

# HOME NEWS

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



**THANK YOU**  
for making a difference  
in the life of a child.



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November 2023

Volume 61 - No. 6



**Perry Hancock, PhD**  
President & CEO



# Words from Home...

Recently, I read an article on the “Top 10 Thanksgiving Traditions.” Most of the items on the list will not surprise you. Number one is watching the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade. Others include eating a traditional Thanksgiving meal, watching football games, and taking a nap at some time during the football games. Another one of the top 10 traditions is putting up the Christmas tree and decorating the house for Christmas. Of course, for some brave souls, there is the tradition of shopping on Black Friday. Hopefully, you and your family have fond memories of your Thanksgiving Day traditions.

At the Children’s Home we have several Thanksgiving traditions. We have a special worship service in the chapel the Tuesday before Thanksgiving where we thank God for His many blessings. After the worship service we share a meal together. Some of the cottages start working on their large outdoor Christmas cards that weekend.

One of our best Thanksgiving traditions is making a Thanksgiving list. This year I asked all the cottages to make their Thanksgiving lists early so I could share them with you. Several of our children said, “I’m thankful to have all the food I need.” A special thanks goes to those of you who helped our children through the Fall Food Roundup this year. Another child said, “I’m thankful for my new bike without training wheels.” One of our girls said, “I’m thankful to have my own room.” An older child said, “I’m thankful that I can wake up every day and not worry about things anymore.”



One of our boys said, “I’m thankful to get to go to church and make new friends.”

Our HomePlace mothers, also, have Thanksgiving lists. One mother said, “I’m thankful to have a support system of people who believe in me.” Another mom said, “I am very grateful God led us here because my kids are happy, healthy, and safe. One mother was thankful to have a place of healing. Another expressed her thanks for Christian mentors who are helping her grow.

Those lists all have one thing in common – You. Every day, because of your generous gifts, we are able to provide children and families in need with a wonderful Christian home that is filled with God’s love. The children have new clothes, school supplies, opportunities for music, sports, and more. Our moms can earn a high school diploma, receive job skills training and professional Christian counseling. Best of all, you help us introduce all of them to Jesus. You are at the top of our Thanksgiving list.

I pray that you and your family have a wonderful Thanksgiving. As you celebrate God’s goodness in your family, know that we are celebrating His goodness in our family, and the blessings that you have provided through your generous support. May the Lord bless you as you have blessed our children and families at your Louisiana Baptist Children’s Home.

## PRAYER CALENDAR...

- Reagan..... November 6
- Fisher..... November 7
- Finley..... November 8
- Fletcher..... November 9
- Adriana..... November 10
- Zay..... November 11
- Elijah..... November 12
- Hunter..... November 13
- Ta’Mojah..... November 14
- Ronesha..... November 15
- Zi’Vrecia..... November 16
- Ma’Rissa..... November 17
- Josie..... November 18
- Reynaldo..... November 19
- Za’lynn..... November 20
- Euri..... November 21
- Stacey..... November 22
- Ariana..... November 23
- Tiffany..... November 24
- Sophia..... November 25
- Carrie..... November 26
- Claire..... November 27
- Santana..... November 28
- Charlee..... November 29
- De’meNeisha..... November 30
- Brikketta..... December 1
- Nikki..... December 2
- Lily..... December 3
- Carrie..... December 4
- Bentley..... December 5
- Anna..... December 6

- Jasper..... December 7
- Tristian..... December 8
- Carter..... December 9
- Kelley..... December 10
- Jenevieve..... December 11
- Sarah..... December 12
- Cruz..... December 13
- 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

## BIRTHDAYS...

- Carter.....November 3**
- Reynaldo.....November 10**
- Nikki.....November 22**
- Tiffany.....November 23**

### • 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

### • TRUSTEES •

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*Julie Adcock, LBCH Director of Communications*





# Spotlight...

## Meet Michelle and Ty

*“The Lord saved me, healed me, and then redeemed me.”*

If Webster had included people’s names with their definitions, Michelle Miklosey’s name would define the word joy. She is one huge walking hug.

Every conversation with Michelle ends with, “I love you.” She always lights up a room when she enters. Everyone who encounters her is blessed and encouraged. Life hasn’t always been easy for Michelle. Before coming to Homeplace, she described herself as “broken with no place to go.”

Michelle heard about LBCH’s HomePlace ministry from her mother and sister. When she was at the end of herself, she reached out for a new beginning at HomePlace. “The Lord saved me and opened up a room for me at HomePlace, and I took it,” she said.

