

“When John Mills, and his Baptist friends, began the Thomasville Baptist Orphanage in 1885, he knew that it was going to be a tremendous success story. What he did not know was that it was going to be a tremendous love story as well. So from 1885 until the present moment, this love has encompassed all of North Carolina – love for children and their families. We are a thankful people at BCH. And we thank you, North Carolina Baptists, donors, friends and supporters for your hope and your encouragement and for keeping the love story alive!” – Michael C. Blackwell

I spoke these words earlier this year during the filming of Baptist Children’s Homes’ annual video. It has been my privilege to serve as BCH’s President since 1983. Just two years after I came onboard we celebrated the ministry’s Centennial anniversary. Within those beginning years it quickly became apparent the reason why the ministry dedicated to *“helping hurting children...healing broken families”* had survived war, the depression, and the many challenges society had faced - *love*.

This love began with our founder John Haymes Mills who dreamed of establishing a Baptist-operated orphanage to care for boys and girls who were in desperate need. That love was buoyed by supporters who gave everything they had, during a time when there was little to give, to see the Thomasville Baptist Orphanage established.

And it was love that led Reverend John Mitchell, Pastor of Ahoskie Baptist Church, to board a train with nine-year-old Mary Presson escorting her safely on a 200-mile journey from her hometown in eastern North Carolina to her new home in Thomasville. It was on that day, Wednesday, November 11, 1885, that Mary became the first child admitted into the orphanage and Baptist Children’s Homes was born.

Throughout the decades, that same love has caught fire in the hearts of Baptists and friends of children. It is a love that has traversed time and has brought us to this historic “Quasquicentennial” year - *the 125th anniversary of the Baptist Children’s Homes of North Carolina*.

Love



Awesome

Quasquicentennial is a seldom heard term associated with the observance of an organization's 125th anniversary. All throughout 2010, the six-syllable word was spoken again and again by BCH staff members, residents and friends as they celebrated the ministry's birthday through a myriad of creative projects and dynamic events.

The word "awesome," on the other hand, is a descriptive that often suffers from overuse. But after being a part of these many celebrations and experiencing the overwhelming love exhibited for the Baptist Children's Homes mission and those we serve, it is the only word that comes close to adequately expressing what has taken place this past year.

BCH's Quasquicentennial was indeed awesome!

It was awesome to see every child, resident, and staff member join together at Mills Home in Thomasville on June 15 for Family Gathering III. It was awesome to witness one man use his gift for cycling to embark on a 543-mile ride across the entire state to help boys and girls. And it was awesome to behold a tapestry comprised of 6,200 personalized squares created by North Carolina Baptists who continue to show their love for children in the most amazing ways.



Memories



"No canvas absorbs color like memory."

I've found this quote from author Robert Aris Wilmott to be absolutely true. The most profound experiences of my life are deeply etched on the canvas of my mind. Each memory resonates with the emotions that were felt in that moment.

One of the most important goals we can accomplish through the Baptist Children's Homes' ministry is to create wonderful memories for the children in our care. So many boys and girls come to us bringing only remembrances tinged with darkness, pain and despair. We have the opportunity to fill the pages of their memory books with an abundance of brilliant new pictures.

What stands out the most as I look back upon BCH's many Quasiquintennial events are the smiles on children's faces. I can still hear their laughter. I feel their joy. Children will carry with them countless colorful images from this year on the canvases in their minds and hearts for years to come.

As we turn the page and bring an end to this milestone in Baptist Children's Homes' history, a new chapter is unfolding before us. It is an opportunity for each of us who loves children, cherishes family, and believes in a righteous and Holy God, to continue the story.

How will we choose to fill these unwritten pages? As the authors, we have the power to chronicle an even greater story, to make a greater difference in the lives of the children we serve and will serve. Let us choose to chart a bold course that would make John Mills, Reverend John Mitchell, and the historic visionaries of BCH's first 125 years proud.

As we begin 2011, Baptist Children's Homes calls upon you to be a bringer of hope to children now more than ever. Let us choose to love more fiercely, give more abundantly, and trust more completely in Christ's life-altering love.

Michael C. Blackwell, December 2010



Highlights from 2010

BCH CELEBRATES 125TH ANNIVERSARY . . .

Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina observed its 125th anniversary, or "Quasiquicentennial," with a year-long celebration comprised of events spanning across the state. Anniversary events culminated the week of the 2010 Annual Session of the Baptist State Convention in Greensboro with BCH's "Growing Hope" presentation on Monday, November 8. The final celebration occurred at Mills Home in Thomasville on Thursday, November 11, BCH's official anniversary date, with a luncheon, worship service, and the dedication of the Heritage Walk and Garden.

GATHERING UNITES BCH FAMILY . . .

For only the third time in its history, Baptist Children's Homes held "Family Gathering" at Mills Home in Thomasville. Family Gathering III on June 15 brought together every resident and staff member from BCH's statewide locations for a day of fellowship and worship. After a time of games and music, the crowd assembled at the campus church for a praise and worship service followed by "Professor Q's Excellent Adventure," a program taking the audience back into BCH's historical past.

PRESENTATION CAPTURES BAPTISTS' HEARTS . . .

North Carolina Baptists cheered and applauded as more than 250 BCH residents and staff members delivered an inspirational 25-minute presentation at the Annual Session of the Baptist State Convention. Many in the audience were moved to tears as they heard the testimonies of past and current residents whose lives were changed through the Baptist Children's Homes ministry.

BAPTISTS CRAFT COLORFUL TAPESTRY . . .

In honor of the Children's Homes' anniversary, Baptists from across the state contributed 6,200 decorative squares to create BCH's "Growing Hope" Tapestry. Each personalized square was bound together by brightly-colored ribbons. The tapestry was displayed at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro for the Convention's Annual Session.

