

HOME NEWS

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



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December 2023

Volume 61 - No. 7

Perry Hancock, PhD
President & CEO



Words from Home...

I love modern-day Christmas stories that involve children. I hope this one is a blessing to you. The mom expected to hear songs about Santa and snowmen because the school her kindergarten daughter attended had stopped referring to the holiday as Christmas. She was surprised when she learned that the title of her child's song was "Christmas Love". The children were dressed in fuzzy mittens, red sweaters, and bright snow caps. Those in the front row held up large letters one by one to spell out the title of the song. As the class would sing "C is for Christmas", a child would hold up the letter C. Then, "H is for Happy" and on and on until each child holding up a letter had presented the complete message "Christmas Is Love".

The performance was going quite well until one little girl put up her letter. She held the letter M. But when she held up her letter, she had it upside down, so it looked like a W. The audience started laughing and the teacher tried to signal for the little girl to turn the letter, but she didn't realize what was wrong. When the last letter was finally raised, silence filled the room. Instead of reading "Christmas Love" the letters spelled "Christ Was Love".

In that instant, they understood the reason for the season, who we celebrate with the holiday in the first place, why even in the chaos and busyness there is a purpose for all these festivities. The message read loud and clear: Christ Was Love.

That first Christmas was when God's love left Heaven and came to Earth. We had been told about the Father's love, but now we had the opportunity to see it with our

own eyes. Christmas is about the truth of John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He sent His only begotten Son..." The greater truth, of course, is that Jesus loved us all the way to the cross. The real reason we celebrate Christmas is because of Calvary and the empty tomb. Jesus fulfilled His mission of love by dying in our place so we could have a relationship with God.

That's the Christmas message we communicate to our children at LBCH. Yes, we give the children gifts and have fun activities. But we make sure they know that Christmas is all about God's love through Jesus.

It is your faithful and generous gifts that make it possible for us to share the true meaning of Christmas with our children. I cannot thank you enough for your incredible support. I wish you could see the positive impact you're making on their lives every day. They are growing into all God has for them because of your great love and care. Thank you so much.

I do pray that you and your family have a blessed Christmas. May you all feel that special love from God as you celebrate the birth of the Savior.

Christ Was Love!

Thank You Dr. Hancock for 20 Years of Faithful Service to LBCH!

PRAYER CALENDAR...

Markecia.....	December 14
Jordan.....	December 15
Je'Myra.....	December 16
Je'Marico.....	December 17
Veniece.....	December 18
Venzell.....	December 19
Lexi.....	December 20
Zander.....	December 21
Ryver.....	December 22
Ashley.....	December 23
Ashton.....	December 24
Oliver.....	December 25
Reagan.....	December 26
Fisher.....	December 27
Finley.....	December 28
Fletcher.....	December 29
Adriana.....	December 30
Zay.....	December 31
Elijah.....	January 1
Hunter.....	January 2
Ta'Mojah.....	January 3
Ronesha.....	January 4
Zi'Vrecia.....	January 5
Ma'Rissa.....	January 6
Josie.....	January 7
Reynaldo.....	January 8
Za'lynn.....	January 9
Euri.....	January 10
Stacey.....	January 11
Ariana.....	January 12
Tiffany.....	January 13

Sophia.....	January 14
Carrie.....	January 15
Claire.....	January 16
Carter.....	January 17
La'Dona.....	January 18
Kahlani.....	January 19
Santana.....	January 20
Charlee.....	January 21
Heilee.....	January 22
Nikki.....	January 23
Lily.....	January 24
De'meNeisha.....	January 25
Brikketta.....	January 26
Shii'Ann.....	January 27
Major.....	January 28
Londyn.....	January 29
Carrie.....	January 30

BIRTHDAYS...

Kahlani.....	December 2
LaDona.....	December 17
Major.....	December 20
Jordan.....	December 30
Carrie.....	January 5
Hunter.....	January 14
Adriana.....	January 16
Markecia.....	January 27

• 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
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Louis Charrier	Julie Page
Brian Craddock	Rikki Permenter
Mandi Guillory	Caleb Richardson
Heather Gulde	Melanie Sanchez
Trish Gunter	Diane Uzzle
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Reggie Bridges, LBC President
Steve Horn, LBC Executive Director
Perry Hancock, LBCH President & CEO
Matt Coker, LBCH Asso. Director of Development & PR
Julie Adcock, LBCH Director of Communications



Campus Spotlight...