Michelle grins as she describes driving up to the gates of the Louisiana Baptist Children’s Home. She said the entrance looked just like the pre-gates of heaven. “As I looked around,” she shared, “I could see the safe and secure grounds. I was immediately surrounded by godly people who encouraged me, and I knew I was going to be okay. I saw the Lord’s hand of provision reaching out to me, and my heart was filled with gratitude.”

Michelle shared that the structure of the HomePlace program was just what she needed at this time in her life. She needed rules and boundaries. “What seemed to be ordinary to most people was not easy to me upon entering HomePlace,” she explained. “This place taught me how to do life. I received counseling, and I learned how to budget. I learned how to cook and plan meals, and I learned how to fill out job applications and make doctor appointments. I learned how to get up on time and to properly care for my child. God sent the right people to love me unconditionally and to pour into my family’s life.”

Michelle shared about her first job while living at HomePlace. I worked as a cleaning lady at LBCH,” she shared. I cleaned all the different buildings on campus. While cleaning, I noticed that scripture was everywhere. It was before my eyes every day, so I began to memorize it, and I fell in love with the word of God.” During this time, Michelle was in the process of getting custody of her son, Ty. She shared how she came across the verse Exodus 14:14, “The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still” (NIV). It became one of her favorites. She explained how seeing that verse for the first time brought her great peace. “I knew the Lord had placed me here, and He was showing his favor and love,” she said. “I had faith to believe that my son and I would be restored.” It was obvious to everyone on campus that the joy of the Lord had become her strength, and everyone on campus would come to know and love her.

“I was overwhelmed and so happy when Ty was able to join me at HomePlace,” shared Michelle. She went on to share how Ty absolutely loved living at HomePlace. He loved playing in the ditches after the rain. He loved playing on the Slip and Slide and riding his bike around the big trees and the fountain. It was as if Ty had his own personal playground. Ty developed relationships with other children on campus and made friends who are still his friends today.

During much of their time at HomePlace, Michelle and her son, Ty, lived under the direction of cottage mom Kathy LaCaze. “She was the best mom,” Michelle said. “She played Christian music 24/7 in the cottage and would stop and pray with any of us any time there was a need. I surrendered my life to Christ while I was at HomePlace, and I knew I wanted to follow him for the remainder of my life. I am a child of God, and my life has been forever changed.”

When asked about Michelle, Kathy LaCaze’s response was, “Michelle is priceless! She is God-fearing. She loves so deeply, and I am so blessed that she is my friend and sister in Christ.”

Michelle describes her two years at Homeplace as a time of “reset and restoration.” She said she felt God’s army surrounding and taking care of them. “The ministry prepared Ty and me for a successful and independent life,” she shared.

In 2016, Michelle and Ty left the Children’s Home and moved into their own place. She continues to work at a job in the community that she loves and is in the process of furthering her education.

Ty is now a teenager and attends Neville Junior High School, where he hopes to play football next year. He is active in his youth group at church. “Ty has one of the sweetest



and kindest personalities,” Michelle shared. “God blessed me with that. He is truly a gift.”

Michelle is active in her church and a local prayer group at First Baptist Monroe. She says the group had blessed her with Christian friends and ongoing prayer support, which was especially valuable when she was diagnosed with Leukemia in 2022. During a month of testing and inpatient IV therapy at MD Anderson, Michelle continued to seek the Lord through Bible study, prayer, and surrendering to His voice. After the first of her six originally prescribed chemotherapy treatments, which were part of a clinical trial, she was declared to be in remission. “The Lord saved me, healed me, and then redeemed me,” she shared.

As she looks to the future, Michelle will always be thankful for HomePlace and the lifelong relationships she has made. Her advice for moms currently in Homeplace and those yet to come she says, “EMBRACE IT!” God is going to do a work in you. You may not see it now, but you are there for a reason. It is your time to get to know who you are, to know the Lord, and to bond with your children. The Lord is preparing you and is giving you the tools, you need for your family and future. Put your trust in Him, and one day, you will look back and see that He was with you the entire time.”

HomePlace may have blessed Michelle Miklosey, but Michelle also blessed HomePlace.

