



## Child Abuse Prevention Month

Hunger and trauma are real to thousands of North Carolina children. *Learn how you can make a difference. See page 4.*

# Charity & Children

*The historic publication of Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina—first to tell the story since 1887.*

     @bchfamily

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Issue 3

Volume 137



## Providing a home for healing

**STORY No. 1:** Kristy and Jason Huddle fulfilled a life-long dream of becoming foster parents at age 45. They have grown their family through adoption to include 13-year-old Kaylin and 17-year-old Hunter. They advocate the fostering and adopting of older children. (See page 8.)

**STORY No. 2:** Kaylin needed a new beginning. After being adopted by the Huddles and finding her forever family, she wanted to visit her birth mom. Kristy reached out to Casey and the bold move brought the two together, bringing healing to Kaylin's life. (See page 9.)

**STORY No. 3:** Casey made the wrong choices. With her life spiraling out of control, she ended up in prison with little hope of seeing her children again. Kristy Huddle reached out to Casey, laying the pathway for her to find peace and healing in Kaylin's happiness. (See page 10.)



# CEO Application Portal Opens, Prayer Guide Unveiled

On behalf of the Transition and Search Committee, **thank you** for your continued prayers and support of Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina (BCH) and every life we are able to serve. God has blessed us with the most dedicated of staff, friends and partners in NC Baptist life. He is using your faithfulness and generosity to make a difference in the lives of children, families, aging adults, expectant mothers, special needs adults as well as others.

The process for identifying a new BCH leader has made great strides since the last public update, but first we want to praise God for what He accomplished last year through Baptist Children's Homes even in the midst of the challenges we faced. In 2023, we ministered to 117,502 lives throughout BCH's many ministries in NC, SC and Guatemala. We thank God for the 316 professions of faith that were proclaimed. **We are grateful for the lives that have been changed for today and for all eternity! To God be the glory!**

**As the leadership process has continued throughout the past months, the Transition and Search Committee alongside Vanderbloemen, the firm assisting us with this undertaking, has accomplished the following:**

- Conducted an online survey of BCH staff and hosted a group of employees for an in-person forum with our Vanderbloemen consultant
- Surveyed trustees and key stakeholders to elicit their insights into the qualities they consider vital to BCH's executive leadership position
- Developed the candidate profile utilizing feedback from surveys, research, input from similar nonprofits within North Carolina as well as nationally
- Finalized the updated job description for the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) position of the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina

As a result of everyone's efforts, and God's leadership most of all, the Transition and Search Committee is pleased to announce that the application process to identify the next BCH executive leader is now open. Further information regarding the CEO position and the portal for submitting a formal application is found at [bchfamily.org/ceo](http://bchfamily.org/ceo) (or by scanning the QR code to the right) located on the Vanderbloemen website. Serious candidates are encouraged to apply as soon as possible.



Scan to visit the CEO application portal

Taking steps prayerfully and thoughtfully is integral to this undertaking. We will continue to move forward in a manner that is respectful of the process and within a timetable that accords God the latitude to move and lead. It is why the committee, and everyone involved in this effort, continues to covet your prayers.

From its very beginnings as a single cottage in 1885, God has grown Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina throughout its 138 years into the myriad of life-changing ministries it is today. We are able to look back at our history and say, without any doubt, that it is the Lord who has accomplished this in His wisdom and timing. When the day arrives to welcome our new CEO, we want to be able to once again behold what God has done and give Him all praise and glory for it.

The Transition and Search Committee asks that you continue to pray for us and our partners at Vanderbloemen as we guide the process. Pray for the leading of the Holy Spirit as He works within the hearts of those who will apply. We rejoice in the expectation of what the Lord will accomplish through the leadership process and the continued support of ministry partners such as you. Thank you for being a valued partner in carrying out the BCH mission of "sharing hope...changing lives."

## Leadership Search Weekly Prayer Guide: Month of April 2024

Please pray for the CEO leadership search process throughout April. Use the weekly prayer prompts with accompanying scriptures to guide your prayer time.

### WEEK OF MARCH 31

Pray for God's will as we seek what is next for Baptist Children's Homes (BCH) and those we serve. Ask that all personal preferences be set aside and that there only be unity in where God is leading. **Ephesians 1:22, Isaiah 41:20**

as they discern whom to interview. Pray for wisdom as they dialog with candidates. **John 10:14, Isaiah 55:8-9**

### WEEK OF APRIL 14

Pray that everyone involved would resist the temptation to be driven by fear, anxiety, etc. Pray that we would rest in knowing that God is sovereign, His will is at work, and that He has a plan for BCH that will bring hope to those we serve and

glory to His name. **Jeremiah 29:11, 2 Timothy 1:7**

### WEEK OF APRIL 21

Pray that BCH's future CEO is a Christ-centered, servant leader who is called to serve the vulnerable population in NC and beyond. Ask that God raise up a leader who demonstrates a love for the local church and is a mature, humble Christian. Pray for the future CEO to be a relational leader who

enjoys interacting with others and sharing the mission/vision God gives BCH. **Matthew 20:25-28**

### WEEK OF APRIL 28

Pray that the future CEO, spouse, and family have clarity and direction during the search process. Ask God to give the future CEO and their family a shared sense of peace and excitement with those who love and support the ministry

of BCH. Pray that the staff members who faithfully serve will have peace, confirmation, and unity as the new CEO is selected.

**Philippians 4:7, Colossians 3:14**



Scan to download the prayer guide

**Mission:**  
sharing hope . . . changing lives

**Vision:**  
To provide the highest quality of Christian services to children, adults and families in a caring culture of measurable excellence

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# Churches fill plates & hearts

When churches and friends unite for the Food Roundup, hundreds and hundreds of boys and girls living at Baptist Children's Homes are fed. You are not only caring for their physical needs but children see the love of Christ through your efforts.

**MOST NEEDED (in bold):**

- **Canned Fruits**
- **Fruit Juice (Apple, Orange, Grape, Cranberry)**
- **Laundry Detergent**
- Paper Products (paper towels, toilet paper, napkins, Kleenex)
- Bottled Water
- Canned Vegetables (green beans, corn, etc.)
- Dry Cereal
- Bake Beans
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Pasta (Spaghetti, Lasagna, Macaroni)
- Canned Tomatoes (diced, sauce, paste)
- Pancake Mix and Syrup
- Soups (All types & condensed)
- Sugar (Granulated & Brown)
- Flour
- Splenda
- Popcorn, Kettle Corn
- Apple Sauce
- Fruit Pie Filling (Cherry and Peach)
- Beverage Mixes (Tea, Tang, Kool-Aid, Lemonade, Cider Mix - All Sugar Free)
- Vegetable Oil, Shortening, Olive Oil, Pam Cooking Spray, Bakers Choice
- Canned Sweet Potatoes,
- Canned Yams

- Canned Meats (pink salmon, tuna, roast beef, chicken - packed in water)
- Stuffing Mix
- Gravy Mixes
- Hamburger, Chicken, and Tuna Helper (all types)
- Pickles (Sweet & Dill)
- Refried Beans
- Hot Chocolate Mix
- Snack Foods with & without sugar (Fruit Rollups, Fruit Cups, Beef Jerky, Slim Jims, Pepperoni Sticks, Cheese Nips, Pretzels, etc.)
- Healthy Snacks (Dried Fruit, Nuts, Raisins, Cranraisins, Trail Mix)
- Individual Cookie Packs
- Jello
- PopTarts
- Rice
- Instant Potatoes (scalloped, au gratin, mashed, julienne)
- Muffin Mixes
- Bisquick Mix
- Kidney Beans
- Pickle Relish
- Cranberry Sauce
- Mac & Cheese
- Corn Meal
- Jiffy Mixes, Corn Muffin Mix, Hush Puppy Mix
- Peanut Butter
- Jelly, Jams, Preserves (Strawberry is the favorite)
- Pizza & Pizza Dough Mix
- Saltine Crackers, Ritz Crackers, Graham Crackers
- Sauces (A-1, Steak, BBQ, Texas Pete, Cheese, Worcestershire, Soy, Teriyaki, Sweet & Sour)
- Spices and Seasonings (including Salt & Pepper)
- Dishwashing detergents
- Laundry pre-treating products (i.e. Shout, Spray and Wash)
- Brooms, Mops, Scrub Brushes, Dust Pans
- Foil and Plastic Wrap
- SOS Pads
- Fabric Softener
- Dryer Sheets
- Sanitary Pads & Tampons
- Hand Lotion
- Shampoo
- Body Wash
- Soap
- Household cleaning products (i.e. bleach, Comet, Lysol spray and wipes, Clorox spray, Windex, Pinesol, Pledge, Tilex, etc.)