CYCLIST'S STATEWIDE RIDE ENDS IN SUCCESS . . .

Endurance cyclist and North Carolina Baptist Chris Boone undertook "RideNC2010," a 543-mile cross-state bicycle ride stretching from Murphy to Manteo, to raise support for Baptist Children's Homes during

its anniversary year. Chris completed half of the distance before a hard fall from his bike ended the ride. Chris' efforts resulted in tremendous success as more than \$260,000 for BCH's boys and girls was raised.

VOLUNTEERS CONSTRUCT GIRLS CAMP . . .

Camp Duncan is a reality thanks to more than 2,000 church volunteers who lent their talents and resources to renovate the 700 acres of property in Aberdeen. In partnership with North Carolina Baptist Men, almost every aspect of BCH's new wilderness camp for at-risk girls was constructed through volunteer efforts. Camp Duncan was officially dedicated on October 30.

CHURCHES TACKLE RENOVATIONS . . .

Volunteer workers from statewide churches helped BCH with renovations across the state. Associations and churches organized to refurbish Johnson Cottage, Stokes Cottage, York Cottage, the parsonage, the McFarland Building and the Development and Communications building at Mills Home in Thomasville. Groups assisted with projects at Developmental Disabilities Homes in Winston-Salem and Marshville. Work was completed at Truett Home in Hayesville. Volunteers renovated the swimming pool and Williams Cottage at Kennedy Home in Kinston. Williams has become BCH's fourth transitional living home helping prepare older residents with the life-skills needed to live as independent adults.

BAPTISTS EMPOWER NORTHEASTERN HOME . . .

On December 5, BCH held a dedication ceremony for Britton Ministries in Ahoskie, a new group home providing residential services in northeastern North Carolina. The congregation of Connarista Baptist Church in Aulander led a charge of support by giving a \$10,000.00 gift for the new home. Other area churches followed in Connarista's footsteps pledging their own support to help the nine children who will call Britton Ministries "home."

BLACKWELL IS LONGEST TENURED LEADER . . .

On July 1, 2010, Michael C. Blackwell observed 27 years as President of Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina. Blackwell, who joined BCH in 1983, is now the longest tenured leader of the 125-year-old ministry, eclipsing former BCH general manager Martin Luther Kessler who served in the role from September 1, 1905 to August 19, 1932.



BCH president Michael C. Blackwell (center) with, from left to right, Keith Henry - Executive Vice President, Program & Services; Nancy McNeill - Executive Vice President, Operations; Brenda Gray - Executive Vice President, Development & Communications; and Sam Barefoot - Treasurer/CFO.

Residents Accepting Christ
74

Total Children Served
1,117

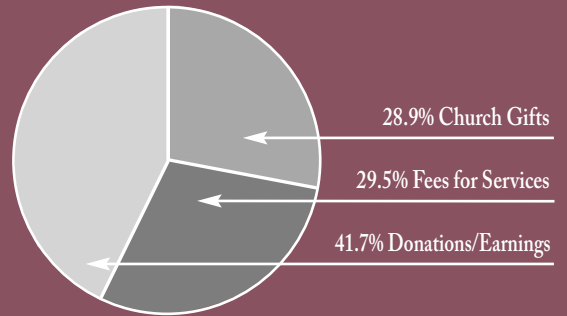
Total Families Served
1,011

Trustees

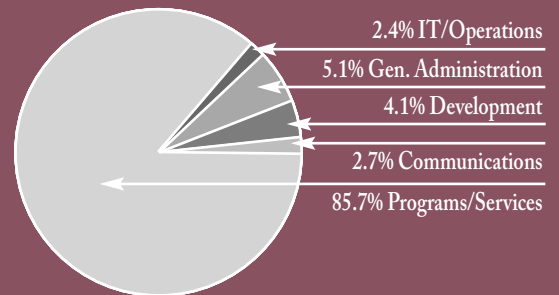
Pamela Annas – Hudson
 Raymond Blevins – Wilkesboro
 Bobby Boyd – Conover
 Jacque Burgess – Apex
 David Clay – Salisbury
 Joan Cooper – Elizabeth City
 Jay Coward, Jr. – Sylva
 Jesse Croom – Edenton
 Wiley Doby, Jr. – Wallace
 W.P. “Abe” Elmore – Dunn
 Gayla Freeman – Conover
 James Goldston, III – Wake Forest
 Betty Greene – Boone
 Raymond Hamrick, Jr. – Maiden
 Helen Harris – Norlina
 Renea Henderson – Asheboro
 Sara Humphries – Waxhaw
 Barbara Hunnicutt – Thomasville
 Amelia Johnson – Franklin
 Wayne Jordan – Southern Pines

Phyllis King – Garner
 Ted Lanier – Sanford
 Bob Lowman, Jr. – Charlotte
 Ellen McClay – Angier
 Joan Mitchell – Durham
 Ray Morrow, Jr. – Conover
 Tannis Nelson – Wilmington
 Marian Phillips – Siler City
 Sandy Saunders – Fayetteville
 David Smith – Lenoir
 Sybil Stewart – Sherrills Ford
 Ira Sutton – Sanford
 Eric Vernon – Sanford
 Sterling Wall – Lexington
 Iola Walton – Carthage
 Jay Westmoreland – Fort Mill, SC

Revenues



Expenses





BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOMES OF NORTH CAROLINA, INC.

P.O. Box 338
Thomasville, NC 27361
P. 336.474.1200
www.bchfamily.org

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Thomasville, NC
Permit 28



Celebrating 125 Years