

HomeNews

A PUBLICATION OF YOUR LOUISIANA BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME & FAMILY MINISTRIES



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WORDS FROM HOME

Serving at LBCH Has Been An Honor

As I prepare to retire from LBCH, my heart is filled with gratitude, humility, and praise to God for the privilege of serving here over the past 22 years. To walk alongside children, families, churches, staff, supporters, and volunteers across Louisiana has been one of the greatest honors of my life.

Over the past two decades, I have witnessed the faithfulness of God lived out through this ministry in countless ways. Through residential child care to residential family care for homeless mothers and their children, the Children's Home has remained a place of refuge, stability, and hope. I have seen children arrive carrying deep wounds—fear, loss, and uncertainty—and leave knowing they are loved, valued, and hopeful about the future. Time and again, God has proven that His healing presence can transform even the most broken circumstances.

I've seen how our statewide foster care program has opened doors for Louisiana Baptist families to step into the ministry of caring for children in crisis. These families have answered God's call with courage and compassion, offering safety and love when it is needed most.

Our Granberry Counseling Centers have provided Christ-centered counseling, offering healing and restoration to individuals, couples, and families across the state. The Minister Care program has quietly and faithfully come alongside pastors and their families, offering support, encouragement, and renewal during difficult and uncertain days.

The Women's Learning Center has held a very special place in our hearts. Tonya and I would like to express our deep gratitude for the opportunity she had to serve as

the first Executive Director of the Women's Learning Center, offering her leadership as a full-time volunteer. Watching women grow in confidence, skills, faith, and purpose—often after years of hardship—has been a profound joy for both of us.

The new Compassion Center has already become a powerful expression of Christ's love in action—meeting tangible needs by providing food, clothing, household items, and other life essentials. I've seen dignity restored and hope rekindled through a simple act of kindness.

The greatest blessings, however, have been seeing lives changed by the power of the gospel. Every time a child trusted Christ, every time someone found hope in the Lord, we thanked God for allowing us to be a part of those life-changing moments.

Finally, I am thankful for you. None of this ministry would be possible without your faithful support. Thank you for trusting us, praying for us, and sacrificially giving so children and families could experience the love of Jesus in tangible ways. Your generosity has helped—often in ways you may never fully know this side of heaven.

As Tonya and I step into this new season, we do so confident that God will continue His good work through the Children's Home. There are still children and families who need to know they are loved, who need to know that someone cares, and who need an introduction to the Savior. So I want to thank you now for your continued support of the ministry in the future. God bless you all.

PRAYER CALENDAR...

Allen February 1

Faith February 2

Lily February 3

Jamarium February 4

Raiden February 5

Ladarrius February 6

Louis February 7

Michael February 8

Miyanna February 9

Tiffany February 10

Chaterrika February 11

Amenia February 12

Camoni February 13

Hannah February 14

Sana February 15

Selena February 16

Florene February 17

Elysia February 18

Edrick February 19

Eyan February 20

Cassie February 21

Carietta February 22

Camillia February 23

Bryson February 24

Chelsea February 25

Keleya February 26

Lillian February 27

Asher February 28



BIRTHDAYS...

Amenia February 6

Chelsea February 17

Cypress February 26

Perry Hancock, PhD
President & CEO



• 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 •

Jason Lupo, Chairman
Bob Bozeman, Vice-Chairman
Jodie Naylor Secretary

Richard Bullock	Rikki Permenter
Brian Craddock	Johnny Smith
David Denton	Diane Uzzle
Mandi Guillory	Joe Weaver
Jason Hoychick	Lynn Wilson
Jennifer Lane	

Kirk Jones, LBC President
Steve Horn, LBC Executive Director
Perry Hancock, LBCH President & CEO

Matt Coker, LBCH Vice President of Development & PR
Julie Adcock, LBCH Director of Communications



CAMPUS SPOTLIGHT:

HomePlace Cottage Manager



Deborah Johnson — Irma's Place Cottage

What led me to become a Cottage Manager was my love for God and His children. I was in a season of waiting, anticipating the next thing God had for me. When I learned about this incredible opportunity to be used by Him to help mothers and their children feel loved, safe, and secure, I knew this was the new thing He had prepared. I was all in.

I've now served as a Cottage Manager for 9 years. Over the years, many have come through the doors of Irma's Cottage and many remain a part of my life. Once you become someone these mothers and children can trust, someone they feel safe with, you become part of their story forever.