**OTHER NEEDED ITEMS:**

- Brownie & Cookie Mix

- Individual Chef Boyardee cups
- Clif brand nutrition bars
- Hot Dog Chili
- Coffee (Regular & Decaf)
- Coffee Creamer
- Sweetened Condensed Milk
- Evaporated Milk
- Powdered Milk
- Flavorings (Vanilla, etc.)
- French Fried Onions
- Honey
- Ketchup
- Mustard
- Oatmeal
- Parmesan Cheese
- Puddings, Pudding Cups
- Salsa
- Vinegar
- Paper Products (Cups, Plates, Bowls, Plastic Ware, Dixie Cups)
- Trash Bags (large & small)
- Zip-Loc bags (Sandwich, Snack, Quart & Gallon Sizes)
- Band Aids
- Rubbing Alcohol/Peroxide
- Anti-bacterial ointment
- Razors
- Shaving Cream/Shaving Gel
- Dental Floss
- Hair brushes
- Deodorant

- Conditioner
- Tooth Paste
- Tooth Brushes
- Diapers (all sizes)
- Baby Wipes
- Bug Repellent
- Wasp/Hornet Spray
- Sunblock 30+
- Batteries (AA, AAA and D)
- Disposable Gloves (Latex & Non-Latex)

**IMPORTANT NOTES:**  
Gift Cards are appreciated for buying perishables and items not received. (i.e. Wal-Mart, Sams Clubs, Food Lion, Lowes, Ingles, Piggly Wiggly).

We can use all size cans. Some locations prefer #10 cans (family size).

**IMPORTANT:** Please check for expired dates on food – we cannot accept expired items.

Please help our volunteer truck drivers by packing your church's donations in small, sturdy boxes.

Pack like items together. Please do not pack chemicals with food.

## Statewide pick-up points

**Please Call First.** Delivery hours vary at each collection location. Call in advance to schedule your delivery please. Thank you!



**FOOD ROUNDUP**  
BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOMES

**Alexander Association**  
Mikaylie Hughes  
828-632-6546

**Anson Association**  
Kim Glenn  
704-694-2790

**Ashe Association**  
Debbie Miller  
336-846-5631

**Atlantic Association**  
Rachel Dupree  
252-447-4593

**Avery Association**  
Bob Gorbett  
828-733-6674

**Beulah Association**  
Wendy Oliver  
336-599-6117

**Bladen Association**  
Kelly Self  
910-862-3496

**Blue Ridge Association**  
Dennis Love  
828-559-0224

**Brier Creek Association**  
Clay Leonard  
336-780-8551

**Brunswick Association**  
Elyse Brown  
910-754-7979

**Brushy Mountain Assoc.**  
Gloria Kilby  
336-838-4407

**Buncombe Association**  
Della Brindley  
828-252-1864

**Burnt Swamp Assoc.**  
Odum Home - Kathy Locklear  
910-521-3433 ext. 6005

**Cabarrus Association**  
Marvin Tyson  
704-786-9171

**Caldwell Association**  
Amanda Beane  
828-758-4081

**Cape Fear Network of Baptist Churches**  
Pine Valley Baptist Church  
910-791-1949

Gina Strovers  
910-799-1160

**Carolina Association**  
Paula Janes  
828-693-4274

**Catawba River Assoc.**  
Veronica Klapp  
828-437-0137

**Catawba Valley Assoc.**  
Woodlawn Baptist Church  
Charity Travis  
828-464-6921

**Cheoah Association**  
New Hope Baptist Church  
Gerald & Nellie Phillips  
828-479-8279

**Chowan Association**  
Annie Weir  
252-426-9621

**Columbus Association**  
Teresa Powell  
910-642-2155

**Dan Valley Association**  
Clay Leonard  
336-780-8551

**Dock Association**  
Participating churches mail gift cards to BCH

**Eastern Association**  
Charity Missions Center, Rose Hill

Sandra Winstead  
910-289-2019

**Elkin Association**  
Clay Leonard  
336-780-8551

**Fiat River Association**  
Myra Klein  
919-693-5215

**French Broad Association**  
Robin Jackson  
828-689-2845

**Graham Association**  
New Hope Baptist Church  
Gerald & Nellie Phillips  
828-479-8279

**Greater Cleveland Assoc.**  
Katie Harris  
704-482-3472

**Greater Gaston Assoc.**  
Karen Weaver  
704-867-7257

**Green River Association**  
Teresa Sams  
828-286-9278

**Haywood Association**  
Broyhill Home - Linda Morgan  
828-627-9254

**Liberty Association**  
Brian Alexander  
336-475-0432

Mills Home  
336-474-1200

**Little River Association**  
Cameron Boys Camp  
Sandy Snyder  
910-245-5001

**Macon Association**  
Gary Holland  
828-524-3215

**Metrolina Association**  
Brian Hollifield  
704-375-1197

**Mitchell Association**  
Jennifer Beck  
828-765-9412

**Mount Zion Association**  
Sandi King  
336-226-0249

**Neuse Association**  
Kennedy Home  
252-522-0811

**New River Association**  
Jeanette Palmero  
910-347-3146

**New South River Assoc.**  
Regina Hammonds  
910-485-8791

**North Roanoke Assoc.**  
Regina Balasoto  
252-443-3883

**Pee Dee Association**  
Janie Frye  
910-895-5282

**Piedmont Association**  
Rebecca Newlin  
336-275-7651

**Polk Association**  
Inez Jackson  
828-894-3787

**Raleigh Association**  
Iris Woodard  
919-231-3995

**Randolph Association**  
Erica Smith  
336-625-4175

**Robeson Association**  
Odum Home - Kathy Locklear  
910-521-3433  
910-318-3981

**Rocky Face Association**  
Rocky Face Baptist Church  
828-632-8561

**Rowan Association**  
Darcell Mangan  
704-637-3407

**Sandhills Association**  
Cameron Boys Camp  
Sandy Snyder  
910-245-5001

**Sandy Creek Association**  
1. Hickory Mountain BC  
919-742-3928

2. East Sanford Baptist Ch.  
919-776-3241

3. Moons Chapel BC  
919-742-4569

4. Cool Springs BC  
919-776-4633

**Sandy Run Association**  
Evelyn Lane  
828-245-1613

**South Fork Association**  
Faith Ingle  
704-735-1642

**South Mountain Assoc.**  
Nancy Anderson  
704-462-4472

**South Roanoke Assoc.**  
Linda Franks  
252-756-4332

**South Yadkin Association**  
Jaime Tang  
704-873-4372

**Stanly-Montgomery Assoc.**  
Luanne Williams  
704-982-1033

**Stone Mountain Assoc.**  
Sherry Hicks  
336-696-4210

**Stony Fork Association**  
Roy Gryder  
828-295-3410

**Surry Association**  
Susan White  
336-789-5701

**Tar River Association**  
Louisburg Baptist Church  
919-496-4195

**Tennessee River Assoc.**  
FBC, Bryson City  
Rita Maddox  
828-488-2679

**Three Forks Association**  
Suzanne Randall  
828-264-4482

**Transylvania Association**  
Nancy Kirkpatrick  
828-877-3203

**Triad Church Network**  
Clay Leonard  
336-780-8551

**Triangle East Association**  
Johnston Comm. College  
Angie Daniels  
919-961-4696

**Triwest Baptist Network**  
Rose of Sharon Baptist Ch.  
919-477-3993

**Truett Association**  
Duronda Hood  
828-837-5401

**Tuckasegee Association**  
Gracella Morris  
828-586-6011

**Union Association**  
Bessie Benson  
704-283-8383

**United Association**  
(Drop at Metrolina Assoc.)  
Brian Hollifield  
704-375-1197

**West Chowan Assoc.**  
Rebeccah Adams  
252-332-3235

**Yadkin Association**  
Brenda Chandler/Dennis Shaw  
336-679-8731

**Yancey Association**  
Joe Miller  
828-682-2388

# Hunger and trauma are real to thousands of children

By **Brenda B. Gray**, Executive Vice President, Development & Communications

**M**ost every child that walks through the doors of Baptist Children's Homes (BCH) have two things in common—trauma and hunger. The impact of abuse on their young lives has created a darkness we would hope no child would ever experience. You can see it in their eyes—there is a deep sense of hopelessness.

It is hard for most of us to believe that hunger in North Carolina is a real issue. However, our state ranks ninth in the nation in food insecurity. One out of every six children in the Tarheel State goes hungry—with 19.6 percent of North Carolina's children living in poverty.

Can you imagine being a child and feeling hungry, alone, hopeless, and frightened. Unfortunately, this scenario is all too typical. National child abuse and neglect reports total into the millions each year. More than 10,000 children in North Carolina have been removed from their homes due to neglect and abuse and need a safe place of refuge—a home.

Hunger, neglect, abuse are as close as next door. It is not unusual for children who come to BCH to hoard their food when they first come into care. One of the first things we do when children come into care is we feed them. No matter what time of day, we know they will come to us hungry.

