

# HomeNews

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



MAY/JUNE 2026/Volume 64/Issue 3



# WORDS FROM HOME

## Making an Impact Together

One of the greatest joys of serving at the Louisiana Baptist Children’s Home is getting to meet each child who comes into our care. Many arrive quiet, guarded, and unsure—carrying stories we often wish they didn’t have to live through. It can be heartbreaking to witness, knowing the circumstances that brought them here.

Yet at the same time, there is hope.

We are blessed with a team of men and women who are committed to showing every child genuine love, consistent care, and the hope found in Christ. And that hope makes a difference.

There is nothing quite like seeing the transformation that takes place over time. Children who once avoided eye contact begin to smile. Those who kept their distance start to open up. And before long, they’re running down the hallway with laughter, offering hugs without hesitation. It’s a beautiful reminder of what love, care, and hope in Christ can do.

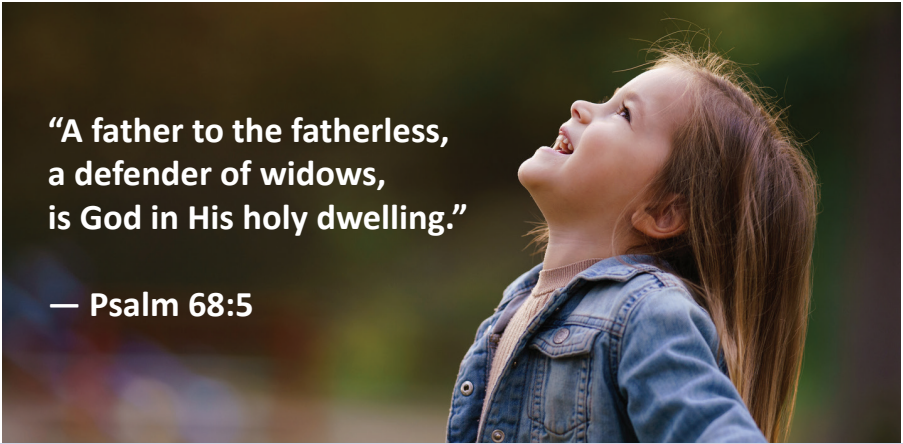
Every day, we have the privilege of showing these children what a family’s love truly looks like. Together, as Louisiana Baptists, we partner in this mission—creating a place where healing begins and hope is restored.

As we reflect on this year’s theme, “Father to the Fatherless,” I’m reminded of the incredible impact we can make together.

On behalf of all of us at the Louisiana Baptist Children’s Home and Family Ministries, I want to express my heartfelt appreciation for your partnership. Because of your prayers, your support, and your willingness to stand with us, lives are being changed every single day.

You are helping provide more than just a place to stay—you are helping give children and families hope, stability, and the love they so deeply need. You are part of every smile, every moment of healing, and every step toward a brighter future.

Thank you for being a faithful partner in this mission. Together, we are making a lasting difference in the lives of children and families across Louisiana.



### PRAYER CALENDAR...

|               |         |
|---------------|---------|
| My’Angel..... | June 1  |
| Makinlee..... | June 2  |
| Allen .....   | June 3  |
| Faith.....    | June 4  |
| Lily .....    | June 5  |
| Libiya .....  | June 6  |
| Lula .....    | June 7  |
| Larry .....   | June 8  |
| Landon.....   | June 9  |
| Michael.....  | June 10 |
| Miyana.....   | June 11 |
| Tiffany.....  | June 12 |
| Brittani..... | June 13 |
| Rittan .....  | June 14 |
| Brianna ..... | June 15 |
| Avery .....   | June 16 |
| Alivea .....  | June 17 |
| Travis .....  | June 18 |
| Sana .....    | June 19 |
| Selena .....  | June 20 |
| Florene ..... | June 21 |

|                |         |
|----------------|---------|
| Elysia.....    | June 22 |
| Edrick.....    | June 23 |
| Eyan .....     | June 24 |
| Cassie.....    | June 25 |
| Carietta ..... | June 26 |
| Camillia.....  | June 27 |
| Bryson.....    | June 28 |
| Chelsea .....  | June 29 |
| Keleya .....   | June 30 |

