

HOMENews

A Publication of Your Louisiana Baptist Children's Home & Family Ministries

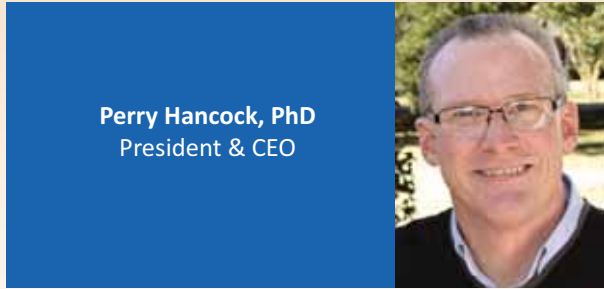


125th
ANNIVERSARY

**Louisiana
Baptist
Children's
Home**

1899-2024

WORDS FROM HOME



Perry Hancock, PhD
President & CEO

We love springtime at LBCH!

As I write to you today there is a hint of spring in the air. Easter is early this year which means that we could have one of those famous southern Easter cold snaps. I do remember hearing about an old storyteller who explained the Easter cold snap. He said that it was the Devil’s way of trying to hold back Easter. Of course, his explanation is not biblical, but it sure makes for a good storyline. The truth is nothing could hold Easter back. Nothing could keep Jesus in the tomb. He is risen!

One of the ways we celebrate Easter is with Resurrection Eggs. The eggs serve as a powerful object lesson for teaching children the true meaning of Easter. To make Resurrection Eggs you need 12 plastic eggs. Number them 1-12 with a marker. Place a Scripture verse and a small object in 11 of the eggs. For example, use Matthew 26:39 and a tiny cup to represent the Last Supper. Place a small piece of red fabric along with Matthew 27: 28-30 to represent the scarlet robe that was placed on Jesus. Use a small stone to represent the stone used to seal the entrance of the tomb (Matthew 27:60, 65-66). In the twelfth egg place the Scripture alone with no object. Use Matthew 28:6 which tells us of the empty tomb. For a list of all 12 passages, Google “Resurrection Eggs.”

Thank you so much for helping us share the joy and hope of Easter with our children. Most of them come from homes that have never attended church on a regular basis. Easter is just a spring break holiday to them. But here at LBCH, you make it possible for our children to learn of God’s great love in Christ. Please know how grateful we are for your support that is making a difference in their lives every day.

Remember, spring is a great time for your church group to visit our campus in Monroe. The roses will soon be in bloom. You will enjoy the tour and you will be able to see how God is using your gifts to bless our children and families. Call today to schedule your visit.

As you celebrate Easter with your family and your church, remember that you are also an important part of our family here at LBCH. Thank you again for helping us provide love, care, and hope in Christ for children and families in need at your Louisiana Baptist Children’s Home.



PRAYER CALENDAR...

Major	March 15
Londyn.....	March 16
Tristan.....	March 17
Carter.....	March 18
Sherelle.....	March 19
Bellamie.....	March 20
Keighley	March 21
Nasiss.....	March 22
Reign.....	March 23
Tyra	March 24
Nahla	March 25
Lai’loni	March 26
Sarah.....	March 27
Cruz	March 28
Santana.....	March 29
Charlee	March 30
Heilee	March 31
Tiffany.....	April 1
Sophia.....	April 2
Carrie	April 3
Claire	April 4
Carter.....	April 5
LaDona	April 6
Kahlani.....	April 7
Carrie	April 8
Bentley	April 9
Sherelle.....	April 10
Bellamie.....	April 11

Keighley	April 12
Stacey	April 13
Ariana	April 14
Ashley	April 15
Ashton	April 16
Oliver	April 17
Reagan	April 18
Fisher.....	April 19
Finley	April 20
Fletcher	April 21
Elijah.....	April 22
Hunter	April 23
Ta’Mojah.....	April 24
Ronesha.....	April 25
Zi’Vrecia.....	April 26
Ma’Rissa	April 27
Josie.....	April 28
Reynaldo.....	April 29
Sheila	April 30

BIRTHDAYS...

Je’Myra	March 14
Fletcher	March 17
Reign	March 19
Ta’Mojah	March 25
Josie	March 26
Sherelle	April 1
Finlay	April 22

• OUR MISSION •

The mission of the Louisiana Baptist Children’s Home and Family Ministries is to provide love, care, and hope in Christ for children and families in need.

