HomeNews

A PUBLICATION OF YOUR LOUISIANA BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME & FAMILY MINISTRIES



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WORDS FROM HOME



David Jeffreys, PhD
President & CEO

We Have So Much To Be Thankful For

Thanksgiving is a wonderful time to reflect on the goodness and faithfulness of God. As I think about Louisiana Baptist Children's Home and Family Ministries, I am reminded of the countless ways God continues to bless this ministry. Every day, lives are being touched, needs are being met, and hope is being shared because of His provision and the faithfulness of people like you.

One of my greatest blessings has been seeing firsthand all that God is doing through this ministry. I knew of the wonderful reputation of the Children's Home before arriving, but I don't think I fully understood the breadth and depth of our ministries until I became a part of them.

> **"I give thanks to my God for every remembrance of you."**
>
> ***—Philippians 1:3***

The Children's Home is so much more than a place where children live. It is a ministry where lives are changed, families are strengthened, hope is restored, and the love of Christ is shared in tangible ways. What a privilege it is to be part of something that makes such an eternal difference!

I am especially thankful for God's provision. Time and again, I have seen His faithfulness demonstrated through the generosity of individuals, churches, and friends who make our ministries possible. I am also grateful for our dedicated staff, who faithfully demonstrate Christ's love to those entrusted to our care.

And then there is you.

Whether you give financially, support us through your church, provide food and supplies, volunteer your time, or faithfully pray for us, you are part of the Children's Home family.

I hope you never underestimate the significance of your involvement. When a child finds a safe place to call home, you are part of that story. When a struggling family receives help and encouragement, you are part of that story. When someone experiences the love of Christ through one of our ministries, you have helped make that possible.

The apostle Paul wrote in Philippians 1:3, "I give thanks to my God for every remembrance of you." Those words certainly express my heart as I think about the many people who faithfully support this ministry. This Thanksgiving, I am thanking God for His continued provision, for the lives being changed, and especially for each of you.

Thank you for being part of what God is doing. We truly have so much to be thankful for!

PRAYER CALENDAR...

Bailey ..... November 1
Asiya ..... November 2
Brianna ..... November 3
Avery ..... November 4
Alivea ..... November 5
Travis ..... November 6
Seren ..... November 7
Leilani ..... November 8
Sana ..... November 9
Selena ..... November 10
Cassie ..... November 11
Danasia ..... November 12
Isreal ..... November 13
Rebecca ..... November 14
Egypt ..... November 15
Chelsea ..... November 16
Erin ..... November 17
My'Angel ..... November 18
Bentley ..... November 19
Lula ..... November 20
Piper ..... November 21
Michael ..... November 22
Miyana ..... November 23
Dra'gon ..... November 24
Khaleesi ..... November 25
Brooks ..... November 26
Scarlett ..... November 27
Juliette ..... November 28
Rex ..... November 29
Chelsea ..... November 30



BIRTHDAYS...

Sana .....November 5
Iesha .....November 7
Alivea .....November 17
Piper ..... December 23

• 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).*

• TRUSTEES •

Jason Lupo, Chairman
Bob Bozeman, Vice-Chairman
Jodie Naylor, Secretary

Richard Bullock
Brian Craddock
David Denton
Mandi Guillory
Jason Hoychick
Jennifer Lane
Rikki Permenter
Johnny Smith
Diane Uzzle
Joe Weaver
Lynn Wilson

Kirk Jones, LBC President
Steve Horn, LBC Executive Director
David Jeffreys, LBCH President & CEO

Matt Coker, LBCH Vice President of Development & PR
Julie Adcock, LBCH Director of Communications

CAMPUS SPOTLIGHT:
Welcome New Cottage Parents

One of our greatest answers to prayer this year was God providing three new cottage parent couples who answered the call to serve our children. We are so excited to welcome these three wonderful couples into the LBCH family.

Crissie and Dean Cirelli are no strangers to LBCH, and we are thrilled to welcome them back home! The Cirellis began their ministry to children in a children's home setting in Arkansas in 2002. After serving there for six years, they made the move to Monroe and joined the LBCH family, serving as cottage parents from 2008 until 2020. We are grateful to have them return to a ministry and community they know and love. They are continuing their call to care for children as they serve in Joy Cottage.