**And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.**  
— Ephesians 6:18

### BIRTHDAYS...

|                |         |
|----------------|---------|
| Keleya .....   | June 1  |
| Makinlee ..... | July 4  |
| Florene.....   | July 9  |
| Lula .....     | July 9  |
| Libiya.....    | July 10 |
| Travis.....    | July 22 |

#### • 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:

## Meet Randy and Lynette Romero - Love Cottage

Randy and Lynette Romero never planned to become cottage parents—but God had a different plan. In 2014, both began to feel a strong conviction that the Lord was calling them into a new chapter of ministry. It only took about a week for them to realize that the nudge they both felt wasn’t coincidence, it was a call. Leaving behind their careers and comfort, they sold nearly everything they had and stepped into the unknown with open hearts and obedient spirits.

With a combined 11 years of service—first at the Arkansas Baptist Children’s Home and now at the Louisiana Baptist Children’s Home since June 1, 2022—the Romeros have become a faithful, nurturing presence in the lives of more than 60 children. Some stayed for only a short time, while others became like their own over the course of many years.

Before entering this ministry, Randy worked as a welder and pipe fabricator, and Lynette managed a retail gift shop. At the time, their children were grown, their grandchildren filled their days with joy, and life seemed settled. But when God redirected their path, they chose to follow—and they’ve never looked back. Throughout their journey, the Romeros have shared their home with teenagers and young adults who needed love, structure, and stability. Some of their former residents have gone on to incredible things—working as a heavy equipment operator, serving in law enforcement, graduating from college, and even becoming an enlisted paratrooper in the Army. Lynette still keeps a list of all the children who have lived with them, praying over their names and remembering the time they shared.

But what means the most to Randy and Lynette isn’t the achievements, it’s the relationships. Whether it’s a birthday phone call, a Mother’s Day card, or a quiet moment of connection, these are the priceless reminders that their love made a difference. One child currently in their care already feels like family and will be, as Lynette says, “forever connected to us.”

If they could say one thing to every child they’ve ever cared for, it would be this: “We loved you, prayed for you, and always had your best interest at heart.”

Their greatest hope is that every child who walked through the doors of Love Cottage caught a glimpse of Christ’s unconditional love through their care. And though they stepped into this ministry late in life, they are the first to say that God has blessed them beyond anything they could have imagined. They are honored to be part of His work and grateful every day that they said yes to His call.



## Changing Futures, One Woman at a Time

### *One Student’s Journey Through The Women’s Learning Center*

At the Louisiana Baptist Children’s Home & Family Ministries, transformation often begins quietly—with a single step of courage and a foundation of faith. Three years ago, one woman walked through the doors of the Women’s Learning Center and took that step. Her journey would not be easy, but it would become a powerful testimony of perseverance, growth, and God’s faithfulness.

When she first enrolled, her goal was simple but significant: to earn her high school equivalency. Like many women in the program, she faced obstacles that made returning to education feel overwhelming. Life circumstances, setbacks, and moments of doubt could have easily led her to give up. Yet, even in the midst of ups and downs, she chose to stay—leaning not only on the support around her, but also on a growing trust in the Lord’s plan for her life.

The Women’s Learning Center became more than a classroom—it became a place of encouragement, prayer, and renewed hope. Through patient instruction and consistent support, she continued working toward her HiSET certification. Each subject passed was a hard-won victory, and each step forward was a reminder that God was still at work in her story.

After three years of persistence, she reached a milestone that once felt out of reach—she passed her HiSET exam. What began as a distant goal became a reality through resilience, support, and faith.

Her progress did not stop there. With this achievement came new opportunities and stability. She has since been able to move out of sober living, stepping into a new season marked by greater independence and hope. Where uncertainty once defined

her path, she now walks forward with confidence, trusting that God is guiding her next steps.