*“A generous man will prosper;  
that he who refreshes others  
will himself be refreshed.”  
Proverbs 11:25*

Happy Fall from the Women’s Learning Center. We began a new term in August with several returning and new students. This is always an exciting time with new starts and refreshed commitments. Life always presents ups and downs and it’s easy for goals to fade into the background as our term continues. **Pray for our students as they work hard to accomplish High School Equivalency and Career Readiness. Pray for endurance through this season of learning and reaching for goals while managing life and families.** As our season changes from a long, hot summer to fall we remember “there is a season for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.” Praying you enjoy our moments of cool and find refreshing in the Lord.



- HiSET Training and Testing
- English as a Second Language (ESL)
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**Alisha Clark**  
Executive Director,  
Women’s Learning Center





# Homebuilders...

## LBCH Welcomes Matt Coker, Associate Director of Public Relations & Development



*We are excited to welcome Matt Coker to the LBCH family! Matt comes on board as Associate Director of Public Relations and Development. We asked Matt to tell you a little bit of his story...*

My name is Matt Coker and I serve as the Associate Director of Public Relations and Development at your Louisiana Baptist Children's Home and Family Ministries.

I have been married to my wife Angela for 19 years. We have been blessed with 3 boys, Caleb, Isaac, and Elijah. I completed my bachelor's degree from Louisiana Tech University in Family Science and received my Master of Divinity degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. I served in Louisiana Baptist churches as a student minister for 15 years and the last seven years as a pastor. From 2017-2022, I had the honor of serving on the LBCH board of trustees.

I remember my first time being on the Louisiana Baptist Children's Home campus. I was 13 years old, and our youth group was taking a tour just before the Christmas holidays. I was amazed at the beauty of the campus, the trees, buildings, history, and ministry that was taking place right in my own backyard.

If you've never been to the Children's Home campus, I would like to take this time to invite you. We love to show groups of all ages our campus. If you are interested in setting up a tour, please give me a call. I would love to show you around.

The Children's Home is a special place that has not only shaped lives for the last 124 years, but it has also shaped families, including mine.

In January of 2023, I was visiting with my grandmother one afternoon, when she mentioned that her mother-in-law (my great grandmother) grew up in an orphanage. This caught my attention since I had just served as a trustee at LBCH. I began asking for details, but she assured me that my great grandmother grew up in an orphanage in south Louisiana. Over the next couple of weeks, I researched and asked more questions. Finally, I found her, Kathryn Thrasher. Born in Rapides Parish in 1906, after the passing of her mother, she was placed in the custody of the Louisiana Baptist Orphanage in Lake Charles, LA. From there she moved by train in 1925 with the Louisiana Baptist Children's Home to our current location in Monroe, LA. As far as we know she aged out at the LBCH, then stayed on campus to help teach the younger children for a few years. Kathryn would travel on weekends to speak on behalf of the LBCH at Louisiana Baptist churches. One Sunday, she spoke at Barnett Springs Baptist Church in Ruston, LA; this is where she would meet her future husband and my great grandfather William David Richardson almost 100 years ago. It's amazing to think, a ministry that offered the love of Jesus, food, clothing, and shelter to a scared 10-year-old girl 107 years ago is still impacting my life today.

I am excited to be a part of this wonderful ministry where lives are being changed every day. Thank you for support!

*Matt Coker*

## ULM Football Players Lend a Hand...

We are grateful to the University of Louisiana Monroe football team for helping out with various projects on the LBCH campus this fall. Players were a huge help unloading heavy boxes from our Fall Food Roundup food drive. They also spent time pulling weeds and doing some much needed deep cleaning in various areas. Thank you players and staff for taking time from your schedules to give back to children and families in need! We appreciate you! GO HAWKS GO!



# COTTAGE PARENTS NEEDED IN MONROE! CALL 318.343.2244

## Immediate Job Openings

### SOCIAL WORKERS Needed in Alexandria, Shreveport and Baton Rouge:

Full-time positions 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.

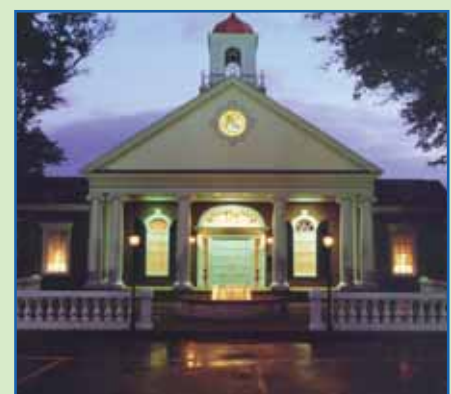
Please send resume to Susan Nolan at [snolan@lbch.org](mailto:snolan@lbch.org) or LBCH, PO Box 4196, Monroe, LA 71211.