Meet Santana & Family

By Susan Clark

Sanatana Burke walked into the room and began sharing her story immediately with no reservations. She knew why she was here and was eager to tell her "walking testimony." As she put it... "my life is a work in progress, but today I am in a good place." "I feel safe, at peace, comfortable, and I can honestly say I am HAPPY"...with the biggest grin on her face!

Santana was raised in a single-mom home with three older brothers. Her father passed away when she was two years old. She recalls her mom always working to provide for her family. She dropped out of high school as a sophomore and became pregnant with her son, Tre'. She describes Tre' as a son who has always supported her no matter where she was in life's adversity. Santana is so proud of her son, who received a scholarship to play football at ULL this coming fall, but mainly because he is a fantastic role model with "integrity and such kindness."

In addition to Tre', Santana has two beautiful daughters, Heilee, age eleven, and Charlee, age five. Charlee came to live with her at the Louisiana Baptist Children's Home in June, and recently, Heilee joined them. The reunion was exciting yet filled with some apprehension as this reunion was what she prayed for, but she was concerned about what kind of Mom she could be at this point in their lives. "I now feel complete!"

Before coming to HomePlace, Santana was in a cycle of addiction, which caused much chaos and difficulty in her life with her family. Her children lived with other family members. After attending rehab and sober living programs, she can say with so much enthusiasm that she is a year sober. She was told about HomePlace by another mom living here. And to be honest, she did not want to come, but she knew she needed to provide a place for her girls to keep her children from foster care.

"It was the very best decision I have ever made!" "What a blessing to be in a safe place with the provision and resources made available to my girls and me. Santana is enrolled in the Christian Women's Job Corps and is working to obtain her Hi-Set. She has completed her parent training as well as working part-time. The girls are enrolled in preschool and elementary school and have acknowledged their happiness at HomePlace with their mom.

They have adjusted well. Each morning, their mom starts their day with words of affirmation and ends their day thanking God for things they are grateful for. "I want my children to see my heart for the Lord after living several years apart from him."

Santana wanted to thank Mrs. Alisha Clark, Director of Job Corp, for helping her with Heilee in the math required to calculate many things in her life with the diagnosis of Juvenile Onset type 1 diabetes. "And Ms. Tami, my cottage manager, she has taught me much about boundaries, structure, relationships, and responsibility, speaking the truth in love. Her support has been so valuable in our lives. We attend North Monroe Baptist Church with Ms. Tami. Ms. Kelli, my Case Manager, has been with me on this journey as well. She has encouraged me and told me things that I didn't want to hear but I needed it. It was what God wanted me to hear. Also, Granberry has been the best resource for getting myself healthy mentally and emotionally. I am so blessed with such a great support team around me."

When asked what her future looks like, she commented, "I am staying in the moment; God will show me when He wants to." She quoted her favorite Bible verse hanging in her living area. *Exodus 14:14: The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.* She said that is His promise for my life! She is looking forward to Christmas at HomePlace. "I grew up with a tree and presents, but I believe my girls will experience the deeper meaning of it all right here. We can't wait!"

Santana is such an inspiration and encouragement just being with her. She said, "Never be afraid to tell your story because it may save the lives around you." Such truth from one whose life has been saved by the love and grace of God!



Helping Women Thrive...

The Women's Learning Center was started in 2010 to provide women ages eighteen and older the opportunity to prepare for the HiSET (High School Equivalency Test) and receive career training at no cost. The Center offers training and encouragement from the ministry team and fellow classmates in a caring, Christian environment as students prepare for a better life for themselves and their families.



- HiSET Training and Testing
- English as a Second Language (ESL)
- Digital Literacy Certification

- WorkPlace Certification
- Bank Teller's Certification
- Paraprofessional Certification

For more information call 318-307-7624 or email twlcmmonroe@gmail.com



Alisha Clark
Executive Director,
Women's Learning Center



Homebuilders...