Her story reflects the heart of the Women’s Learning Center. The program exists to do more than educate—it equips, encourages, and points women toward lasting transformation. Through high school equivalency preparation, career skills training, digital literacy instruction, and a Christ-centered foundation, women are gaining tools that extend far beyond the classroom.

The impact reaches beyond each individual. As women grow in faith, confidence, and stability, their families are strengthened as well. Children see perseverance modeled in real time. They see faith lived out daily. And they begin to imagine new possibilities for their own futures.

This student’s journey is a reminder that transformation rarely happens overnight. Sometimes it takes years of steady effort, supported by a community that refuses to give up and a God who never lets go. At the Women’s Learning Center, those stories are still being written every day—one woman, one step, and one new beginning at a time.



**Alisha Clark**  
Executive Director of  
Women’s Learning Center



For more information call 318-307-7624  
or email [twlcmmonroe@gmail.com](mailto:twlcmmonroe@gmail.com)



# HOMEBUILDERS

## A Father to the Fatherless

*Book of Psalms 68:5 — “God in his holy dwelling is a father of the fatherless and a champion of widows.”*

This spring has been a great season for our children and families on campus. As we prepared to wrap up the school year, you can imagine how excited our children are! Already this month, they have spent time boating, swimming, and fishing. We are incredibly blessed with 4 husband-and-wife teams who invest in the lives of the children we serve. I am especially thankful for our cottage dads. Many of the children who come to us have no godly male influence. In the role of a father figure, there is often a great void. In God’s perfect design of the family, He provides a mother and father working together to raise children who are loved, nurtured, and guided through life. The latest statistics show that 36% of Louisiana families are led by a single parent. This reality deeply affects children, which is why cottage dads are so important.

### Cottage Dads: Showing Children the Heart of the Father

— **LOVE** through being there to walk with children daily. They show children what consistency and faithfulness look like through everyday moments around the dinner table, during homework, and through family activities. They listen when children need encouragement and celebrate milestones that many children have never had someone celebrate before. Through their presence, children begin to understand what a loving father’s heart can look like.

— **CARE** through meeting their needs and showing compassion and guidance in how to be a godly man or woman. Cottage dads help teach responsibility, respect, honesty, and biblical character through both words and example. They help children navigate difficult emotions, discipline with grace, and remind them they are valued and loved by God. In many ways, they help restore stability and security that have often been missing from a child’s life.

— **HOPE** through sharing the love of Christ. Cottage dads pray with children, encourage them in their faith, and point them toward the truth of God’s Word. They remind children that their past does not define their future and that God has a purpose for their lives. Most importantly, cottage dads help children see the love of their Heavenly Father—a Father who will never leave them, forsake them, or stop loving them. Through Christ-centered

relationships, children begin to see that healing, forgiveness, and hope are possible.

Tonight, somewhere on our campus, a child will sit at a dinner table, laugh during family devotion, or hear someone say, “I’m proud of you.” Moments like these change lives. Through the love of faithful cottage parents, children are not only experiencing the care of a family, but also being pointed to the love of their Heavenly Father—a Father who will never leave them or forsake them. Thank you for helping us create homes where children can experience the love of a family and the hope found only in Christ.

### Here are some ways you can help:

- Pray for our cottage parents and children, that God would fill our homes with the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, and faithfulness.
- Pray that God would call more cottage parents into this ministry, because there are children today who still need a loving, Christ-centered home.
- Give through one-time donations or become a Monthly Hope Builder. (If you have questions about this, please contact Sarah at [sarah@lbch.org](mailto:sarah@lbch.org).)

Your support provides for the needs of our children and families so we can focus on providing love, care, and hope in Christ to children and families in need. Here on campus, Love and Hope are more than words — they are also the names of cottages where children experience the care and support of a Christ-centered home every day.



## Schedule a Children’s Home Tour This Summer



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](mailto:mcoker@lbch.org) or 318.343.2244.



