

HOMENEWS

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



Campus Spotlight	PAGE 3
2018 Ministry Highlights	PAGE 6
Memorials.....	PAGE 12



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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. Please contact us for more information on how we may serve you or someone you know: 318.343.2244, home@lbch.org, www.LBCH.org

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words from home...

by Perry Hancock Ph.D., President & CEO

Fall is an exciting time at the Children's Home. The children enjoy playing outside, riding their bikes on campus, going to football games, and more. Fall is also when many churches visit our campus for a tour. If you have never been on campus or haven't visited in a long time, schedule a tour for your group and let us show you how your support is changing lives at LBCH.

Fall is also an exciting time of the year because our churches provide all the food our children need through the Fall Food Roundup. You can find the FFR pickup schedule on our website. Thank you so much for meeting that need.

This is also the time of year when our staff presents the Children's Home Annual Report to churches at their associational meetings. Let me give you a preview of that report. This past year, you helped provide ministry services for over 4,000 children, families, and individuals. Over 160 accepted Christ as their personal Savior.

Through our on-campus and off-campus residential programs, we served 193 children and 37 homeless mothers. An additional 156 families were served through placement referrals. Thirty-one Louisiana Baptist couples received adoption services during the year. We also sponsored a foster family camp for almost 200 children.

Our Granberry Counseling Centers staff provided counseling for 1,386 individuals including 54 Louisiana Baptist minister families. Christian Women's Job Corps provided educational and job skills training for 66 women and had one of the highest graduation rates in the northeast region.

Through our Compassion for Kids community care ministry in Monroe, we served over 300 economically-challenged children, meeting basic life essentials. Our international orphan ministry in Haiti provided care for over 1,700 children.

Thank you again for making these life-changing ministries possible. Until I see you in church or on campus, may God bless you as you have blessed His children at your Louisiana Baptist Children's Home.



GRANBERRY COUNSELING CENTERS

Robert F. (Fred) Selby, Jr. has retired as Associate Director of Granberry Counseling Centers. We are grateful for the 12 years of compassionate care Fred provided for his clients at our centers in Baton Rouge and Covington. Congratulations on your retirement and God's blessings on the next chapter of your life!

Pictured: Kathy Eichelberger, Director of Granberry Counseling Centers, Fred Selby and wife, Genie

• 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 •

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

Meet Crystal, Morgan and Jayden...

CAMPUS SPOTLIGHT

By Debbie Robertson, HomeNews Writer

Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you your heart's desires (Psalm 37:4).

Over the past months, this verse has come to have a very special meaning to Crystal and her girls, Morgan and Jayden. Crystal shares, "I was baptized at an early age, but I never understood until now what it was to live in His will. I never knew what kind of life I could have if I just stopped trying to control and fix everything myself and give it to Him."

As the mother of three children, Crystal found herself suffering the consequences of bad choices, compounded by the guilt of not giving her children the life she felt they deserved. Crystal's dad and step-mom and her friend, Hannah, with Lazarus Ministries tried to encourage her and offer the needed resources, but Crystal was determined she could make it on her own. She credits her family's tough love with helping turn her life around. "My dad reached the point that he refused to help me anymore. I was totally on my own, and it was really hard for a long time. Hannah kept telling me it didn't have to be like this. One day, I looked at the mess I was in, and there was so much guilt over how this was affecting the kids. Finally, it was clear to me that I had to put it all in God's hands and stop trying to fix it myself."

Crystal was aware of LBCH's HomePlace Ministry and some of the services available. She made a call to Susan Clark, Director of Family Care Ministries, who met with her and provided more information about the program. Crystal and the girls spent several days in a motel while going through the application process. It started out as quite an adventure for the girls, but after several days of waiting to hear if they'd been approved, the family agrees they were ready for the move to Mobley-Martin Cottage.

Ten-year-old Morgan says, "At first, I was SO excited! I was thinking it would be so cool. But then, it was like 'uh oh.' We found out they have all these rules and they have curfews! Then, it was a little scary. But we like the rules now that we actually know them," she says, reciting the do's and don'ts of campus and cottage life.

Jayden, who is 7, was dreaming of "a beautiful and pretty new home." While sharing a cottage with

other families is not exactly what she envisioned, she loves her family's new home. The girls have friends all over campus and they share a little about each one, by name and by cottage. The girls love Cottage Mom, Ms. Kelly, and Jayden especially loves the devotions she leads every morning while the families are having breakfast. The girls share some of the fun surprises they planned in celebration of Ms. Kelly's birthday.