What are your favorite Christmas traditions?

What are your favorite Christmas traditions? As a child I can remember playing outside with my siblings and cousins. I can almost hear and smell the fire burning in the living room fireplace. We decorated the house and Christmas tree; we made cookies and other special foods that were only available during the Christmas season. Of course, I remember how difficult it was to fall asleep on Christmas Eve and how badly I wanted my exhausted parents to get up, even before the sun had peeked over the horizon.

Every Christmas my grandfather or grandmother read the story of the birth of Jesus to all the grandchildren gathered around their feet. This tradition is carried on by my parents today, and is one I hope to pass on to my children and grandchildren in the future. I can't imagine not having these memories. You probably have memories and traditions that go as far back as your childhood, and they are a part of who you are.

Unfortunately, many of the children who enter the Louisiana Baptist Children's Home have memories filled with hurt and disappointment. Many of our residents have never known the joy of waking up on Christmas morning to feel the instant jolt of excitement, realizing today is Christmas day! Your generous support of the LBCH throughout the year provides not only daily necessities, but a home, and memories that will last a lifetime! These memories will be interwoven with the story of Jesus and His birth.

Corrie Ten Boon, a prisoner of Ravensbruck concentration camp in World War II once said,



Matt Coker
Associate Director of
Development
& Public Relations

"Who can add to Christmas?

The perfect motive is that God so loved the world.

The perfect gift is that He gave His only Son.

The only requirement is to believe in Him.

The reward of faith is that you shall have everlasting life."

While we hope to provide lasting memories for children and single homeless mothers, our goal is to show them Jesus and His great love. As Corrie Ten Boon said, "Who can add to Christmas?" Jesus is Christmas.

The best part of Christmas is knowing and celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. The Louisiana Baptist Children's Home exists to provide love, care, and hope in Christ for children and families in need, and we could not pursue this mission without your prayers and support.

Thank you for investing in the next generation. Your gifts help us provide the gift that leads to everlasting life!

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:19-21

New Coats of Many Colors...

First Baptist Church Greensburg, Louisiana delivered new coats for every Children's Home resident... and just in time for the cooler weather!

The church began this wonderful tradition several years ago and it has been such a blessing to our children and families. THANK YOU First Baptist Greensburg for your commitment!



Harmon Baptist Church Brings Christmas Joy...

Thank you to our friends at Harmon Baptist Church for sharing God's love with the boys and girls of LBCH this Christmas. We are overwhelmed by your generosity! We look forward to visiting your church and saying "THANK YOU" in person!



Immediate Job Openings

SOCIAL WORKER Needed in Alexandria:

Full-time position include salary, benefits, and paid vacation. LMSW licensure required. A minimum of two years' experience in child welfare or related field preferred. Must demonstrate proficient speaking and writing skills. Must be able to work independently. Some travel required.

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

CHRISTIAN COUNSELORS Needed in Alexandria and Monroe:

Granberry Counseling Centers are looking for a part-time Christian Counselor in Alexandria, and a full-time Christian counselor in Monroe. 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.



Your End-of-the-Year Gift can make a difference in the life of a child in 2024!

Remember...gifts made to Louisiana Baptist Children's Home & Family Ministries by December 31st are tax deductible in 2023.

JOY!

The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. Luke 2: 10-11



December 2023

Dear Friend of Children,

Christmas is upon us and I continue to reflect on the profound impact your support has on the lives of the children in our care. Throughout my 20 years at the Children's Home, I can recall countless precious moments of hurting children discovering joy.

One of those children is Christopher, one of our young residents, who received a Christmas present from a local church. The gift was a new hat and gloves. For most of us, receiving something as simple as a hat and gloves wouldn't hold too much significance, but it meant the world to Christopher! You see, it was the very first time he ever had a new hat and gloves of his own.

His face lit up with pure excitement and joy the moment he opened the gift. He could not contain his happiness as he viewed himself in the mirror. It's astonishing how something as basic as a new hat could bring such delight to a child.

Like Christopher, **many children in our care have never known the joy of opening gifts on Christmas morning in a safe, loving home. Many have never had a Christmas tree.**

Your support also allows us to teach the boys and girls about the true meaning of Christmas. We get to share about the joy and eternal hope that is only found in Jesus.