Before this, I was involved in women's prison ministry offering support that extended beyond their time in jail. We helped families, made sure children had gifts for Christmas, and walked alongside moms as they rebuilt their lives after incarceration. I've also served families in crisis within the church. I understand the challenges life can bring, but I also know that God is a God of restoration.

There are so many beautiful stories of transformation. I've witnessed God's hand move in miraculous ways in the lives of the mothers and children at Irma's Cottage. The greatest miracle of all is always salvation—seeing a mom or child give their heart and life to Christ. I've seen moms earn their HiSET, purchase a car, enroll in college, buy their first home, and even pay a year of rent in advance. Many leave here with enough savings to truly begin again.

I am deeply thankful for the opportunity to be a part of such a life-giving ministry. I get to use my own journey—everything God has healed in me—to walk alongside these families. I offer hope and healing, praying that each mother experiences full restoration. I often tell them: in many ways, I am more like them than I'm not. But what they see now is the healed and restored me. This is what God can do when we allow His love to work in our lives.

To every child, I say: You are a child of God. Never forget that. He has a perfect plan for your life. Trust Him always. And if you ever need me, I will be here. I love you.

I hope my time here has made a difference that lasts into eternity. My prayer is that every mother and child who passes through these doors knows who they are in Christ—and believes they can do anything they set their heart to. I hope a foundation of overcoming is laid deep in their hearts.

Many former residents still reach out. When someone knows they can trust you—with the good, the bad, or when they simply need advice or a listening ear—they stay connected. I'm close to many of them. For those who've never truly had a family, trust means everything. Once they know your love is real, they'll always know you're someone they can call. Sometimes it's just to catch up. Sometimes, they just need a soft, safe place to land.

Bread, Salsa, and New Beginnings at The Women's Learning Center

For me, there is no greater joy than taking care of family and friends through food—especially when we get to cook together. This past December, that is exactly how we wrapped up a wonderful year at the Women's Learning Center (WLC).

Often, when I share the successes of our women, I focus on the "big" milestones: the hard work required to earn a high school diploma, completing career certificates, or the excitement of securing new employment. These are the vital foundations of our mission. However, they aren't the whole story.

BUILDING A FOUNDATION FOR LIFE

In addition to our career services, we believe in equipping our women with practical life skills and digital literacy. Over the last year, our students have grown in incredible ways. They have:

- Mastered design projects on Canva.
- Developed professional typing skills.
- Learned to set SMART goals.
- Learned to establish healthy boundaries.

THE HEART OF THE HOME

Our most recent study focused on the art of managing a home. One of our own students stepped into a leadership role to teach the group how to make homemade bread, custom seasonings, and budget-friendly recipes. It was a beautiful lesson in how

to save money while nourishing a family with healthy, whole foods. We put these skills to the test during our Christmas party with a final project: Homemade Salsa. The room was filled with laughter and the smell of fresh ingredients as each student prepared two jars—one to keep for her family and one to give away as a Christmas gift. The women gained a new recipe for home and an economic gift she can share with her friends and family.

EQUIPPED AND LOVED

These skills are more than just cooking or typing; they are about confidence and stewardship. Our prayer is that every woman who attends the WLC leaves knowing she is deeply loved by God and fully equipped to manage her home and family with joy.

Thank you for being part of this journey with us and for helping these women gain the skills they need for a brighter future!

Alisha Clark
Executive Director,
Women's Learning Center



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

HOMEBUILDERS

Matt Coker
Director of Development
& Public Relations



God Provides Through Your Faithfulness

Through our new ministry, Bridges of Hope, we provide short-term care for foster children placed by the state who reside on the Children's Home campus for 60 days or less. These children arrive while the state works toward a long-term solution, and we serve as a temporary, loving placement during a very uncertain season of their lives.

When many of these children arrive, their only possessions are the clothes they are wearing. Everything else is often left behind at their previous residence. To meet this need, we maintain a room on campus stocked with clothes, pajamas, shoes, and other essentials for boys and girls of all ages and sizes. This allows us to care for children immediately—whether they arrive at 3:00 p.m. or 3:00 a.m.

Over the past several months, a large number of children have come through the Bridges of Hope program, significantly depleting our clothing supply. One of our cottage parents, Mrs. Lynette, shared this concern with me, and together we committed to pray that God would stir the hearts of a church or group to help meet this need.

Less than 24 hours later, I received a call from a gentleman who serves at one of our partner churches in South Louisiana. He said, "Matt, our men's group has been praying about where God would have us serve, and I am convinced that we need to do something for the Louisiana Baptist Children's Home. Do you have any needs we could help with?"