## Thank You, Friends!



We are also thankful to these amazing young ladies from Louisiana’s Little Miss and Our Little Miss Royalty for collecting much-needed items for our campus!

We appreciate all of your hard work and generosity to make this possible. It is such a blessing to see children helping children and using their kindness to make a difference in the lives of others. Thank you for sharing your hearts and serving our children and families in such a meaningful way!



# CHILDREN'S HOME SUNDAY ANNUAL OFFERING

FATHER'S DAY-JUNE 21, 2026

*A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows,  
is God in His holy dwelling."  
—Psalm 68:5*

Dear Friend of Children,

**You and your church family are meeting the needs of children** like eleven-year-old Macie.\* Coming from a troubled home, she had known more pain than a child should ever have to experience. You helped rescue this precious child from fear and instability by providing a safe, stable home, and unconditional Christian guidance and love.

For over 125 years, Louisiana Baptist churches like yours have transformed the lives of thousands of children just like Macie.\* You provide them a loving and nurturing Christian home. You make every meal, every bedtime prayer, and every peaceful night's rest possible. **You give them the opportunity to learn about God's great love for them in Christ.** Thank you!

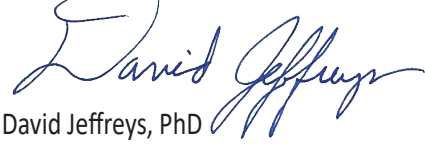
You and your congregation have such a vital role in meeting needs and changing lives through the ministries of your Louisiana Baptist Children's Home. Your support is greatly appreciated!

**This Father's Day, June 21 (or another date of your choice), would you please lead your congregation to participate in our Children's Home Sunday Annual Offering? What a great opportunity for your church family to demonstrate God's heart of compassion for children in need!**

**You can download a short video designed to help you promote this year's offering at LBCH.org, or we'll be happy to send you a USB thumb drive or DVD. We'll also provide you with our offering envelopes. Please call us at 318.343.2244 or email sarah@lbch.org to let us know what you need.**

Please know how grateful I am for you, your ministry, and your support for the children God places in our care. We could not do this ministry without you!

For the children,

  
David Jeffreys, PhD  
President and CEO

## YES, I want to help children with a 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  
or  
Text the word "GIVE"  
to 318-269-7440



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.



# Annual Awards Banquet Celebrates Residents

The Louisiana Baptist Children’s Home and Family Ministries Annual Awards Banquet was held on May 8 at Bayou Pointe Event Center on the campus of University of Louisiana Monroe. The theme for the evening was “Lead Me...For the Sake of Your Name.”

The banquet is a special time each year to celebrate the residents and recognize their unique qualities and accomplishments throughout the past year. Every child was recognized, encouraged, and celebrated for the progress they have made. During the evening, several children performed an interpretive dance to Your Way’s Better by Forrest Frank, led by the recreation workers. Guests also enjoyed a delicious meal and fellowship together.

Several special awards were presented during the evening, including the Lucile B. East Award for Courage, the Melody Karamanis Award for Kindness, and the Tommy Frost Award for Perseverance. These honors were given to residents who consistently demonstrated these qualities throughout the year. We are very proud of each of these recipients and the growth they represent.

Another special recognition presented during the banquet was the Friend of Children Award. This year’s recipient was Linda Myers of 88.7 The Cross. Linda has been a committed friend of the Children’s Home throughout her years of service at The Cross. Most recently, projects such as the Christmas Wish Program and the area-wide diaper drive have made a tremendous impact on the ministry and the children and families served. We are deeply grateful for Linda and her team and for their continued commitment to children in need.

A highlight of the evening was a presentation by Justin Coffey and several of his furry friends from Xtreme Obedience. Justin is an experienced dog trainer who uses his dogs to share the Gospel, especially with young people. Through tricks and obedience

demonstrations, Justin shared how, just as his dogs must listen to his voice, trust him, and follow his lead, we are called to listen to, trust, and follow Jesus. The children — and adults alike — thoroughly enjoyed the presentation and were excited to spend time with the dogs afterward.