Rec and swimming are Morgan's absolute favorite campus activities. A fifth grader at Cypress Point, Morgan likes all her teachers, and her first year in a new school is off to a great start. She shares a little about each teacher and her schedule for the day. Morgan wants to be a singer when she grows up. She loves contemporary Christian, country and all kinds of music. If her career in music doesn't work out, being a hip-hop dancer might be her backup job.

Jayden, who is in second grade, is in constant motion, doing back walkovers and dance moves as she talks. Her favorite subjects at school are computer lab and PE, and she wants to be a gymnastics teacher. Jayden likes music and dance. Standing on her head, using the wall for support, she adds, "Being a video designer might be kind of fun."

The discussion of their favorite music opens the door to conversation about the campus summer music camp and their opportunities to perform. The camp was a huge hit, and the celebration at the end of the week was impressive. "We had cookies, cakes, ice cream smoothies and a t-shirt signing party!" Jayden proudly shows off her special event shirt. The girls are looking forward to the rehearsals that will begin soon for the Christmas music events.

Crystal, Morgan and Jayden are involved at North Monroe Baptist on Sundays and Wednesdays and Community Baptist in between. They love worship and their Sunday School classes, and Crystal enjoys the women's ministry. She is overwhelmed by the activities that are available for her girls, giving them the opportunity to grow in their faith and to have fun with their friends. Morgan and Jayden are excited about an upcoming pizza party the church has planned for the Children's Home families. Crystal is looking forward to the fall discipleship class where she'll learn more about spiritual gifts and where she'll complete an inventory to discover

...Continued on page 10.



PRAYER CALENDAR

Merlena	September 24
Ja'Niya	September 25
Beth Ann	September 26
Brandon	September 27
Triston	September 28
Raiesha	September 29
Ja'Niya	September 30
Ja'don	October 1
Ai'lan	October 2
Shanikya	October 3
Lucy	October 4
Haliyah	October 5
Kaitlyn	October 6
Taegon	October 7
Blaise	October 8
Hana	October 9
Nicholas	October 10
Brylee	October 11
Stephanie	October 12
Kenny	October 13
Alisha	October 14
Brady	October 15
Antonious	October 16
Anterious	October 17
Ash'shton	October 18
Gerald	October 19
Carltez	October 20
Jayde	October 21
Artia	October 22
Emily	October 23
Emily	October 24
Rachel	October 25
Nevaeh	October 26
Leodis	October 27
Joel	October 28
CJ	October 29
Hunter	October 30
Jordan	October 31
Jade	November 1
Jonah	November 2
Justice	November 3
Waylon	November 4
Noah	November 5
Cindy	November 6
Bella	November 7
Ashli	November 8
MaKayla	November 9
Aleeiya	November 10



homebuilders...

by Marc Eichelberger
Vice President of Development & Public Relations

**Your Legacy Can Transform
the Lives of Children in the Future**
*“The great use of life is to spend it for something
that will outlast it.” —William James*

Sociologist Anthony Campolo tells about a study in which 50 people over the age of 95 were asked, “If you could live your life over again, what would you do differently?” From their answers emerged three themes:

- If I had it to do over again, I would reflect more.
- If I had it to do over again, I would risk more.
- If I had it to do over again, I would do more things that would live on after I’m dead.

The bad news is we can’t go back in time and make different choices. The good news is, every morning, we can choose to do things that live on beyond our lives. God gives us the ability every day to build a legacy that lasts and makes a difference long after we’re gone.

Legacy gifts are vital for us to continue our mission of providing love, care, and hope in Christ for children and families in need. Your legacy can help us give tomorrow’s children a place where God’s love takes them in, a place where their hurts can be healed and their hopes can be restored.

Estate planning (developing a legacy) is a thoughtful, prayerful act, making it easier for your loved ones, while making sure your wishes are followed the way you intend. Your estate planning may be the single largest act of Christian stewardship that you will ever perform. It will determine how, when, and to whom you will transfer the stewardship of what God has entrusted to you when you can no longer serve as a steward yourself. Developing your legacy is like having the privilege of writing the last chapter of your autobiography!