Factors such as the harsh realities of poverty, abuse, trafficking, drug addictions and hunger all impact the child's physical, mental, emotional and spiritual growth. A child who is ignored stops talking. A child robbed of emotions won't hug or allow themselves to be hugged. A child who never plays with toys won't learn as quickly. A child betrayed will find it difficult to trust.

All children deserve to be loved, to be held, to feel safe. They each deserve to become all God would intend. Often when I ask a child what they like most about BCH, they respond by saying, "I like the food." I like my cottage parents, they really care about us." "I am safe." BCH is a place where tummies and hearts are fed every day.

**April is Child Abuse Prevention month. Please stand with us and speak for those who cannot stand and speak for themselves.**

## What can you do to help?

**1. Help us feed the hungry. Participate in our annual Food Drive throughout April.**

## **2. Teach preventive measures to children.**

- Teach them they have a right to feel safe all the time. Role play with them ways of saying no to inappropriate or threatening behavior.
- Teach them that someone must always know where they are, who they are with and when they will be home.
- Tell them nothing is so awful they can't talk with someone about it. Help them identify safe people with whom they can share.
- Teach them how to use social media and how not to use social media. Help keep them safe by monitoring their social media interactions.

## **3. Offer to assist struggling parents that you know.**

- Surprise a single parent by having pizza delivered to their home.
- Make a care call to offer encouragement.
- Take dinner over to a stressed parent one night (in paper containers, include paper plates and utensils so they will not have to clean up.)
- Deliver a planned movie night for a family complete with a box of popcorn and gift certificate for a movie.
- Deliver a board game night complete with board games and snacks to their home.
- Become a prayer partner with a young mother or father with a first child.

- Make sure they are aware of BCH and that we stand ready to help them.

## **4. Help children who desperately need you.**

- Help us help them. Last year BCH ministered to over 117,502 children, families and individuals who needed help.
- Participate in our annual Food Drive which takes place throughout April.
- Become a bed sponsor.
- Lead your church and family in making a gift to BCH.
- Include BCH in your Will.
- Pray for our children and staff daily.

It is my prayer that the light of Christ shining through us will flood the darkness of the lives of the children and families entrusted to us and change them forever. Will you make this your prayer?

When you support BCH, you enable us to provide those we serve with warm beds to sleep in, food to eat, and loving, caring people to share the love of Christ with them. When you give you stand with every BCH staff member who stands at the door of each facility with outstretched arms proclaiming God's love.

Remember, always be kinder than necessary for everybody is fighting some kind of battle. Be the light in the darkness! Thank you for standing with us and speaking for those who cannot stand and speak for themselves. For more information on how you can make a difference, call me at 800-336-476-3669 ext. 1230 or 336-689-4442.



# Remember Mom and Dad

*"Honor your father and mother."*

*We are given the gift to recall the days of childhood, to relive the times when a loving parent's embrace sustained us as a young adult during times of heartache, to remember conversations with our mom or dad in the silence of sweet friendship as we have grown older, too. Keeping those we love in our thoughts and daily intentions strengthens families, teaching our children about the sacredness of life. The simple act of remembering Mom and Dad is glorifying to God.*

## Join us in giving thanks for moms and dads.

Using the coupon below, make a gift that offers hope to a needy child in honor or memory of your parent(s). In the August issue of **Charity & Children**, yours and your parent's name(s) will be published in a commemorative insert celebrating moms and dads.



### Example of inside name listings:

#### MOTHER

**In honor** of Mrs. Edith G. Banks  
Given by Joseph and Mary Banks  
**In memory** of Jane W. Smith  
Given by Her Children

#### FATHER

**In memory** of Edward R. Morrison  
Given by Edith Morrison  
**In honor** of William F. Hughes  
Given by Jennifer Phillips

#### MOTHER & FATHER

**In memory** of Mr. & Mrs. R. Jones  
Given by Daughters Beth and Sarah

**Hurry!  
Deadline is  
July 1.**

**Questions?  
For more information,  
call 336-474-1209.**

### Remember Mom and Dad! Make an honor or memorial gift.

Please check the appropriate box:  Honor  Memorial

In Honor or Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Send Notice of Gift to \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

To give by check, please print your information below and mail this form with your check.

To: BCH, PO Box 338, Thomasville, NC 27361 Attn: Mothers/Fathers Day Gift. You can use the enclosed, postage-paid envelope.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Give by credit card online at [www.bchfamily.org/momanddad](http://www.bchfamily.org/momanddad) or call Faith Frazier at 336-474-1312.

# Sisters adopted by Moncada family "meant to be"

By Jim Edminson, Editor

It is Saturday lunch. The Moncada family sits together in the dining room and there is chatter. Alex helps 16-month-old Rose with her pasta. Her attention fixes on a tiger appearing on the family room's television. Her eyes widen as she lets out a big roar. Her sisters, seven-year-old Hayli and six-year-old Lynlee, pay little attention and Claudia encourages them to finish before they can be excused from the table. Older brother 12-year-old Joshua asks for seconds. The scene is heart warming—a modern-day Norman Rockwell painting in 3D.

It is a stark contrast from the life Hayli and Lynlee lived before being placed in foster care and ultimately adopted by Claudia and Alex Moncada along with baby sister Rose last October.

The older sisters were severely neglected and abused. The trauma they had experienced impacted them with life-altering force. There was no dining table nor meals at breakfast, lunch, and dinner. They did not have baths every day, sleep in warm beds, or wear good clothes, unsoiled and untattered.

"The situations children in foster care come from are heartbreaking," BCH's Director of Foster Care Jada Cable says. "It is challenging when a child leaves that life and comes into a loving environment. The child's brain has to be rewired back to what God intended."

Claudia and Alex moved to New York City from Colombia, South America pursuing careers in information technology. Claudia had been recruited and sponsored by the company for whom she worked. Alex worked in Colombia for another company and came to New York when he was assigned to a project Claudia managed. Romance bloomed while working together, the two fell in love, and they married in 2007.



Sisters Hayli, Lynlee, and Rose were adopted by Claudia and Alex Moncada in October, 2023. The Baptist Children's Homes (BCH) recruited and trained the couple to become a licensed foster family as part of the EVERY CHILD Foster & Adopt partnership with NC Baptists. To learn more visit [www.everychild.org](http://www.everychild.org).

Beginning the family they wanted proved difficult as they dreamt of having a baby. After nearly six years of marriage, Joshua was born in 2012.

"Joshua was everything we had hoped," Claudia recalls. "We felt complete, but Joshua had other ideas. He was six when he began praying for a baby brother."

The couple moved to North Carolina in 2020 during the pandemic and worked remote. Although a fostering experience in New York proved heart wrenching, the Moncadas were intent to try again. They became BCH licensed foster parents in March 2021 and set their attention on fostering a boy—hoping to answer Joshua's prayers.

"They knew boys," Cable says. "They got girls—sisters. You could hear God laugh when I called."

Through the EVERY CHILD Foster & Adopt partnership with NC Baptists, BCH recruits and trains Christian families to become licensed foster care families. Families commit to care for and love a child for a brief or extended period of time with the goal of the child returning to their biological families. When reunification is not possible, the focus shifts towards

finding a permanent home for the child. The ultimate goal then becomes adoption.

Hayli and Lynlee came into the Moncada home in November 2021 at ages four and three. Baby Rose was born on Sunday, November 27, 2022 and five days later, Friday, December 2, she joined her sisters.

"We were a little unsure, but when you know you are supposed to do something, you do it," Claudia asserts. "This was meant to be. They were not going anywhere else."

Joshua was not convinced his prayers had been answered. He had hoped for a boy and now he was living with three girls. The change was going to be challenging for everyone.

The two little girls had suffered big trauma. It would take great patience, compassion, and commitment. The adjustment was especially difficult for Lynlee. There were outbursts and times when she became violent, striking out at Hayli and children in her preschool class. The Moncadas did not give up. She was struggling, coming from a bad place to a good place, and needed assurance. The change was not sudden, but Claudia's and Alex's efforts began to bear fruit. Lynlee smiled more often, played, and laughed as the cares of her past became more and more distant.

Hayli had her struggles, too. After one trying time, she announced her plans to leave. Claudia was suspect, but went along, offering to help the girl pack. Hayli was defiant until Joshua came down the stairs and learned of the news. Instead of turning and going back upstairs, he looked at Hayli and tears began to fill his eyes. She was not the brother he had hoped for, but she was part of his family. Hayli began to cry and confessed she did not really want to leave.

The girls becoming part of the Moncada family was not a joke but a divine plan—one that was "meant to be." A plan in which God moved two people from another country to North Carolina so Hayli, Lynlee, and Rose could be adopted and find the care they desperately needed.