• OUR VALUES •

- We value the Bible as the foundation and guide for our ministry
(2 Timothy 3:16).
- We value the worth of the Children and Families to whom we minister
(Genesis 1:27).
- We value Servant Leadership as our model for ministry
(Mark 9:35).
- We value Excellence as our standard for ministry performance
(Colossians 3:17).
- We value Personal Integrity as our ministry standard for living
(Romans 12:1-2).

• TRUSTEES •

Mike Hawkins, Chairman
Jason Lupo, Vice-Chairman
Diane Walker, Secretary

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Richard Bullock	Julie Page
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Perry Hancock, LBCH President & CEO
Matt Coker, LBCH Director of Development & PR
Julie Adcock, LBCH Director of Communications



Campus Spotlight...

Hope and Healing at HomePlace

Dressed in jeans and a sweatshirt emblazoned with a women's retreat slogan, Sherelle Smith exuded peace and contentment as she sat down to share her HomePlace story.

Sherelle's journey, marked by hardship and perseverance, embodies the transformative power of faith and community support. Despite facing daunting challenges as a single mother, she found solace in her newfound relationship with God.

Born and raised in Bastrop, Louisiana, along with her three sisters, Sherelle grew up "doing church." She explained that it wasn't until about two years ago that she began, in her words, "her sincere walk with Jesus." She calls the moment she surrendered it all to the Lord her "porch moment" as she sat on her mother's porch. She didn't know what lay ahead but was putting it all into God's hand.

Life circumstances led Sherelle to move back to Louisiana from Arizona. She was dealing with some intense family issues, was looking at starting a new career, and was a single mom.

Sherelle and her two precious daughters, Bellamie and Keighley, now ages 7 and 5, lived in an apartment owned by a family member. She described this time as "very chaotic and overwhelming." There was a period with no hot water and no working refrigerator, and she often slept on the floor so her daughters could sleep in the bed. The challenges she faced were daunting and led to unhealthy ways of coping. She didn't engage with her daughters as she should; she just wanted to isolate herself and do nothing.

Sherelle has been a dental assistant in a local dentist's office for two years. The invitation to a Women's Retreat by a coworker, or "sister in Christ," as Sherelle calls her, was pivotal in deepening her faith. She discovered a whole community of "sisters" who helped renew her strength and courage to take on the challenges she was facing.

As she struggled with finding safe, affordable housing for her family, one of her "sisters" told her about the HomePlace Ministry at the Children's Home. She encouraged her to seek God's guidance and to call and inquire about HomePlace.

Sherelle shared that she was very fearful about making the call to HomePlace, but she is so thankful she did. She became emotional as she talked about the first time she walked through the doors of the HomePlace Cottage, Irma's Place. She said she felt as if a weight was immediately lifted from her shoulders. She cried when she saw the rooms she and her daughters would live in. She was home.

"As we know, walking with the Lord doesn't mean you won't have trials. It just means that now the Lord is there to help you through them." Sherelle explained.

At Irma's Place, Sherelle has discovered a sense of belonging and support for which she longed. Surrounded by fellow residents, she has found comfort in the stability provided by the cottage life.



***Cast all your anxiety on Him
because He cares for you!
1 Peter 5:7***

Through Bible studies, shared meals, and mutual encouragement, Sherelle and her daughters have forged deep bonds with their newfound family.

"I love the structure here, and I love the accountability," she explained. "I needed it," she added. "My girls needed it too, and they are so happy. It feels like a big family here. We love sitting down at the table and having meals together with the other families and talking about the day. We've never had that," She shared

Sherelle is a wonderful and devoted mother, shared Irma's Place cottage manager Deborah Johnson. "She has conformed to every aspect of cottage life she shared. She is walking in desired obedience to the Lord."

Women's Learning Center Update

Graduation, that is the word we are focusing on this month at the Women's Learning Center. May is around the corner and we are celebrating our first student to complete all her HiSet(High School Equivalency) requirements this month!!! We have other students who are very close, and we anticipate completion soon. As great as these accomplishments are, they do not encompass all the work and skills gained by our women this year. The greatest joy is seeing how much our students have grown in the Lord and in their personal lives.