About 60% of Americans do not have a current will. The impact of this on children, on surviving spouses, on taxes and legal fees is immeasurable!

We will be happy to provide you a free copy of our Personal Will Planner. It’s a personal planning guide, developed by the Louisiana Baptist Foundation, and designed to help you collect and compile information necessary to complete a Last Will and Testament. It will assist you in providing vital information to the executor of that Will and to your family members. You may request our Personal Will Planner at marc@lbch.org or 318.343.2244 or LBCH.org.

If you desire to include Louisiana Baptist Children’s Home in your estate plans, the Louisiana Baptist Foundation offers estate planning assistance. As a ministry partner of the Children’s Home and an agency of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, the Foundation does not charge a fee for this service. You may contact the Foundation at 318.445.4495 or Toll-Free 877.523.4636 or www.LBFinfo.org.

It’s simple. Your legacy can transform the lives of children and families in the future. Thank you for prayerfully considering your Children’s Home as part of your legacy that lasts and makes a difference long after you’re gone.

Congrats!



We are so proud of Rucker Cottage resident, Stephanie, for being elected Secretary/Treasurer of the Student Government Association at Delta Community College! Congratulations Stephanie and keep up the good work!

Have you thought about planning your will? It’s never too soon!

We have FREE Will Planning Kits available.
Call (318) 343.2244 or
email marc@lbch.org to request yours!

Happy Birthday!

Justice	.....	Sept 21
Kenny	.....	Sept 23
Leodis	.....	Oct 2
Cindy	.....	Oct 5
Ja’Yania	.....	Oct 14
Aiva	.....	Oct 15
Anterious	.....	Oct 15



Back-To-School

Dear Friend of Children,

Thank you so much for making summer a very special time for the children in our care! They have experienced an exciting vacation trip with their cottage family, a number of great summer camps, Vacation Bible School in the church they attend, and relaxing, fun times at the pool. Thank you again!


In just a few weeks our children will be returning to school. Emma* is one of those children. She is a vibrant little girl who never meets a stranger. She loves to receive what she calls "warm hugs." She is a talented singer, loves to draw, and does well in school, with help from our tutors. She will be turning ten in August and entering the fifth grade.

This is Emma's second time to be placed in our care. She does not know her father. Her mother has been in and out of her life, unable to provide the normal, healthy home that Emma longs for.

Your Back-To-School gift will provide Emma, and so many other children like her, with new clothes, shoes, school supplies, and other essential needs. But more than that, you're helping our children to feel normal, relieving their fears and anxieties about starting a new school year.

Your support gives hope and changes lives! Thank you for sharing your love and God's love with the children in our care as they prepare for the upcoming school year.

Thank you for caring,



Perry Hancock, Ph.D.
President & CEO

** Name changed to protect confidentiality.*

Immediate Job Openings!

Associate Director of
Child & Family Services

On-Campus Foster
Parents

Foster & Adoption
Specialist

318.343.2244

Here is my Gift for the Children

___\$25 ___\$50 ___\$100 ___\$250 ___\$500 ___\$1000 \$ _____

Give online at
www.lbch.org

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ PHONE () _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ EMAIL _____

Credit Card Number and Type: Visa MC AmX Discover

Cardholder Signature: _____ Expiration Date: _____ Code: _____

(Optional): I would like to present my gift in _____ memory or _____ honor of

Name _____ Please notify (honoree/relative) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

____ Please send me your FREE Personal Will Planner ____ Please send me information on how to become a monthly sponsor

Field Trip Fun

The kids had a great time on a recent outing to visit Black Bayou National Wildlife Refuge. Before the trip, the children painted rocks with positive messages. During the field trip, they placed the painted rocks along the trails for others to find. Hopefully their messages of encouragement will brighten someone's day!



2018 LBCH Ministry Highlights

LOUISIANA BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME & FAMILY MINISTRIES

Provided Christ-centered services for over 4,000 children, families, and individuals.

Over 160 saved!

RESIDENTIAL CHILD & FAMILY CARE

Served 193 children and 37 mothers through residential ministries.

COMPASSION FOR KIDS MINISTRY

Served over 300 economically-challenged children and families in the Monroe area with life essentials and the message of Christ.

CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S JOB CORPS

Provided 66 women with job and life skills training.

