The change in Cameron’s life was as sudden as coming into a dark room and flipping a light switch. "It was quick," the 17-year-old high school senior says. "I came to Drake Cottage and things changed. I matured; it was a total turn around."

Cameron moved to Drake Cottage in Franklin after living at Broyhill Home in Clyde for a year and a half. His father had turned to Baptist Children’s Homes when he felt his son was getting out of control. Cameron’s behavioral problems at home and school needed attention – sneaking out at night, fighting at school and constantly butting heads with his father.

Cameron’s parents divorced when he was four years old and he lived with his mom and sister until his dad wanted the two children to come and live with him. Cameron’s sister thrived, but he began to struggle. "My parents love me," Cameron says. "Even when I was out there pushing the boundaries, I knew when to stop. I never got in trouble with the law or got involved in drugs. They raised me right. I just wanted to do what I wanted."

When things turned around in his life, the strong-willed young man began to use his energies for better things. "When I first came to Drake Cottage, I was told that if I worked hard, I could be successful," Cameron remembers. "They believed in me and I believed them; that motivated me to do something positive."

The more Cameron moved in the right direction, the more doors opened to him. Grades improved. His relationship with his dad improved. More privileges came his way. He was able to begin a part-time job at the local Dairy Queen. He now has a vehicle and is involved in an intern program through his high school that interests him greatly.

As part of the intern program, I go every day and work at a funeral home,” Cameron says smiling. “I’ve found out that I’m good at it. I like helping people and I’m very respectful of those who are going through such a difficult time.”

His internship has given him a vision for life past high school graduation. Cameron has applied and been accepted by a professional school in Atlanta where he will become certified in funeral services. He plans to become a funeral home director and sees himself owning a funeral home one day.

“It may sound strange to some, but this is the way for me,” he says. Cameron attributes his great strides to those at Drake Cottage who have been there for him.

“We don’t want to stop with 10,000 downloads.” – Ricketts
“Riding a horse calms down your nerves a little bit.” – Celina
Don’t withdraw to negative balance – Make deposits to kids’ emotional accounts

By Michael C. Blackwell, President/CEO

Author Willard Harley popularized the concept of emotional “bank accounts” in his excellent book for understanding relationships, His Needs, Her Needs.

His notion compared the emotional give-and-take between a man and a woman to “fund balances” in a checking account. If you withdraw more than you put in, your fund will “bounce” and you will be in trouble.

Each positive comment, compliment, supportive act, nurture, and surprise “just because I love you” gift to your spouse is a “deposit” in his or her emotional bank account.

When you do something stupid – lose your temper, forget a birthday or anniversary, or come home late without calling – you make a withdrawal from that emotional account. If you withdraw more than you deposit, you are in emotional deficit with your spouse, and you are in trouble!

Children’s Accounts

It’s the same for children. Your kids and all the children you influence have an unconscious emotional account balance. When they have been flooded with positive deposits, they react to life from a perspective that says they are on top of things, they are winners, they can achieve.

When all they feel is the constant drain of emotional withdrawals, their perspective is dark and they begin to wonder how much more they can give – how much more will be required of them.

Children react according to these emotional account balances too. If you make more withdrawals from them than deposits in them, the children will “bounce.” Their words and actions will scream “insufficient emotional funds!”

Since people cannot operate for long with a negative emotional balance, children and adults alike will seek positive deposits – wherever they can find them.

You think your daughter’s clothing selection is atrocious? You withdraw emotional funds as she walks out the door by saying, “You look like a bum!” At school, she’ll find somebody to restore her fund balance by telling her she’s beautiful, he loves her outfit, and by the way, what is she doing Friday night?

You make a big, negative deal over your son’s bout of pimples or his wimpy mustache? There’s a drug dealer on the corner who doesn’t even see his rough skin and who tells your son he wishes he could grow a mustache as good.

“Pick up your toys, do your homework, do this, do that. Can’t you do anything right? These words are emotional “withdrawal” slips. Like withdrawing money to pay bills, some withdrawal words are necessary, although they can be more softly phrased.

But if you do not make enough deposits, your children will operate at an emotional deficit and that is never good. Hugs and sincere praise are huge deposits. On the other hand, it takes only a few harsh words and a deaf ear to drain the emotional bank.

How do you make deposits? Here are three deposit slips you can fill in as you communicate with your children:

Look your children in their eyes when you speak to them.

Put down the newspaper and shut off or mute the television. Turn and look.

Have you ever had people looking over your shoulder at someone else while they talked to you? It tells you their interest level in your conversation. Eye-to-eye contact shows that you are genuinely interested in the person you’re speaking with and you consider what they are saying important.

Use their names.

Their names are important. They affirm their unique identities, and say to them that you have something important specifically for them.

Our names are important to our self-worth.

Use the deposit word “because.”

I appreciate you because . . . I love you because . . . I admire you because . . .

Don’t simply give your children generic compliments or tell them, “you’re wonderful” without a basis for that observation.

Because they may have a low opinion of themselves at the time, if you give an ungrounded compliment, they say to themselves, “you don’t know me very well.”

If children only have withdrawals and no deposits in their emotional bank accounts, rebellion will come and they will find someone else to make deposits!

Take time today to make a deposit in your child’s account. It costs you nothing, but will pay million-dollar dividends.

Michael C. Blackwell leads the ministry with vigor and enthusiasm. He has served as president of Baptist Children’s Homes since 1983 and has a record-setting 29-year tenure.

For the band members of Awestruck Worship, creating music is as much about helping others as it is about writing and performing. It’s the reason the Greensboro-based band raised support for an international ministry to coincide with the release of their inaugural CD – “The Giver.”

When the group began production for its sophomore recording project in January 2013, they again decided to choose a ministry they could support. The band was surprised to discover the perfect beneficiary was within a 30-mile drive.

