HOME NEWS

A Publication of Your Louisiana Baptist Children's Home & Family Ministries







& FAMILY MINISTRIES

Page 10: Memorials

January/February 2019

Volume 57 • No. 1

Words from Home...

Perry Hancock Ph.D. President & CEO



At the Children's Home we begin 2019 by saying "Thank You!" Thank you for your generous support this past year. In 2018, through the ministries of LBCH, you brought God's love and hope in Christ to over 4,000 children and families in need.

You provided a loving, Christian home for children and their mothers through our residential ministries. You helped women achieve life and educational goals through Christian Women's Job Corps. You supported families and individuals who needed professional Christian counseling through our Granberry Counseling Centers. You provided counseling for minister's families through Granberry's Pastoral Care program.



You helped us serve foster children across the state through our Connect 1:27 ministry. You sponsored foster family day camps. You provided support for couples with adoption services. You made it possible for us to share God's love and the good news of Christ with orphans and other children through LA Reach Haiti. You met the basic life needs of economically-challenged children in north Louisiana through our new ministry, Compassion for Kids.

Thank you so much for meeting needs and changing lives through LBCH this past year. In 2018 over 160 of those we served accepted Christ as Savior. We can never thank you enough for those decisions.

In 2019, we will continue to ask and answer the question, "Where are the children and families who need God's love and care?" With your continued support we will meet those needs and watch as lives are changed forever.

Please take the time to look at our campaign for the new Children's Recreation Center. If you have already contributed to the project, thank you. If not, consider making an investment that will bring joy to our children for years to come. We would like to begin construction in September of this year and have the center completed by May of 2020.

Thank you again for your generous support. If you have not visited our campus in Monroe lately, call Marc or Julie and schedule a tour for your group. We would love for you to see how you are meeting needs and changing lives at your Louisiana Baptist Children's home. God bless.

PRAYER CALENDAR...

MarlenaFebru	ary 1
Ja'NiyaFebru	ary 2
Marci	ary 3
AvalynFebru	ary 4
Kaitlyn	ary 5
TaegonFebru	ary 6
BlaiseFebru	ary 7
AshliFebru	ary 8
MaKaylaFebru	ary 9
AleeiyaFebrua	ry 10
Cindy	ry 11
BellaFebrua	ry 12
StephanieFebrua	ry 13
KennyFebrua	ry 14
BradyFebrua	ry 15
AntoniousFebrua	ry 16
AnteriousFebrua	ry 17

LucyMarch	7
HaliyahMarch	8
AshleyMarch	9
JenalynMarch 1	.0
StacyMarch 1	.1
JourneyMarch 1	.2
Crystal	.3
MorganMarch 1	.4
JaydenMarch 1	.5

Happy Birthday...

Journee	February 2
Zoe	February 5
Morgan	February 22
Ashli	March 3
Stacy	March 3
Shanikya	March 3
Brandon	March 7

• OUR MISSION •

The mission of the Louisiana Baptist Children's Home and Family Ministries is to provide love, care, and hope in Christ for children and families in need.

• OUR VALUES •

We value the Bible as the foundation and guide for our ministry (2 Timothy 3:16) We value the worth of the Children and Families to whom we minister (Genesis 1:27) We value Servant Leadership as our model for ministry (Mark 9:35) We value Excellence as our standard for ministry performance (Colossians 3:17) We value Personal Integrity as our ministry standard for living (Romans 12:1-2)

Jayde	February 18
Artia	February 19
Emily	February 20
Rachel	February 21
Nevaeh	February 22
Leodis	February 23
CJ	February 24
Jordan	February 25
Jade	February 26
Jonah	February 27
Justice	February 28
Karma	March 1
Stormy	March 2
Beth Ann	March 3
Brandon	March 4
Triston	March 5
Shanikya	March 6

CJMarch 25



LBCH TRUSTEES

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Perry Hancock, LBCH President & CEO

Marc Eichelberger, LBCH VP of Development & PR

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Campus Spotlight:

Meet Shanikya, Lucy and Haliyah

By Debbie Robertson, HomeNews Writer

Haliyah gives a big, welcoming wave as you approach the front door of Maggie's Place. She's all smiles as she runs up to introduce herself and shake your hand. She giggles as the handshake becomes high fives, and then she gives you a big hug. Older sister Lucy is watching, laughing as she runs up to share the high fives and hugs. While she is all smiles, she is a little more reserved than Haliyah, not quite ready for conversation.