GRANBERRY COUNSELING CENTERS

Provided professional Christian counseling for 1,386 individuals through 12 state-wide locations. Provided 54 Louisiana Baptist minister families with counseling in partnership with the LBC Pastoral Leadership Team.

ORPHANS EMBRACE - LOUISIANA/HAITI PARTNERSHIP

Fifty-three Louisiana Baptist volunteers served over 1,700 orphans and children in need through short-term mission trips to Haiti.

CONNECT 1:27 FOSTER & ADOPTION MINISTRIES

Provided state-wide support services for 109 families and 70 children.

Served 193 children through foster family camp.

Provided 31 Louisiana Baptist couples with adoption services.



Family Fun Day
Sponsored by Connect 1:27
A Ministry of Louisiana Baptist Children's Home

FREE
for all Foster and Adoptive Families!
Saturday, Sept 29th
10:30am-1pm

FREE Food, Games and Fun
Must register to attend
by Sept 22
www.connect127.org

At Louisiana Baptist Children's Home Gym

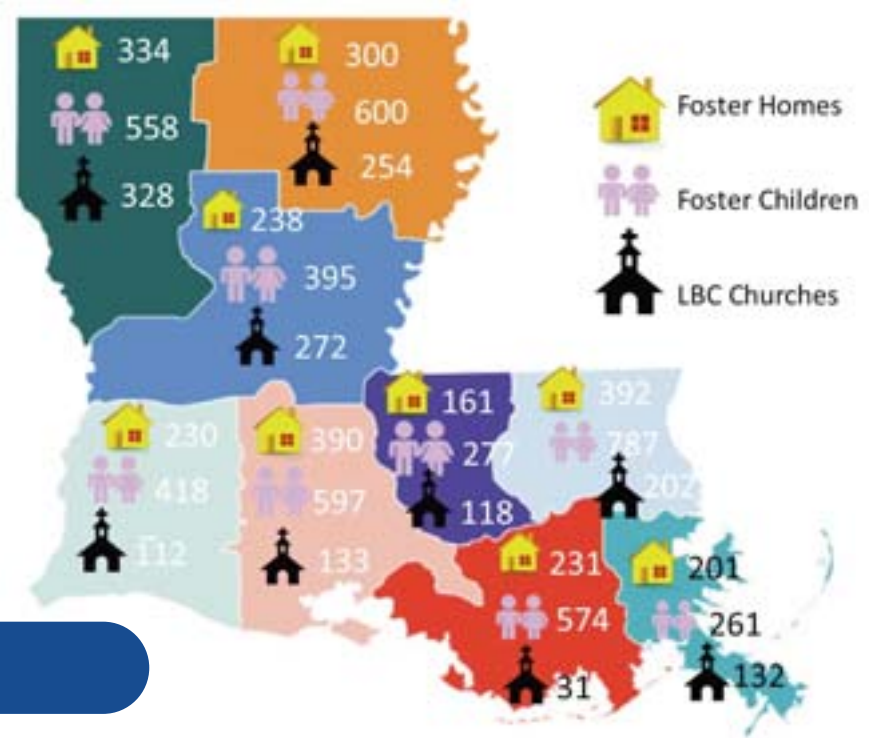
We need Louisiana Baptists to Serve as Foster and Adoptive Families now!

Right Now There Are:

Over 4,500 Children
currently in State Foster Care

Please contact the Children's Home Foster & Adoption Specialist in your area to see how your church can answer God's call to care for Louisiana children in need.

Goal: 200 Louisiana Baptist Foster Homes by 2020!



Louisiana Baptist Children's Home Foster & Adoption Specialists:



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



Margie Nielsen
Monroe Area
318.343.2244 • margie@lbch.org



Kerri Byrd
Shreveport Area
318.372.9021 • kerri@lbch.org

CONNECT1:27
FOSTER CARE & ADOPTION MINISTRIES
Louisiana Baptist Children's Home & Family Ministries



Key Areas In Reaching Our State (KAIROS) #10 in the LBC 2020 Commission strategy includes Louisiana Baptist Children's Home & Family Ministries pursuing initiatives that reach children in distress (such as foster care & adoption strategies).



Children at Play... God at Work.

New Recreation Center Campaign

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

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.



\$1,200,000 Total Cost

Bronze	\$250 - \$999
Silver	\$1,000 - \$4,999
Gold	\$5,000 - \$9,999
Platinum	\$10,000+

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

October Fall Food Roundup Pick-Up Schedule

Please deliver food to pick up locations BEFORE date listed.