“My wife and I were Googling orphanages on the internet, and we ended up at the website of Baptist Children’s Homes of North Carolina,” says Tyler Ricketts.

Ricketts is a singer, guitarist and songwriter for Awestruck Worship. He is also the worship pastor at Awestruck Church in nearby Gibsonville where the group serves as the praise and worship band. Ricketts grew up in Greensboro and attended a Baptist church, but he had not heard of Baptist Children’s Homes (BCH) until discovering it on the internet.

“It was almost this instantaneous feeling that we needed to get to know BCH and help,” explains Ricketts. “There aren’t just children overseas who need help – there are people right here in our backyard.”

Ricketts brought the idea to the other band members and leaders at the church. “It was really a no-brainer,” recalls Ricketts. “And the song ‘Enough’ is a small place for us to start.”

“Enough,” the first single from their upcoming CD, was released on March 19. And just as the group connected to BCH through the internet, the band is connecting to listeners through online music stores, including iTunes, where “Enough” is being sold.

“The message of the song is that God alone is enough,” says Ricketts. “No matter the hard times you’ve gone through, He’s always there for you.”

“Enough” costs $1.29 to download and the band is donating all proceeds to purchase BCH “Sweet Dreams” bed sponsorships. Every 300 downloads of “Enough” generates enough support to purchase one bed sponsorship. Thinking big, the band has set a goal of reaching 10,000 downloads by Christmas so that 30 bed sponsorships, enough for three children’s cottages, can be purchased.

“It’s such a small price that goes a long way,” says Ricketts. “We don’t want to stop with 10,000 downloads. It’s also about awareness – that’s the big thing. People can ask their co-workers and other people they know to download the song, and they can let them know about BCH.”

Awestruck Worship and BCH are promoting the initiative on their individual Facebook pages. The band also plans to share BCH’s story when they perform at upcoming shows throughout the year.

“Awestruck is always about someone else. If we create music for fame or money, then we’ve missed the point of why we’re in this,” says Ricketts. “I hope the children at BCH see us as the hands and feet of Jesus. I want them to feel welcomed and loved.”
Stand up, speak for those who can’t – April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

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

Baptist Children’s Homes (BCH) is dedicated to providing a safe place where children can experience hope and healing.

Many of the children in BCH’s care have lived in situations where there was not always food, clean clothes, kind words, or loving embraces. Often, the case files chronicling the difficult journey of the boys and girls are filled with disappointment after disappointment, failed attempts to place them in a caring environment, and even abuse and neglect. These factors affect their growth.

A child who is ignored stops talking. A child robbed of affection won’t give hugs or allow themselves to be hugged. A child who never plays with toys will not learn as quickly. A child who experiences betrayal finds it difficult to trust.

All children deserve to feel safe and secure. They deserve the opportunity to become all that God intends.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. This nationwide campaign began in Chesapeake, Virginia by a grandmother whose grandson was murdered by his mother’s boyfriend. Bonnie Finney explains why she decided to tie a blue ribbon on her van, “Why blue? I intend to never forget the bruised body of my grandchild. Blue serves as a constant reminder to me to fight for the protection of our children.” Child Abuse Prevention Month is a time when we are reminded to stand and speak up for those who are alone or cannot speak for themselves.

What can you do to help?

1. **Teach preventative 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 that secrets should be fun. Help them to know the difference between secrets and threats.

2. **Offer to assist struggling parents that you know.**
   + Take a child of a single parent out for pizza or burgers or to a movie so that the parent can have a few hours to herself.
   + Take dinner over to a stressed parent one night. Use paper containers, and include paper plates and utensils, so that he will not have to clean up.
   + Become a prayer partner with a young mother or father with a first child.
   + Have a parents’ night out at church several times a year and provide child care.
   + Make sure parents are aware of Baptist Children’s Homes and that we stand ready to help them.

3. **Help children you don’t know.**
   + Help us help them. Last year, BCH ministered to more than 6,900 children, families and individuals who were in need of help.
   + Participate in our annual Food Roundup taking place throughout April.
   + Participate in our annual Friends of Children events during the month of May.

**STATISTICS:**

1 in 5 children in North Carolina go hungry. For children younger than five, that statistic increases to one in four.

In 2011, 24 children died at the hand of a parent or caregiver in North Carolina.

More than 132,000 reports of abuse and neglect were reported in 2011.

80% of those were children under age 12.

In the last 5 years, almost 650,000 cases of child abuse and neglect have been reported in North Carolina. A child is abused or neglected every 24 minutes.

Every 4 days, a child or teen is killed by gunfire.

And tragically, 41 children and teens committed suicide using a firearm in 2011.

**WORTHWHILE INVESTMENTS**

+ 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 every day.

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 our residents 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 unite with every BCH staff member who stands at the door of each facility with outstretched arms proclaiming God’s love.

Please stand with us and speak for those who cannot stand and speak for themselves. For more information on how you can stand for children and families call me at 1-800-336-476-3669 ext. 1230.

Brenda Gray’s passion is children. She serves BCH as the executive vice president, development & communications. Gray directs all fund-raising/friend-raising activities for the state-wide services.

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**Upcoming events**

**Note: Some dates have been revised**

**April – Food Roundup:**
www.bchfamily.org/foodroundup

**May 4 – Friends of Children Workday:**
Kennedy Home in Kinston, Oak Ranch in Sanford, and Odum Home in Pembroke

**May 21 – Founders Day:**
Cameron Boys Camp in Cameron

**May 11 – Barbecue Festival:**
Broyhill Home in Clyde

**May 25 – HopeFest:**
Pinehurst (See promo on page 3)

**June 1 – Friends of Children Workday:**
Mills Home in Thomasville

**August 24 – Hope in Style:**
Greensboro

**Sept. 5 – Western Area Conference:**
Broyhill Home in Clyde

**Sept. 7 – Friends of Children Workday:**
Camp Duncan in Aberdeen

**Sept. 14 – Friends of Children Workday:**
Cameron Boys Camp in Cameron, Kennedy Home in Kinston

**Sept. 21 – Friends of Children Workday:**
Oak Ranch in Sanford

**Sept. 24 – Founders Day:**
Camp Duncan in Aberdeen

**Sept. 28 – Friends of Children Workday:**
Mills Home in Thomasville and Odum Home in Pembroke

**Nov. 17-24 – BCH’s Week of Prayer:**
Schedule a BCH speaker at your church.

For more info, call Alan Williams at 1.800.476.3669, ext. 1277.
Celebrate New Life!