Crissie and Dean Cirelli

Julie and Danny Humphreys come to LBCH from Plaquemine, Louisiana, where they have been active members of Westside Baptist Church. Julie first felt the tug toward serving children in foster care after touring the LBCH campus a couple of years ago. Both Julie and Danny have a heart for children and have enjoyed serving through their church's children's ministries, including Vacation Bible School and children's church. Now, they are following God's call to minister to children in a new way at LBCH. They are serving children in Love Cottage.

Debbie and John Wilks first learned about the opportunity to serve as LBCH cottage parents through former LBCH resident and current trustee, Richard Bullock. The couple has always had a heart for children and said "yes" to God's call to share the love of Jesus with children in need. The Wilks come to us from Pineville, Louisiana, where they are members of First Baptist Church. They are serving children in Feazel Cottage.

Please join us in welcoming these three couples to the LBCH family! We ask that you keep them in your prayers as they move, train, and step into this important ministry.



Julie and Danny Humphreys



Debbie and John Wilks

THANK YOU
LOUISIANA BAPTISTS

We are overwhelmed with gratitude once again by the outpouring of generosity during this year's Fall Food Roundup!

Our cottage dads and other staff members put in long hours traveling across the state to collect food generously donated by Louisiana Baptist churches. We even had our president, Dr. Jeffreys, out on a collection run!

For decades, Louisiana Baptists have faithfully supported the children of Louisiana Baptist Children's Home through this special event—helping us Fill Their Plates. Feed Their Future.

Thank you for demonstrating Christ's sacrificial love in such a practical and meaningful way. Please know how deeply we value your partnership in ministry. Because of your generosity, needs are being met, lives are being changed, and children are experiencing the love and hope of Christ every day.

From all of us at your Louisiana Baptist Children's Home, thank you!







HOMEBUILDERS

Matt Coker
Vice President of
PR & Development



A Future She Can See

Giving Thanks for God's Faithfulness and the Hope of New Beginnings

Thanksgiving provides an opportunity to reflect on God's faithfulness and the many blessings He provides. At Louisiana Baptist Children's Home and Family Ministries, we are especially thankful for the lives God continues to transform through the prayers and generosity of Louisiana Baptist churches and friends.

Tiffany Edmonston's story offers a beautiful reminder of why we give thanks.

After years of struggling with addiction, Tiffany committed herself to recovery and began praying for an opportunity to rebuild her life. Her greatest desire was to reunite with her daughter and provide a stable home for their future together.

While participating in a recovery program, Tiffany learned about HomePlace, a ministry of LBCH that provides housing, support, and hope to women and children experiencing homelessness. She began praying that God would open the door for her to enter the program.

When that opportunity finally came, Tiffany recognized God's faithfulness.

"I knew I was in an answered prayer," she recalled.

At HomePlace, Tiffany found more than a safe place to live. She experienced the love of Christ through compassionate staff who encouraged her, believed in her, and helped her recognize her God-given potential.

"I was safe. I was able to start a savings. I didn't have to worry about my next meal. I didn't have to worry about the bills," Tiffany shared.

With those burdens lifted, Tiffany began accomplishing things she once considered impossible.

After leaving school in eighth grade, Tiffany doubted her ability to complete her education. Through LBCH's Women's Learning Center, she persevered and earned her high school equivalency diploma. She also established savings, improved her credit, and developed the confidence to live independently.

Most importantly, Tiffany continued growing in her relationship with Jesus Christ.

Although her original prayer of reuniting with her daughter remains unfulfilled, Tiffany has learned to trust God's timing. She recognizes that God has been preparing her for a future filled with possibilities.

As Tiffany begins her next chapter, she carries something she once struggled to find: hope.

"I see a future now," she shared.

This Thanksgiving, we give thanks not only for Tiffany's remarkable journey but also for the faithful churches and friends who helped make her story possible.

Your prayers, generosity, and partnership provide more than housing, meals, and education. Through your support, women like Tiffany experience the love of Christ and discover that their past does not have to define their future.