If you have already sent your Christmas gift, I sincerely thank you. If not, I ask that you consider doing so at this time. **Your gift is crucial to helping us meet the daily needs of those entrusted to our care. We could not do it without your financial support. No gift is too small.**

Thank you for sharing your love and God's love with our children. Because of your kindness and generosity, children like Christopher will receive the gift of joy this Christmas.

May our Lord bless you and your family this Christmas!
For the Children,

Perry Hancock, Ph.D.
President & CEO

**Name changed for confidentiality*

Louisiana Baptist Children's Home & Family Ministries - P.O. Box 4196, Monroe, LA 71211 - 318.343.2244 - www.lbch.org

YES, I want to help children with my Thanksgiving gift!

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

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



Become a HOPEBuilder!

HopeBuilders: A Special Group of Heroes to Children in Need

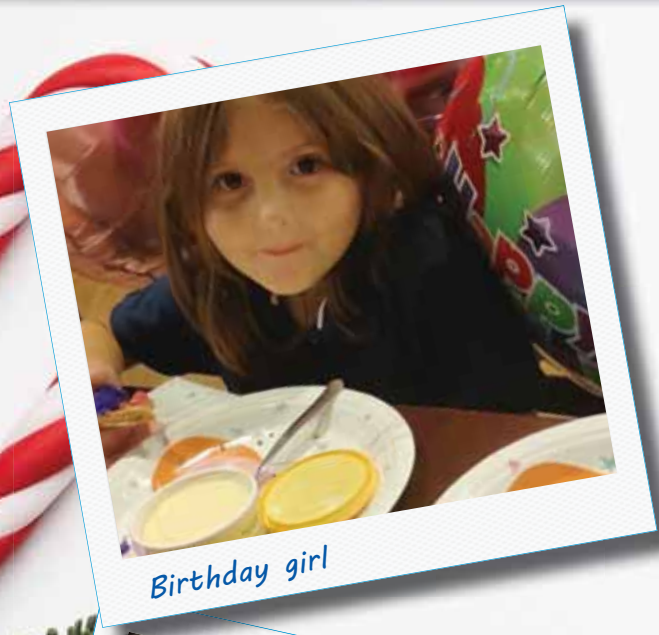
Heroes protect the vulnerable, restore the broken, and bring hope in desperate situations. Every child who has been neglected, abused, or abandoned needs a hero. Our HopeBuilder Monthly Sponsor Ministry gives YOU the opportunity to be a hero to children in need.

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.

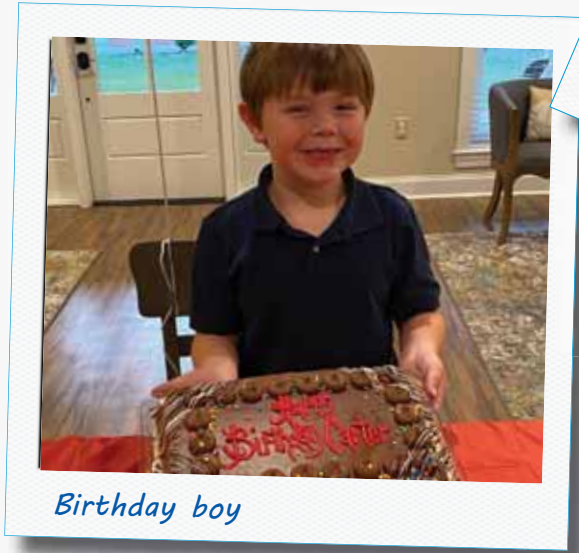
Here's how it works: Go to our website at LBCH.ORG and click on the GIVE NOW button. Set up recurring monthly gifts (\$10 minimum) using Visa, MasterCard, Discover Card, American Express, Debit Card, or E-Check. Simply put HopeBuilder in the notes section. You may cancel your monthly donations at any 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.