“I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” THE WORDS OF JESUS - JOHN 10:10

The resurrection of Christ - God’s great miracle - has given each of us the opportunity for new life. The children who live at Baptist Children’s Homes have been given their own opportunity to rise above hurts and embrace lives full of promise. Many have never heard the miracle of the Easter story and Baptist Children’s Homes becomes the place where they learn about Christ’s unfailing love for the very first time.

Celebrate Easter by making a special gift to help us share this opportunity of new life - new hope - with Baptist Children’s Homes’ boys and girls.

Please give!

Mail to:
BCH
P.O. Box 338
Thomasville, NC 27361

To give immediately, click on www.bchfamily.org/givenow

I want to celebrate Easter by sharing new hope with children!

☑ $25 ☑ $50 ☑ $100 ☑ $300 ☑ $ ______________ Any size gift!

Name ________________________________________________________ Address ________________________________________________________________________________________
City ___________________________ State ______ Zip __________ Phone __________________________________________ Email _______________________________________________
Credit Card Option: ☐ Visa ☐ MC Name on card: __________________________________________________________________________________
Card #: ___ ___ ___ ___ - ___ ___ ___ ___ - ___ ___ ___ ___ - ___ ___ ___ ___ Signature: ________________________________
Must have Credit Card Expiration Date: __________ Three-digit security code (on card back): ______

☐ Contact me with information on how to prepare a Christian Will.
☐ I have included Baptist Children’s Homes in my estate plans
☐ Check to sign-up for BCH’s email newsletter or sign-up by texting the word BCHFAMILY to 22828

Give immediately online at www.bchfamily.org/givenow

Give immediately online at www.bchfamily.org/givenow
Horses help children and moms heal – Animals bring extra benefit to Family Care

By J. Blake Ragsdale, C&C Managing Editor

Celina slowly strokes the brush across the back of Gee. As the 10-year-old Oak Ranch resident brushes the gentle horse, four of Celina’s siblings groom another horse while the children’s mother tends to her two babies. Just as Gee is the oldest of Oak Ranch’s five horses, Celina is the oldest of her six brothers and sisters.

“I like riding the horses, grooming them and just spending time with them all,” says Celina. “It calms down your nerves a little bit.”

The horses are a soothing presence for the children and mothers who live at Oak Ranch in Broadway. Last year, Family Care became available at the 755-acre residential ranch. The program provides a safe, comfortable home for children and their single mothers while moms work to rebuild their families’ lives. Staff members at the ranch provide support as mothers gain the skills and resources needed to move their families to successful, independent living situations. The property’s permanent residents, Oak Ranch’s horses, are a vital part of the support system.

“My children love the horses. It’s an experience I wouldn’t have been able to give them,” says Celina’s mother Sherri. “It’s very peaceful here. And working with the horses gives them all something they can do together.”

Oak Ranch barn manager Alicia Rosser says people can connect with horses. “It’s about healing. So many of the mothers have faced challenges that make our problems look small.”

When a family first comes to the ranch, she shows them the property’s barn where they first meet the two gentlest horses – Gee and Crystal.

“Once a family is acquainted with the barn, we want to have fun, but within that, we have to be mindful of safety and learn to always treat the horses with respect,” says Rosser.

During their equine sessions, families learn the proper way to care for the animals. They are taught grooming techniques and how to lead and ride the horses.

“The family works together with their horse so it helps them work as a team,” explains Rosser. “It’s an accomplishment for them when they learn how to control a 1,000-pound animal. You have to respect the horse, but you also have to establish dominance. That translates to life. It teaches you there are times when you have to stand up for yourself and that’s okay.”

Last year, two of Oak Ranch’s mothers, Erin (who was featured with her twin daughters in the January issue of C&C) and Widya and Bella who won ribbons in the Johnston County Horse Show.

Refer a child or family at www.bchfamily.org/referral

Download the five-minute video and VBS resources at www.bchkids.org (DVDs are available). Collect a Mile of Pennies to help provide a happy home for BCH’s boys & girls.

For info, call 1.800.476.3669 ext. 1209.
[WESTERN AREA EVENT]

**Children shine for talent show**

Broyhill Home resident Trevor walked to the front of the gym when he heard his name called. There, he received an award, and a hug, from BCH’s Linda Morgan.

“I’m going Disneyland!” he jokingly called out to his fellow residents.

Every child participating in the Western Area talent show is affirmed for sharing their creative abilities. Many children demonstrated their musical abilities by singing or playing instruments. Others performed skits and some shared their proficiency for cooking, craft-making and the visual arts – drawing and painting.

The show on February 12 brought together children from Broyhill Home in Clyde, where the event was held, and Drake Cottage in Franklin.

Clockwise: Above, Ashley and Katie perform a musical skit. Savannah smiles as she receives her award from Linda Morgan, Western Area Family Services lead director, and Nancy Allen, Broyhill Home administrative assistant. Tabitha showcases her “Imperfect Cake” that included a special message explaining “None of us are perfect, but God’s love makes us special.” Trevor, Tabitha’s brother, sings before the crowd.

**Ralph shares from his heart about what’s most important**

When talking to Ralph, a resident at Alverta Bolick Home in Asheville, the topic will get around to the “Lord.”