As you pray this month please pray for stamina, spring is always the hardest to keep motivation going. Pray for endurance, they have worked hard for months. Lastly, pray for peace and focus as the Lord continues to work in our lives at the Women's Learning Center. We cannot wait to share and celebrate their many accomplishments soon!

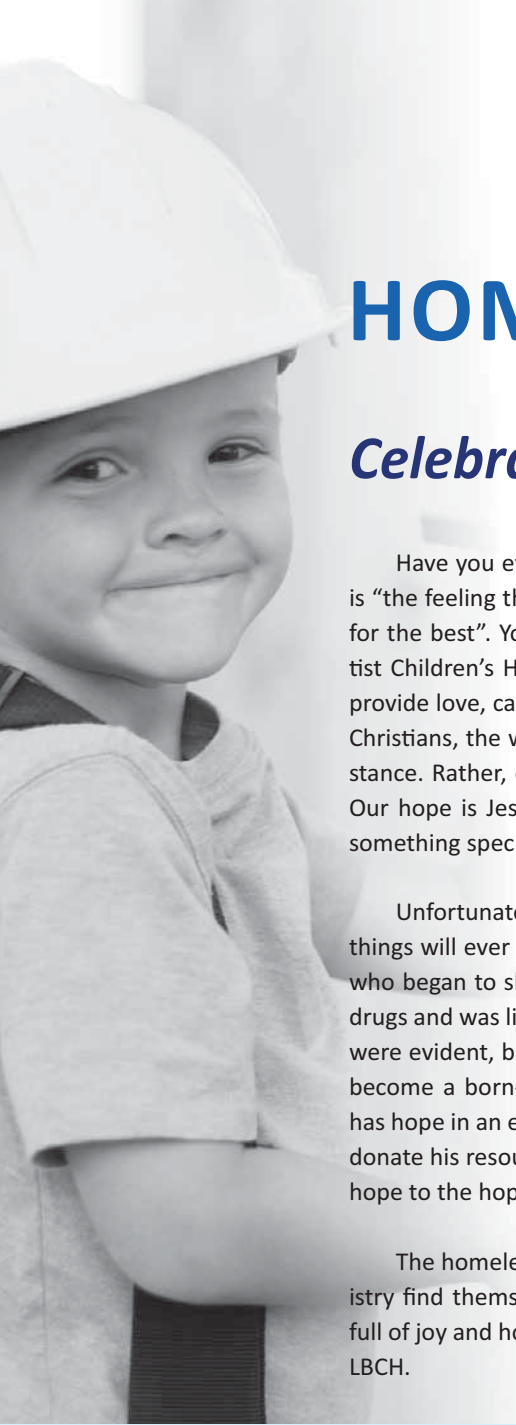
***"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up,
just as in fact you are doing." 1 Thessalonians 5:11***



Alisha Clark
Executive Director,
Women's Learning Center



- HiSET Training and Testing
- English as a Second Language (ESL)
- Digital Literacy Certification
- WorkPlace Certification
- Bank Teller's Certification
- Paraprofessional Certification



HOMEBUILDERS

Celebrating Hope

Have you ever thought about the word hope? The definition of hope is “the feeling that what is wanted can be had or that events will turn out for the best”. You will find the word hope throughout the Louisiana Baptist Children’s Home campus. You will see it in our mission statement to provide love, care, and hope in Christ to children and families in need. For Christians, the word hope is not a whimsical or empty belief with no substance. Rather, our hope is a promise that is assured in truth and power. Our hope is Jesus, and while we celebrate this hope every day, there is something special about Resurrection Sunday.

Unfortunately, people today are living their lives with little hope that things will ever be better than they are today. I met a man this past week who began to share his story with me. Three years ago, he overdosed on drugs and was lifeless for fifteen minutes. The effects of the drug overdose were evident, but not forever. Since that moment three years ago, he has become a born-again follower of Jesus. Jesus changed his life; today he has hope in an eternity with Christ! After this brief testimony he wanted to donate his resources to the Louisiana Baptist Children’s Home to help give hope to the hopeless.

The homeless children and women who come to our HomePlace ministry find themselves in hopeless situations. The life of a child should be full of joy and hope, but this is not the case for those before they enter the LBCH.