Memories



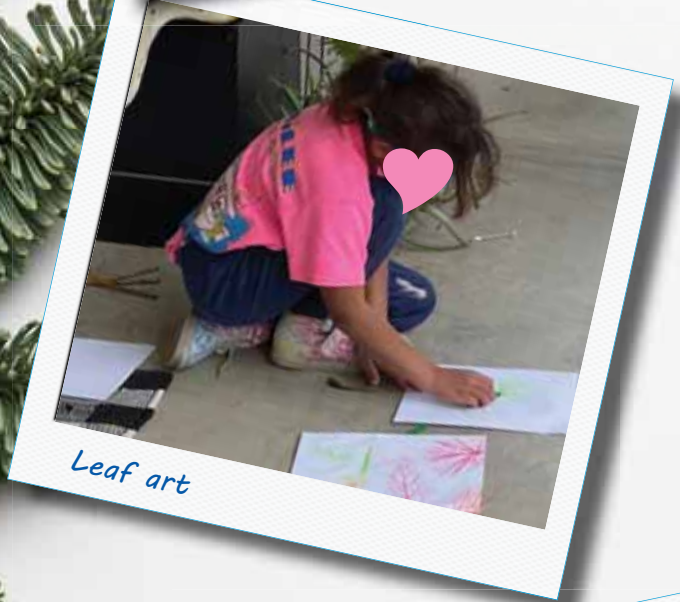
Birthday girl



Birthday boy



Sweetness



Leaf art



The best big sister



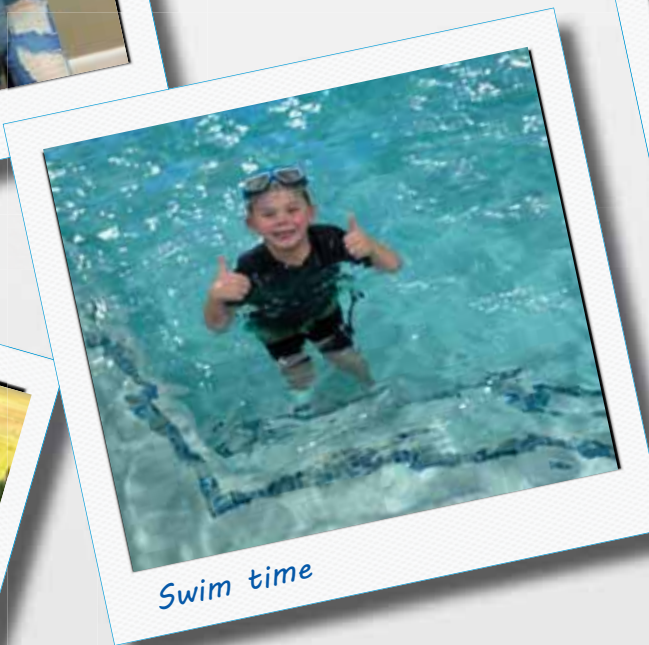
Partnering with churches



Fall festival



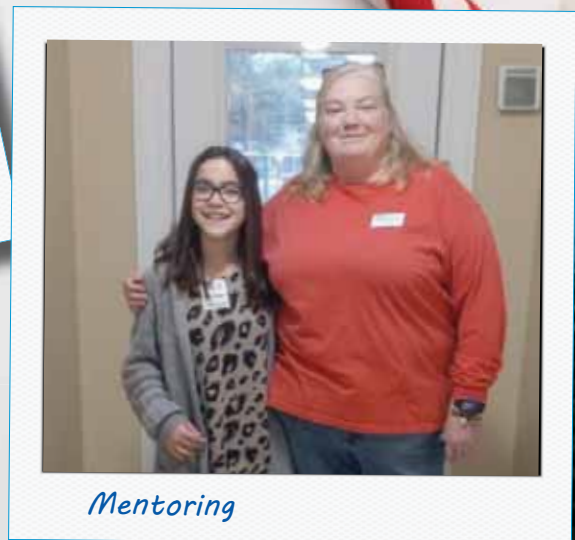
Making breakfast



Swim time



Christmas ready



Mentoring

Jonann Byargeon
Director of HomePlace



Highlights from HomePlace...

Merry Christmas! Christmas has arrived in HomePlace. The gazebo is completely decorated with a giant Christmas tree, and the garland is hung beautifully around it. The cottage's Christmas trees are all in place and lighting the way to this season of Advent.