What a powerful reminder of God's faithfulness! After sharing our list of needs, our friends from South Louisiana immediately began gathering

items to restock our clothing closet on campus. We prayed here, and they prayed more than four and a half hours away—yet God heard and answered. This is just one example of how God provides through the faithfulness of His people, allowing us to offer love, care, and hope in Christ to children and families in need.

Stories like this are made possible because of friends like you who give and serve sacrificially through Louisiana Baptist Children's Home and Family Ministries. Thank you for your faithfulness in meeting the needs of vulnerable children and families.

We would also like to extend a special thank-you to our monthly donors, affectionately known as our Monthly Hope Builders. Over the coming months, we will be mailing a special thank-you gift to each of our Hope Builders as a small expression of our gratitude.

You can become a Monthly Hope Builder by scheduling a recurring gift online at LBCH.org or by scanning the QR code on the next page and scheduling a recurring gift. If you prefer to give by mail, please contact Sarah by calling our office at 318.343.2244 or by emailing sarah@lbch.org, indicating that you would like to become a Monthly Hope Builder. She will then send you designated Hope Builder envelopes.

A monthly gift of any amount helps us continue meeting needs and changing lives. Thank you for investing in Kingdom work through your faithful support of Louisiana Baptist Children's Home and Family Ministries.

Offering Hope Through the Love of Jesus Christ

Cindy Smith
Executive Director of Family Services



Talk about the Lord calling you when you least expect it. My name is Cindy Smith, and I am currently serving as the Executive Director of Children and Family Services. This is not a path I anticipated, but it aligns fully with one of my deepest aspirations when I entered college at the age of twenty-seven. In many ways, social work chose me. As Proverbs 16:9 reminds us, "The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps." Looking back, I can see clearly how the Lord guided mine.

As I settled into what I believed would be my final professional chapter—retiring as a Mental Health Therapist—I was offered the opportunity to work with the Louisiana Baptist Children's Home. Being hired as the Associate Director, with the intent of stepping into the Executive Director role upon my dear friend's retirement, was never something I imagined for myself. But God! I am deeply thankful and honored to serve in a ministry setting where His work is at the center of all we do.

Since coming to LBCH, I have been honored to assist in opening our new *Bridges of Hope* program. This cottage serves children who are in need of immediate placement, providing a safe and nurturing interim setting before they transition to a more permanent foster home. One of our primary goals has been to help keep sibling groups together during this critical time.

Recently, we were blessed with the opportunity to place four siblings—two boys and two girls. The boys were placed first, and shortly thereafter we were able to reunite them with their sisters. The joy and excitement they experienced in being together again was truly moving. Family means everything to these children, regardless of the challenges and experiences they have endured.

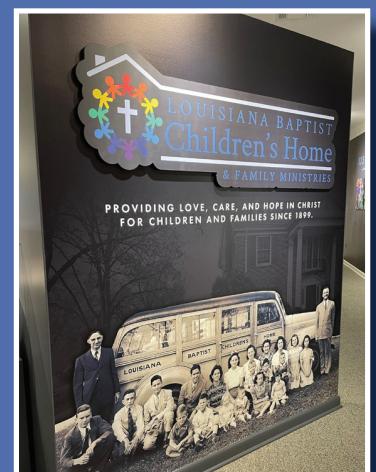
This moment was a powerful reminder that God is always at work.

Helping others has been a priority for as long as I can remember. My relationship with God—and sharing His love with others—remains central in my life. Social work placed me in roles that allowed me to live out both my innate desire to support individuals in need and my commitment to reflect Christ's love. Ministry happens wherever you are, and this profession has given me a meaningful avenue to do just that.

I am looking forward to what the Lord has for us in this new journey, always keeping in mind our mission statement: to provide love, care, and a positive Christian witness for children and families in need. My journey has taken me from a career in hospice to a career devoted to working with families and offering hope through the love of Jesus Christ.

Schedule A Children's Home 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

YOUR Monthly GIFT Provides HOPE for Hurting CHILDREN



January, 2026

Dear Friend of Children,

Every child who has been neglected, abused, or abandoned needs a "HopeBuilder."

You can be a HopeBuilder! Through our monthly sponsor program called HopeBuilders, you can help rebuild the foundation of trust and hope in the lives of hurting children like Kayley who came to us from place of extreme neglect.

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.

As a HopeBuilder, you can be sure that your monthly gifts are going to meet the essential needs that directly impact the children we serve like food, clothing, housing, medical care, education, and counseling.