The Hubbards have been part of the HomePlace Ministry for about seven months. Mom Shanikya says it has been such a blessing after years of moving from place to place. She and her little ones stayed with different relatives and friends for the past few years. She has always tried to work to support her family. Their moves often put them in situations where there was a lack of transportation which created challenges in getting back and forth to work. Her sister told her about LBCH and HomePlace. Once Shanikya did some research, she knew there was hope for her and her little ones. After connecting with Susan Clark, Director of Family Care Ministries, things moved quickly, and the family was soon settled into Grace Cottage, later transitioning to Maggie's Place.

Shanikya says the move to the LBCH Campus was an easy one. The girls had a few nights of waking up and wondering where they were. But they quickly adjusted to their new home, which they all love! "The girls have made new friends, and I've had the opportunity to make new friends, too."

Haliyah, 4, is in daycare and Lucy, who just turned 5, is in kindergarten. Adorable in their matching Paw Patrol shirts, they sit side by side next to their mom telling a little bit about their day. They both say their daytime activities are "good." Lucy has

her coloring book and crayons and is trying to decide which page to color first, showing her mom once the decision is





made. Haliyah has a preschool Big Book of Words. Coming to sit beside you, she identifies everything on the page, from turtles to starfish to tigers. This accomplishment is followed by the question, "Can I have one of all of these?"

Shanikya proudly shares that the girls were part of a Christmas program at North Monroe Baptist. The girls grin and nod their heads, "Yes!" They like the music, Bible stories, and all the children's activities, and they always look forward to Sunday mornings. Shanikya enjoys her time with other single adults. "It helps to have friends who are going through similar things. You get to build on your relationship with the Lord, and you see some who are starting to have that relationship. You get to hear other people's testimonies. Sometimes, you think you have it bad. But hearing others' experiences, it often makes you humble yourself and be more grateful for what you have. It's a good reminder of how blessed I really am."

During their family time, Shanikya and the girls like to watch movies. One of Shanikya's goals is saving for the future and she tries to budget wisely, but she recently treated the girls to a special outing at the mall. "The girls loved riding the bus, and we ate out while we were there. They loved it," she says, as the girls nod in agreement. They are looking forward to more adventures. The campus also offers great places for them to walk and enjoy the outdoors with their campus friends. Shanikya has a part-time job, but she is excited about an upcoming interview for a full-time opportunity. Her short-term goal is to become a pharmacy tech. She has finished the classwork and hopes to begin the clinicals soon. Her long-term goal is to become a pharmacist.

As the threesome heads toward the dining area, the girls give you another round of big smiles and goodbye hugs. Shanikya says that being part of HomePlace Ministry is a huge step toward finding God's plans for her and her family. "Here, they help you reach your goals. They let you take baby steps and get back on your feet. Here, I can learn how to be a better mom for my kids. It's a great place for moms and children."

Mission Trip to Haiti:



Orphans Embrace/LA Reach Haiti October 5 - 11, 2019

Mission volunteers are needed for a LBCH mission trip to Haiti next fall. Projects include work at the new mission center for children being built by Louisiana Baptists, Vacation Bible Schools, feeding the poor, outreach and many other projects.

We are excited to introduce our new and improved Louisiana Baptist Children's Home and Family Ministries logo! In addition, our redesigned website will be rolling out soon! The new, user-friendly site will keep you informed about everything happening at your Children's Home. Stay tuned!



HomeBuilders...

Generosity and the Heart of God

"For He satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things." Psalm 107:9

"For He satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things." Psalm 107:9

A few days before Christmas, a young pastor's wife and mother was gathering items for a ministry at her church that helps to feed the needy in their community. Her four-year-old son's attention was focused on his mother wrapping a big cardboard box, hoping he could get involved and help. His mother explained that not everyone in their city had enough of what they need at Christmas, and this is a small way for them to help. So, they started filling the box with cans of soup, bars of soap, breakfast cereal and all the other things that the mom had bought for the occasion. But the four-year-old didn't think this was good enough. He headed straight to the drawer where his mother had stashed all of the sweets he'd been given at parties and birthdays – the drawer from which he was occasionally allowed to pick one treat – and emptied all of them into the box. All of them.

Now, this box was no longer going to be good for anyone's teeth, but it was very good for this mother's heart. It was good to see her little boy moved to such lavish and heartfelt generosity when confronted with a need. He didn't know who would get their box, but he knew that they didn't have enough. He wanted to give of his precious bounty to make their Christmas a happy one.