# New Hispanic EVERY CHILD efforts to help children

By Dr. Mark E. Smith, BCH Foster & Adoption Church Liaison

The Disciple-Making Conference is North Carolina Baptists' largest, single-day event held for ministry training and equipping church leadership. This year's annual Baptist event saw a record number of registrants and attendees, with more than 1,250 pastors, staff, and lay leaders from across the state turning out. At the event, attendees chose from more than 40 breakout sessions offering practical discipleship training on a variety of topics. Of those breakouts, the Hispanic Pastor's track was the highlight for more than 120 pastors and their staff.

During the Hispanic breakout, Pastor Luis Quintanar, Hispanic Foster Care Licensor for the Baptist Children's Home (BCH), was given the opportunity to share about the new Hispanic EVERY CHILD ministry. BCH now provides resources and training in Spanish to North Carolina Baptist Hispanic congregations to address the foster care crisis in our state. Sadly, there are more than 10,000 children in the North Carolina foster care system. However, Baptists serve a Mighty God who has brought His church and His people, Spanish and English-speaking believers, together to address this issue through this innovative strategy.

After the breakout, Pastor Luis summarized his presentation by saying: "The Foster Care system in North Carolina has many children who need a safe and stable home, and, most importantly, each child needs the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our Hispanic friends recognize that there is a great need to be met. However, they also realize that not every family can foster or adopt a child. Nevertheless, every church can begin a ministry that focuses on foster families who have foster children. Every church can assist and support these families as they strive to disciple each foster child. I felt it was very fitting to be talking about this important topic at a disciple-making conference."

Pastor Luis is the lead pastor of Mills Home Baptist Church in Thomasville and has served as a foster care trainer with BCH for more than two years. He was excited to describe the overwhelming response of those attending the breakout. He said at the end of his presentation: "About 10 couples approached me and wanted to get more information about how they could partner with BCH and become a foster family. I was grateful to hear this from each and every one of them. However, I also encouraged them to take this information back to their local churches and share it with their congregations.

"BCH invites all of our churches, Hispanic and English-speaking, to engage this ministry and see how they can minister to foster children. The



BCH Foster & Adoption Church Liaison Dr. Mark E. Smith, left, and Mills Home Baptist Church Pastor and BCH Hispanic Foster Care Licensor Luis Quintanar work closely to share resources and foster care training with North Carolina Baptist Hispanic congregations. Information and resources are available in the Spanish language at [www.every-child.org/espanol](http://www.every-child.org/espanol).



goal is to encourage and facilitate all kinds of foster care ministries across North Carolina. My prayer is that the Baptist Children's Homes will become a liaison for our Hispanic churches to be able to lead their local body of believers into this ministry."

Now that BCH is providing training and resources in the Spanish language, you may be asking: *¿Cómo puede usted asociarse con mi iglesia para ministrar a los niños vulnerables y apoyar a las familias que han abierto sus casas para ellos?*

*El Hogar Bautista para Niños de N.C. y la Convención Bautista Estatal creen que nuestras iglesias de Carolina del Norte son la respuesta para impactar un promedio de 10,000 niños que están en la custodia del sistema de cuidados de crianza [foster] del estado. TODO NIÑO, Ministerio de Crianza y Adopción viene a su iglesia para:*

- *Preparar y certificar a parejas en su iglesia a quienes Dios está llamando para criar o criar-para-adoptar. Las clases se darán en su localidad y en un horario conveniente para ustedes.*

- *Ayudar a su iglesia a establecer su propio ministerio para brindar apoyo y comunidad a los niños y a los padres de su congregación que quieren criar y adoptar.*

- *Brindar un continuo apoyo a su iglesia y a las familias. Si hay un problema o una crisis, nosotros podemos aconsejarles.*

- *Ofrecer capacitación acerca de traumas para ayudar a los niños y niñas que proceden de circunstancias*

*traumáticas.*

- *Preparar y certificar mediante una perspectiva cristiana.*

*¿Cómo mi iglesia puede comenzar este ministerio? Considere invitarnos a su iglesia para explicarles el cuidado de crianza y el proceso de adopción, y para responder preguntas y comentar personalmente las necesidades. Es posible que en su congregación haya personas a quienes Dios ya esté llamando a este ministerio, pero tal vez no lo reconozcan hasta que se hable con ellos sobre esta necesidad.*

*Comuníquese con Dr. Mark Smith, Baptist Children's Homes Foster & Adoption Church Liaison [enlace para iglesias del Hogar Bautista para Niños y del Programa de Adopción], al 828-450-9136 o [mesmith@bchfamily.org](mailto:mesmith@bchfamily.org).*

With 10,000+ children in the North Carolina foster care system, and more being removed from their homes daily, EVERY CHILD's mission is to equip couples in our congregations and churches to provide homes, support, and ministry through fostering and adoption. Every child deserves a home—wants a family and needs hope. These children need the church, especially Spanish speaking churches.

Are you interested in becoming part of the solution? If so, contact Dr. Mark Smith at 828-450-9136 or [mesmith@bchfamily.org](mailto:mesmith@bchfamily.org).

# Family grows with addition of Kaylin and Hunter

By Jim Edminson, Editor

With their two sons Joshua and Jackson in high school and planning for college, Kristy and Jason Huddle looked to fulfill a life-long dream. It wasn't early retirement, taking long trips to far away exotic places, or just basking in the thought of being empty nesters. No, they decided to become foster parents.

"I always wanted to foster," Kristy says. "When it seemed we would not be able to have children after we married, we thought fostering would be the way to build our family."

The college sweethearts have been married 28 years. The weekend after graduation, they pledged their lives to each other on May 18, 1996. They struggled to conceive. Wanting to start a family and being told they would not be able to have children only brought anxiety.

Three years into their marriage, the couple welcomed their first miracle, Joshua. Jackson was born in 2003. Family life was all the couple had dreamed. Fostering was placed in the back of their minds, but not forgotten.

"We were 45 years old when we became licensed foster parents," Jason says. "We believed it was time to help other children. We believed our home could be a harbor for kids to find healing."

The couple were optimistic but also keenly aware of the challenges. They made a deal that as they went through the process to be licensed and either one doubted moving forward, "the deal was off." But it never happened. They kept moving forward and officially became a Baptist Children's Homes (BCH) foster family in 2019.

Through the EVERY CHILD Foster & Adopt partnership with NC Baptists, BCH recruits and trains Christian families to become licensed foster care families. Families commit to care for and love a child for a brief or extended period of time with the goal of the child returning to their biological families. When reunification is not possible, the focus shifts towards finding a permanent home for the children. The ultimate goal then becomes adoption.

"Our goal was to be whatever was needed for a child," Jason says. "Fostering was our goal. Adoption was never our endgame."

The Huddles knew their experiences from raising teenage sons would help them. They turned their attention to fostering older children between the ages of six and 12.

With Jason's work schedule and the possible need to quickly respond to accepting a child into their home, they decided that Kristy could consent to a placement. A call from BCH's foster care trainer/licenser made the request for an immediate placement. It was a girl. They were looking for a home that would keep her forever.



At age 45, Kristy and Jason Huddle became foster parents. The couple had raised sons Joshua and Jackson and wanted to help other children. They grew their family by fostering and then adopting Kaylin and Hunter. Pictured above, left to right, are: Hunter, Joshua, Jason, Kaylin, Kristy, and Jackson.

"The words just came out of my mouth, 'We'll do it,'" Kristy admits. "I just knew."

There were supposed to be three visits for child and foster family to see if they would be a match. The little girl thought they were respite visits. But the Huddles knew there was so much more at stake.

"It was immediate," Jason recalls. "We knew that first visit. I didn't want her to go anywhere else."

Nine-year-old Kaylin moved in September 2019—after the first visit. By November, Kristy and Jason were talking about adoption.

Kaylin thrived. Her trauma play therapist noted after coming into the Huddle's home, the little girl skipped into her office. She had never witnessed it before and declared, "She is home!" Not long after, Kaylin's adoption was finalized in 2020.

"We were open to fostering another girl," Kristy says, "She could share a room with Kaylin. Well, a call came again. We were told about a boy who had just lost his father."

The couple would need a separate room for the 13-year-old boy. Jackson offered to give the boy his room. He would settle into the den. They decided to meet Hunter.

"He is a great kid," Kristy says. "There was never a worry about him and Kaylin getting along."

Hunter moved in December 18, 2020. Two months later, Hunter came to Kristy and Jason with a request: "Will you adopt me?"

"We weren't expecting it," Jason remembers. "During the weeks he had lived with us, Hunter only referred to us using pronouns—he, she, him, her."

The Huddles took Hunter to dinner, just the three of them. Jason told Hunter for them to move forward with adoption, their relationship needed to move forward. Hunter needed to call them something. It didn't need to be Mom and Dad, but something respectful. Hunter took it to heart, researching the next day, Googling prospective names, and proposed: May May and Chief. It was a breakthrough. The couple adopted Hunter in June 2021.