“I just love the Lord,” Ralph says. “I like to tell people about Him. He is so important to us all. He is all that we need.”

Ralph recently shared his heart about God, Jesus, the Bible, and Heaven.

**About God**

“God is good to me and to everyone who believes on Him,” Ralph explains. He says he spends time talking to God. Ralph says it is a comfort to be able to call upon Him.

“I tell Him, I say, ‘I know when I need something from you, Lord. But I want you to answer my prayer in your time. I trust you. You know what I need most.’”

**About Jesus**

“I believe everything about Jesus,” he says. “I feel Jesus is with me all the time, not just in the daytime, 24/7.”

Ralph believes Jesus can heal – if not here on earth, then in Heaven.

**About the Bible**

Ralph keeps his Bible near him in his room.

“I was reading the Bible last night,” Ralph recalls. “I was reading the first part, ‘In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.’ Oh yes, He is a big God. I am looking forward to seeing Him some day soon.”

**About Heaven**

Ralph says the streets will be paved with pure gold. He looks forward to being reunited with his mom and dad. He longs to be in the presence of Jesus.

“I am looking forward to talking to Jesus,” he says. “When I see Him, I’ll tell Him, ‘I am so happy.’ I’ll tell Him ‘I’m happy’ over and over again. There is no sickness or sorrow at all. It will be a great day, oh yes.”

News and events at www.bchfamily.org

Ralph lives at Alverta Bolick Home in Asheville. The home is one of nine homes across the state serving individuals with developmental disabilities. Baptist Children’s Homes has been ministering to this special population since 2000.
Food Roundup

April 2013

Non-Food Items:
- Paper Products (Cups, Plates, Bowls, Plastic Ware)
- Furniture Polish (Pledge, Murphy's Oil, Kleen Guard)
- Lysol Spray and Cleaner
- Pine Sol Floor Cleaner
- Shout Pre-Wash Spray
- Soft Scrub
- SOS Pads
- Spray and Wash
- Tile and Grout Cleaner
- Trash Bags (large & small)
- Zip-loc bags (sandwich, snack)
- Quart & Gallon Sizes
- Band Aids
- Rubbing Alcohol/Peroxide
- Razors
- Shaving Cream/Shaving Gel
- Dental Floss
- Toothbrushes
- Tooth Paste
- Deodorant
- Conditioner
- Hair Brushes
- Diapers (Sizes 3’s, 4’s, and 5’s)
- Baby Wipes
- Bug Repellent
- Wasp/Hornet Spray
- Sunblock 30+
- Batteries (AA and AAA)
- Disposable Gloves (Latex & Non-latex)

Additional Info:
The collection points located statewide are below on BCH’s website. Gift cards are greatly appreciated and will be used to buy perishables and items not received through the Roundup, (i.e. Walmart, Sams Clubs, Food Lion, Lowes, Ingles)
We can use all size cans, however most campuses prefer #10 cans. (Family Size)

Please check expires dates on food.

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

Most needed items are bolded. The items constantly needed are: canned fruit, fruit juices, cereal, paper towels, laundry detergent, deodorant, cleaning supplies, and conditioner.

Food Roundup resources at www.bchfamily.org/support/foodroundup or at www.bchfamily.org. Click on “Support Us” and then “Food Roundup” located in the bottom right corner.

Collection points ready to receive Roundup donations

Needs list

Baptist Children’s Homes (BCH) serves as many as 70,000 meals and snacks every year. Providing for the daily needs of boys and girls is no small task. This year’s Food Roundup is slated for April. Now is the time to begin gathering your food and nonperishable items. Questions? call Alan Williams at 1-800-476-3669 ext. 1277.

Food/ Cooking Items: Canned Fruits Bottled Water Fruit Cocktail Apple Juice, Orange, Grape, Cranberry Dry Cereal Spaghetti Sauce Pasta (Spaghetti, Lasagna, Macaroni) Canned Tomatoes (diced, sauce, paste) Pancake Mix & Syrup Sour Cream (Cream of Mushroom, Cream of Chicken, Broth, Beef Broth) Sugar (Granulated & Brown) Splenda Popcorn, Kettle Corn Apple Sauce Fruit Pie Filling (Cherry, Peach) Beverage Mixes (tea, Tang, Kool-Aid, All Sugar Free) Spice Mixes (Garlic, Ginger, Black Pepper) Onion Salt, Onion powder, Granulated Onions, Dehydrated Onions Salad Dressing Spray, Bakers Choice Meat Mixes: Canned Meats (pink salmon, tuna, chicken – packed in water) Stuffing Mix Gravy Mixes Tuna, Chicken, & Hamburger Helper Pickles (Sweet, Dill, Sweet Relish) Refridgerated Beans Hot Chocolate Mix Snack Food mix with and without sugar (Flour Rolls, Fruit Cups, Cheese Nips, Pretzels, Rice Krispies Treats, Vanillia Wafers etc.) Health Snack Foods (Dried Fruit, Raisins, Cranraisins) Individual Cookie Packs PopTarts Rice Instant Potatoes Banana Muffin Mix Bisquick Mix Kidney Beans Baked Beans

Non-Food Items: Paper Products (Towels, toilet paper, kleenex) Dishwashing detergent (Cascade, Jet Dry, Ivory, Dawn) Washing Powder or Liquid (Tide, Cheer, Ajax, Arm & Hammer (allergen free) Fabric Softener (Dryer Sheets) Brooms, Mops, scrub brushes, dust pans Clorox Bleach Clorox II Cleaner Windowx Window Cleaner Foil and Plastic Wrap Ajax or Comet Cleaner SOS Pads Hand Sanitaries Pads and Tampons Hand Lotion Shampoo Body Wash Soap Paper Products (Cups, Plates, Bowls, Plastic Ware) Furniture Polish (Pledge, Murphy's Oil, Kleen Guard) Lysol Spray and Cleaner Pine Sol Floor Cleaner Shout Pre-Wash Spray Soft Scrub SOS Pads Spray and Wash Tile and Grout Cleaner Trash Bags (large & small) Zip-loc bags (sandwich, snack)

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Needs list

Baptist Children’s Homes (BCH) serves as many as 70,000 meals and snacks every year. Providing for the daily needs of boys and girls is no small task. This year’s Food Roundup is slated for April. Now is the time to begin gathering your food and nonperishable items. Questions? call Alan Williams at 1-800-476-3669 ext. 1277.