When I read this story, it pointed me right to the heart of God. Our God is a generous God – not just a give-them-what-they-need kind of God – but a God whose heart overflows with kindness, richness, and a desire to bless. When God gives, He gives the very best. And it is so good—so refreshing, liberating, and challenging—for us to remember that. Marc Eichelberger VP of Development & Public Relations



When we think about the generosity of God, we have a pattern to follow. We have a pattern to overflow with generosity; we have a pattern to give even when it's at personal cost. I love to read Paul's account of the Macedonian church, "In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity... they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability" (2 Corinthians 8:2-3).

I know that I have a pattern to follow, too, in my own heart, in my own wallet, in my own home. When I reflect upon the kindness of our heavenly Father in giving us "everything pertaining to life and godliness" (2 Peter 1:3), and upon the richness of my salvation through Jesus, my heart becomes a little more like the four-year-old in the story. I remember that everything I have was given to me; I remember that I can trust Him to provide what He wants me to have. I remember that in giving away what is precious to me—whether that's my sweets, my time, my money, or anything else the Lord has given to me—I become a little bit more like my Savior. When I reflect upon the generosity of God, I begin to experience the freedom of a generous heart.

I am so grateful for our many friends that demonstrate God's generous heart every Christmas and throughout the year in providing for the children and families we serve. God uses your generosity to meet an abundance of needs and to introduce many to our wonderful Savior. "And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work" (2 Corinthians 9:8). Thank you!

Congratulations...



COTTAGE PARENTS OF THE YEAR 2018

Congratulations to Randy and Jan Lee, cottage parents in Joy Cottage, for being named the 2018 Cottage Parents of the Year. The couple was selected by their peers for their commitment and dedication to the mission of providing love, care and hope in Christ to children in need. We are truly blessed to have the Lees as part of our LBCH family. Pictured with the Lees is Susan Nolan, LBCH Executive Director of Children Family Services.



HOMEPLACE COTTAGE CARE MANAGER OF THE YEAR 2018



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Congratulations to Deborah Johnson, cottage care manager for Faith Cottage, for being named the 2018 Cottage Care Manager of the Year. This award is also voted on by peers. As she presented the award, HomePlace Director, Susan Clark, shared that "Deborah reflect's authentic compassion to the children and families of HomePlace." Again, we are blessed to have someone with the heart and dedication of Deborah on our ministry team. Pictured with Deborah is Susan Clark.

Thank You...

We are so grateful for our many Christmas sponsors who blessed our children this year with a wonderful Christmas! Many of our children have never known a happy Christmas with a Christmas tree and gifts. Thanks to all who made Christmas special for our children.



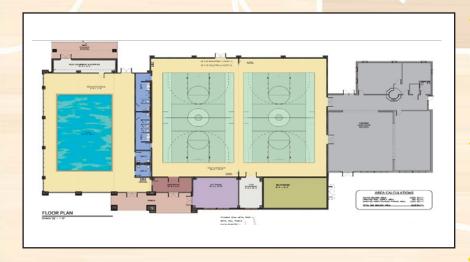
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Children at Play... God at Work.

New Children's Recreation Center Campaign

We NEED **YOU** to make it happen!





God has provided \$843,308 toward our goal of \$1,200,000 needed for this project. Would you prayerfully consider a gift to help us complete this project? Our goal is to begin construction this fall!

We Need YOU to Be a Champion for Children • Recreation Center Project •

Includes: New Gymnasium, Indoor Pool, Ceramic/Art Studio, and Children's Christmas and Birthday Gift Room



Why Needed?

- Our 60-year-old gym is deteriorating
- Our 40-year-old swimming pool needs to be replaced
- Play brings wholeness and well-being to children
- Play restores a sense of normalcy to children coming from hard places

A **Champions for Children Wall** will be prominently displayed in the entrance of the new Recreation Center. Friends who give at one of the levels below may have their name or the name of a loved one included on the wall as a Champion for Children.



Your gift, no matter the size, will help make the new Children's Recreation Center a reality!

Give online at www.lbch.org or mail to LBCH, P.O. Box 4196, Monroe, LA 71211

Louisiana Foster Children Need Your Help NOW!

Your Children's Home Is Ready to Show You How

We believe the answer to solving the foster care crisis in Louisiana is... YOU and YOUR CHURCH!

Any Church Can Do This... No Matter How Large or Small!

If just ONE family from each Louisiana Baptist church became a foster family, we could solve the foster care crisis in our state!

All you need to do is Contact Us!