Matt Coker
Director of
Development
& Public Relations

Your gifts help us to offer hope to children in the form of a bed to sleep in and cottage parents that love them. Your gifts allow us to give hope to homeless women by way of an education and job training, which will allow them to provide for their family. Your support allows us to offer hope to those who are hurting through professional Christian counseling in fourteen locations in Louisiana. Your giving supports foster children by helping provide a Christian home. Above all your giving allows us to share the only true source of hope, the resurrected savior, Jesus Christ.

Paul writes in Romans 15:13, “Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you believe so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Peter also reminds us, that we have a living hope in Christ. “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” 1 Peter 1:3.

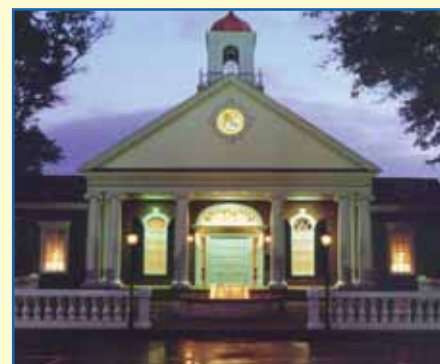
*May the God of hope fill you
with all joy and peace...
Romans 15:13*

New Chapel Hill Ladies Visit...

It was a pleasure having friends from New Chapel Hill on campus. The group of ladies took a tour and saw first-hand what a day in the life of a child at LBCH looks like. The group also brought needed items for the residents. Thank you ladies. We hope to see you again soon!



Schedule A Spring Tour!



We’re always excited to invite friends to tour our campus! Tours are available for groups or individuals by appointment. We would love to show you around and let you see first-hand what God is doing at your Children’s Home!

To schedule a tour contact Matt at mcoker@lbch.org or 318.343.2244.



Parkview Baptist in Baton Rouge Donates Goods...

A big THANK YOU to Parkview Baptist Church in Baton Rouge for the load of paper goods and other necessities! Parkview has been a wonderful supporter of the Children’s Home for many years, and we are eternally grateful! Thank you for investing in the lives of children and families in need!

Egg Drive!

Thank you, churches in the Beauregard, Vernon, Sabine, North Sabine, and DeSoto Baptist Associations for providing eggs for our children at Easter! Countless eggs have been dyed, decorated and hunted by children living at LBCH thanks to this 70 plus year tradition! Thank you for expressing God’s love in this special way. We are grateful!



Light In the Darkness!

EASTER 2024

Dear Friend of Children,

I want to tell you about Kayley, a radiant eight-year-old whose infectious laughter and love for life brighten every room she enters. Her joyful spirit is contagious, and her new passion for worship music fills our hearts with warmth. Kayley's current favorite song, "Way Maker," echoes through the halls of our children's home. She especially loves the chorus, "Way Maker, promise keeper, light in the darkness, that is who you are."

However, behind Kayley's radiant smile lies a story of adversity. Like many children under our care, Kayley has faced significant challenges in her young life. With her father absent and her mother battling addiction, Kayley found herself separated from the love and stability every child deserves.

But amidst the darkness, there is light. Thanks to the generosity and support of compassionate individuals like you, Kayley and her mother have been reunited under the roof of your Children's Home. Here, surrounded by love and guided by our dedicated staff, they are rebuilding their relationship and finding healing and hope for the future. The structure and stability provided have allowed Kayley to simply be a child again. And for her mother, it's a lifeline—a guiding hand as she works to rebuild her life and provide a better future for her daughter.

This Easter, your generosity can make a world of difference in the lives of children like Kayley. Your support will enable us to continue sharing the story of the ultimate Way Maker, Jesus Christ, whose sacrifice brings hope and eternal life to all who believe.

No gift is too small; every contribution will help us provide essential care and support to children and families in need. Together, we can be beacons of light in the darkness, spreading God's love and hope to those who need it most.

Thank you for making a lasting impact on the lives of children and families in need. Wishing you and your family a blessed Easter filled with joy, peace, and the promise of new beginnings.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Perry Hancock, Ph.D.
President & CEO



Here is my Easter gift for the children!