On behalf of the children and families we serve, thank you for faithfully supporting this ministry. We thank God for you and the difference you continue to make.

This Thanksgiving, Tiffany has much to be thankful for. And because of you, we do, too.







Top left: Tiffany with HomePlace Director, Jonann Byargeon and HomePlace Case Manager, Kelli Gregory. Left: Tiffany at graduation. Above: Tiffany with Cottage Manager, Barbara Davidson.

Schedule a Children's Home Campus Tour







We're always excited to invite friends to tour our campus! Tours are available for groups or individuals by appointment. We would love to show you around and let you see first-hand what God is doing at your Children's Home!

To schedule a tour contact Matt at mcoker@lbch.org or 318.343.2244.

THANK YOU KD



It was a pleasure welcoming our friends from ULM Kappa Delta to campus for a tour! ULM Kappa Delta has been a faithful supporter of LBCH for many years, and we are continually impressed by the work these young women do—not only for LBCH, but throughout our community. Thank you, friends, for your continued support and for the many ways you give back. We are so grateful for you!

We have so much to be thankful for at your Louisiana Baptist Children's Home. God's blessings this year have been abundant.

In my first 10 months as president of your Children's Home, I have been amazed as I've watched God work in the lives of children and families. As I reflect on these past months, my heart is filled with gratitude.

I am thankful for the man who drove through the line at our Compassion Center to receive a box of food—and left with something far greater after giving his life to Christ.

I am thankful that Elysia had the opportunity to go fishing for the very first time—and for the joy on her face when she caught her first fish!

I am thankful that the Lord brought three new couples to serve as cottage parents. Because of their willingness to answer God's call, we will be able to open another cottage and provide a safe, loving, Christ-centered home for even more children in need.

And I am especially thankful for friends like you who make this ministry possible.

Louisiana Baptist Children's Home receives no state or federal funding. We depend on the faithful generosity of Louisiana Baptists and friends like you to provide the resources needed to care for children and families throughout our state.

That's why your Thanksgiving gift is so important. Your generosity helps provide a safe home for a child, food for a struggling family, encouragement for a single mother, and—most importantly—the opportunity to experience the love and hope of Jesus Christ.

As we approach this Thanksgiving season, I want to sincerely thank you for your prayers, your generosity, and your heart for this ministry. I am deeply grateful for the privilege of serving alongside you. May God richly bless you and your family this Thanksgiving.

In Christ,

David Jeffreys, PhD
President & CEO



HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

YES, I want to help children with a THANKSGIVING gift.

__$100 __$50 __$25 Other $_____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ PHONE ( ) _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ EMAIL _____

*Credit Card Info: Account No: _____ Visa____ MC____ AmX____ Discover ____

*Expiration Date:_____ *Code:_____ *Signature:_____

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

Please notify (honoree/relative): _____

Address_____ City_____ State_____ Zip _____

__Send me info on how to become a monthly sponsor *Required for credit card processing __Send me your FREE Personal Estate Planner

GIVE ONLINE AT LBCH.ORG

GIVE NOW

Become a Monthly HOPEBuilder!



Monthly HopeBuilders: A Special Group of Heroes to Children in Need

Heroes protect the vulnerable, restore the broken, and bring hope in desperate situations. Every child who has been neglected, abused, or abandoned needs a hero. Our Monthly HopeBuilder program gives YOU the opportunity to be a hero to children in need.

When you become a "Monthly HopeBuilder," you join a special group of people making monthly investments in the lives of precious children, providing them with love, care, and hope in Christ.

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS: Go to our website at LBCH.ORG and click on the GIVE NOW button. Set up recurring monthly gifts ($10 minimum) using Visa, MasterCard, Discover Card, American Express, Debit Card, or E-Check. Simply put Monthly HopeBuilder in the notes section. You may cancel your monthly donations at any time. It's that easy! You may also give by check. Simply put Monthly HopeBuilder on the memo line and mail to LBCH, PO Box 4196, Monroe, LA 71211. For more information, contact sarah@lbch.org.