Jeremiah 29:11 is the foundational verse for our HopeBuilders ministry: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." This is without a doubt the verse we most often share with our children. They not only need to experience God's unconditional love, but they also need to know He has plans to give them hope and a future in Christ.

Recurring monthly HopeBuilder gifts can be set up and made simply and securely with Visa, MasterCard, Discover Card, American Express, Debit Cards, and E-Checks directly from our GIVE NOW page at www.lbch.org. Or you may give by check and simply put HopeBuilder on the memo line and mail to PO Box 4196, Monroe, LA 71211.

Thank you for caring!


Perry Hancock, Ph.D.

YES, I want to help children with a monthly 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 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



GIVE NOW

Become a Monthly HOPEBuilder!



Monthly 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 Monthly HopeBuilder program gives YOU the opportunity to be a hero to children in need.

When you become a "Monthly 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 Monthly 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 Monthly HopeBuilder on the memo line and mail to LBCH, PO Box 4196, Monroe, LA 71211. For more information, contact sarah@lbch.org.

A LEGACY OF COMPASSION

Dr. Perry Hancock to Retire After 22 Years of Faithful Leadership at LBCHFM

Dr. Perry Hancock and Tonya Hancock's 22 Years of Faithful Leadership at LBCHFM for more than two decades, the words hope, love, and compassion have defined the ministry of Louisiana Baptist Children's Home & Family Ministries (LBCHFM) through the faithful leadership of Dr. Perry Hancock. As Dr. Hancock moves into retirement, his 22-year legacy reflects a deep commitment to providing Christ-centered care for children and families across Louisiana and beyond.

Since Dr. Hancock was appointed President & CEO in 2003, LBCHFM has experienced remarkable growth—both in physical expansion and ministry reach. What began as a residential children's home has grown to include family ministry, meeting needs ranging from foster services to housing and international orphan care. Through every phase of growth, one guiding conviction has remained constant: providing love, care, and hope in Christ to children and families in need.

Under Dr. Hancock's leadership, LBCHFM embraced strategic expansion to address emerging needs while remaining anchored in its mission. The ministry's name change in 2008 to Louisiana Baptist Children's Home & Family Ministries reflected that broader vision, signaling an intentional focus on serving not only children, but entire families in crisis.

In 2010, HomePlace, the residential ministry for homeless children and their mothers, was founded. The HomePlace program offers families a safe, caring environment where they can build confidence and learn everyday life skills while preparing to transition from the Children's Home to independent living off campus, with continued guidance and support along the way.

Mrs. Tonya Hancock is the founder of Christian Women's Job Corps, now known as the Women's Learning Center on the Children's Home campus. Tonya has served diligently in the ministries of LBCHFM throughout their 22-year tenure. She often worked full-time hours as a volunteer to ensure the success of The Women's Learning Center. The WLC provides no-cost training and tests for the HiSET, as well as many other job skills, which help women find careers that support their families.

Over the years, the growth of the campus has reflected the growth of the ministry. New spaces like Maggie's Place, Irma's Place, Mary's Place, Providence Apartments, Praise Apartments, and the Compassion Center have become more than just buildings—they are places of safety, healing, and renewed hope for the families they serve. Each project reflected a practical response to real needs, whether housing for single mothers, support for foster children, or care for vulnerable families navigating difficult seasons. At the same time, program expansion reshaped how LBCHFM served across the state. Ministries such as Home Place, Christian Women's Job Corps, Compassion for Kids, and the Minister Care Program extended care well beyond campus gates.

In 2011, the Children's Home began serving state-placed foster children on campus. Through this partnership facilitated by Dr. Hancock and DCFS, LBCHFM strengthened its role in foster care, offering stability and support for children placed in temporary care while long-term plans were pursued.

Internationally, the ministry's reach expanded through Orphan's Embrace and partnerships in Haiti, reflecting a global commitment to orphan care grounded in biblical compassion. Locally, initiatives like the Mobile Pregnancy Care Center brought life-affirming care directly into communities, ensuring help was available where it was needed most.

Throughout this season of growth, Tonya Hancock's influence has quietly but powerfully woven into the ministry's fabric. Known for her heart for hospitality, encouragement, and relational care, she embodied the very concept of home—welcoming, nurturing, and rooted in Christ. Her support of Dr. Hancock and her presence across campus life reinforced the belief that ministry is not only about programs and buildings, but about people and relationships.