\$100 \$50 \$25 Other \$ _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ PHONE () _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ EMAIL _____

*Credit Card Info: Account No: _____ Visa _____ MC _____ AmX _____ Discover _____

*Expiration Date: _____ *Code: _____ *Signature: _____

(Optional): I would like to present my gift in _____ memory of or _____ honor of: _____

Please notify (honoree/relative): _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Send me info on how to become a monthly sponsor *Required for credit card processing Send me your FREE Personal Estate Planner

GIVE ONLINE AT
LBCH.ORG
or
Text the word "GIVE"
to 318-269-7440



Join Our Team! Immediate Job Openings

COTTAGE PARENTS Needed in Monroe (Full & Part-Time)

SOCIAL WORKER Needed in Monroe, Alexandria and Baton Rouge (Full-Time)

Please send resume to: Susan Nolan at snolan@lbch.org or LBCH, PO Box 4196, Monroe, LA 71211.

CHRISTIAN COUNSELORS Needed in Alexandria (Part-Time) and Monroe (Full-Time)

Must be licensed as LPC, LMFT or LCSW.

Please send resume to: kathy@lbch.org or Granberry Counseling Centers, PO Box 4196, Monroe, LA 71211.

COTTAGE MANAGERS Needed in Monroe (Part-Time)

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

For more information on job openings, visit www.lbch.org

• Alumni Reunion •

June 7 & 8, 2024

Celebrating 125 Years!

We are excited about this year's reunion event as we celebrate our 125th year of helping children and families! A lot of exciting things are being planned so mark your calendar! And please be sure to share the dates with all your LBCH friends and encourage them to join us! We look forward to having you "home!" Register now at www.lbch.org!



REUNION SCHEDULE

(More details to come!)

FRIDAY, JUNE 7TH

3:00-5:45 pm - Welcome and Registration (Rucker-Austin Center)
 6:00 pm - Dinner in the RAC (Recreation & Activities Center)
 6:45-8:15 pm - Entertainment - TBA (RAC/Recreation & Activity Center)

SATURDAY, JUNE 8TH

7:30 am - Welcome and Registration (Rucker-Austin Center)
 9:00-9:15 am - Morning Devotional (Rucker-Austin Center)
 11:30 am - Lunch (RAC)
 12:15-1:00 pm - Entertainment - TBA (RAC)
 1:00-1:30pm - LBCH Highlights (RAC)

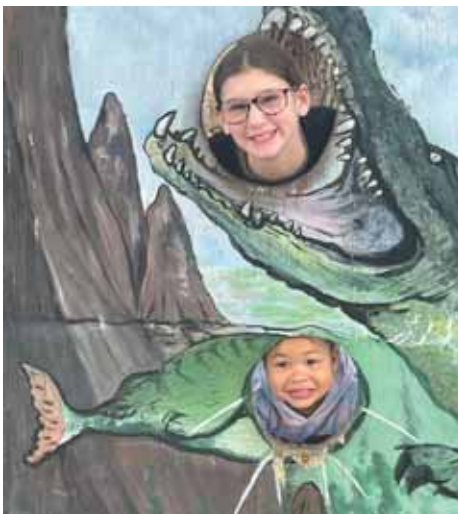
AREA HOTEL INFORMATION

Towne Place Suites - 318.387.7277
 Best Western Airport Inn - 318.345.4000
 Residence Inn Monroe - 318.387.0210
 Courtyard by Marriott - 318.388.0034
 Hampton Inn - 318.343.6910
 Holiday Inn Express - 318.807.6000
 Hilton Garden Inn - 318.398.0653



Register Now!

SCRAPBOOK



Fun at the zoo



Art - "Tiny Dancer"



Beautiful butterfly



Fun on the playground



Ready for tea



Reaching goals



Sharing Louisiana foster care needs

Jonann Byargeon
Director of HomePlace



Highlights from HomePlace

This is the perfect day to be on campus! The weather is beautiful, the sun is shining, and the view of the campus from my office is magnificent. Life is good here at HomePlace.

The new HomePlace office is officially home. The move began the last week of January. The HomePlace staff worked diligently to unpack their offices and continue the daily work with families. The space is wonderful, and the furnishings are simply beautiful. Judy Walker joined us and will serve as our receptionist. Thank you to all who made this possible, especially Dr. Hancock for his vision and the campus maintenance crew who did the heavy lifting.

There is more exciting news from HomePlace. Our moms have the opportunity to attend the Women's Learning Center. They can work toward earning their high school diploma and job skill training.

A mom recently passed her final test to earn her high school diploma. I had the opportunity to have lunch with her and celebrate her accomplishment. I asked her where she was this time last year, and she explained that life was a tangled web headed nowhere. Hers is a fantastic story of victory and change.