### CHRISTIAN COUNSELOR Needed in Baton Rouge:

Granberry Counseling Centers are looking for a full-time Christian counselor in Baton Rouge. Must be fully or provisionally licensed as LPC, LMFT or LCSW. Two years post licensure experience in a private practice setting is preferred.

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

## Schedule A Fall 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](mailto:mcoker@lbch.org) or 318.343.2244.



# THANK YOU

for making a difference  
in the life of a child.

*God is our refuge and strength,  
an ever-present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1*



November 2023

Dear Friend of Children,

I'd like to introduce you to Jackson. A remarkable young boy whose journey in life has been far from easy, Jackson comes from a home where addiction has cast a long shadow. With both parents mired in substance abuse, he has endured much adversity in his short life... neglect, fear, anxiety, instability... and the list goes on.

After being shuffled around from place to place, **Jackson has finally found refuge at your Louisiana Baptist Children's Home.** In a short period of time, he has bonded with his cottage parents and is starting to thrive. **Your generosity has made this possible!**

Since arriving at the Children's Home, Jackson has shown incredible resilience and determination. He has settled in nicely and is working tirelessly to catch up in school, despite the educational challenges he is facing. He is an inspiring young man!

**The most exciting part of Jackson's story since he has been at the Children's Home is that he has accepted Jesus Christ as his personal savior!** We cannot wait to celebrate his upcoming baptism with him. Please pray for him as he begins his walk as a new believer.

Jackson's story serves as a testament to the transformative power of a supportive and nurturing environment. However, the road ahead is not without challenges. Because the Children's Home receives no state or federal funding for the care of the children we serve, **your support is crucial for children like Jackson.**

There are still significant needs to be addressed and met to ensure Jackson and children like him have the best opportunities for success. Your support enables us to continue to offer a stable, caring, and loving environment where children can flourish.

**Please consider making a Thanksgiving gift** in support of Jackson and all our residents who are striving to overcome adversity. Your contribution, no matter how big or small, will make a meaningful difference in the life of a child.

I cannot thank you enough for sharing your love and God's love with the children in our care this school year.

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.

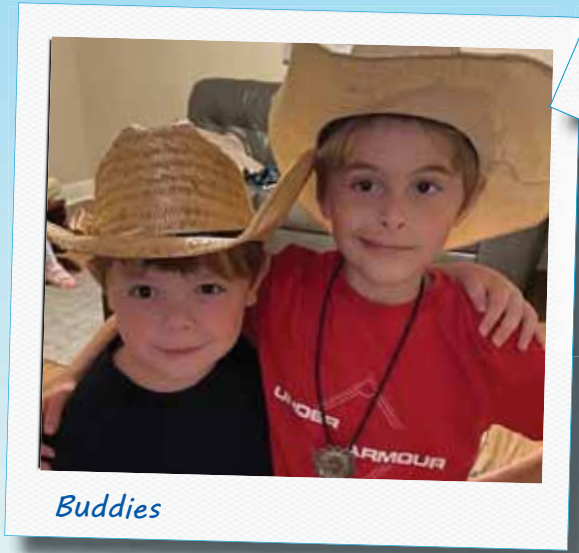
Here's how it works: Go to our website at LBCH.ORG and click on the GIVE NOW button. Set up recurring monthly gifts (\$10 minimum) using Visa, MasterCard, Discover Card, American Express, Debit Card, or E-Check. Simply put HopeBuilder in the notes section. You may cancel your monthly donations at any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