I had an opportunity to walk through a cottage recently and see their Christmas tree. The cottage manager shared with me that one of her moms helped her decorate the tree. Multiple nativities are placed in full view for the families to enjoy. HomePlace cottage managers always create an atmosphere of celebration for their families while emphasizing the real importance of Christmas.

The Coca-Cola Polar Bear truck rolled onto campus again this year. Our children receive small stuffed polar bears, and there are cokes for everyone. A giant polar bear mascot poses for pictures with the campus families. It is always a fun time for the children and moms.

Excitement fills the air everywhere. Our children and their moms are excited about this season of sharing and celebrating our Savior's birth. And we want to extend a special thank you to the churches who partner with us to celebrate this season.

Every year, I am amazed at the generosity of area churches as they continually meet the needs of our families. The moms always worry about providing gifts for their children, but we always assure them there will be gifts because of the kindness of our donors.

Churches have adopted the HomePlace cottages, and coats were delivered to our families and arrived just ahead of wintry weather. This year is our 2nd Annual Christmas in the Cottages event. They bring gifts for the families and provide a meal and a birthday cake to celebrate Jesus' birthday. There is also a sweet group of senior adults from a local church who give the moms gift cards, which the moms can use to buy Christmas gifts for their children.

The love shown to our families at Christmas reflects God's love for us, expressed so beautifully by the manger. Our families enter HomePlace because there is no other place for them. They desire to provide a new life for their children. Christ was born and placed in a food trough because there was no other place. There, He began His earthly life. Our families have an opportunity to have a safe place to call home and experience the incredible grace of Christ.

How will you celebrate Christmas with your family? I know this Christmas will be a grand celebration for the HomePlace families, cottage managers, and case workers. Our HomePlace family will recall the days when hope seemed out of reach. But now they live with hope of a better day because of the birth of the Christ child, God's instrument of hope.

Thank you for your encouragement, your prayers, and your gifts. You are part of changing lives and providing a future for so many families. I encourage you to check the lbch.org website for more information about the ministries of your Louisiana Baptist Children's Home and Family Ministries.



Kathy Eichelberger
Director
Granberry Counseling
Centers



Codependency: A Closer Look from a Christian Perspective (Part 2)...

The word "codependent" isn't in the Bible, and yet Scripture addresses unholy relationship patterns. What the world calls codependency, God's Word calls "idolatry," the worship of anything or anyone other than Him.

Codependency reflects an inner brokenness and a foundation that is people-based rather than God-based. This foundation drives a codependent to find someone or something outside of themselves to meet their deepest emotional and spiritual needs. It puts people in the place of God.

Codependency attaches our value to how people esteem us, for example, by drawing worth from their need for us. Codependency pulls our attention away from God, our Source for identity and affirmation.

Rooted in fear and insecurity, codependency is at the heart of people-pleasing. When driven to cater to others' whims and wants, aside from what God wants for us and what He wants us to desire for ourselves, we set up idols. This unintentionally swaps devotion to our unchanging Savior to human puppeteering that is finite and fickle, at best.

People, places, and things cannot provide the validation, peace, and purposefulness that we require. Jesus, as God and man, exemplified this, remaining firm in His identity and authority, refusing the temptation to placate others, even when He was most vulnerable (see Luke 4:1-13).

Get to know who you are in Christ by getting to know Jesus. Grow in grace with Him and align with your identity in Him. Learn to exercise healthy boundaries by studying His example in the Word.

Jesus had one aim. He was bold and verbal about doing nothing less and nothing different than the will of His Father. "Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work'" (John 4:34).

Jesus rejected pressure from religious leaders, His disciples, and His family from distracting His Father-focused mission. Though He loved people, Jesus did not permit anyone to push Him into an earthly agenda or restrain Him from following the Spirit into the unfamiliar.

"But Jesus answered the one who was telling Him and said, 'Who is My mother and who are My brothers?' And stretching out His hand toward His disciples, He said, 'Behold My mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of My Father who is in heaven, he is My brother and sister and mother'" (Matthew 12:48-50).