I have full confidence that more HomePlace mothers will complete the necessary requirements to earn their high school diploma. I would like to express my gratitude to the Women's Learning Center for their unwavering commitment in guiding our moms. The care and affection they provide are transforming lives and shaping the future of families.

Parenting classes are going well. This is a unique time for moms to have dinner with other moms. After the meal, "Nurture Parenting" classes begin. The courses are offered each semester and run for six weeks. Terri Davis and Kelli Crumley are certified instructors for "Nurture Parenting." The teaching duties rotate each semester. Both women do an excellent job interestingly presenting the material. The campus rec workers are part of the program as well. They provide childcare, which makes this approach possible.

Life is good in HomePlace. Please plan to visit your Louisiana Baptist Children's Home. Make sure you visit the HomePlace Administrative Building to see our new home. We always have coffee brewing, and the front porch rockers are waiting. Thank you for supporting this ministry.

Kathy Eichelberger
Director of
Granberry Counseling
Centers



Grieving the Loss of a Loved One

When we know something about grief and what we can possibly expect, it can normalize what we are going through, and it will not feel like we are going crazy. Grief can impact us emotionally, cognitively, relationally, physically, and spiritually. It can also be helpful to know that no two people grieve alike. Men grieve differently from women. This can be helpful to know especially if a couple experiences the death of a child. One partner may grieve outwardly and intensely, the other may grieve silently. This can be misunderstood as one loved the child more than the other.

"Anticipatory grief" is when we begin grieving prior to a loved one's death. It happens frequently when there is a terminal diagnosis. Some describe that grief as somewhat lessened when the loved one dies because of anticipating the loss. Others describe the moment of finality when the loved one takes the last breath as intense.

For some, grief begins the moment they learn of a loved one's death. An emotional roller coaster begins. Many people describe feeling numb initially. As reality sets in, the two primary emotions of sadness and anger are felt. Other emotions felt are guilt, fear, loneliness, confusion, anxiety, panic and depression. These emotions can be intense and very disturbing. Many people describe feeling like they are "losing it." The emotions can come and go, and a person can circle back through these emotions for an extended period of time. The emotions can come quickly without notice and a person can feel caught off guard.

A person's thinking ability is impacted by grief. Often people describe that they cannot think clearly, or they don't remember things as quickly as they did before. Some people describe feeling like their mind is spinning or racing. Some feel like they are in a fog. The brain is trying to make sense of what has happened. The "normal" thinking processes begin to return as a person goes through a healthy grief process. Sometimes people try to avoid the awful feelings of grief and do not allow themselves to cry or talk about what they are experiencing. When people talk about their loss and express their emotions, it helps the brain to process the loss. If this does not take place, it can become complicated grief and a person may need to seek a professional Christian counselor to help. Your counselor can help you process your grief in a healthy way, giving you the guidance to accept your loss and move into your new life without forgetting your treasured past.

Early in the loss of a loved one, people are surrounded by caring people who offer help in many ways. Some people feel they have told their story of loss so much they are wearing out their friends and loved ones. Another difficulty is that the supportive people have returned to their everyday lives just when the grieving person reaches the one-year spike in emotional intensity. It is a time many feel alone. The grieving person realizes their world is different now. It's time to find supportive people, limit exposure to those who are not, ask for and accept help, and find someone to serve who needs your help.

Loss can have a significant impact on a person physically; it is draining. Often sleep patterns are affected. People also describe feeling fatigue and exhaustion. Grief also shows up in ways like headaches, stomach problems, chest pain, dizziness, muscle aches, loss of appetite and weight loss. When a person is under stress for a prolonged period, it reduces the immune system, often resulting in more frequent illnesses. Physical exercise, keeping to a routine, doing something you enjoy, and taking naps can be helpful.

Grief can have a significant impact on a person's spiritual life. Loss can impact a Christian's faith and trust in God. Questions come to mind depending on the type of loss. It is part of our human nature to want to find a reason why bad things happen. Often there is not a definitive answer. Questions like, "Why did this have to happen?" "Whose fault is this?" "Did God cause this?" "Why didn't God prevent this?" are common. Every person has a soul, and the soul is trying to make sense of the loss. These questions can cause a person to grow deeper in their faith relationship with God during this time. The most important question to ask is "What now?" How do I live the rest of my life without my loved one, while holding onto their memory, and trusting God to be with me.