We will come to your church at no cost, partner with you, and equip your congregation to help solve the foster care crisis in your community with a proven path that makes a difference:

- Host Foster Care Info Meeting at your church
 - Get an overview of the process to become a foster or adoptive family
 - Hear from current foster and adoptive parents
 - Learn about volunteer opportunities
 - Ask questions and get answers
- Promote Foster Care Info Meetings to your congregation
- Host Foster/Adoptive Parent Support Meetings
- Learn How to Provide Support to Foster/Adoptive Families in Your Congregation and Community

Get Started by Contacting the Connect 1:27 Foster/Adoption Specialist in Your Area:



Kerri Byrd Shreveport Area 318.372.9021 • kerri@lbch.org



Margie Nielsen Monroe Area 318.343.2244 • margie@lbch.org



Kelli Roberts Alexandria Area 318.229.7238 • kroberts@lbch.org



Marissa Wilson Baton Rouge Area 618.520.2979 • marissa@lbch.org

• Attend a Foster Parent Info Meeting to learn more about what is involved in being a foster parent to better understand the needs our families have.

 Devote a special Sunday to learning about foster care and adoption in Sunday School—feel free to visit www.connect127.org to find a FREE PDF download to use!

The biggest need in foster care is always having more families willing to foster! For this reason, our Connect 1:27 specialists hold Foster Parent Informational Meetings in different areas of the state each month. These are the best way to learn about foster care and becoming a foster family. Coming to a meeting is not a commitment,

EVERYONE can be involved in Foster Care... by Marissa Wilson, Foster & Adoption Specialist, Baton Rouge Area

but an opportunity to be introduced to the world of foster care and have your questions answered. We certainly understand that not everyone is called to be a foster parent, but we do believe that everyone can do something!

We know that foster families can be their best when they feel supported. Maybe you don't have a close, personal relationship with a foster family. You do, however, have an opportunity to serve foster families in your area! Across Louisiana, there are roughly 4,700 children in foster care. You may not notice them, but these children are in our own cities, go to the schools in our districts, and live in our neighborhoods. So, what can you do to help a foster family feel more supported? Here are a few ideas:

- Host a Foster Parent's Night Out at your church
- Provide meals to families in your area when they accept new placements

• Collect school supplies to help families prepare for the school year (or replace all of those misplaced pencils and markers as the year goes on)

• Collect backpacks/luggage and items a child could bring to a new placement to feel more at home (such as toiletries, stuffed animals, and pajamas)

There are many, many ways that individuals and churches can support foster families in their area, and Connect 1:27 is here to help guide you along the way. Contact your local foster care specialist listed above to get started today!



Blessing bags made by a church for foster families.



Foster care needs closet within a church.

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Highlights from HomePlace...

What a great holiday season the families at HomePlace experienced at the conclusion of 2018. Every one of you was extremely giving! To encounter Christmas through the eyes of the children as well as moms who many have never had a tree and multiple gifts to open is an experience like no other. On behalf of the staff and families, we say "Thank you for your generosity!"

As fun as the holidays were, there is always another opportunity to move forward embracing the New Year and what it has to offer. Already we have experienced joy in some unexpected blessings that have come our way. Three of our moms have been accepted to Delta Community College for 2019. Three additional moms obtained new employment in January. These jobs are jobs that offer better salaries and opportunities for advancement.

This New Year also holds the completion of Irma Cottage, an additional new home for HomePlace. Irma will offer placement for four new families to receive the love and services that the Louisiana Baptist Children's Home has to offer. With this construction comes new staff members as well. As you can already tell, there is no time to shrink back in HomePlace in 2019.

There are the things that seem certain for us in the New Year. As we all know, the future of our lives is much more complex, especially if we are in the middle of a fog of uncertainties. We all have experienced those times when we propose the questions that many of our families at HomePlace have verbalized. For some reason, because we didn't say them out loud, they didn't count; perhaps in order to keep our faith status. We have also experienced staff to leave due to family obligations this month. Moms who have lost their jobs unexpectedly at the first of the year. Children whose emotions and security have been rocked due to family difficulties. Someone once said "Maturity is the capacity to endure uncertainty." If that is true, I may need to go back and reassess my maturity level.

In those times when life happenings threaten those that we love, when we don't see the provision right in front of us, when our plans are vetoed by a season of postponement, when the people around us seemingly let us down, when there seems to be more disappointment than contentment and the list goes on and on....that's when we say to the families and ourselves, "God is at work and He is working all of this for our good." Romans 8:28 is not just something that sounds good to spiritualize what is happening. It is TRUTH and God's TRUTH still stands!

HomePlace is excited about what will take place in the lives of our families this year. And of course, we can't wait to share with you how God's sovereignty, peace, mercy, provision and grace play out in the course of 2019. We enter a New Year with a heart of gratitude, expectancy and joy for our GOD IS FAITHFUL! "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor has entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him" (1 Cor. 2:9).