It was truly a wonderful evening filled with joy, laughter, encouragement, and celebration as children, staff, supporters, and friends gathered together to reflect on God’s faithfulness.

A special thank you goes to the Judy Lynn Bailey Endowment Fund for making this year’s Annual Awards Banquet possible.



Lucile B. East Award for Courage



Friend of Children Award



Children, led by recreation staff perform



Above and right: Children enjoyed assisting during the obedience performance and visiting with the dogs after the event.



Above: LBCH Trustee joined in the fun.



## Compassion for Kids Update

*God Is Just Getting Started!*

**Matt Hancock**  
Executive Director of  
Compassion for Kids



The city of West Monroe Community Services Department

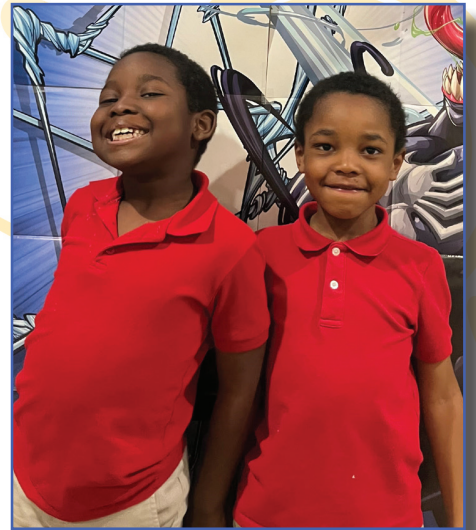
Spring is here and Summer is around the corner. I always love Spring because in May we get to focus in and honor our moms for Mother’s Day! I’m writing this the week of Mother’s Day and as I think about my own mom, I think about the sacrifices she and my dad have made for me over the years. Mom has always cared about people, especially those the world might consider to be “the least of these.” All my life I’ve watched my parents as they’ve devoted their lives to helping those who needed help. They made sacrifices to help those dear people and it came from a genuine place of love in their hearts.

As Mother’s Day approaches, Compassion For Kids has partnered with 88.7 FM The Cross and 60 other churches, stores, and businesses to collect diapers—yes, SIXTY... 6-0. All of this is to help mothers and families who are struggling. One in three families is currently struggling to keep up with the cost of diapers, sometimes having to decide between diapers and the next meal. God has blessed this ministry so much and it’s our honor and responsibility to place the loaves and fish into the Master’s Hands so He can multiply and bless them. Our goal is to have 100,000 diapers and wipes donated. Although the diaper drive will be over when this article makes the rounds, we will still be thrilled to receive any diapers and baby wipes anyone may wish to donate. Give us a call at (318) 387-2422 or email me at matt@LBCH.org.

Another huge need is for Bibles. As we distribute food to our clients each week, we always ask, “Would you like a Bible?” The answer is almost always, “YES!” and quite often we’re asked, “Can I please have another one for a family member?” With 2,500+ clients on our role, that’s a lot of Bibles! Several who have received them have said the exact same thing, “This is better than food!” as they have hugged the Bibles we’ve given to them. So, yes, we’re providing them physical food, but Jesus is the Bread of Life, and it is our honor to have the opportunity to help them make that connection. And for those who have donated or will donate to these ministries, I want to encourage you to remember that little boy who one day gave his bread and fish to Jesus. He may not have thought it was very much, but he trusted Jesus with it. And that boy’s small part in Jesus’ story is still being talked about and celebrated over 2,000 years later! God Bless!



# SNAPSHOTS...



## The Sacred Calling of Foster Care

**Across our nation—and here in Louisiana—we are facing a growing foster care crisis. Today, approximately 4,300 children and youth are in foster care across our state, yet there are only about 2,100 foster families available to care for them.** When we look closer at those numbers, the need becomes even more urgent. Only about 1,200 of those families are fully certified foster families who can receive any child entering foster care. The remaining families are approved only for specific children or sibling groups they already know or have a connection with.