Sources: *Therese A. Rando, How to Go on Living When Someone You Love Dies, Bantam Books, 1991.*

Gary Roe, Grief: 9 Things I Wish I Had Known, 2019, <https://www.garyroe.com/grief-9-things-i-wish-i-had-known-ebook/>

125 Years of Helping Children and Families in Need

Providing love, care, and hope in Christ for children and families has been the heart and mission of the Louisiana Baptist Children's Home and Family Ministries for 125 years.

From Pastor William Cooksey's compassionate vision to start an orphanage in 1899, to the first donation of a silver dollar by fourteen-year-old Jim Bowen, Louisiana Baptists have continued their time-honored commitment of meeting needs and changing lives through the Christ-centered ministries of their Children's Home.

Beginning as the Louisiana Baptist Orphanage, our first matron, Mrs. Kate Hawkins, cared for three little girls in a borrowed Keatchie College building in 1900. In 1903, we settled into our first permanent facility in Lake Charles. In 1925, under the visionary leadership of Frank (Daddy) Flowers, we moved to our current Monroe campus, chartered a new name, Louisiana Baptist Children's Home, and developed a new and innovative approach to childcare ministry.

With help of faithful supporters, LBCH has responded to the emerging needs of our society and transitioned from a self-contained orphanage to the Christ-centered, family-focused services of today.

As we celebrate our 125th anniversary, we celebrate God's goodness and His faithful provision and protection. Through the Mississippi River flood, the stock market crash and the Great Depression, two world wars, fires, hurricanes, and tornadoes, God's sufficient grace and the sacrificial giving of Louisiana Baptists and friends have sustained us. We remain strong in demonstrating Christ's unconditional love to children and families in crisis.

We honor our past while celebrating our present and planning for the future. We recognize and express gratitude to our staff members who serve children and families daily, our friends who offer prayers and financial support, and the "great cloud of witnesses" who have gone before us.



William Cooksey



First permanent facility - Lake Charles



Frank (Daddy) Flowers



Jim Bowen

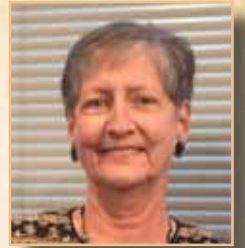


Residents in the early 1900's



Joann Autry Hamby, Easter 1960's while a resident of LBCH.

Former resident shares her LBCH story...



Some years ago, a dearly departed gentleman in my church that knew my history named me "Most Blessed One." I certainly agreed with him and often tell people that I'm the most blessed person they will see all day long.

My brother, sister, and I lived with our grandparents who were retired school teachers. Our parents were simply not able to take care of us. When I was twelve, my brother, eleven, and sister, nine, our grandmother died. We had relatives that lived in the Monroe area where the Louisiana Baptist Children's Home still is today.

So, in the summer of 1958, we went to live at the Children's Home. Back in the day, boys were on one side of the campus and the girls were on the other. The girls took care of the cooking in the main dining hall and boys took care of the grass and cows. My husband always says, "don't forget to tell them about 'going over.'" He's referring to the fact that the girls had to go to the kitchen at 5:00 a.m. for a month at a time to cook breakfast for the entire campus.

When I was new, one day I was assigned to make the biscuits. We had a huge mixer that you put the ingredients in. I was told to put baking powder in the mixer and I asked, "how much?" I was told four, so I put in 4 cups of baking powder when it should have been four tablespoons!

Today things have greatly changed on the Children's Home campus. Children live as families with cottage parents in individual cottages and the cooking is done there.

As you can imagine, every day wasn't a happy day and we dearly missed our homeplace but when we look back on our lives, we know God had a plan for us and we were taken care of by Louisiana Baptists.

I graduated from high school and went on to Louisiana College and became a high school choral teacher.

During the 80's I became the first former LBCH resident to serve on the Children's Home Board of Trustees. What an honor to have seen the Children's Home from a child's view and then get to see it from a trustee's view. I always said my job as a trustee was just to cry at the right time. Also, I've just finished serving six years on the board at Louisiana College and had the privilege of voting for the name change to Louisiana Christian University. I say that I'm a product of Louisiana Baptists! I say that every opportunity I get because I want Louisiana Baptists to know how grateful I am for my time at the Louisiana Baptist Children's Home and Louisiana Christian University.