Food/ Cooking Items: Canned Fruits Bottled Water Fruit Cocktail Apple Juice, Orange, Grape, Cranberry Dry Cereal Spaghetti Sauce Pasta (Spaghetti, Lasagna, Macaroni) Canned Tomatoes (diced, sauce, paste) Pancake Mix & Syrup Sour Cream (Cream of Mushroom, Cream of Chicken, Broth, Beef Broth) Sugar (Granulated & Brown) Splenda Popcorn, Kettle Corn Apple Sauce Fruit Pie Filling (Cherry, Peach) Beverage Mixes (tea, Tang, Kool-Aid, All Sugar Free) Spice Mixes (Garlic, Ginger, Black Pepper) Onion Salt, Onion powder, Granulated Onions, Dehydrated Onions Salad Dressing Spray, Bakers Choice Meat Mixes: Canned Meats (pink salmon, tuna, chicken – packed in water) Stuffing Mix Gravy Mixes Tuna, Chicken, & Hamburger Helper Pickles (Sweet, Dill, Sweet Relish) Refridgerated Beans Hot Chocolate Mix Snack Food mix with and without sugar (Flour Rolls, Fruit Cups, Cheese Nips, Pretzels, Rice Krispies Treats, Vanillia Wafers etc.) Health Snack Foods (Dried Fruit, Raisins, Cranraisins) Individual Cookie Packs PopTarts Rice Instant Potatoes Banana Muffin Mix Bisquick Mix Kidney Beans Baked Beans

Non-Food Items: Paper Products (Towels, toilet paper, kleenex) Dishwashing detergent (Cascade, Jet Dry, Ivory, Dawn) Washing Powder or Liquid (Tide, Cheer, Ajax, Arm & Hammer (allergen free) Fabric Softener (Dryer Sheets) Brooms, Mops, scrub brushes, dust pans Clorox Bleach Clorox II Cleaner Windowx Window Cleaner Foil and Plastic Wrap Ajax or Comet Cleaner SOS Pads Hand Sanitaries Pads and Tampons Hand Lotion Shampoo Body Wash Soap Paper Products (Cups, Plates, Bowls, Plastic Ware) Furniture Polish (Pledge, Murphy's Oil, Kleen Guard) Lysol Spray and Cleaner Pine Sol Floor Cleaner Shout Pre-Wash Spray Soft Scrub SOS Pads Spray and Wash Tile and Grout Cleaner Trash Bags (large & small) Zip-loc bags (sandwich, snack)

April 2013

Collection points ready to receive Roundup donations

Additional Info:
The collection points located statewide are below on BCH’s website. Gift cards are greatly appreciated and will be used to buy perishables and items not received through the Roundup, (i.e. Walmart, Sams Clubs, Food Lion, Lowes, Ingles)

We can use all size cans, however most campuses prefer #10 cans. (Family Size)

Please check expires dates on food.

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

Most needed items are bolded. The items constantly needed are: canned fruit, fruit juices, cereal, paper towels, laundry detergent, deodorant, cleaning supplies, and conditioner.

Food Roundup resources at www.bchfamily.org/support/foodroundup or at www.bchfamily.org. Click on “Support Us” and then “Food Roundup” located in the bottom right corner.
2013 Homecoming theme set – Alumni invited to celebrate “Happy Days”

By Lib Smathers Johnson, 5612 Bledsoe Drive, Greensboro, NC 27410 (336) 299-7412 libsjohnson@triad.rr.com

Homecoming is August 2-3 August 4, 2013. You’ve seen this before so please don your “whimsical cap” for this 2004 revised invitation from whimsical Harry Walls. “Come on back home again, one more time! That’s right! Just get here. Drive your car, hitch a ride, ride your lawnmower, if you like. Catch a Greyhound or Trailways or you can catch the freight train in the ball, tumble down a rabbit hole, but make sure you take a left at the 17th green light. Just get your self here! So don’t feel bad about where you’ve been; just look where you’re goin’. You never know how much time you have left, but you have today and this moment, so think on it and commit! Come back home again one more time! And don’t fret about rain; I’ve made arrangements for a bright sunny day, so move forward and get here! We’ve missed you.”

Whatever plans you are making for Homecoming, Alumni president Pete Knight is ahead of you. He gathered up a bunch of orphans (Alumni Council) and conducted a great planning session for this year’s festivities on February 23, 2013. It was highly successful. We got a lot done. We’re having another theme for Homecoming this year and we hope it inspires a lot more people to come back. We all need to start now trying to get our friends to join us for a great time of reminiscing and hugging. Let’s all get ready for “Happy Days” at Homecoming 2013. We will have wonderful decorations touting this wonderful theme and there will be several activities associated with the 50s and 60s that you should get a kick out of – even a chance to learn some shuffle and line dancing as the stroll. You can dig out your apparel that is so appropriate for that era. Capri pants, pedal pushers and knee length shorts (Bermudas) are back in for the ladies, but poodle skirts would be great, too. Jeans and tee-shirts for the men but poodle skirts would be great, (Bermudas) are back in for the ladies, dig out your apparel that is so appropriate for this theme. President Pete Knight, VP- President Elect Estie Cullen Bennington, Secretary Kay Trantham Mills, Treasurer Flora Hicks Patton, 2nd Vice President Sandy Penley, Council Members Obie Harris, Jeanie Helms Cooper, Susan Meeks Wood, Lisa Carter Lancaster, Jim Edgar Hamby, Jim Rochelle, Keith Campbell, Rich Lewis, Lib Johnson, and Mike Clay. Faye Meredith Davis and JW Wood have also stepped in to help us. These people do more than take care of the affairs of our group.