Codependently pleasing people can germinate a root of bitterness when we feel that our efforts go unnoticed or unappreciated, especially if we have unmet needs and lingering expectations. When we overspend time and energy outside of the sphere and season that God has graced us with, we bankrupt the resources He furnished for a healthy, balanced, and meaningful life.

Consider the following questions for a codependency heart check:

- **Are you simmering in unresolved anger or secretly stashing resentment?**
- **Are you agreeing to do more for others than they are willing to do for themselves?**
- **Are you committing more to others' agendas than to walking in holiness?**
- **Have you extended energy, time, and resources to support others with your initial yes, but now you can't manage their wants and your needs?**

You must learn to steward your God-given purpose and responsibility without overreaching and robbing people of the opportunity to make their own choices and engage in their relationship with Jesus Christ, the only Savior. Cheer others on. Afford them the agency of owning their choices by living dependently on God as Father and interdependently with you as brother or sister in Christ.

Performance will never harness more of the Father's love or acceptance, and lack of performance will never diminish or dilute it. God is concerned with conforming you to Christ's image. He desires that you maximize your godly potential by being all He created you to be.

Perhaps bringing the change that's needed in others first appears by being the change for your own life, without trying to produce an internal or external change in others. Trust them and yourself to God's capable hands. Are you ready to live free from codependency? Reach out to one of our Granberry counselors for help—we're here to answer God's call to care.

Sources: "Codependency," Dr. Russ Rainey, <https://www.focusonthefamily.com/get-help/codependency-what-is-it/>; "Recovering from Codependency," Amanda Rowett, <https://bellevuechristiancounseling.com/articles/recovering-from-codependency-help-from-a-christian-counselor-part-1/>; "Codependency," Lisa Coleman, <https://seattlechristiancounseling.com/articles/codependency-a-closer-look-from-a-christian-perspective#:~:text=Here%2C%20codependency%20leverages%20discontent%20or,our%20false%20need%20to%20perform;Boundaries%20Will%20Not%20Cure%20Codependency,Interview%20with%20Rosaria%20Butterfield%20by%20Monica%20Geven,https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/boundaries-will-not-cure-codependency>.

Receiving Appreciation During the Giving Season...



Kamiron May
Foster Care &
Adoption Specialist

Christmas is a special occasion where we often go out of our way to show love and care to those around us. We put thought into selecting meaningful gifts, spend time and energy decorating our homes, and make an effort to create memorable experiences for our loved ones. However, it can be disheartening when our gestures of kindness are not met with the gratitude and recognition we hope for. Despite our best intentions, it is important to remember that appreciation should not be the sole motivation behind our acts of giving.

There are several reasons why foster children might not show appreciation for the gifts they receive. First, many foster children have experienced trauma and instability in their lives, which can make it difficult for them to trust and form attachments. This can result in a lack of emotional connection to the gifts they receive, as they may struggle to see them as meaningful or valuable.

Additionally, foster children often face a sense of loss and displacement, as they may have been separated from their biological families and moved between multiple foster homes. This constant upheaval can lead to feelings of insecurity and a lack of stability, making it challenging for them to fully appreciate or feel grateful for the gifts they receive. It is important to approach foster children with empathy and understanding, recognizing the unique challenges they face and providing them with the support and care they need to develop a sense of appreciation and gratitude.

It is crucial to approach the topic of foster children and gratitude with sensitivity and understanding. These children did not choose to be in their current situation and may have experienced trauma or difficult circumstances prior to entering foster care. Rather than expecting them to be appreciative, it is important to provide them with

the support, empathy, and stability they need to heal and thrive, while demonstrating and teaching them ways to express gratitude. One approach could be to involve them in activities that promote giving back to the community. Encourage them to participate in volunteer work or engage in acts of kindness. By actively participating in these activities, foster children can develop a sense of empathy and gratitude for what they have, while also understanding the importance of helping others. Foster children deserve our understanding and compassion as they navigate the challenges of their unique circumstances.

It is crucial to approach the topic of foster children and gratitude with sensitivity and understanding.