# Snapshots...



Sweetest boy



Buddies



Safari Park



Craft time



Boys being boys



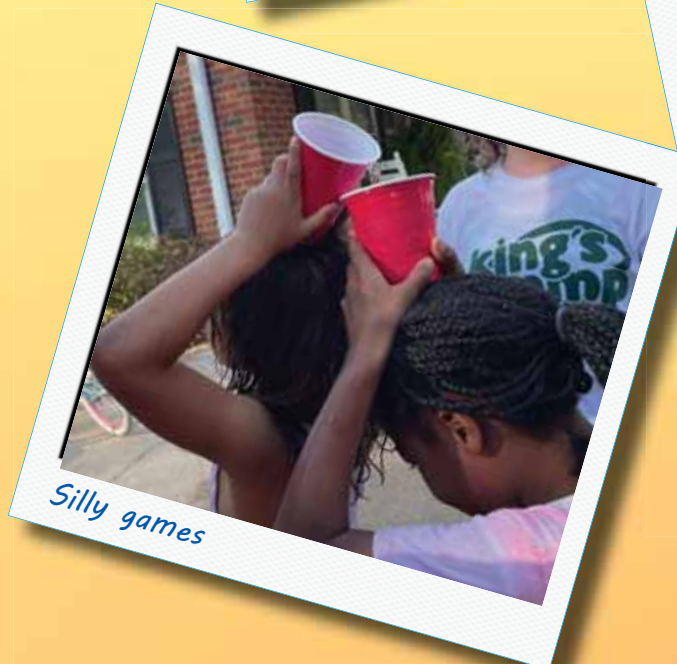
Cutest friends



Puddles and puppies



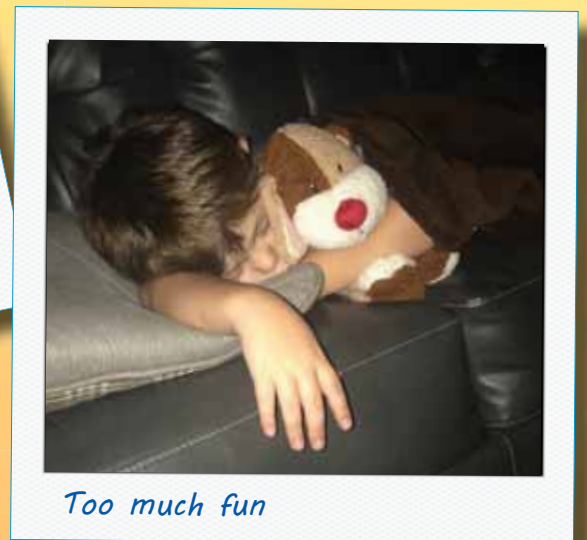
Fun at Safari Park



Silly games



Birthday presents



Too much fun



**Jonann Byargeon**  
Director of HomePlace



## Highlights from HomePlace...

Cooler temperatures are here, leaves are changing colors, and the pecans are falling! Fall has finally arrived and everyone is excited. Pumpkin spice is everywhere... in cereal, coffee, coffee creamer and the list is endless. Pumpkin spice might just be the favorite flavor of HomePlace!

Our hearts are overwhelmed by the blessings HomePlace continues to experience. Allow me to share several of these blessings.

HomePlace continues to serve families in need as they reach out to us. The cottages are filling up with mothers and their children. The children have settled into their school routines very well. After school they participate in recreational activities on campus and get to just enjoy being kids, with a sense of freedom and joy they may have never experienced before.

One of the benefits for moms who enter HomePlace is the opportunity to further their education and/or receiving job skills training at the Women's Learning Center here on campus. The Women's Learning Center offers HiSET (High School Equivalency Test) training and testing at no cost to the women.

Many of our HomePlace moms have and find employment in the Monroe/West Monroe area. Thanks to the kindness of area employers they can continue working while attending classes at the Women's Learning Center.

Our cottage managers help moms establish a budget. They teach them the importance of saving money and show them how. The moms understand they are preparing for their family's future.

I recently had the opportunity to attend church with one of our cottage families. This was not my normal Sunday routine but this day was very special. A mom from the cottage was being baptized. As I observed her baptism and her smile, it was a great reminder of God's power in our lives. He is in the business of transformation and what a blessing it is to watch it unfold in the life of this precious mom.

The HomePlace staff will soon have a new place to call home. The leadership team is so excited about our new home. As I write this article, Rucker Cottage is being updated to accommodate the HomePlace offices. The leadership team is looking forward to the opportunities this new space will offer. It will allow us to meet with prospective moms, hold staff meetings, and parenting classes for moms all in one place. We are grateful for this new space from which to serve children and their mothers.

I would like to invite you to come and visit us in our new home once we get moved in. I will introduce you to the incredible ladies who are committed to this ministry. I would love to be able to thank you in person for all your prayers and support and I will be happy to offer a pumpkin spice latte!

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving with the ones you love!



**Kathy Eichelberger**  
Director  
Granberry Counseling  
Centers



## Codependency: A Closer Look from a Christian Perspective (Part 1)...

By general definition, codependency is an adaptive coping mechanism used compulsively by those trying to find personal worth and value by meeting the perceived needs of others. It 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. Bottom line: codependency is a mixed-up motivation to help. Helping becomes a "have to" out of a sense of guilt and survival instead of a "want to" out of a spirit of voluntary service.