Last fall, Diane Stewart encouraged us all to come to the MH campus to help Regina Keener and MH staff members provide MH residents with a wonderful “Halloween” party, cook-out and outside movie with popcorn and soda pop. On April 20, quite a few council members have agreed to go back to help provide residents with another cookout party celebrating the children and their families. It should be another very gratifying experience.

Over the years, I have loved visiting Mills Home’s website set up by Sally Beck Ferguson, and now I am learning how to participate in the Mills Home Alumni Facebook page set up by Harry Walls. Then there is the Mills Home Poet and Literary Society set up by Jim Hamby sometime in 2012 and the private websites of people like Wayne Tolbert and James Culler. The dominant thing I have learned in all this is that there is a vast amount of talent: writing, painting, etc. to be found among the alumni. I’ve told you about recent books published by MH alumni and maybe I even mentioned that Jim Hamby hopes to put out a poetry book some time in the near future.

And folks keep urging Harry Walls to get a book together about his interesting experiences relating to coming to MH and his life at MH. I personally am hoping to see a book by Vicki Whitaker McManus who is also a very skilled writer. Oh my, there is lots of reading to be had from this group. So, when someone lets me know of a new book sliding off the press, I’ll let you know.

A note from Cecilia Townsend Wilkinson says “Homecoming is quickly approaching and I would love to see some familiar faces. I would love to have our own group there. Maybe we could come in on Friday early if possible, all stay at the same hotel, have dinner, share some stories, and get reacquainted. I am urging the people from the 70s to come on back. My number is 919-314-7704. Call and let me know if you can make it or share some ideas.”

Glenn Penninger is trying to find George Frady and Cathy Biddix (who might have been Cathy Allen). His Aunt Sarah Knapp was their foster parent. She is near death and Glenn is trying to locate them. If you read this, please contact Glenn at 336-357-2709 and please give their contact information to Sally Ferguson for the address book. See address at the end of the first paragraph.

Harry Walls is still sharing old photos from old issues of Charity & Children on Facebook and every one loves to see them. A recent one he showed was captioned “A Mountain boy at Heart!” That fellow was Joseph David Stepp, nicknamed “DAWG.” The accompanying article revealed that David liked hunting and fishing and did both at every possible opportunity. He was a member of the Sportsman Club, Monogram Club and Baby Huey Club. After graduation he planned to attend Alverson-Draughon College in Charlotte to become an electronics engineer. He also expressed his appreciation for his life at MH and for the many opportunities opened for him. He entered MH in 1954 at the age of 4 from Waynesville and lived there 14 years, graduating in 1968. His brothers, Gene and Jim, who also lived at MH, graduated in 1958 and 1959. David now lives in Oregon and Gene lives in Washington state. Jim is deceased.

The MH alumni who visit each other on Facebook were recently thrilled when Lorraine Owens Brewer joined in. Her entry gave a neat synopsis of her life at MH: “I lived at Mills Home from 1959 to 1964. Siblings who also came to MH with me were Larry and Tommy Owens and Gail, Beth and Robert Rice. I was the first majorette from Mills Home at Thomasville High and we were one of the first families in the family cottage. My first boyfriend was Teddy Mills and Pat Health was my best friend. I was active in the GAs at Mills Home Church and was baptized there. I was happy to receive a $2 monthly allowance of which I proudly tithed 20 cents. I canned many vegetables and did Louise Sisk’s hair every week. I remember that my first prom dress was made at the Sewing Room and I worked at Charity & Children print shop. (David Idol Building).”

Wonderful news comes from Wallace Maultsby concerning his son Berry who has had leukemia for several years now. After being told that his bone marrow had 54% cancer cells, Berry prepared himself for a fast approaching end. He even entered a hospice facility. This past December after a few weeks in care, he left hospice. Shortly thereafter, they did another test which revealed that less than 1% of his bone marrow is cancerous. At that time he had not had any recent treatment except for two units of blood. Although there will be some sort of treatment in the future, Berry is “walking on the proverbial cloud,” and we can rejoice with Wallace, Berry and the whole family over this miracle.
Every day at churches and BCH facilities “around the state,” residents, staff members and North Carolina Baptists are making news. In Charity & Children and through BCH’s social media posts, friends can connect daily, weekly and monthly to learn about all of BCH’s happenings.

Stay connected online at www.bchfamily.org and on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Vimeo. Also follow NCBAM (www.ncbam.org) and BCH’s Developmental Disabilities Ministry (www.hereismyhome.org).

**Odum Home**

Members of First Baptist Church of Sunset Harbor organized a day of fishing for the residents and staff members of Odum Home in Pembroke. Odum Home’s Kathy Locklear, residential services coordinator and child care worker supervisor, shared the Baptist Children’s Homes’ story with the congregation during Sunday worship and church members provided lunch before taking the group fishing. The church, which is in Bolivia near the coast, was perfectly located for the experience. Church members assisted the residents with baiting their hooks and provided all the fishing gear. The group caught several fish.

**Kennedy Home**

Ladies from First Baptist Church in Beaufort traveled to Kennedy Home in Kinston on March 5 to present gifts to BCH’s Sandy Perry. The Dorothy Loftin Women on Missions group raised $1,563 by collecting for “A Mile of Pennies.” Two additional checks totaling $55 were sent by group members who were unable to attend the presentation. The group also brought cottage supplies.