Those who have served alongside the Hancocks often describe their leadership as steady, prayerful, and mission-driven. Decisions were guided not by trends, but by a desire to honor God and steward resources faithfully for the sake of children and families. Growth was never pursued for its own sake, but as a response to God's leading and the needs He placed before the ministry.

In 2024, LBCHFM celebrated its 125th anniversary—a milestone that underscored both the ministry's rich history and its continued relevance. That same spirit of legacy and vision continues into 2025 with new initiatives such as Bridges of Hope and Friendship House, ensuring that LBCHFM remains a place where children find safety, families find support, and lives are transformed by the love of Christ.

After 22 years of service, Dr. Perry Hancock and Tonya Hancock leave behind more than a list of accomplishments. They leave a living legacy of compassion—one built on faith, obedience, and perseverance. Through their leadership, countless children have found stability, families have discovered hope, and a ministry has been strengthened for generations to come. Many have come to know Jesus as Savior.

Their story is a reminder that when God's people are faithful, He builds far more than programs and facilities. He builds homes—places where healing begins, and hope takes root.



HANCOCK MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS...

2003	Elected President & CEO	2012	Calhoun Activity Center renovated
2004	New Commissary/Food Services Building completed	2013	Foster Care Ministry Expansion - Connect1Child
2008	Name change to Louisiana Baptist Children's Home & Family Ministries	2016	HomePlace Cottage completed - Maggie's Place
2008	Brenda Hall Abney Children's Learning Center completed	2016	HomePlace transitional apartments completed - Providence Apartments
2008	Pathfinders Program for residents aging out of care established	2018	Compassion for Kids Ministry Established
2010	HomePlace Ministry for homeless children and moms established	2019	HomePlace Cottage completed - Irma's Place
2010	Christian Women's Job Corps of Monroe began (Now Women's Learning Center)	2021	New gymnasium and swimming pool completed - The RAC
2011	Partnership with Louisiana Department of Children & Family Services to serve foster children on campus	2022	Minister Care Program established
2011	Launched Mobile Pregnancy Care Center	2022	HomePlace Cottage completed - Mary's Place
2012	International Orphan Care/Orphan's Embrace/Partnership with LA Reach Haiti Established	2023	HomePlace transitional apartments completed - Praise Apartments
		2025	The Compassion Center completed
		2025	Bridges of Hope/Friendship House opened for short-term foster children



Providing love, care, and hope in Christ to children and families in need

Compassion for Kids Update

NUMBERS LIKE THESE ARE ANYTHING BUT BORING!

2026 has begun in high gear for Compassion For Kids! Our Food Distribution Program continues to bring in new clients each week. These are families and children who are in desperate need of food assistance. Our Ministry Partner Program is also running full steam ahead! One big emphasis in January is providing diapers for our partners who distribute in the community. In January we will distribute over 20,000 diapers!

As 2026 begins, I thought it would be worth taking a look back to see the impact Compassion For Kids has had since opening in May. Yes, "numbers" can be boring. Statistics can seem mundane, but these numbers are anything but boring, and I think you'll agree!

Since opening in May 2025 (and as of January 2026), Compassion For Kids has had a significant impact in the lives of children and families in Louisiana, including the following:

- Diapers – 86,892
- Shoes – 5,000+ pairs
- People Served – 20,000+
- Food Boxes – 13,449
- Pounds of Food – 520,000+
- Gospel Tracts – 5,000+

Compassion For Kids has provided life essentials to 31 Ministry Partners across the state, impacting children and families in 12 cities/towns and 3 schools.

This is a volunteer-intensive ministry, especially in the weekly food distribution program. Since May, over 150 volunteers have served for a total of approximately 6,000 volunteer hours. In addition to this, our staff and volunteers have had countless opportunities to share the love of Christ firsthand with clients who have needed prayer, encouragement, or even just a hug.

Being the hands and feet of Jesus through this ministry is so humbling, but it also comes with a great responsibility, and we are so thankful for Louisiana Baptists who support Compassion For Kids through giving, volunteering, and support! We are only getting started!



The Great Physician Trumps The Incredible Hulk

When I was a young boy, my grandmother's church in Gueydan, LA was having their yearly Bible School week. I was invited to go and ended up staying with her 2 widowed sisters who lived across from the church. Although a little leery about venturing out away from my mother, I was her "baby" after all, I accepted the challenge and went.

