

Discussion Points

First, share this year's short video with your VBS kids. The video features girls living at BCH's Johnson Cottage in Thomasville. The residents talk about how it makes them feel when churches do special things to help them. Many children first come to BCH with only sad memories. At BCH, houseparents and churches make it a priority to create happy, new memories for the children.

What does Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina do?

Baptist Children's Homes is a ministry that helps North Carolina children and families who are facing challenges in their families and individual lives. There are children who have not always had a safe home and loving family. Those children come to live at Baptist Children's Homes with a husband and wife in cottages. They are called cottage parents. Baptist Children's Homes also helps families work through problems so the family can be healthy and happy together once again. Sometimes, however, that's not possible.

Where is Baptist Children's Homes?

BCH has caring homes all across the state. The girls at Johnson Cottage live at BCH's Mills Home campus in Thomasville, the ministry's oldest location. BCH provides caring homes and services to children and families in 27 North Carolina communities stretching from the mountains to the coast. We want to meet the needs of others, and show them Christ's love, no matter where they are in the state. We also have an orphanage in Guatemala that cares for babies and children who do not have parents to care for them.

Who are the cottage parents?

Cottage parents are either husbands and wives or individuals who provide a family home to hurting children who come to live at Baptist Children's Homes. Cottage parents take care of the children and make sure they have healthy food, clean clothes, and provide all the things that boys and girls need every day. They show the children love, give them the support they need, and encourage them when things aren't going so well. Cottage parents also have devotions in the cottage and take the children to church so they can learn about God's unfailing love.

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Where are the children from?

The children who live at Baptist Children's Homes come from communities in North Carolina. Many of them have lived right down the road from our homes, schools and churches.

What is a "cottage?"

Cottages are homes at Baptist Children's Homes where cottage parents provide a safe home for the children. There are many cottages across North Carolina so Baptist Children's Homes can help as many North Carolina children as possible. Johnson Cottage, the cottage featured in the VBS video, is located at Mills Home in Thomasville. As many as 12 children live at Johnson Cottage.

Why are memories so important to the children?

Many children who come to Baptist Children's Homes have not always had happy memories. Sometimes, they have been treated badly by the adults in their lives - the very people who were supposed to love them and keep them safe. When children come to Baptist Children's Homes, they have the opportunity to be cared for not only by their houseparents, but by people in Baptist churches across the state. When people do nice things for the boys and girls, it creates bright new memories that last a lifetime. It can help make the memories of the past not quite so painful.

Follow up: How do happy memories make you feel?

Ask VBS children about some of their favorite memories and how those special moments made them feel.

Why is it important to help Baptist Children's Homes' boys and girls?

It takes the help of lots and lots of people to provide safe homes for children. When people give, it helps Baptist Children's Homes give children a warm home, hot food, new clothes, school supplies and a safe place to sleep. Some of the children have never experienced the basic things you and I have. Most importantly, many of the children don't know about the love of Jesus. When people give, the children see God's love through their actions. Through the love of others, children come to know the love of God.