Relationships should be interdependent (to be mutually responsible to each other), not codependent (to be responsible for someone else). That doesn't mean we ignore the legitimate circumstances of children or those who are sick, elderly, or disabled. Instead, it means we seek the Lord's wisdom about our motives and whether our friend or loved one has a true need.

Codependency is too complex to pinpoint a single cause. However, it often starts in childhood. Children who grow up in a dysfunctional home often find themselves wanting or needing to help others because the adults in the family can't or won't. Over time, coping can become compulsive—the idea that "someone has to be responsible, so it has to be me." And a child raised in that environment often becomes an adult who feels compelled to fix, rescue, or control others.

So how do we know whether our help is well-founded or given out of guilt and survival? We have to pay attention to signs of codependency and be honest with ourselves about red flags.

You or a loved one might be codependent if you:

- **Take responsibility for helping others at the expense of your own needs.**

- **Seek love and worth through helping but live in fear of abandonment.**
- **Endure mistreatment and live in survival mode.**
- **Excuse and enable others' ongoing dysfunctional behaviors.**
- **Fail to set or keep personal boundaries.**
- **Become emotionally dependent on fixing, rescuing, and controlling others.**
- **Live with a lack of love, attention, security, fulfillment, and identity.**
- **Experience hurt, fear, anger, guilt, loneliness, and shame.**
- **Deny the reality and personal costs of staying in unhealthy relationships.**

Sometimes, as Christ-followers, we confuse Christlikeness with serving every person's agenda and every cause, always and in all seasons. Jesus' example illuminates a path to live above codependency. He teaches us to live dependent on Him, and interdependently with others.

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 to accomplish His Father's will. He lived His life for an audience of One.

Overcoming codependency doesn't happen overnight, but it can happen. Be honest with yourself, trust God's design for healthy relationships, invite wise and caring people to walk alongside you, and take it one step at a time.

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](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 Will Not Cure Codependency," Interview with Rosaria Butterfield by Monica Geven, <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/boundaries-will-not-cure-codependency>.



# Top 25 Giving Churches Children's Home Sunday Offering

CONGRATULATIONS and THANK YOU to our 2023 Top 25 Children's Home Sunday Giving Churches. Your generosity to the children and families is over the top! We are sincerely grateful to all churches across the state who participated in this year's Children's Home Sunday Annual Offering. Through your support, lives are being changed forever. Thank you!

1. Temple Baptist Church, Ruston
2. Lake D'Arbonne Chapel, Ruston
3. First Baptist Church, Livingston
4. Shiloh Baptist Church, DeRidder
5. Alto Baptist Church, Rayville
6. Holly Grove Baptist Church, Wisner
7. Port Hudson Baptist Church, St. Francisville
8. Paron Baptist Church, Sterlington
9. First Baptist Church, Morgan City
10. Bethel Baptist Church, Bastrop
11. Mars Hill Baptist Church, Atlanta
12. Eagle Heights Church, Hammond
13. Rock Corner Baptist Church, Dubach
14. Keatchie Baptist Church, Keatchie
15. Norwood Baptist Church
16. Christian Harmony Baptist Church, Natchitoches
17. Calvary Baptist Church, Gilbert
18. Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, Florien
19. First Baptist Church, Lockport
20. Trinity Baptist Church, Hammond
21. First Baptist Church, Baton Rouge
22. First Baptist Church, Boyce
23. Lake St. John Community Baptist Church, Ferriday
24. Plain Dealing Baptist Church, Plain Dealing
25. First Baptist Church, Harrisonburg

## Navigating Thanksgiving as a Foster Family ..

Thanksgiving is a time when families come together to celebrate and give thanks for all their blessings. It is a day filled with traditions and activities that bring joy and create lasting memories. From the moment we wake up, the house is filled with the aroma of all your favorite foods. Turning on the television to admire all of the colorful floats, energetic performances, and the enchanting melodies of the marching band in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. The whole family gathers around the table, sharing stories and laughter as we savor our favorite dishes. For some, it is a day spent watching football piled around the TV in the living room, cheering with enthusiasm. Others may picture children running and playing out in the yard, enjoying the crisp autumn air.

Thanksgiving, a time traditionally dedicated to family gatherings, can be especially tough for a child in foster care, as they may feel like an outsider amidst foster families. The holiday season can serve as a reminder of the family and community the child has lost. Establishing holiday traditions can be a challenging endeavor for these children, as they are constantly uprooted from one home to another; surrounded by unfamiliar environments and faces.