More Than a Box of Food

Matt Hancock
Executive Director of
Compassion for Kids



As 2026 begins to wind down, I thought it would be nice to provide a recap of sorts on what Compassion For Kids has been blessed to be a part of this year. During our first full year of ministering from The Compassion Center, we continued our food distribution program, averaging about 230-240 food boxes every Tuesday and Thursday. Each of these boxes is substantial in weight (about 25 lbs.) and includes dry good, non-perishables, drinks, produce, frozen meat, and bread. We understand that we won't ever be able to fully provide all the food our families need, but we can greatly supplement what they have. The Compassion Center. In 2026, we provided approximately 23,000 of those food boxes!

We also had wonderful opportunities to meet a couple thousand people who came through The Compassion Center, either to receive food assistance or to receive life-essential items to distribute in their communities through our Ministry Partners program. Simply through one-on-one interactions, we've gotten to know these folks. We've heard the stories and testimonies of what is going on in their lives and communities. In one way or another, all of those conversations revolve around one central truth: GOD IS AT WORK! He's at work providing crucially needed items. He is providing food and clothing to those who have very little. He is at work healing bodies, and lives, and even souls. Healer…Provider…Comforter…Savior. These stories and testimonies go a long way to encouraging our staff and volunteers because we get to hear about and sometimes even see the fruit of the labor.

As an example of God's provision and faithfulness, on October 14, over 50 volunteers from a variety of backgrounds and ethnic groups all came together, united for one purpose: packing 20,000 red beans and rice meals which have already gone directly into communities in the Monroe area. For two hours, these united believers stood shoulder to shoulder working rapidly to accomplish this goal. Once the 20,000th meal had been packed, a huge gong sounded and reverberated through The Compassion Center. A job well done! A goal met! Mission Accomplished!!! One team, united for the sole purpose of providing food for families in need as a way to say, "We love you…God loves you! He sees your need and He is providing for you even before you become aware of it." What a powerful invitation to BELIEVE!

Thank you Louisiana Baptists for your continued support, encouragement, and prayer! Thank you for being our teammates in this work! We have a belief and a sense that even with all God has done in 2026, that He's only getting started with Compassion For Kids!



COMPASSION FOR KIDS
LOUISIANA BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME



Honor Your Loved Ones With A Christmas Honor Card!



Honor your loved ones this Christmas with an honor card from Louisiana Baptist Children's Home & Family Ministries. Our cards are extra special this year as they were designed by children in our care. Not only will you put a smile on your loved one's face, you'll put a smile on the face of a child in need.

Simply send your honor gift to the Children's Home by December 7th along with a list of names and addresses of those you would like to honor. A 2026 Children's Home Christmas Honor Card will be sent to the honorees on your list in time for Christmas. Proceeds from the cards go towards the daily care of the children at LBCH.

CHRISTMAS CARD SETS

Featuring Artwork by LBCH Children

Share the joy of Christmas with cards featuring original artwork by the talented children of LBCH. Each six-card set offers a beautiful way to send Christmas wishes while introducing friends and loved ones to Louisiana Baptist Children's Home. Order online at lbch.org or scan the QR code. Suggested donation: $20 per set.



Jonann Byargeon
Director of HomePlace



Highlights from HomePlace

Fall has arrived! The evidence abounds on campus. Pumpkins reign quietly on cottage porches. Mums and spider lilies have made an appearance around campus. A hint of pumpkin spice floats in the air.

Everyone has adjusted to the new season which includes a slower pace and shorter days. HomePlace remains faithful to its mission. The mission of welcoming moms and their children to their new home.

At HomePlace, families find a place to call home and a renewed sense of security. Each family is welcomed by a cottage manager who builds a relationship with them, supports them as their new journey begins, and stands ready to help meet their physical needs. In return, families often offer a simple but heartfelt "thank you."

I'm reminded of a quote, "Let our lives be full of both thanks and giving." HomePlace embodies that spirit each day as staff members welcome moms and children, invest in their lives, and help meet their needs.