Simply put, there are far more children in need of safe, loving homes than there are families available to welcome them.

When we take a closer look at these numbers, the need becomes even more overwhelming. The gap between children in foster care and available foster families continues to grow. While state agencies work tirelessly to protect Louisiana's children, the Church also has an important role to play by coming alongside these efforts to provide hope, love, and care to vulnerable children and families.

For many believers, caring for children in need reflects the heart of God. Yet there remains a significant gap between awareness and action. A 2024 survey by Lifesong for Orphans found that 31% of practicing Christians in the United States have seriously considered fostering, while only 3% are currently serving as foster parents. Although many are willing to consider fostering, far fewer take the next step to open their homes and lives to children in need.

**So why is it important for Christ-followers to engage in foster care ministry? Scripture gives us a clear picture of God's heart for the hurting, vulnerable, and overlooked.**

**Throughout the Gospels, we see Jesus move toward brokenness rather than away from it.** He sought out those who were hurting, mistreated, and forgotten by society. Jesus met people in the middle of their pain and offered them compassion, hope, and restoration.

In a similar way, Christ-centered foster families have the opportunity to step into difficult and broken situations to provide hope and healing to children and families in need. Caring for children who have experienced abuse or neglect can be challenging and

heartbreaking, but we serve a God who is near to the brokenhearted. As foster families faithfully love and care for children, many begin to experience safety, trust, and the hope found in Christ. Over time, sorrow can give way to healing, growth, and joy.

Foster care ministry is also filled with opportunities to share the Gospel. **Throughout Scripture, God calls ordinary people to participate in His work for His glory.** From Moses and Esther to Gideon and the disciples, God used willing hearts to accomplish extraordinary things. That invitation continues today. In the Great Commission found in Matthew 28, believers are called to make disciples and share the hope of Jesus with the world. Foster care provides meaningful opportunities to live out that calling by serving children and families with the love of Christ.

**God can also use foster care to draw us closer to Him and deepen our dependence on Him.** When asked what keeps Christians from becoming foster parents, one of the most common responses is the fear of becoming too attached. Many wonder if they could love a child deeply and then let them go. That fear is understandable, especially since nearly two-thirds of children in foster care in Louisiana eventually reunify with their birth families.

Yet even in our fears and uncertainties, we can keep our eyes fixed on God. As believers, we can rest in the truth that God is sovereign and in control. Even when situations feel chaotic or heartbreaking, we can trust that He is working all things together for good. Foster care often reminds us just how uncertain life can feel, but it also gives us countless opportunities to experience God's peace, comfort, and provision in deeper ways.

**Yes, foster care is hard. But it is also a sacred and sanctifying calling that God can use it to grow and stretch us spiritually as we faithfully care for children and families in need.**

**If you are considering becoming a foster parent in Louisiana, Connect1Child would love to walk alongside you.** As the off-campus foster care and adoption ministry of Louisiana Baptist Children's Home and Family Ministries, our team provides information, resources, and support for families beginning the foster care journey. To learn more, contact Christy Goodwin at [christy@lbch.org](mailto:christy@lbch.org) or call 318-343-2244.

**Christy Goodwin**  
Director of  
Connect 1 Child





# God’s Unseen Hand Through VBS

Kevin Richard  
Director of  
Granberry Counseling  
Centers



“VBS!” Vacation Bible School, a term that has coated the walls of countless households since the late 1800s. In the early 1920s VBS was adopted by Southern Baptists, and since has become a common household phrase. Upon hearing it, many adults are escorted back to their childhood days, while children glow with anticipation of the adventure to come. More importantly, what comes to mind is Jesus, the model of love and care reflected by those who served during VBS week and the impact that they made on countless children.