Being placed in a home with unfamiliar customs and traditions can create feelings of awkwardness and discomfort. However, it is important to acknowledge that a placement with a foster family, family friend, or an extended relative can still offer a safe and supportive space for a child to spend the holiday season. While it may not be the same as being with their biological family, these placements can provide a sense of stability and care during a time of heightened emotions.

Efforts should be made to ensure that foster families and caregivers are sensitive to the unique experiences and emotions that these children may be facing during the holiday season. By creating an inclusive and understanding environment, foster families can help alleviate feelings of isolation and make the holidays a more meaningful and positive experience for these young individuals.

Involving a child in the holiday preparations can help alleviate their anxiety. It is crucial to recognize that foster children may feel an absence from family during this time. By acknowledging their feelings and ensuring that they are not ignored, we can make them feel valued. It is important to let them know their presence is something to be thankful for and that they have a special place at the table. This will remind each child that they are important and that they matter.

It is important to acknowledge and address the challenges that children in foster care may encounter during the holiday season. By providing them with a safe and supportive environment, we can help mitigate their feelings of loss and displacement and ensure that they are able to experience joy and belonging during this time of the year. I encourage you to go the extra mile and make this holiday season full of positive memories for the children in your care.

**Thanksgiving, a time traditionally dedicated to family gatherings, can be especially tough for a child in foster care.**

# Love Changes Lives.

"How priceless is your unfailing love, O God!  
People take refuge in the shadow of your wings."  
— Psalm 36:7



## Broadmoor RefreshHer Group Prays for Residents...

The RefreshHer group of Broadmoor Baptist Church has committed to praying for our residents! Members of the group received handprints drawn and cut out by LBCH residents. The ladies are praying regularly for the person whose handprint they received. We are grateful for the commitment of these ladies. There is nothing greater than the power or prayer! Thank you.



**Kameron May**  
Foster Care  
& Adoption Specialist





# Connect 1 Child Ministry is Ready to Equip Churches to Help Children Without a Home..

This past year, we introduced the inaugural Connect 1 Child Foster Care & Adoption Louisiana Tour to assist churches in answering God's call to help those in need. We had the privilege to travel to numerous churches and meet people from all areas of the state. Aside from the joy of connecting with people, we have been deeply moved by the efforts taking place in Louisiana Baptist churches to demonstrate God's love to those in need.

The Louisiana Foster Care System continues to face an urgent demand for foster parents, as well as support for these parents, children, and biological parents. We stress to everyone we encounter that each person has the ability to contribute in some way. While we understand that not everyone feels called to become a foster parent, as it requires a special calling from God and is undeniably one of the most challenging responsibilities, there are still plenty of ways to support the foster community.

First and foremost, prayer plays a crucial role in supporting those involved in the foster care system. Additionally, volunteering as a mentor or providing practical assistance such as meals or organizing birthday parties are meaningful contributions. There are countless opportunities for individuals and churches to get involved. By seeking God's guidance and acting, you and your church will experience immeasurable blessings.

We are excited to announce dates for our 2024 Connect 1 Child Foster Care & Adoption Louisiana Tour. We would love to visit your church and discuss how you can support foster parents, children, and biological parents either independently or by partnering with other churches in your community.

Schedule a date for us to visit your church at [connect1child.com](http://connect1child.com)! Your participation will change lives!



## 2024 TOUR DATES:

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



Sign Up Today!



[connect1child.com](http://connect1child.com)



## Church to Table — Fall Food Roundup is a Wrap...

*Thank you Louisiana Baptists!*



From Louisiana Baptist churches to the dining tables of the Louisiana Baptist Children's Home... that's the path of the nutritious food that fills the bellies of hungry boys and girls every day at your Children's Home.

Through our annual food drive, Fall Food Roundup, Louisiana Baptists have provided the majority of the food needed annually to feed the children and families in our care for decades.

With 345 pick-up locations at churches across the state, it takes our cottage dads and other staff members about five weeks to make all the stops. What a blessing it is to see the trucks roll in loaded to the brim with groceries from loving churches.

Once the food arrives here at our campus, it takes many hands to get it unloaded and organized on the shelves. We are grateful for all the extra staff and volunteers who joined in during the roundup this year to help get the job done.

THANK YOU Louisiana Baptists for once again putting dinner on the table for children and families in need! God bless.