Another way to teach foster children gratitude and appreciation is by creating a gratitude journal. Provide them with a notebook and encourage them to write down things they are grateful for each day. This practice can help foster children to focus on the positive aspects of their lives and develop a habit of expressing gratitude. Additionally, you can organize activities that encourage foster children to express appreciation towards others. For example, they can create handmade cards or gifts for their foster parents, social workers, or teachers, expressing their gratitude for their support and care. This teaches them the importance of showing appreciation and helps them build positive

relationships with the people around them.

During this holiday season, it is important to keep in mind that not all children in foster care will express their gratitude in the manner we might expect. However, it is crucial to show compassion towards these children who did not choose to be in their current situation. We should remember the true essence of Christmas lies in the joy of giving selflessly without expecting anything in return.

Find Out How to Get Your Church Involved in Foster Care in 2024!



- 2024 TOUR DATES:**
- January 14 and 28
 - February 11 and 18
 - March 3 and 17
 - April 7 and 28
 - May 5 and 19
 - June 2 and 23
 - July 14 and 28
 - August 11 and 25
 - September 8 and 29
 - October 13 and 27
 - November 3



Sign Up Today!

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MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

LOUISIANA BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME & FAMILY MINISTRIES

In its 124th year of ministry, Louisiana Baptist Children's Home & Family Ministries continued its mission of providing love, care, and hope in Christ for children and families in need.

The Children's Home provided a positive Christian witness through its Residential Child and Family Care Programs, Connect1Child Foster Care and Adoption Ministries, Granberry Counseling Centers, Minister Care Residential Program, Women's Learning Center, Compassion for Kids, and Orphans Embrace. Christ-centered services were provided for over 6,800 children, families, and individuals. As a result of the support from our Louisiana Baptist churches and the witness provided through our Christ-centered ministries, many children and family members experienced the joy of salvation in Christ. Others made new commitments to the Lord.

RESIDENTIAL CHILD AND FAMILY CARE

Served 120 children and 30 homeless mothers through on-campus and off-campus residential ministries. An additional 264 families received placement referral services.

GRANBERRY COUNSELING CENTERS

Provided professional Christian counseling for 861 clients through 13 state-wide locations. Provided counseling for 41 Louisiana Baptist minister families in partnership with the Louisiana Baptist Convention Pastoral Leadership Team.

WOMEN'S LEARNING CENTER

Provided 34 women with educational and job skills training and support services for 126 additional women. Maintained adult education certification as an official HiSET training and testing site. Additional certifications including Para-professional Education and Banking Services were added to the curriculum. WLC staff lead students in Bible study and prayer daily.

COMPASSION FOR KIDS

Served over 5,400 economically challenged children and family members. During the Southern Baptist Convention Serve Tour in New Orleans and a church event in Monroe, 20,880 ready-to-eat meals and a gospel witness were provided for over 5,000 individuals.

INTERNATIONAL ORPHAN CARE — LOUISIANA REACH HAITI

Served 18 children through Louisiana Reach Haiti. The children's village in Croix-des-Bouquets was relocated to Cap Haitien.



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

October 17 - November 26, 2023

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October 18 - November 26, 2023

Honor gifts are received in thoughtful tribute of a relative, friend or loved one. Names of honorees are printed in all caps followed by the names of those making the honor gifts.

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May this Christmas season
be filled with the light
of God's love!

Merry Christmas from the children, families and staff
of your Louisiana Baptist Children's Home

HOMENEWS

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.

HomeNews (ISSN 1094-3587) is published seven times a year in February, March, May, July, September, November, and December by Louisiana Baptist Children's Home & Family Ministries
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Louisiana Baptist Children's Home
& Family Ministries
7200 DeSiard Street, Monroe, LA 71203
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Immediate Job Openings

COTTAGE PARENTS Needed in Monroe:

Husband and wife teams are needed. Full-time positions include salary, benefits, paid vacation, and training. Basic job description is to provide love, care, and hope in Christ for children in need. Applicants should not have children living at home under the age of 18. Applicants must have a sense of call and commitment to a ministry of service to children and be active members of a local Southern Baptist church. Part-time positions are also available.

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

COTTAGE MANAGERS:

Part-Time Positions Available: Christian women needed to serve in HomePlace, a transitional living ministry for homeless children and their mothers. Must have a sense of call and commitment to a ministry of service to children and families.

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