**Cameron Boys Camp**

In January, Cameron Boys Camp’s Frontiersmen group visited the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh. The museum’s exhibit “Astronomy Days” fits perfectly with the campers’ January educational theme – astronomy.

**Drake Cottage**

Boys living at Drake Cottage in Franklin decorated a shopping cart for BCH’s April “Food Roundup.” The residents did the project in memory of William Drinnon, who passed away in 2005 at just 20-months old, and in honor of Lynzy and Mathew Drinnon. All three are the children of Franklin couple Tony and Tammy Drinnon. Food Roundup efforts in the Macon and Tuckasegee Baptist Associations are dedicated to the Drinnon’s children. The cart was placed at Sunset Restaurant in Franklin giving customers an opportunity to donate items to BCH’s food drive. There is still time for your church to participate in the annual “Food Roundup.” (See page 8 for more information.)

**Camp Duncan**

Girls from BCH’s Camp Duncan in Aberdeen are currently far from their forest campsite as they paddle the Suwannee River. The river flows through southern Georgia and northern Florida. The girls are attempting to canoe 20 miles per day.

**BCH Staff**

Recently-hired BCH staff members completed their TCI (Therapeutic Crisis Intervention) certification training on March 1. The group represents multiple BCH locations including Mills Home in Thomasville, Broyhill Home in Clyde, Kennedy Home in Kinston, Odum Home in Pembroke, and Care House in Lenoir. Trainings help to ensure staff members are able to provide the best possible care to residents.

**Wells Fargo**

Wells Fargo has provided a new friend for the boys and girls attending Baptist Children’s Weekday Education program. “Mac” is one of the bank’s unique plush ponies based on actual horses once used by their pony express agents. It is the third such toy pony the bank has donated in appreciation of BCH’s work with children.

**Developmental Disabilities Ministry**

Staff members and residents of Alverta Bolick Home in Asheville have a new storage building thanks to Southern Appalachian Storage Buildings. The family-owned company in Otto graciously donated the building to the home. Alverta Bolick Home providing a caring group environment to men with special needs. Visit www.hereismyhome.org to learn more about BCH’s Developmental Disabilities Ministry.

**Bike for Change**

Bike for Change is a fun and dynamic way for children to help “change” the lives of children. By pedaling bicycles, children raise support and awareness for BCH’s boys and girls. It is a great service project for schools, churches, and other children’s groups. It also teaches children the importance of participating in missions outreach. To learn more, visit www.bikeforchange.org. Download a planning guide and other resources. Contact Bike for Change coordinator Jay Westmoreland at bikeforchange@bchfamily.org for more ideas.
Former choir director John Thompson honors colleague – Carrie Whitman Sparks passes

By Guest Columnist Lib Smathers Johnson

A note from Barbara Branch Smith says, “Dear friends, It is with much sadness and grief that I include this announcement of the passing of my wonderful sister, Penny Branch (Alice Kay Branch Sisk). Penny passed away unexpectedly on December 16, 2012, and a service was held where she lived in Titusville, FL by her daughters Kathi Leigh and Amy. It was attended by her siblings, her other family and friends, her women’s group, her church family as well as her co-workers at Parrish Memorial Hospital.

Except for her most recent years, Penny’s life was happiest when she was at Kennedy Home. We both went there in 1967 after our mother passed away in 1966. Since our father was divorced from Momma, he knew he could not care for the two of us. The best decision he made was to put us in the care of the Baptist Children’s Homes, and specifically Kennedy Home. This is where she received her real first and most valuable Christian foundation. We ultimately reunited with Daddy and had many wonderful years with him. Entering KH was the best thing that could have ever happened to us. Since we moved far away after graduating in 1972, it is wonderful to at least read about our brothers and sisters. Penny’s passing has allowed me to re-connect with so many that I had lost touch with.

“For those that remember Penny, she has been described as a “spit-fire” and a “feisty” person and all of that was true. She stretched the boundaries and, once, I even found her at the back of the school bus going to the Outer Banks. People in the churches were so nice to us by providing food and lodging. It was a great trip.

“THEN ONE DAY, our great and wonderful superintendent, Rev. Roger Williams, called Ann and me to his office. We wondered, ‘what in the world have we done wrong?’ But there was no problem. He informed us that all the children’s homes in the state were sending two adult workers to Table Rock Mountain to take the Outward Bound course. We watched a movie to see what to expect. Mercy, it was a lot. I suppose Mr. Williams thought Ann and I could handle anything at our age. The adventure was supposed to show us how a child feels when all of sudden he or she comes into care and is put on a campus in a house with about twelve others. We knew it had to be a hard experience. Well, Ann and I went up to Table Rock Mountain for two weeks, but before that we prepared since it was expected that we would be able to carry 60 pound backpack and run about a mile without being out of breath. We worked hard for about a month getting ready for that by running to the dairy and back.

“One time we arrived at the camp, we were divided into two groups up there. Ann and I had to be in different groups because the course planners wanted all of us to be with people we did not know. I had a husband-wife team for my camp leaders. Ann had a single woman who wanted to show that ’she was it.’ We got instructions, ate a good meal, and tried to sleep the first night. It turned out to be the only night we stayed in the building. The rest of the two weeks we slept outdoors under a piece of plastic, no tents. It snowed a little the first night and our water froze. They took us to a creek the next morning where we waded in the cold water and then started climbing the mountain. It took us until dark to get to the top where we were to sleep. Ha! I was called John the ‘John’ because I broke my glasses the second day. I didn’t see Ann until a day or two later. Every time I saw her, she would cry and want to go home but they wouldn’t let her. Her leader was awful to her because she thought she was better than Ann. We had to learn to repel off cliffs, the highest one being 80 feet down. There was only one thing our team couldn’t do. That task was to get everyone on the team on the other side of a high wall. Ann was so small they had to hang someone down so that she could climb over him and of course she was the last one up. All of us were too big to do that. What an experience that was. I lost 15 pounds on that trip, one man broke his arm, one hurt his ankle very badly, but we made it through the ordeal.