To celebrate the season, I asked moms, children, and cottage managers to share their thoughts about Thanksgiving. Their answers offer a warm glimpse into the foods, traditions, and blessings that make this time of year meaningful. I hope you enjoy their responses.

Favorite Thanksgiving foods?

Kathy (staff): *Chocolate pie with meringue and a turkey drumstick*
Erin (resident): *Dressing, cranberry sauce and casseroles*
Deborah (staff): *Dressing with cranberry sauce, giblet gravy, and cranberry salad*
Danasia (10-year-old): *BBQ chicken and salad*
Alivea (9-year-old): *Potato salad, ham, turkey, mash potatoes with gravy and cheesecake*
Israel (6-year-old): *Turkey*
Avery (12-year-old): *Stuffing*

Do you have a favorite fall candy?

Eli (6-year-old): *Fall gummies*
Toni (staff): *Caramel apple flavored candy*
Danasia (10-year-old): *Candy corn*
Tiffany (mom): *Werther's caramel apple candy*
Isreal (6-year-old): *Candy pumpkins*
Chelsea (mom): *Caramel, any candy with caramel*

If you were planning the perfect Thanksgiving meal, which dishes would be on the table?

Tiffany (mom): *Turkey dressing, oyster dressing, turkey, ham, baked macaroni*
Israel (6-year-old): *Turkey and bacon*
Avery (12-year-old): *Ham, stuffing, green beans, corn, mashed potatoes, mac and cheese and any dessert*

Name things you are thankful for this Thanksgiving.

Iesha (mom): *My child being healthy. God protecting me through all of my adversities and bringing me closer to Him*
Barbara (staff): *My family, they are my rock and foundation*
Avery (12-year-old): *My mom, family and friends*
Chelsea (mom): *My family, progress and employment*
Eli (6-year-old): *Being in football, living at Grace Cottage, my mom, teachers and school*
Danasia (10-year-old): *God*
Tiffany (mom): *My health, my car, my family and the opportunity I have had here in HomePlace*
Israel (6-year-old): *My momma and God*
Shawn (staff): *Serving God and His people every day, God's grace, healing, and unending love, family and friends.*

As you enter this season of "thanks and giving," I hope you enjoy your time with family and friends. Please continue to pray for the HomePlace staff and families. Thank you for making this life-changing ministry possible.

Thank You for Being Part of Our Story

Alisha Clark
Executive Director of
Women's Learning Center



When my children were young, we created different "thankful" projects every year in November. We drew trees and added "thankful" leaves, we filled glass jars, and we even made a tablecloth where all of our blessings were listed for the year. My children are all teenagers now and those specific traditions have fallen away, but we still practice saying what we are thankful for as we remember God's faithfulness over the last year.

At the Women's Learning Center, Thanksgiving carries that same unique weight of gratitude. Every day, we walk alongside resilient mothers and women who are striving to rewrite their stories, break generational cycles, and build strong, faith-filled foundations for their families. For the women in our care, Thanksgiving is a profound milestone—a time to look back at how far God has brought them and to look forward with newfound hope.

I want to share our "thankful" list from the Women's Learning Center this year. We want each of you to know just how good God has been.

The Students: The women who attend the Women's Learning Center are balancing jobs, families, bills, and many heavy pressures. We are so thankful they come and continue to strive to learn and grow, faithfully following each step the Lord has for them.

Our New ESL Class: We are thrilled that we were able to add an ESL (English as a Second Language) class this year. It is a wonderful space where English is taught, connections are made, and the gospel is clearly presented.

The Gift of Education: We remain deeply thankful for the resources, life-skills classes, and educational tools that are equipping these women for independent, successful futures.

Spiritual Growth: We give praise for the daily opportunity to study God's Word together and experience the life-changing power of His grace.

A Supportive Community: We are profoundly appreciative of the donors, prayer partners, and staff who love, encourage, and lift up our women every single step of the way.

Thank You for Being Part of Our Story

We know that the work happening within the Women's Learning Center would simply not be possible without you. Your prayers, your financial gifts, and your consistent support are the hands and feet of Christ on our campus. You are helping to provide the love, care, and hope that transforms temporary struggles into eternal victories.