Kaylin is now 13 and Hunter is 17. Kaylin is a tumbler and competes nationally on two cheer teams. Hunter is an exceptional bowler, trains regularly, and plays in local leagues. Last year, he bowled two perfect games, averages 200, and last fall discussed playing on the collegiate level.

Kristy and Jason believe their decision to become foster parents was a response to God's call. It has been affirmed not only in their hearts, but in the lives of Kaylin and Hunter. Adopting older children and offering a path to a brighter future have been life changing.



# Kaylin finds rest and healing with adoptive family

By Jim Edminson, Editor

**M**akalynn's (Kaylin's) journey to adoption began in a home with a loving mom and four doting, older brothers. But her mom's bad choices and the bad people in her mom's life turned the little girl's home into a place where there was "bad stuff." It was unsafe. Makalynn remembers how she couldn't rest and was afraid. She remembers seeing her mom in that life and feeling sad. At five years old, she was taken with her brothers to live at a children's home.

"I remember the day we left," she says. "It's blurry, but I see it. I see Mom and remember telling her it was going to be okay. Don't feel sad."

The children's mom lost custody of them and the siblings were placed in a foster home. The boys settled in, but Makalynn was restless. A respite weekend for the little girl led to meeting a new family, the Huddles. It was a "great weekend," she remembers. There was popcorn and a movie, a library trip, and church on Sunday. It was low key. It was restful.

"We knew adoption was on the table," Kristy Huddle says. "They were looking for a family that would keep her forever and, from the first moment, Jason and I knew we were that family."

It clicked for Makalynn, too. At the end of the respite visit, she called Kristy and Jason Mom and Dad. She moved in the next weekend.

"I was so happy," Makalynn recalls. "I wanted to be adopted and I thought this could be my forever family."

Adoption is a new beginning—one that can seem illusive. After four uncertain years, a children's home, and two foster families, the day of her adoption finally arrived. Nine-year-old Makalynn's new beginning started on August 6, 2020. There was a celebration dinner

and a decorated cake, but due to COVID, there was no family court event. She had longed to hear the judge's gavel and a declaration that her adoption was official. Jason came up with a plan. He had a friend who was a superior court judge who was moved by the girl's story. He agreed to preside over a special session of his court on September 25.

"All rise," declared by the court bailiff. The courthouse was only open to officials due to the pandemic, and special permission was needed for a small group of family and friends to attend. The judge called for order in the court and then called on Jason. Fighting back tears, he declared his and Kristy's love for their new daughter. Makalynn spoke next affirming her love for her new family. Satisfied by all that he



Kaylin



Thirteen-year-old Kaylin has been a Huddle since 2020 when she was adopted by Kristy and Jason. Her journey to adoption began when she was five and she and her four brothers were placed at a children's home. Recently, with the help of her mom and dad, she was able to reconnect with her birth mom Casey.

heard, the judge pronounced her adoption final.

"I had the biggest smile," Makalynn recalls. "It was just like Judge Judy. I was official."

A name change made her adoption, her new beginning, complete. It wasn't drastic. It was a new name for a new start. She chose Kaylin. She would use her last name Reese as her middle name. Added to her new family's last name, she became Kaylin Reese Huddle.

Kaylin is catching up with her studies. She is talkative and never meets a stranger. She is athletic and loves cheering. She volunteers and is active in her church. She had everything she needed—but there was one thing more. Kaylin wanted to visit her birth mom Casey. It had been six years since they had seen each other.

"I was told you don't do this," Kristy says. "But Jason and I believed it was important. So, I messaged Casey."

Kaylin and Casey began to write letters and there were conversations on the phone—it could not be hurried. Eight months later, Kristy began talking with Casey about meeting. In 2023, Casey attended one of Kaylin's cheer competitions.

Kaylin remembers, "I wasn't nervous, but there were lots of butterflies."

Casey cried. The two hugged, talked, and spent

time together over dinner. This first visit led to more over the months since then. Kristy calls it a "stop and go process." The focus for the Huddles and Casey is Kaylin's needs and well-being.

"I remember living with her and she always had dark circles around her eyes," Kaylin says. "Now, they're gone. She is better. I can see the difference. All the bad things in her life are behind her."

Kristy knows a meeting like this doesn't work in every situation. But the decision for Casey and Kaylin to meet has been good. "Jason and I knew there was enough room in our hearts to love Casey, too."

Kristy and Jason know the challenges, but they see value in fostering older children. Older children are more often over-looked, believing older children come with too much emotional and mental scarring. But fears may keep a child who needs a family from the perfect forever family.

"People who want to foster should not be afraid to adopt older children," Kaylin asserts. "They might think we are bad, but it's not true. Older kids are traumatized—but no more than babies or toddlers. All children who are in foster care have suffered trauma, no matter their age."

Choosing to foster and adopt older children, like Kaylin, help them walk through their past, offering a future and the family they dream about.

# Casey finds peace and healing in Kaylin's happiness

By Jim Edminson, Editor

Casey remembers holding and rocking her baby dolls. Even as a little girl, she imagined being a mommy where she hugged her children often and was never far away. She reflects on these childhood days and ponders how different her life turned out.

Upheaval and instability cast a shadow over her childhood dreams. When she became a teenager, she wanted to change her world and get away. She turned her interests to a man 12 years her senior. She began dating at 14 and had her first child at 16. Before she was 20, she had four sons.

"I loved my children," Casey asserts. "It was a hard time. I worked a lot. It wasn't perfect, but we were making a home."

Kaylin was born making her Casey's only girl and, when the baby was one year old, the couple married. There was hope and promise. But the growing family became a family in distress when her husband was unfaithful and everything crumbled. By the time Kaylin was four, the couple split up.

Broken hearted, Casey struggled to stay afloat. She found what she thought was a safe harbor with a man she had known her whole life and could breathe again.

Sadly, what was restful became tumultuous. She learned her new boyfriend lived with secrets and her safe place became a slippery slope. He was being investigated for abusing his daughter. When the department of social services told her that her children might not be safe, he refused to leave and became violent. She sent the children to her mother's home.

"I was scared," Casey says. "He threatened my life and before long I was involved in things I never could have dreamed about."

The boyfriend was a drug dealer and made Casey drive him to deliver drugs. The night that changed her life forever began with flashing blue lights. Police pulled them over and both faced incarceration.

Things spiraled out of control. Casey lost custody of her children and before leaving for prison, her parental rights were taken away.

"It was heart-breaking," Casey remembers. "For almost four years, I had no contact with my children."

Her children went to a children's home first



Casey was overjoyed when Kristy and Jason Huddle opened a way for her to connect with then 12-year-old Kaylin. The Huddles adopted Kaylin in 2020 and Kaylin wanted to visit her birth mom. It had been six years since they had seen each other. Today, Casey attends Kaylin's events like birthday parties (above) and cheer competitions (below).

and then the siblings were placed in a foster home. The four boys were adopted by that family and Kaylin was adopted by Kristy and Jason Huddle on August 6, 2020. Kaylin loves her adopted family, but she wondered about her birth mom. The Huddles agreed to reach out to Casey.

"Kristy found me online and messaged me," Casey says. "She explained who she was and my heart stopped. I couldn't believe what was happening."

Kristy and Casey talked for hours. She learned about the Huddles and that Kaylin was doing well. "It was all such good news. I didn't know what to think."

"We only knew Casey by what we had read in a report," Kristy says. "Casey was so much more. A lot of grace needed to be given to her."

Casey began by writing letters. When Kaylin responded, Casey

was overjoyed. There were phone calls and a video chat. It went slowly and Kaylin set the pace. Casey could hardly believe Kristy when she asked her to meet Kaylin for a visit.

"I didn't know what to expect," Casey says.

"This was her life now and after all that I had done, I didn't know if I would ever see her again."

It gave Casey so much peace to know that Kaylin was happy. At 12 years old, she looked "grown up."

"She was more than I could have imagined," Casey says. "We both shed a lot of 'happy tears' that first visit."

Casey and Kaylin did see each other again. Casey attends birthday parties and makes sure she attends Kaylin's cheer competitions when her schedule allows.

"It's been great for Kaylin," Kristy says. "It has saved them both a lot of heartbreak. Healing is taking place."

Casey has a good job. She is working on her bachelor degree in business administration, earning a 4.0 after her first session. Her oldest two sons have renewed their relationship with their mother, too.

"If I was able to choose from anyone in the world to love and care for Kaylin," Casey confides, "I could have never found anyone better than Kristy and Jason. She needs them. God had bigger plans. It wasn't all for nothing."

Casey made a wrong turn. But a wrong turn did not mean she wouldn't end up in the right place—a place of peace and healing.