“I pledge allegiance to the Bible. God’s Holy Word. I will make it a lamp unto my feet, a light unto my path, and hide its words in my heart that I might not sin against God.” Almost 50 years later, I still remember this pledge, as well as one of the first Bible verses that I memorized, Psalm 119:11 “Your Word have I hidden in my heart that I might not sin against You.” VBS! Vacation Bible School! A term that means unique things to many different children, but to me, it means my early encounters with Jesus. Often, through the years, the “sit down” and “stand up” chords have rung in my ears. I can still imagine lining up in front of the church doors, holding the flag high with my chest puffed out, looking around to see if my buddies were watching me. Embracing a feeling of “grown-upness,” I proudly marched down the aisle to the altar, turning around with a slight grin on my face. I was so proud to be chosen to carry one of the flags that day. I also remember the snack time and the sweet ladies who were so excited to see us come through the line, even when we took too many cookies. Now I

cannot say that I remember every Bible study lesson or even every craft we completed, but I do remember each person who helped in various areas with their smiling face.

Those are the memories that help to coach and encourage me today almost 50 years later as I serve the Lord in ministry. In fact, one of the most disappointing weeks in my childhood was when I had walking pneumonia. I could not participate in the activities at VBS and had to go to the doctor each day to get a shot. I still went because my mom always helped, so I had to sit on the sidelines watching my friends have a blast. Interestingly, God used those times to start a journey of shaping and molding me to become the man He wants me to be. As this journey continues, I reflect on the roots of my relationship with God and how He taught me way back then, without me realizing the lifetime impact VBS would have.

I suppose most servants who made VBS such a success, have not realized the impact their obedience had on innumerable children. Nonetheless, God continues to do His work, often behind the scenes of life. I am able to minister compassion, empathy and servant leadership to the hurting at Granberry Counseling Center because I began learning these godly values at VBS. I have often heard that “It takes a village to raise a child.” I know without a doubt that those who serve at VBS are a very important and distinct part of that village. VBS, and all those involved, thank you for helping make my life a success story of the gospel of Jesus Christ!

## 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
- 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

# VBS 2026

LOUISIANA BAPTIST CHILDREN’S HOME & FAMILY MINISTRIES

We would like to be a part of your Vacation Bible School and help shine a light on Jesus!

- Children’s Home speakers are available to share our story at your VBS during mission time or family night
- LBCH videos are available that tell the Children’s Home story
- Limited amount of free VBS nametags are available. We’re almost out! 30,000 have already been given out to Louisiana Baptist churches!

We are so grateful for Louisiana Baptist churches that support the ministries of the Louisiana Baptist Children’s Home during Vacation Bible School. Through mission time presentations, VBS offering donations, and faithful prayer, you are helping bring hope and healing to children and families in need. Thank you for partnering with us to make an eternal difference in the lives of those we serve.

Contact us today at 318.343.2244  
or sarah@lbch.org

# Needs List

- ☐ Mayonnaise
- ☐ Salad Dressing (Ranch, Ceasar, Honey Mustard)
- ☐ Lemonade Mix
- ☐ Barbecue Sauce
- ☐ Yellow Corn Meal
- ☐ Cornbread Mix
- ☐ Coffee
- ☐ White Full and XL Twin Bed Sheet Sets



Thank You!





Jonann Byargeon  
Director of HomePlace

# Highlights from HomePlace

Fun times ahead! No school and no homework. Summer days, here we come! Summer has arrived in HomePlace! Ahead are sunny days filled with swimming, Vacation Bible School, summer camp, bike rides around campus, and countless opportunities for fun and adventure. After a busy school year, the goal of summer is simple: rest, relaxation, and making memories together.

The school year behind us you can almost hear a sigh of relief from the children, the moms, and the cottage managers. Our children always have a great perspective of the past school year and the days ahead. Many were eager to share their reflections and hopes for the summer.

Here are a few questions we asked them:

- What is the most important thing you learned this year?
- What will you miss most about school?
- What is one thing you would most like to do this summer?