Monday, October 1

Forest Hill
Amiable
Glenmora
Trinity and First in
Oakdale
Oberlin
Kinder
Indian Village
Elton

University
Eunice
North Eunice
Chataignier
Ville Platte
Trinity in Turkey Creek
Lecompte
Kingsville
Wayside
Pollock

Monday, October 1

Beulah in Cheneyville
Bunkie
Opelousas
Sunset
First, Emmanuel and
The Bayou in

Lafayette

The Bridge Fellowship
Teche
Rayne
Parkerson Avenue and
First in Crowley
Kaplan
Abbeville
Erath
Delcambre
Trinity, First and
Highland in New Iberia
Jenkins Memorial

Tuesday, October 2

Jeanerette
Baldwin Mission
Little Pass
Franklin
Teche in Centerville
Patterson
Bayou Vista
Berwick
Morgan City

Mulberry
Houma
University, First and
Calvary in Thibodaux
Napoleonville
White Castle
Plaquemine
Addis
Port Allen

Tuesday, October 2

New Light, Memorial,
First and Emmanuel in
Monroe
First, Trinity, Peniel,
Ouachita, Bethel, Mt.
Vernon, McClendon,
Community, New
Chapel Hill, Highland,
Ridge Avenue, and
Edgewood in West
Monroe

Parkview, Highland
Park, North Monroe,
Swartz, Calvary and
Lakeshore in Monroe

Wednesday, October 3

Krotz Springs

Monday, October 8

Gretna
Bell Chase
Ames Blvd.
West St. Charles
Luling
St. Rose Community
Norco
LaPlace
Gramercy
New River
Gonzales
Cross Point

Monday, October 8

Kenner
Harahan
Rio Vista
Metairie
Memorial
Pontchartrain
Mandeville
Covington

FALL FOOD ROUNDUP 2018

*"Thank you God for those who provide good food
for me to eat every day."*



Thank You Louisiana Baptists!

NEEDS LIST

Baked Beans
*Baking Powder/Soda
Bathroom Tissue & Facial Tissue
*BBQ Sauce
Body Wash
*Bottled Juice & Fruit Punch
Brownie Mix, Cake Mixes & Icing
Canned Chicken
Canned Vegetables
(Butter/Lima/Pinto/Red Beans;
Black-Eyed/Field/Purple Hull
Peas; Greens)
Cereal (Children's Brands)
Chili w/o Beans
*Cleaning Supplies (Bath/ Kitchen/
Furniture Polish/Disinfectant
Spray)
Clorox Bleach & Wipes
*Cocoa Powder
Condensed & Evaporated Milk
Cookies & Cookie Mix
Cooking Oil & Crisco Shortening
Corn Meal (Plain/Self-rising)
Crackers (Ritz/Saltines)
*Dishwasher Detergent
Disinfectant Spray

Dryer Sheets
*Flavors (Almond/Lemon/Vanilla)
Flour (Plain/Self-rising)
Freezer Bags (Qt. & Gal.)
*Fruit (Canned)
Gravy Mixes
Green Chiles
Grits (Regular/Instant)
Hair Spray
Hand Soap/Sanitizer
Hot Sauce
Instant Pie Filling
(Chocolate/Vanilla)
*Jell-O Pie Filling/Pudding
Jelly/Jam
(*Apple/Grape/Strawberry)
Jiffy Cornbread Mix
*Kool-Aid
*Laundry Detergent (Regular & HE-
Liquid)
Mayonnaise
Muffin Mixes
Mushrooms (Canned/Bottled)
*Oatmeal (Instant)
Onion Soup Mix
Pam Cooking Spray
*Paper Towels

Pastas
Peanut Butter (Smooth & Crunchy)
*Pickles & Relish (Dill/Sweet)
Pie Fillings (Canned)
Pop Corn
Pop Tarts
*Potatoes (Boxed & Instant)
Rice (Instant) & Boxed Dinners
*Salad Dressings
(Ranch/Italian/1000)
Soups (Variety/Cream of
Chick/Mush)
Soy & Teriyaki Sauce
*Spaghetti Sauce
*Spices (Allspice/BlkPepper/Garlic/
Lemon Pepper/Nutmeg/Onion)
*Sugar (Reg, Brown & Powdered)
Syrup (Chocolate/Pancake/Karo)
Taco Seasoning
*Tea (Regular/Decaf)
Tomatoes (Diced/Stewed/Rotel)
Tomato Sauce/Paste
*Tony Chachere's Seasoning
*Velveeta Cheese
Vinegar (Apple Cider & White)
Worcestershire Sauce

***Much Needed Items. THANKS!**

No gallon size cans please! Meals are prepared in each of our cottages, not cafeteria style.