# BCH volunteer opportunities are many and varied

By **Kristyn Butts**, BCH Director of Volunteer Engagement

**V**olunteers are essential to the ministry of Baptist Children's Homes (BCH)—and the opportunities to serve seem almost endless. As the new director of volunteer engagement, I believe each person is equipped with unique gifts and talents and, with the wide variety of BCH ministries and locations, there is a spot for you! Let me help connect you or your group to that perfect place to join in ministry. But remember, volunteering is not limited to only these ideas. How would you like to serve? The possibilities are limited only by your creativity and willingness. Here are ten examples of opportunities where you could choose to serve. **Find your spot! Let's go on mission together!**



Kristyn Butts

of Children. Projects will include landscaping, cleaning, power washing, minor repairs, organizing donations, etc.

**2.** Spend quality time working a puzzle or doing an art project with the residents in one of our nine homes for adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities. Investing time with these special adults brings them so much joy.

**3.** Help cut and maintain trails at our two wildness camps—Camp Duncan and Cameron

Boys Camp. These trails are essential as campers navigate them daily on their journey to life transformation.

**4.** Power wash buildings, playground equipment, and side walks on any of the four main campuses or satellite offices across the state, and help to ensure the beauty and safety of the places many children and moms call home.

**5.** Sort, clean, and organize donations at Greater Vision located at Mills Home and Kennedy Home for use by the vulnerable, working families served through this ministry.

**6.** Clean, paint, and repurpose furniture and household décor with Fancy Finds. The proceeds earned by the resale store help to support the many ministries of BCH.

**7.** Partner with NCBAM to help build ramps, install grab bars, or change/install smoke detectors in the homes of senior adults located in your community.

**8.** Provide a themed celebration or special activity for the children living in one of the

## Find your Spot.

cottages across the state and give them the opportunity to make special childhood memories.

**9.** Make frozen meals for the foster families in your community who are boldly opening their homes and hearts to children in need.

**10.** Offer a Bible study or a life skills lesson to the single moms living in our family care cottages or the birth moms who have chosen adoption and living at Emmanuel Home as they heal and become equipped to live independently.

Visit [bchfamily.org/volunteer](http://bchfamily.org/volunteer) to learn more and/or submit a volunteer interest form. To ensure that you have an excellent volunteering experience and to protect the safety of our residents, always preregister for volunteer opportunities. Check back often and be on the lookout for exciting updates that will include the option to create your own volunteer account and an interactive map with volunteer opportunities across the state to help you find your spot.

Questions? Email me at [kbutts@bchfamily.org](mailto:kbutts@bchfamily.org).



**We have a spot for your church at our Friends of Children Saturdays!** These one-day mission opportunities invite your small group, youth group, Sunday School class -- any church group -- to help with projects for all ages at our statewide ministry locations. It's a perfect way to be the hands and feet of Jesus to those Baptist Children's Homes serves.

**Spring Opportunities:**

- April 13: Cameron Boys Camp, Cameron
- May 4: Camp Duncan, Aberdeen
- May 11: Kennedy Home, Kinston
- May 18: Odum Home, Pembroke



Register at [bchfamily.org/foc](http://bchfamily.org/foc) or scan the code. You can also call 336-474-1277.



# Team members serve BCH with hearts of gratitude

By Blake Ragsdale, Managing Editor



**Lewis Smith**  
828-421-9300  
Director of Development  
Western Area

"It has been my privilege to travel Western North Carolina representing Baptist Children's Homes (BCH) for almost 20 years. It is a joy to partner with people and churches to make such a wonderful difference in the lives of children and families across these mountains. It would be an honor to come to your church to share an update on this wonderful, worthy ministry."



**Clay Leonard**  
336-407-3231  
Director of Development  
Greater Triad Area

"It is truly a blessing to serve our Lord and the ministry of Baptist Children's Homes in my new Triad-area role. I have served the past 22 years in pastoral ministry until coming to BCH. I am eager to get to know the churches and ministry friends who have made an indelible mark on the BCH ministry. I've already seen how God has used their prayers and generous hearts to make it possible to bring hope to children and families."



**Danny Hawkins**  
910-352-9070  
Director of Development  
Southeast-South Central Area

"When I was a pastor, I learned that people don't care how much you know until they know how much you care. It has been my joy and honor to bring my passion, commitment, and knowledge regarding the mission and ministries of BCH to homes and churches throughout my region. Call me. I look forward to serving you in the days ahead."



**Jody Yopp**  
704-314-5291  
Director of Development  
Metrolina-West Central Area

"My love for BCH began when 'Ride to Clyde' started as an opportunity for men and women motorcyclists to help hurting children. Each year, the group traveled across North Carolina to visit BCH locations and spent time with the children. Also, when I served on the Board of Directors of the Baptist State Convention, I worked closely with BCH through my committee assignments. My family and I are so glad God placed this ministry in our path."

## Baptist Children's Homes' (BCH) Development Team

sees themselves as servants. While they are staff members, each has followed God's calling to be a part of the ministry which brings hope to children, families and individuals throughout locations in NC, SC and Guatemala. They know when they are able to share the ministry by speaking in a church or visiting with BCH's dedicated givers, God is faithful to connect them with the resources that will impact the lives of children and others BCH serves through their generosity, partnership and prayers. ***If you or your church would like to learn more about BCH and opportunities to be a part of the mission of "sharing hope...changing lives," please contact the team member that is in your area.***



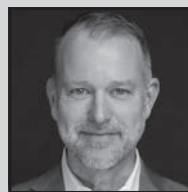
**Wade Parker**  
336-407-3231  
Director of Development  
Triangle-Northeastern Area

"My love for BCH began when my wife and I adopted our oldest daughter Abigail. As we began to find out more about BCH's great reach to children and families that need Jesus, we wanted to do anything we could to be a part of that. BCH is one of the greatest hands and feet of Jesus ministries we have ever seen. I am blessed to share with people and churches how they can minister to the least of these."



**Kevin Qualls**  
704-609-4312  
Director of Development  
Christian Adoption Services  
and Young Leader Relations

"Serving with Christian Adoption Services (CAS) and Young Leader Relations, I am passionate about all of BCH's ministries and how these ministries impact and reach people from birth through senior adults. It is my joy to preach in churches across the Carolinas and share the many stories that challenge all of us to pray and support what God is doing right now as BCH touches thousands of lives each year for all of eternity."



**Mike Blackwood**  
864-256-7674  
Director of Development  
Christian Adoption Services  
South Carolina Area

"I consider it a great honor to carry the banner for Christian Adoption Services (CAS) in SC. My passion is to spread the word about this incredible ministry, sharing with churches and individuals about how they can make a difference in the lives of children needing a home. When a child is adopted, lives are forever impacted. My prayer is that through each encounter, the message of Christ will impact hearts and change lives for eternity."



**Karen Slate**  
336-307-9464  
Director of Development  
Christian Adoption Services  
Grand Strand Area, SC

"My journey in development with BCH for the last almost 15 years has been very rewarding. I'm excited to see what God has in store for our adoption services ministry in the greater Grand Strand area of South Carolina in my new role. I am excited about as developing relationships that will further the mission of "building God's kingdom by connecting vulnerable children with Christian families".

# THS Sports Hall of Fame induct three alum – 1980s alumna shares about her life after MH

By **Lib Johnson** (336) 299-7412 [libsjohnson@triad.rr.com](mailto:libsjohnson@triad.rr.com)

**W**e sincerely thank alumni **Bob Mayton and Clifton Lambreth** who keep us informed of the Thomasville Senior High School's Sports Hall Of Fame (HOF)—the brainchild of **Tommy Bryant** and others. Bob Mayton, 1970 alumnus, is a member of the HOF committee and Clifton Lambreth 1978 alumnus again served superbly as the MC for the great event. Another induction was planned and carried through on March 16. It was held at the T. Austin Finch Auditorium in Thomasville at 3:00 pm with free admission. It was the second induction of athletes in its short history. It is notable and very generous that Tommy's committee saw fit to include not only the Thomasville High School outstanding athletes but also the outstanding athletes of the Mills Home High School and the Church Street High School. Many think of the Thomasville Athletic Sports Hall of Fame as a sort of a monument to the inclusive spirit of Thomasville sports world who wish to demonstrate loving acceptance of the town's citizens and give well deserved credit at the same time. Our alumni can be proud once again that Mills Home (MH) was well represented with three more people being inducted: **Casey Medlin** for outstanding baseball and football from 1932-35; **Melvane Hiatt** (1945-48) for best all-around female athlete and basketball star on a local team which participated under the auspices of MH and according to photographs wore its uniforms; and **Gordon Turnage** for his great record in football in high school and at the University of Tennessee. He still holds the University's longest "pick 6" touchdown in their school's history—a record of 99 yards.

In the first HOF induction, the MH people who were inducted

were: **Johnny Allen**, pitcher for New York Yankees in the 1932 World Series (on teams with Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig); **Pat Preston** who played in the NFL for the Chicago Bears from 1946 to 1950. Preston moved on soon after to serve as coach for Wake Forest for two years and later as WFU athletic director; and **the 1936 MH football team** who won the North Carolina State Championship.