"God is at work and He is working all of this for our good." Romans 8:28 Susan Clark Director of HomePlace







Construction on new HomePlace cottage, Irma's Place, progressing nicely. Irma's Place is scheduled to open this spring.

Snapshots...



Spiritual Stability in 2019 Requires Sound, Biblical Thinking

"Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things" (Philippians 4:8).

The Bible leaves no doubt that people's lives are the product of their thoughts.

Kathy Eichelberger Director of Granberry Counseling Centers



Paul's call for biblical thinking is especially relevant in our current culture where there is so much focus on emotion and pragmatism. People no longer ask "Is it true?" but "Does it work?" and "How will it make me feel?"

As Christians, we must discipline our spiritually sensitive minds to think about right

Proverbs 23:7 declares, "For as he thinks within himself, so he is." A modern counterpart to that proverb is the computer acronym GIGO (Garbage In, Garbage Out). Just as a computer's output is dependent on the information that is input, so people's behaviors and emotions are the result of their thinking.

Jesus expressed this truth in Mark 7:20-23, "That which proceeds out of the man, that is what defiles the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness. All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man."

As Christian counselors, we understand that spiritual stability—health and growth in our relationship with Christ and with others—is dependent on consistent, sound, biblical thinking. We often allow our reactive feelings and negative emotions to get in the driver's seat of our lives and develop unhealthy, distorted thinking. John Stott warned of the danger of Christians living by their feelings: "Indeed, sin has more dangerous effects on our faculty of feeling than on our faulty of thinking, because our opinions are more easily checked and regulated by revealed truth than our experiences" (Your Mind Matters, p. 16).

spiritual realities. We do this by making quality time with our Lord in His Word and in prayer a consistent, life priority (see Romans 12:1-2).

Jesus' encounter with Mary and Martha in Luke 10:38-45 is one of my favorite Bible stories. Mary made the tough choice to prioritize "sitting at the feet of Jesus and listening to His word." She understood that she "did not live by bread alone, but by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord" (Deuteronomy 8:3). Martha, on the other hand, was "distracted." Jesus said she was "worried and bothered about so many things." Martha allowed her reactive feelings and negative emotions to get in the driver's seat, resulting in conflict with her sister and her Lord.

Martha's busyness in the kitchen was not bad, it just wasn't best. Jesus said there was "only one thing essential and Mary had chosen it." We must not allow anything to distract us from the daily priority of "sitting at the feet of Jesus and listening to His word." This is where we gain sound, biblical thinking. And our spiritual stability—our health and growth in our relationship with Christ and with others—depends upon it.

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Memorials...

November 30- January 17

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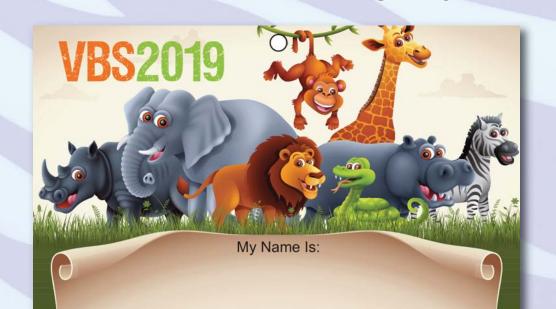
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HOME NEWS

A Publication of Your Louisiana Baptist Children's Home & Family Ministries

Louisiana Baptist Children's Home & Family Ministries is a faith-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to providing love, care, and hope in Christ to children and families in need. Established in 1899, the Children's Home is an agency of the Louisiana Baptist Convention and is governed by a 17-member board of trustees elected by the Convention to serve three-year terms on a rotating basis.

The Children's Home is recognized by the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) as a "Foster Care Community." Approximately 80% of the children in LBCH foster homes are placed by DCFS and the other children are privately placed by a legal guardian.

The Children's Home receives no state or federal funding. Approximately 79% of all funding comes from individuals and churches. Less than 25% of funding goes to administrative costs; 75% goes to direct ministry services. Less than 8% of funding comes from payment of services.

Our major service areas include: Residential Child Care for Children ages 5-17; Pathfinders Transitional Living for ages 18-21; HomePlace Residential Family Care for Homeless Children and Mothers; Christian Women's Job Corps of Monroe providing job and life skills training and certified HiSET preparation and testing; Granberry Counseling Centers with 12 statewide locations; Connect 1:27 Foster Care & Adoption Ministries; and Orphans Embrace International Orphan Care Mission Trips.

Our dedicated Christian ministry team strives to offer the highest quality of services. Services are provided without regard to race, gender, religion, or ability to pay.



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