earned her bachelor's degree in marketing and merchandising and her master's in theological studies. Kenya formerly worked for Isaiah 117 House, "It really gave me a front-row seat to the realities of foster care and strengthened my heart for equipping and supporting families in a hands-on, hope-filled way."

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P.O. Box 2206, Brentwood, TN 37024