I had a good chat a couple months ago with **Jerrie Beshears Callicutt** and I learned that she had recently suffered a troubling period of blindness. It was terrible but not totally permanent. I learned in a more recent discussion that her vision is much better—although not completely recovered. Please remember Jerrie in your prayers. Jerrie and her sister **Christine Beshears** arrived at MH in 1955. She quickly adjusted to life in a cottage of girls mostly her own age. Like most MH girls, Jerrie entered into the many activities such as GAs and choir at church and the many physical activities at the gym, pool, and valley. She was just as active later in the many school opportunities, especially the girls' basketball team. She loved being a member of the team and excelled. She graduated in 1963, married a local high school young man, **Ronnie Callicutt**, and has spent her adult life in Thomasville. The couple have reared a son and a daughter and now have grandchildren. Jerrie has served on the MH Alumni Council for one term and is good to attend events of Homecoming weekend each year in August.

We were sad to hear of the death of **Grace Panther Willis** ('47-'56) on January 18. A widow for many years, she passed away at Atrium Health in Cleveland County where she was born. She spent most of her school years at MH and attended school on campus. For grades 8

- 12, she attended the Thomasville City Schools. After graduation, Grace returned to the Cleveland County area, met and married **Marcus Jack Willis**, and reared two sons. She worked at several jobs in her life time but she most enjoyed working as an assistant in the Casar Elementary School where she served as a foster grandmother to several children. Remaining true to the Baptist faith, she was a member of Norman's Grove Baptist Church. For leisure interests, she loved watching NASCAR, the Atlanta Braves, and the Carolina Panthers. Her funeral service was held January 24 at Norman's Grove Baptist Church and she was buried in the church's cemetery. Grace did an outstanding job of helping to keep up with the class of 1956 and she rarely missed a Homecoming. Friends may make memorial donations to Mills Home of the Baptist Children's Homes of NC, P.O. Box 338, Thomasville, NC, 27361.

**Janice Thompson Reddick** reported in late 2023 that her sister **Gale** died in 2019 and her mother **Pauline** died in March of 2023. Only a few alumni will recognize these names, but over the years, from 1980 to at least 1990, this whole family worked for alumnus **Fred Thompson's** Pine Printing Company and did a great deal of the printing for the Alumni Association. The main printed materials that Fred's company printed for our Association were the four C. Franklin Bailey Pictorial History books that came out roughly in 1982, 83, 84, and 85. In the first volume of that set of books, the Alumni Association dedicated the four volume **Pictorial History of Mills Home** to **C. Franklin Bailey** for all his dedication to MH and the production of the pictorial history books. Frank in turn gave credit to the invaluable assistance he received from his son **Bill** and to **Fred Thompson**, both now

deceased. It would be hard to try to give names of the Alumni Council who assisted with collating the pages of those volumes—so we will just say they had a lot of fun and Orphan Love in doing it.

If you visit Facebook, you surely must enjoy seeing photos of your friends and their families. It is surely a great way to learn a lot about family. It is always amazing to note the growth and development of the young people. In the last few years, I have enjoyed the lovely photos posted by **Lynn Ann Carter Rountree** showing her two youngsters as they engage in various activities. She has a beautiful young daughter named **Hailey**, now a college student, and a handsome young son named **Preston**. Lynn entered MH in 1981 with siblings **Lisa** and **Michelle**. She graduated in 1991 and attended college. After college, Lynn married **Scott William Rountree** and they now make their home in Chantilly, Virginia. Lynn is the human resources director for THE VIRGINIAN and Scott is human resources senior manager for DISYS. Lynn says that she loves returning for Homecoming in order to be with friends from her youth.

Serious study is being given to transferring the memorabilia from the seriously decaying Mitchell Museum to a large building a short distance from the old print shop. More on this later.

Please contact me at [Libsjohnson@triad.rr.com](mailto:Libsjohnson@triad.rr.com) or 336-299-7412 if you wish to add or correct an address for your **Charity & Children** subscription. Contact **Sharon DeHart Stiles** to discuss use of the God's Acre Columbarium: 704-685-2443 or 1588 Elkhart Circle, Gastonia, NC, 28054.



Lib Johnson was a resident of Mills Home from 1946 to 1957. Johnson began writing the Mills Home alumni column in 1992.



**Adoption stories shared at banquet**  
A highlight of Christian Adoption Service's (CAS) benefit banquets are the testimonies. CAS's Laura Nichols-Virgilio and her biological daughter, also named Laura, shared their story.



**Greater Vision donates 500,000 meals**  
Staff and volunteers at Greater Vision celebrated distributing enough food to provide more than 500,000 meals since 2017. It is a milestone in helping community families.



**Kennedy Home treated to fun night**  
Ignite Church in Chocowinity sponsored a night of fun at a local indoor park for Kennedy Home's cottage children, Family Care single moms and children and foster care families.



**Family invites special adults to game**  
Special adults at Joy Cove Ministries were the Simon family's guests at the Watauga High School basketball game. Cheerleaders Martha and Mary Simon are pictured with residents.



**Cottage life teaches about family**  
Tripp, infant son of Broyhill Home cottage parents Alexander and Rachel Reed, smiles at one of the boys' in their care. Cottage life models to the children what a caring family looks like.



**EVERY CHILD family adopts brothers**  
The Ciufos have grown from a family of six to a family of eight! Through the EVERY CHILD partnership with NC Baptists, this foster family has adopted brothers Tyler and Liam.



**Triad launches adoption efforts**  
Christian Adoption Services hosted pastors and staff from the Triad area for an informational luncheon. It's an opportunity to partner with churches to grow adoption efforts.



**Special needs men shine at event**  
The special adult from Alverta Bolick Home had an incredible time at the Tim Tebow sponsored "Night to Shine." The evening was held at West Asheville Baptist Church.



**Birthday boy is celebrated at church**  
At a service at Dellwood Baptist where Broyhill Home boys and cottage parents attend, associate pastor Shawn Porter led the church in singing "happy birthday" to one of the boys.

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**Set Your Reminder and Join Us for these Events & Mission Days**

**APRIL**  
Entire month : Food Roundup

**4:** CAS: Triad Benefit Banquet, Greensboro

**11:** NCBAM Aging Well Conference, Mocksville

**12:** Camp Duncan Open House, Aberdeen

**18:** CAS: Upstate Golf Tournament, Spartanburg, SC

**18:** NCBAM Aging Well Conference, Vale

**26:** CAS: Rocky Mount Golf Tourney

**27:** NCBAM: Rampin' Up!

**27:** River Hill Refuge Dedication, Shelby

**FRIENDS OF CHILDREN SATURDAY MISSIONS**  
Cameron Boys Camp, Cameron – April 13

Camp Duncan, Aberdeen – May 4

Kennedy Home, Kinston – May 11

Odum Home, Pembroke – May 18

For a complete 2024 list of events, registration info and other details, visit [bchfamily.com/events](http://bchfamily.com/events)

How can we help you? Contact 1.800.476.3669 or [bchfamily.org/referral](http://bchfamily.org/referral) >>>

For each person's specific need, Baptist Children's Homes offers a unique ministry that is prepared to help. Reach out today.

**#3641**

# Alumni remember the kindness of visiting homes – Social worker Arant heralded for her dedication

By **JOHN THOMPSON**, 102 Maritime Court, Havelock, NC 28532 (252) 671-3515 jbthompson43@gmail.com

Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these (Luke 18:16).” I start this month’s column with a very special scripture. It means a whole lot to me and I sincerely hope it means a lot to all of you. This is the goal of Baptist Children’s Homes (BCH). For many years, YOU and the other *Charity & Children* readers helped the ministry of Kennedy Home as well as all of BCH’s ministries. Many of you reached out with financial gifts. Many of you have served as visiting homes in years past helping the children feel loved. Many Sunday School classes through the years have come to campus to provide Christmas parties and friendly visits just to let the children know that someone cares. Thank you!

Several of the alumni sent stories to include in this month’s column. I share with you their appreciation for what it meant for them to have a visiting home.

**Donna Weeks Duty** writes: “The visiting home I visited the most while living at Kennedy Home was the home of my dear **Aunt Mary**, my mother’s sister. My mother died when I was six years old and living in my first foster home. Aunt Mary became my custodian and placed me at Kennedy Home (KH) in 1976. It was the best decision she could have made for me. Kennedy Home provided the structure I needed and I no longer moved from foster home to foster home. Kennedy Home allowed us to visit with relatives or a ‘visiting home’ once a month. The majority of the time, I visited Aunt Mary who lived in Bladenboro. I traveled on the bus in Kinston and traveled to the Fayetteville bus station where my aunt and uncle would pick me up. She had a modest three bedroom home and I was allowed to have my

very own bedroom when I visited. I have a lot of fond memories of visiting her home. She would always take me shopping to buy me clothes. She would also take me to the ‘Five and Dime’ store and buy me a Barbie Doll with clothes for the doll. She would also take me to the library and encourage me to check out a book or two to read while I was staying with her—especially during summer vacation. I attribute my love for reading to her. She was a great cook and I remember loving every single meal she cooked. She was a ‘good old country’ cook. My sweet Aunt Mary died in 1999 and I still miss her so much, but will always cherish my memories of visiting her home.”