Top 25 Children's Home Sunday Churches

Congratulations to the Top 25 churches giving to our 2018 Annual Children's Home Sunday Offering! Thank you for meeting needs and changing lives through your generosity to the children in our care!

First Baptist Church, Princeton

Lake D'Arbonne Chapel

Bethel Baptist Church, Bastrop

Prewitt's Chapel Baptist Church, Hornbeck

First Baptist Church, Rayville

North Monroe Baptist Church

First Baptist Church, Clinton

Port Hudson Baptist Church, St. Francisville

First Baptist Church, Livingston

First Baptist Church, Bunkie

Baskin Baptist Church, Baskin

Montpelier Baptist Church, Amite

McDonald Memorial Baptist Church, Jonesboro

Glenmora Baptist Church, Glenmora

First Baptist Church, Gillis

First Baptist Church, Zachary

Harmony Baptist Church, Delhi

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church of Rocky Branch, Farmerville

Wilda Baptist Church, Boyce

New Sarepta Baptist Church, Sarepta

Rock Corner Baptist Church, Dubach

First Baptist Church, Baton Rouge

First Baptist Church, Holden

Grace Memorial Baptist Church, Slidell

Calvary Baptist Church, Mansfield

**Thank You for Being Heroes to
Children and Families in Need!**

**Mark Your Calendars!
2019 Children's Home Sunday
Annual Offering is June 16!**



Campus Spotlight continued from page 3...

her personal giftedness.

Through church and Celebrate Recovery, Crystal has become bolder in her faith and she's thankful to see her girls growing in their faith, too. Crystal has had the confidence to reach out to a couple of ladies in situations that are all too familiar. She sees Morgan's and Jayden's growing confidence in praying for others in their small groups. Crystal and her girls enjoy sharing devotions together every night.

Crystal works at a fast food restaurant and has brought home treats for later. The girls keep peeking into the bag, not sure they can wait much longer! Mom and daughters enjoy happy chatter with one another as they share the highlights of their day and talk about the September activities they are looking forward to. Crystal will earn her three-month chip at Celebrate Recovery and graduate from the New Day Recovery outpatient program. The family will begin weekend visits with 12-year-old Joseph, who is currently living with his grandparents. September is also their three-month anniversary at LBCH, representing the first step in this new journey.

Crystal and her family love their new life and are thankful for all who helped along the way, even in those days when she was resistant to change. Looking back, Crystal says, "Not having a relationship with my parents for a time was so hard. But it was the best thing that could have happened. They were right to do what they did.... Now, they're my best friends! We talk on the phone every day. They want to know about our day at work and school and all the other things we're doing. It's totally different.

"When I met Mrs. Susan, she told me what was required for us to be part of the HomePlace Ministry. It was a big adjustment. She has to be firm, but she is also very encouraging. Mrs. Susan made this a reality for us.... Everyone here has been so nice to us."

Crystal and her girls are thankful for this fresh start that has already led to so many changes—restoration of relationships, a campus family and new friends to do life with, a safe place to call home, and hope for the future. Morgan and Jayden see the evidence of God at work as they continue learning what it means to truly "take delight in the Lord...." As they begin their visits with Joseph, Crystal, Morgan and Jayden look forward to the day the four of them can be together again.

amazonsmile
You Shop. Amazon Gives.

You can help children and families in need through shopping you are already planning to do through AmazonSmile!

AmazonSmile allows shoppers to select their favorite charitable organization to receive 0.5% of the purchase as a contribution from Amazon. Simply go to smile.amazon.com, select Louisiana Baptist Children's Home as your charity and start shopping!



highlights from homeplace...

By Susan C. Clark, HomePlace Director

Part of my job is the privilege to interview women to determine whether they qualify for HomePlace. On a weekly basis, these moms share their stories, hearts and lives. I quickly become aware of the pain and adversity in their lives. Many of these stories are so overwhelming that all I can do is pray for them as I listen.