# 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.*

**September 1 - October 17, 2023**

PAIGE D. ADAMS Bethel BC Youth	MARGIE BOYD Bob & Mary Nelson	JACK COUSSONS, M.D. Mabel Coussons	Thomas & Jamie Wiley	LUCY JANOUSH William Bart Sperry
ZANDER ADAMS Pamela Pickett Johnson	VESTA BOYET Karen Ferland & Caryl Boyet	CALVIN CRAIG Bob & Alla Bush	DONNIE GENE FRANKLIN Brian & Randy Russell & Employees of RML	JAMES HUTZLER & JOHN HUTZLER Sandra Bolton
RICHARD KENT ALBRITTON Jerome & Nancy Vasocu	FBC, Ringgold Shelly Barone	SUZANNE CRAIG Patricia Roberson	CLARK FREEMAN Lake Lilly BC, Jonesville	ALICE ROSALEA (COBB) JOHNSON Marilyn (Johnson) Cardy
RAYMOND CECIL ALFORD Dorothy Russell	Gerald & Sharon Staffel	LOYD CRAIN Dr. Kevin L. Kilpatrick	Kelly Moore	ANN LEE JOHNSON Rebecca J. Castles
VERNA ALLEN Valentine G. Dyson	JIM BOYLAN Betty J. Stuckey	CHARLES CROWDER Florence Crowder	MARCUS RUTH FREY Andy & Anna Payne	KEITH WAYNE JOHNSON Carla Costigan
M&M J. C. ANDERSON, SR. M&M Jack Anderson	NOVIS BRADSHAW Sandy & Boyd Parker	GARY CULVER Dolora & Tommy Gregory	PEGGY GAFFORD Karen C. Clifton	FRENCH JONES Carol & Mike Costello
MALCOLM ANDERSON Linnye & Shawn Daily	BILLIE & RALPH BRAME Paula & Guy Brame	JAMES CURRY Marilyn Cooper Loftin	DARLENE GAUDET Glynn & Dorene Billiot	SELEST V. KENDALL Dean & Roxie Koonce
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DEBORAH & DARREN ARMISTEAD Albert Sidney Armistead	MEMORY JEAN BRITT FBC, Newellton	WAYNE & PATSY CAUSEY WINIFRED & VIVIAN DAY Win & Beverly Day	JOHN THOMAS "TOMMY" GIST, JR. Mike & Beverly Stone	JUDGE GRAYDON KELLY KITCHENS, JR. Paul & Cheryl Kitchens
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FAYE BOWERS Frierson BC	CHARLES CAMP Homebound Ministry	WILLIE HADLEY John & Wanda Rollins	CAROLE HALL Bud, Virginia, & Chad Bogan	



# Honors...

September 1 - October 17, 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.*

Janice Mercer  
ROSE MCCANDLISH  
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DOT ROBERTSON  
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Robertson  
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Sandy & Boyd Parker  
SONYA ROBINSON  
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TC ROGERS  
Trina Wagley  
V. J. & CLIFTON ROGERS  
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Newt & Linda Briggs  
JOANN YOUNGBLOOD  
Bill & Mary Ligon

## Memorial and Honor Gifts Donation Form...

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ a gift in \_\_\_\_\_ Honor of or \_\_\_\_\_ Memory of (check one)

Please Notify: (Honoree/Relative) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Given By: (Donor's Name) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

\*Credit Card Info: Account No: \_\_\_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_\_\_ MC \_\_\_\_\_ AmX \_\_\_\_\_ Discover \_\_\_\_\_

\*Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ \*Code: \_\_\_\_\_ \*Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Required for credit card processing

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[www.lbch.org](http://www.lbch.org)



Send me your FREE  
Personal Estate  
Planner

Send me info on how  
to become a monthly  
sponsor





## Honor Your Loved Ones With a 2023 Children's Home Christmas Honor Card!

Honor your loved ones this Christmas with an honor card from Louisiana Baptist Children's Home & Family Ministries. Not only will you put a smile on your loved one's face, you'll put a smile on the face of a child in need.

Simply send your honor gift to the Children's Home by December 8th along with a list of names and addresses of those you would like to honor. A 2023 Children's Home Christmas Honor Card will be sent to the honorees on your list in time for Christmas. Proceeds from the cards go towards the daily care of the children at your Louisiana Baptist Children's Home & Family Ministries.

## 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  
318.343.2244 • www.lbch.org

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:jonann@lbch.org) or LBCH, PO Box 4196, Monroe, LA 71211.**