Thoughts on School:

- **Elysia (3rd grader):** *“I learned not to be disrespectful when talking. My favorite subject is Reading.”*
- **Heaven (Kindergarten):** *“I learned to write, learned my colors, and the alphabet. I’ll miss recess and my teacher.”*
- **Edrick (1st grader):** *“My favorite subject is drawing and Art. The thing I’ll miss most is my friends and Art class.”*
- **Eyan (Kindergarten):** *“I really liked coloring in school, and my favorite color is red. I’ll miss my teacher the most.” When asked why he would miss his teacher, he replied, “She lets me color.”*
- **Eli (Kindergarten):** *“I’ve learned to add and subtract. Math is my favorite subject. I’ll miss my teacher and my friends.”*
- **Alivea (3rd grader):** *“Doing Math is the most important thing I’ve learned. I like Math. I’ll miss doing Math.”*
- **Avery (5th grader):** *“The most important thing I’ve learned is how to treat others. My favorite subject is poetry and Reading. There are 9 days left of school (at the time of the interview). I’ll miss my friends.”*

What I Would Like to Do This Summer:

- **Elysia (3rd grader):** *“The one thing I want to do is get in the pool with my friends.”* — **Heaven (Kindergarten):** *“I want to go to the pool.”*
- **Edrick (1st grader):** *“I really want to go to the park this summer.”* — **Eyan (Kindergarten):** *“This summer I want to play with my toys, transformers, and Legos.”*
- **Eli (Kindergarten):** *“I would like to go to Parrot’s Island (water park in AR).”* — **Alivea (3rd grader):** *“This summer I would like to go to AL and spend time with my family.”*

I always love their responses regarding school and summer plans. Their responses serve as reminders of the importance of learning, no matter the age or grade level. Learning should never stop. I hope you enjoy your summer. The simple things in life matter the most.

I believe our families will survive without homework and carrying backpacks. Thank you for your prayers and gifts, which make life in HomePlace possible.

Plan a visit to the campus this summer! Call us at 318.343.4445.



# MEMORIALS

March 12 - May 7, 2026

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.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
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First Waverly BC, Delhi  
Frank & Barbara Hendrix  
DR. TIMOTHY D. SPIRES  
Patricia Evans  
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ANN TAYLOR  
James E. Taylor  
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Frank & Barbara Hendrix  
David & Melanie Hammett  
MATTHEW TAYLOR  
John & Odell Whitman  
RICHARD THERIOT  
John & Vickie Sandiferd  
SHIRLEY THOMAS  
Ladies Class, New Ebenezer BC  
VICKY THRASH  
D&M Eddie Hamby  
MARY TIDWELL  
Mollie Weldon  
Mary Sirratt  
FRANCES TIMBER  
Ronald & Elizabeth Denenea  
GEORGE DAVID TINGLE  
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Class  
Pine Grove BC, DeQuincy  
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Barbara T. Meroney  
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# HONORS

## March 12 - May 7, 2026

Honor gifts are received in thoughtful tribute of a relative, friend or loved one.  
Names of honorees are printed in all caps followed by  
the names of those making the honor gifts.

TYLER BOONE  
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Ted & Patsy Stringer  
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M&M Lamar Tarver  
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CHILDREN  
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# Immediate Job Openings

Join Us in Making a Difference in the Lives  
of Children and Families

## Cottage Parents

(Full-time positions available in Monroe)

Please send resume to: Cindy Smith at [csmith@lbch.org](mailto:csmith@lbch.org)  
or LBCH, PO Box 4196, Monroe, LA 71211.

## Social Workers

(Part-time positions available in Shreveport. Full-time position  
available in Alexandria, LMSW or LCSW required)

Please send resume to: Cindy Smith at [csmith@lbch.org](mailto:csmith@lbch.org)  
or LBCH, PO Box 4196, Monroe, LA 71211.

## Cottage Manager (HomePlace)

(Part-time positions in Monroe)

Please send resume to: Jonann Byargeon at [jonann@lbch.org](mailto:jonann@lbch.org)  
or LBCH, PO Box 4196, Monroe, LA 71211.

[www.lbch.org](http://www.lbch.org)



## 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 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 56% 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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