-Joann Autry Hamby
LBCH resident 1958-1969



Legacy of Hope



CHILDREN'S HOME SUNDAY **ANNUAL OFFERING**

June 16, 2024 — Father's Day



Become a HOPEBuilder!

HopeBuilders: A Special Group of Heroes to Children in Need

Heroes protect the vulnerable, restore the broken, and bring hope in desperate situations. Every child who has been neglected, abused, or abandoned needs a hero. Our HopeBuilder Monthly Sponsor Ministry gives YOU the opportunity to be a hero to children in need.

When you become a "HopeBuilder," you join a special group of people making monthly investments in the lives of precious children, providing them with love, care, and hope in Christ.

Here's how it works: Go to our website at LBCH.ORG and click on the GIVE NOW button. Set up recurring monthly gifts (\$10 minimum) using Visa, MasterCard, Discover Card, American Express, Debit Card, or E-Check. Simply put HopeBuilder in the notes section. You may cancel your monthly donations at any time. It's that easy! You may also give by check. Simply put HopeBuilder on the memo line and mail to LBCH, PO Box 4196, Monroe, LA 71211.

Cracking the Shells of Children In Care

Easter always brings to my mind the tradition of egg cracking. Every year, my family gathers around the table, each holding a decorated hard-boiled egg, ready to engage in a friendly competition. The rules are simple: each participant holds a hard-boiled egg and takes turns tapping their egg against another person's egg, aiming to crack their opponent's egg without breaking their own. The sound of eggs knocking together fills the room, creating an atmosphere of excitement and anticipation. It is a fun and lighthearted way to celebrate the holiday, bringing people together in a playful and festive spirit.

Just like the game of egg cracking, the foster care system is filled with unique individuals who have faced their fair share of challenges. Each child, like an egg, carries their own story and experiences. The game teaches us that sometimes, even the strongest eggs can crack, just as children in foster care may have vulnerabilities that need to be addressed with care and support.

The foster care system presents a unique challenge, much like the game of egg cracking. These children are often perceived as tough

or "hard boiled," as they have developed a protective barrier around themselves due to their difficult past and traumatic experiences. Similar to the eggs in the game, these children have a surface that is hard to crack. However, it is important to recognize that not all children are the same, just like not all eggs crack in the same way. Some children may have their defenses shattered with a single blow, while others may require multiple attempts. Once the walls are broken down, a profound connection can be established allowing us to gain a deeper understanding of the child and their circumstances.

The foster care system, much like the tradition of egg cracking at Easter, reminds us that appearances can be deceiving. Just as the eggs may seem impenetrable, these children may appear tough on the outside. However, it is crucial to remember that everyone has their own unique story and vulnerabilities. As we embrace the Easter season, it becomes crucial for us to keep in mind that behind every cracked wall lies a story waiting to be understood and compassionately acknowledged.

Kamiron May
Foster Care &
Adoption Specialist



MEMORIALS

Memorial gifts are received in thoughtful tribute to the memory of a relative, friend or loved one. Names of deceased persons are printed in all caps followed by the names of those making the memorial gifts.

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HOME NEWS

A Publication of Your Louisiana Baptist Children's Home & Family Ministries

Louisiana Baptist Children's Home & Family Ministries is a faith-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to providing love, care, and hope in Christ for children and families in need. Established in 1899, the Children's Home is an agency of the Louisiana Baptist Convention and is governed by a 17-member board of trustees elected by the Convention to serve three-year terms on a rotating basis.

The Children's Home receives no state or federal funding for the care of children. Approximately 56% of all funding comes from individuals and churches. 25% of funding goes to administrative costs; 75% goes to direct ministry services; 7% of funding comes from payment of services.

Our major service areas include: Residential Child Care for Children ages 5-17; HomePlace Residential Family Care for Homeless Children and Mothers; Women's Learning Center providing job and life skills training and certified HiSET preparation and testing; Granberry Counseling Centers with 14 statewide locations; Connect1Child Foster Care & Adoption Ministries; and Orphans Embrace International.

Our dedicated Christian ministry team strives to offer the highest quality of services. Services are provided without regard to race, gender, religion, or ability to pay.

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