Because of your generosity, this semester each student received a bag, essential school supplies, a Bible, and a Bible study book. Furthermore, as we focused heavily on improving literacy this year, your support allowed us to purchase individual novels for each of our reading students to help them grow and excel.

As you gather with your own loved ones this Thanksgiving, please know how much you are appreciated by the Women's Learning Center at the Louisiana Baptist Children's Home. May your homes be filled with the same joy, peace, and deep gratitude that you have helped plant in the hearts of our women and children this year.

WOMEN'S LEARNING CENTER

The Power of Gratitude
Cultivating Joy in Every Season

Kevin Richard
Director of
Granberry Counseling
Centers



I still love the holiday season. Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's have always been my favorite time of year. Family gatherings, shared meals, decorations, and Christmas music make the season special. Then, almost suddenly, January arrives, and it can feel as though a roller coaster has crested the hill and begun its rapid descent. We return to our daily routines, along with the challenges and responsibilities that come with them.

I often find myself wishing that the joy, connection, and peace of the holidays could last longer than a few weeks. What if we could cultivate those qualities throughout the year—even when life is difficult? One important place to begin is gratitude. Some people may find it easier than others to notice what is good in their lives, but gratitude is also a practice we can cultivate. Developmental psychologist Dr. Nancy Darling has observed, "It is ironic that we can get so busy chasing happiness that we fail to notice the things that could be bringing joy to us in the present." Gratitude helps redirect our attention toward the gifts already present in our lives, even when our circumstances are far from ideal.



I learned this lesson in a very practical way. I was preparing to share a devotion about joy at a morning staff meeting. My melanoma journey was going well, but it had brought significant changes to my life. On my usual drive to work, I rounded the exit for the I-210 bridge and discovered that traffic had come to a complete stop. I had passed the last opportunity to take another route, and it looked as though I was stuck. My first thought was, "I can't believe this; of all the days!" Then, the Holy Spirit brought to mind a commitment I had made at the beginning of the year: to meditate each day on a Bible verse about joy. As I waited in traffic, I began naming the things I could thank God for. I was grateful to have a car, enough gas, air conditioning, a job to go to, and the opportunity to share with my colleagues the ways God had been faithful to me. I continued that practice throughout the hour I sat in traffic. By the time I arrived at the staff meeting, I was ready to share—not a story about frustration, but a story about choosing gratitude.

Scripture reminds us why this matters. "Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his faithful love endures forever" 1 Chronicles 16:34, CSB. Gratitude does not require us to deny pain, minimize loss, or pretend that life is easy. Rather, it helps us remember that hardship is not the whole story. Even in difficult seasons, we can look for signs of God's goodness and faithfulness. What we pay attention to shapes how we experience life. When we focus only on what is missing, it is easy to become consumed by disappointment and frustration. When we intentionally practice gratitude, we begin to notice blessings that might otherwise go unseen. We still face real struggles and losses, but we can also recognize how much we have been given and how often God sustains us through challenges.

If you find yourself thinking, "I have nothing to be thankful for," start small. Name one or two things each day, even simple things—and give yourself time to reflect on them. Gratitude is not a quick fix for every problem, but it can help create room for renewed perspective, deeper joy, and a more consistent awareness of God's presence. At Granberry Counseling Centers, our counselors see how powerful it can be when people begin to recognize and build on what is good, even amid painful circumstances. We seek to help individuals and families move toward healing and hope, including renewing their minds, as Paul encourages in Romans 12:2. The practice of gratitude is one small, meaningful way to begin that process.