“Ann, you are great! Have a wonderful retirement. Remember to keep busy. Be sure to bring your guitar to the Kennedy Home 100th celebration in 2014. I want the choir to sing one or two of the old songs. I love you very, very much” – John Thompson

Carrie Mae Whitman Sparks, 92, of Kinston passed away on Thursday, February 14, 2013. A native of Duplin County, she came to KH in 1930 and graduated in 1940. Carrie was a homemaker and a dedicated, active member of First Baptist Church of Kinston where she held several offices as well as being a member of the choir for 50 years. She grew up at KH and was an officer in the KHAA for 55 years. She also wrote a column for the C&C for 18 years. She is survived by two daughters, three grand-children, three great grandchildren, one sister, three step sisters and one brother. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations be made to the Kennedy Home Alumni Association, 2257 Cedar Dell Lane, Kinston, NC 28504. Condolences to the family may be sent to the address of Carrie’s daughter, Mauricia S. Wade, 601 Fire Tower Road, La Grange, NC 28558.

Alumni President Graham Jackson wrote, “I went to the Carrie Sparks funeral and it was truly a great tribute to a special lady. Carrie was loved by many and it showed on this day. There were several alumni there and we all talked and laughed about things we remembered about Carrie. We know that we do not find many people that go over and beyond the call of duty like Carrie Sparks did. She had a heart of gold and she loved Kennedy Home and all her brothers and sisters raised there. We cannot say enough about this special lady. Those who knew her loved her dearly.

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/kennedyhomealumni

4/13 – Charity + Children – 126/3
Taking time to remember those who have passed is important

By Jim Edminson, Editor

The hum of mowers crisscrossing amongst the grave sites is reminiscent of bees buzzing around a hive. The clank of tools being loaded and unloaded from the backs of pickup trucks adds a rhythm similar to the beating of a heart. And the laughter and chatter by those who have come to sprinkle the cemetery rise up like a Sunday morning chorus. It’s a time for the living to remember those who passed long ago.

“We packed picnic baskets and loaded up all the tools needed for the day,” Mom remembers. “Plants to be planted, a pile of soil, and plenty of mulch were delivered to the cemetery. We had everything we needed.”

Mom said the second Sunday each June was always set aside for Homecoming. The special one-day event celebrated the church’s heritage and welcomed back former members and pastors who had moved away. The observance was also a time to memorialize the dearly departed.

On the Saturday before Homecoming, members of the church who had loved ones buried in the cemetery gathered together for a “grave-yard working” to landscape and place flowers in the cemetery adjoining the church. The grounds and graves were all given special attention and at the close of the day, all looked refreshed and ready for the next day’s festivities.

“As is the case in all Jewish holidays, yahrzeit not only recount where we have come from, but as we share with them tales of long ago, tales that tell us who we are,” Telushkin says. “I miss them all so much, but I’m glad to have my memories.”

The small, white-washed, cinder-block Baptist church sits not very far from the Calcasieu River that runs nearly 200 miles meandering throughout southwest Louisiana only to empty into the Gulf of Mexico. On Sundays, there is preaching and Bible teaching. Every Wednesday evening, the faithful gather for prayer. When one dies, it is where members gather to mourn and to lift up the broken hearted. It is also the place to celebrate the lives of the saints who are now with Jesus.

Taking time to recall the lives of those who came before us enriches our lives, inspires us to carry on, and calls us to strive to that highest calling – focused not on earthly things but heavenly ones.

Across the globe, people value remembering those who have passed away. In Mexico, The Day of the Dead is a time when families and friends gather to remember those who have died. The festival, with origins traced to ancient times, is held in connection with the church holiday All Saints’ Day. It is observed principally in the Catholic Church and honors all saints, known and unknown. In the Methodist Church, “saints” on All Saints’ Day refer to all Christians, those living and deceased. In Lutheran churches, a reading of members’ names who have died in the previous year is read in observance.

According to Rabbi Joseph Telushkin on the website My Jewish Learning, practicing Jews observe yahrzeit on the anniversary of a loved one’s death.

“As is the case in all Jewish holidays, yahrzeit observance begins at night,” Telushkin said. “A 24-hour candle is lit, and as one woman I know says: ‘The spirit of the dead person fills the room again for 24 hours.’ One attends synagogue for the evening, morning and afternoon services, and again recites the Kaddish (the memorial prayer).”

In my home, we have framed photos of loved ones who are no longer with us. There are photo albums filled with snapshots of family long gone and keepsakes that once belonged to dear ones.

The small, white-washed, cinder-block Baptist church sits not very far from the Calcasieu River that runs nearly 200 miles meandering throughout southwest Louisiana only to empty into the Gulf of Mexico. On Sundays, there is preaching and Bible teaching. Every Wednesday evening, the faithful gather for prayer. When one dies, it is where members gather to mourn and to lift up the broken hearted. It is also the place to celebrate the lives of the saints who are now with Jesus.

“Remembering your dad, brother and grandparents fill my thoughts a lot these days,” Mom says. “I miss them all so much, but I’m glad to have my memories.”

Taking time to remember our loved ones who have passed away is important. Our memories help at times comforting us, guiding us on our personal journeys, and serving new generations as we share with them tales of long ago, tales that not only recount where we have come from, but most importantly, tales that tell us who we are.

Edminson is editor of Charity & Children and writes “Homeword” to inspire and encourage families in the midst of full lives and hectic schedules. He is available for preaching and speaking opportunities. Email him at wjedminson@bchfamily.org for availability.

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Can BCH be of service? Call 1-800-476-3669.

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More Homeword at www.bchfamily.org/about/homeword