As a child, I believed that all stories began with “once upon a time” and ended with “and they all lived happily ever after.” And isn’t that the way stories should go? Technically, if you read the beginning of the Bible and the end of it, this could be said. However, it’s all the in between that we call “life” that casts shadows on the beautiful beginning and doubts on the glorious ending. I thank God that He is the One that gives us grace for grace to walk this journey out moment by moment. John 1:16 says “And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace.”

I picture God extending His grace into our lives because of our desperate need for it, but also in order to extend it into the lives of those around us who have similar desperations...much like the ebb and flow of the ocean. Just as we find ourselves in need again, here comes grace like the waves crashing on the shoreline of our story. Grace has a name—JESUS. In certain chapters of the story, Jesus may look like a Rescuer. He may be a Provider, a Healer or perhaps even a Shepherd. Whatever the need may be, it is His grace that enables us to experience Him in the moment of our despair. With all of our differences, we are so much the same. We all have a story and the common thread that is woven into all of them is our need of HIM. Charles Spurgeon once said, “I have a great need for Christ; I have a great Christ for my need.”

And at the right moment of the story line, I have the divine privilege of introducing GRACE to each one these moms. GRACE that opens the door to shelter, clothing, food, Christian counseling, mentoring, education, church, Bible Study, parenting classes, etc, in which all lead to their future of salvation, healing, restoration, peace, provision and joy everlasting. The possibilities and promises of GRACE are endless.

For every family that enters HomePlace, you have the opportunity to pray into their stories...stories that can turn into beautiful futures and glorious endings. I extend an invitation to partner with HomePlace by praying for each family that God sends our way. Thank you always!



End-of-summer fun!



Back-to-School!



memorials • 7/19/18-9/4/18

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Asking for Help

By Marissa Fuller, LBCH Child Specialist

For most everyone, asking for help is hard. It's hard to admit to ourselves that we need help. It's hard to admit that we can't do it all or that someone else can do what we can't. Plus, everyone has hard days, so is it really fair for us to ask for someone else's help?

Yes! It is ok for us to ask for help! It doesn't mean that we're weak or that we can't handle it, but it does mean that we need others to go along with us, in community, and help carry our burdens (Gal. 6:2). Asking for help is hard and we often avoid it far longer than we should. But most people want to help others. So why don't we admit when we're worn out and need a break? I could talk for a long time about how our society seems to send messages that asking for help makes us weak and vulnerable, that pride gets in the way of us not asking for help, or that we don't want to let go of "control" long enough to let someone else do something for us. But, there are countless articles and blogs on that topic already. Instead, I want to challenge you to offer help to someone. Learn how to be the helper.

I am asked all of the time for volunteer ideas to help foster families. So, let me share some ideas because, of course, we know that parenting any child can be hard. Foster parents often have added stress caused by the uncertainty of the situation of the child in their home: when/if that child might return to their biological family, how to help that child adjust to school, working through behavior problems in a way that may feel different from how they've parented before, or how to help that child feel safe and comfortable in an unfamiliar home. Foster parenting is hard. It can be rewarding and it is certainly needed. But there are many hard moments and hard days. So, offer to help someone you know

that is fostering. If you don't know a foster parent, call your local DCFS (Dept. of Children and Family Services) office or your LBCH Specialist and ask for specific needs.

Remember, you can't come to someone else's aid when you're barely holding on. We put the oxygen mask on ourselves before we help our neighbor when the plane is crashing. Challenge yourself to ask for help when you need it, but then come to the rescue for someone else once your feet are firmly planted. God created us to be in community with one another and He gives us many opportunities to share one another's burdens, so why not start with that sweet foster family that attends your church?

Ways to help:

-Bring a meal (ask in advance when will be a good time and to see if there are any food allergies or aversions. Don't be afraid to have something delivered if cooking isn't your thing!)

-Mow the grass

-Give gift cards (this can be helpful to cover the cost of groceries, back to school shopping, Christmas or birthday gifts)

-Start a support ministry at your church and host respite events. Talk to your local LBCH Specialist about how to start this!

-Pray for the families that are fostering, the children that are sleeping in unfamiliar homes, the biological families that are working to reunite their families, and the judges, social workers, and attorneys that are making hard decisions to give these children the best life possible.



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