Granberry Counseling Centers Locations:

Alexandria: 1250 MacArthur Drive, Louisiana Baptist Building
Counselor: Orlando Madrid - 318-355-1067

Alexandria: 5011 Jackson Street, Calvary Baptist Church
Counselor: Orlando Madrid - 318-355-1067

Baton Rouge: 10560 Airline Highway, Baptist Association of Greater Baton Rouge
Counselor: Dr. Wendy Leger - 225-590-3233, Abbie McCall - 225-335-6445

Baton Rouge: 11848 Hooper Road, Zoar Baptist Church
Counselor: Dr. Wendy Leger - 225-590-3233, Abbie McCall - 225-335-6445

Covington: 16333 Highway 1085, First Baptist Church
Counselor: Lew Eaton - 225-223-1497

Leesville: 620 South 3rd Street, Vernon Baptist Association
Counselor: Orlando Madrid - 318-355-1067

— CHRISTIAN COUNSELOR NEEDED IN LAKE CHARLES —

Monroe: 7200 Desiard Street, Louisiana Baptist Children's Home Campus
Counselors: Kevin Richard, Dr. Kathy Eichelberger, Dena Melna, and Kayley Armstrong - 318-345-8200

Monroe: 210 Finks Hideaway Road, North Monroe Baptist Church
Counselor: Skylar Artigue - 318-301-6402

Natchitoches: 143 Taylor Road, District Eight Baptist Missions & Ministries
Counselor: Orlando Madrid - 318-355-1067

Ruston: 3481 Highway 33, Concord-Union Baptist Association
Counselor: Dena Melna - 318-450-4660

Winnsboro: 280 Taylor Avenue, Deer Creek Baptist Association
Counselor: Kayley Armstrong – 318-953-6939



GO WARHAWKS

PROUD OF OUR GATOR





ALL DRESSED UP

MINISTRY REPORT 2026

LOUISIANA BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME & FAMILY MINISTRIES

Throughout 2026, Louisiana Baptist Children's Home and Family Ministries continued its mission of providing love, care, and hope in Christ for children and families in need. We are one home, eight ministries, and one mission.

RESIDENTIAL FOSTER AND FAMILY CARE

Served 173 children and homeless mothers through on-campus and off-campus residential ministries. An additional 330 families received placement referral services. We celebrated five adoptions, three permanent guardianships, and six decisions of faith.

GRANBERRY COUNSELING CENTERS

Provided professional Christian counseling for 791 individuals through 5,592 counseling sessions in multiple state-wide locations.

WOMEN'S LEARNING CENTER

Served 44 women through education and career training, with four earning high school equivalency diplomas and 12 completing career programs.

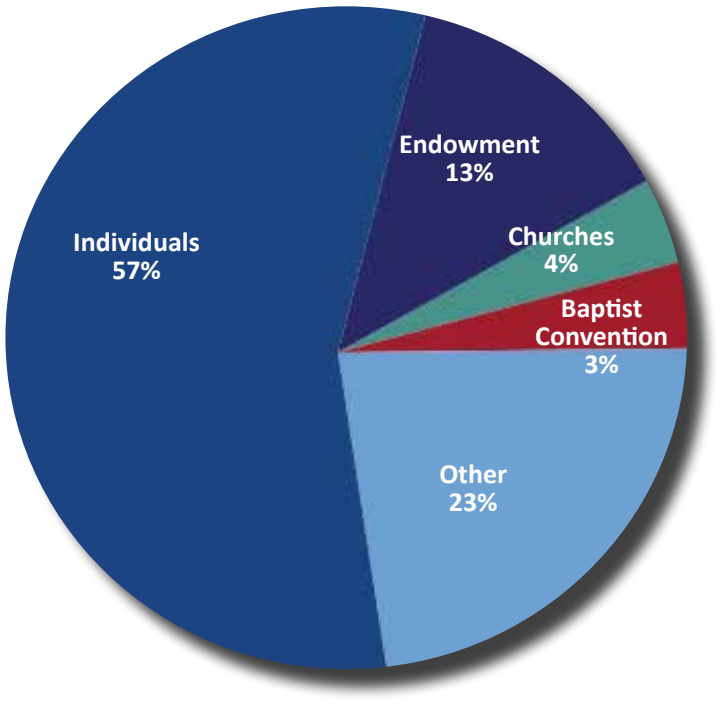
COMPASSION FOR KIDS

Since opening in May 2025, our new Compassion Center has helped Compassion for Kids serve approximately 40,000 children and individuals. We distributed more than 1.28 million pounds of food, along with thousands of diapers, shoes, clothing, and other essential items. Most importantly, we continue to share the Gospel and pray with the families we serve. We distributed thousands of Bibles, and we praise God that one man accepted Christ as his Savior while waiting in the food pickup line!