**Joyce Surbaugh** writes: “I definitely keep in touch with my visiting home. Our Mom’s twin sister was our guardian during the KH years. Our **Aunt Teen** picked us up just about every month. As a child we thought her house was big, but it really was a three bedroom with one bath. That small house was full of a loving family that welcomed us with open arms. Our Aunt Teen is still going strong at the age of 94 and considers us her kids. She is an amazing Christian that always makes us feel loved and appreciated. We always thank her for her amazing care and love.”

**John Ogle** writes to say that he had a “clothing sponsor” in Charlotte that was a Ladies Sunday School class: “I would visit them about every six months or so and they would take me to Belks and buy me about \$25 worth of clothes. When I was in the Boy Scouts, I used part of my \$25 to buy an official Boy Scout hatchet for use on camping trips. I still have this hatchet to this day. **Franklin Baily** engraved my name on it for me at the shoe shop. A family or Sunday School class can still help our boys and girls. You can also sponsor a

child for Christmas. This allows us to be a helping hand in the ministry.”

**Larry Gilliam**, our alumni president, asks for many of the alumni to come to the KH campus on Saturday, April 13, to help with the alumni historical rooms. **Donna and Dave Duty** are preparing a delicious meal. If you have anything to bring to share you are welcomed to do so. We want to clean, paint, and go through alumni pictures/documents for display. We hope to have it ready by Homecoming which is June 1 and 2.

Larry plans to have an officer’s meeting that day to plan Homecoming activities. He will send the officers a note stating the time of the day. If you are an officer and cannot come early, please come to the board meeting. Be thinking of a minister or other speaker for Homecoming. I am planning to have a great big choir. Please join us. We will practice Homecoming Sunday morning between Sunday School and the worship service. Did you know that **Mrs. Doris Russ** is in her 90s and plans to play the keyboard for us? She plays for her home church every Sunday. We want to have the “best” homecoming ever!

**Donald Wetherington** is always writing articles on the KH Facebook page. He has really been in poor health for a long time. He writes to say to a special thanks for all your prayers for his cancer recovery. “Praise Jesus,” Donald says. He is cancer free.

**Alumni Beach Retreat:** The KH alumni and their spouses will have our annual beach retreat at the beach cottage next Fall as usual. We didn’t get to have it this past year because of water damage from a big storm. Keep an eye out for the date and plans a little later.

**Ann Wilkerson Arant** is a well loved social worker who was at KH from 1972-1976. From the day she

joined the staff, everyone knew that she loved her work. And the children in her care would love her. Ann and her husband George are retired and live in Kenly, North Carolina. **Donna Duty Weeks** says that Ann was her last and best social worker she had while living at KH: “We are now very much like sisters.” **Judy Poteat** (She was a worker in the KH office and her husband, **Richard Poteat**, who was the KH farm manager) is very close friends with Ann. Judy says that she was a great co-worker, was very dedicated to serving with her assigned children, and was fun and funny! Ann and Richard enjoyed playing guitars together. Both played very well. Ann’s father-in-law was an interim pastor at the church Judy and Richard attend. Barbara Smith says that Ann and Donna really do look like sisters. “I was at KH in 1972 and I remember two visits Ann paid me when I was attending college at UNC-W.”

Tell me about your social worker. Write me about your social worker, who they were, when were they at KH, and try to remember some real good things to say so I can use the articles you send me for my column next month.

I also want to take a moment to thank everyone for writing me, calling me, and checking on me since I have been living with my son **Scott** and his lovely wife **Melissa**. As you know, I am using a walker now, getting shots regularly, having physical therapy, and this month I have a MRI. **Johnny and Scott** and their families are really taking good care of me. Hope to see everyone at the upcoming work day and Homecoming this year. Let’s make an effort to have the



largest crowd we have ever had. Love ya!—jt

John Thompson served at Kennedy Home from 1972-1977. Today, he enjoys an active retirement.

# Becoming who we might be

By Jim Edminson, Editor

Memories flood over me at the oddest moments, and I know you experience that same phenomena. Present tense happenings trigger past tense episodes, and the two very different experiences weave into a commonality that is awesome. Over the past few weeks, I have met and interviewed some terrific and inspiring young ladies, Kaylin and Rose and Hayli and Lynlee. Listening to their parents' pride and reminiscences and, yes, moments of heartbreak, I moved in my mind to my own experiences as a father of daughters.

I love my three daughters. It was



instantaneous. From the moment I set my gaze on them, my heart grew and beat stronger just because they were now part of my life.

I was all in with these little women, spending time with them—reading, drawing puppy dogs and butterflies, climbing my adult-size body on child-size monkey bars. We sang songs—Pat-a-Cake and Itsy Bitsy Spider, then Avril and Celine, then band songs; it wasn't until their late teens that I lost track of their musical interests.

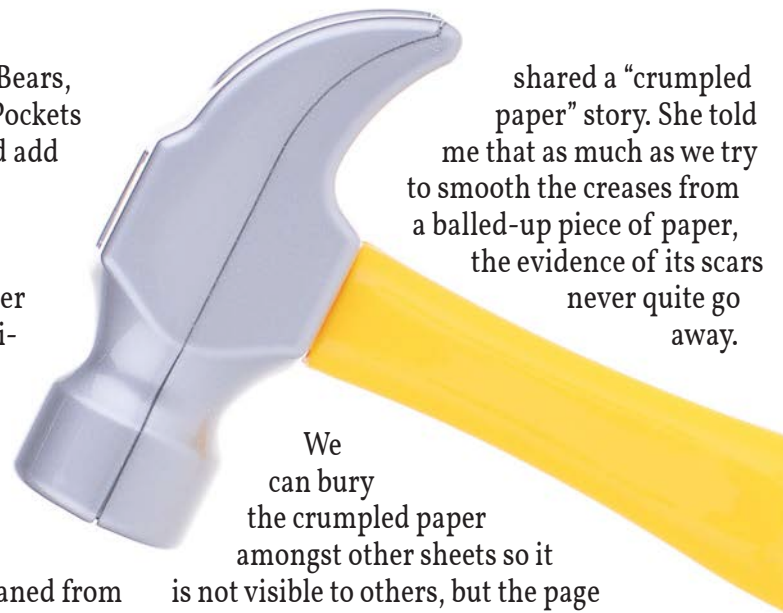
I knew all the princesses' names, knew Ken's place in Barbie's

world, knew the colors of all the Care Bears, as well as the newest version of Polly Pockets coming to stores faster than they could add them to wishlists.

We shared interests. From age four, Jenny wore her tool belt with tools like mine—hammer, screwdriver, pliers; her tools said something of her can-do attitude, ready to accept any challenge. Mary's fascination with her never-ending supply of Hot Wheels cars, fueled by me and mirrored my own, evident in my stash upstairs, c. 1960s, priceless to both of us. I treasured

each new piece of Amie's art gleaned from school days and college years, and her portfolio of work reminds me of my own files from bygone student days; I valued every glimpse of her artistic side. They were always their own people, and yet spirit with spirit, heart to heart could meet, mine to each of theirs. It was so much easier when my children were young. I could always send sisters to their rooms to stop an argument. A hurt—scraped knee or bruised heart—could be made better with rocking together in the recliner or escaping to the ice cream shop. Life was simpler. Then the troubles grew bigger. Crushing loneliness in out-of-town places, a horrific car crash, the death of a beloved best friend. Standing with them, literally or figuratively as the case dictated, became my only recourse, and I longed for the days when I could fix what was not right.

In a recent chat, thirteen-year-old Kaylin



shared a "crumpled paper" story. She told me that as much as we try to smooth the creases from a balled-up piece of paper, the evidence of its scars never quite go away.

We can bury the crumpled paper amongst other sheets so it is not visible to others, but the page retains the effects of what happened in the past. This is the way things are, she told me. But the lack of smoothness has nothing to do with the purpose of the paper nor its ability to be all that a sheet of paper needs to be. She looked steadily at me after sharing her analogy—hopeful, even insistent, that I understand her message.

You and I live transient lives. We savor the ups, and we weather the downs. We stick with those who assure us that they care, show us their love, provide their presence through it all. We move from who we were into who we are and finally push the limits to become who we might be—hopefully, our best version.

I can attest to life's trials and tribulations. As a man of faith, I can testify to the rest of the story, too. In John's gospel, Jesus says, "I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace. In this world, you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world" (16:33). This is the Word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God. Amen.



You can email Jim at [wjedminson@bchfamily.org](mailto:wjedminson@bchfamily.org).





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