INTERNATIONAL ORPHAN CARE — LA REACH HAITI

Served 19 children in Cap Haitien through Louisiana Reach Haiti. A major milestone was the launch of a three-year transitional program created for young adults aging out of residential care that provides continued education, vocational training, apprenticeships, life skills, and a supportive home environment. Three young adults accepted Christ.

Ministry Funding Source



- **We received no state or federal funding for the care of children**
- **61% of all funding comes from individuals and churches**
- **Only 25% of funding goes to administrative costs**
- **75% of funding goes directly to ministry services**
- **7% of funding comes from payment of services (Granberry Counseling Centers)**



Abigail Meza
Foster Care Specialist

Kind Authority:

Leading with Love and Wisdom

Our Connect1Child team recently returned from the Christian Alliance for Orphans (CAFO) Summit in Atlanta, and we came home with full notebooks, new ideas, and plenty to reflect on. CAFO Summit brings together thousands of people from across the world who are passionate about caring for vulnerable children and strengthening families.

Of the many sessions and conversations throughout the week, one in particular has stayed with me. I had the privilege of attending a breakout session led by Rachel Medefind, where she shared about the idea of "parenting with kind authority."

At first, those two words might seem like opposites. Authority can make us think of rules, correction, and boundaries, while kindness brings to mind gentleness, compassion, and patience. But what if healthy leadership requires both?

Medefind describes kind authority as bringing together warmth, affection, and support with firm guidance, clear expectations, and consistent follow-through. Children need to know they are deeply loved, but they also need adults who are willing to provide structure and direction.

This is especially important when caring for children who have experienced trauma, loss, or instability. It can be tempting to think that building trust means avoiding conflict or lowering expectations. But connection and boundaries do not have to compete with one another.

Children need adults who can communicate, "I love you, and this is still the boundary."

Kind authority means that correction is not driven by anger, frustration, or a desire to control. Instead, boundaries are rooted in a genuine desire for the good of the person in front of us. Love does not always mean making things easier in the moment. Sometimes love looks like allowing an appropriate consequence, having a difficult conversation, or calmly holding a boundary even when someone is disappointed.

And this idea extends far beyond foster and adoptive families.

Parents, grandparents, teachers, youth leaders, coaches, mentors, and church volunteers all have opportunities to practice kind authority. Every relationship with a child gives us moments to offer both compassion and guidance.

As Christians, this also gives us a beautiful picture to consider. Scripture shows us a God who is both compassionate and holy, merciful and committed to our growth. Hebrews 12 reminds us that the Lord disciplines those He loves. His correction is not opposed to His love. It flows from it.

So what might kind authority look like in our everyday lives?

It may mean offering encouragement while still addressing a problem. It may mean clearly communicating expectations and consistently following through. It may mean listening with empathy while still being willing to say, "This isn't okay." And it certainly means remembering that growth takes time.

None of us will get it right every time. But we can continue learning to lead with both grace and truth, warmth and wisdom, compassion and consistency.

As we enter the holiday season, may we remember that one of the greatest gifts we can offer the people God has placed in our lives is the security of knowing they are both deeply loved and lovingly led.

MEMORIALS

Memorial gifts are received in thoughtful tribute to the memory of a relative, friend or loved one. Names of deceased persons are printed in all caps followed by the names of those making the memorial gifts.

August 18 - October 21, 2026

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August 18 - October 21, 2026

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Louisiana Baptist Children's Home & Family Ministries
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HomeNews

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 for 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 receives no state or federal funding for the care of children. Approximately 61% of all funding comes from individuals and churches. 25% of funding goes to administrative costs; 75% goes to direct ministry services; 7% of funding comes from payment of services.

Our major service areas include: Residential Child Care for Children ages 5-17; HomePlace Residential Family Care for Homeless Children and Mothers; Women's Learning Center providing job and life skills training and certified HiSET preparation and testing; Granberry Counseling Centers with 11 statewide locations; Connect1Child Foster Care & Adoption Ministries; and Orphans Embrace International.

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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