The day of Bible School was fun, filled with activities, games, snacks and "sweet little old ladies" telling me how cute I was and how excited they were that I attended. What more could a young boy ask for? The adventure had begun and I loved it! I loved it that is, right up until the sun began to set and bedtime crept in on us. I was to sleep with one of my aunts in her painting room. During the day she toured me through her room as I admired her future masterpieces, allowing me to try my hand at the brush and canvas. All seemed well as we covered up, said our prayers and told each other goodnight.

Before I could drift off to sleep however, the room suddenly changed and came alive! Fear ran down into my bones as I looked over towards the wall and with the faint light peaking through the roll-up shade, I could see the fist of the Incredible Hulk! Oh my! What was I to do? Plagued with fear I lay there with tears silently streaming down towards my ear. Frozen with fear, I dared not make a sound as to let him know

I was there. I could not dare let my aunt know that her "cute little man" was paralyzed with fear. I only had one option, so I gently pulled the covers over my head, prayed desperately and drifted off to sleep. Later in the stillness of the night I was awakened. I calmly looked over towards the wall only to find the Hulk's fist still there, waiting to pounce on me. My childhood hero had now become my arch enemy. I could no longer find my courage or hide my fear. I sat up and with all I had, let out a wail that could have woken the neighbors. As I sat up in bed sobbing, my aunt turned on the light and comforted me the best she could with no idea what had happened.

As the light shone through and dispelled the darkness, I could see the Hulk's fist had faded away

Kevin Richard
Director
Granberry Counseling
Centers



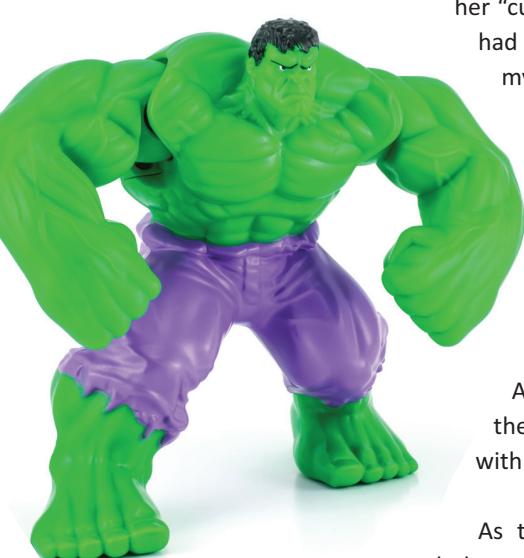
and was replaced by my aunt's painting easel and canvas with a sheet draped over it to protect her masterpiece. Oh, the shame and discouragement as the words of my older brother rang out; "you little sissy!" "you little baby!" "you little fraidy cat!" I had now adopted those words as my very own "inner critic." All lies that tormented my deepest being. I pitched a fit to go home and would not stay another night. A grand adventure was ruined by my inaccurate beliefs with no one I felt safe to talk about it with. You see, if I dared tell my aunts why I was upset, they would tell my mom, my mom would tell my dad, and somehow my brother would find out, use it against me and expose me to the world as the little coward I really was. I could not allow that to happen. I could not let word get out! My only option was utter silence and bear the burden alone for many years.

I don't remember if I ever told my aunts why I was upset that night before they passed away. The interesting thing is, sometimes we find it much easier to talk to a stranger whom we have no emotional attachment with or any expectation of judgement. In that moment, truth would have set me free, but somehow it was too dangerous, too demanding, too fearful. Praise be to God that through the years I have found safe people to talk with that helped me "dispel the darkness" of beliefs that did not line up with God's truth for my life and set me free.

At Granberry Counseling Centers, we have helped countless hurting people unpack the clutter of their inner critic and untrue core beliefs that cause turmoil and unrest in their lives, relationships and their walk with the Lord. Our team of professionals meet each client with empathy and understanding. We are determined to create a safe place for people like you and me to share our struggles, bring them to the Great Physician, allow the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us into all truth, and experience that moment when we realize it's the truth of God that sets us free!

Our mission is to provide affordable, professional, Christian counseling to individuals, couples, and families across Louisiana.

**To find a Granberry location near you,
call 877-345-7411**



Jonann Byargeon
Director of HomePlace



Highlights from HomePlace

Welcome to 2026 and the excitement of a new year! I remember when my dad was teaching me to drive. He told me always "keep your eyes on the road ahead but you should always look at your rear-view mirror to see what is behind you." Good words for life.

HomePlace employs the same words. January is a time of looking back and evaluating. The evaluation guides our future planning for HomePlace. Also, it is a great reminder that HomePlace makes an impact on the lives of our mothers and their children.

Here are a few of those achievements:

1. **Welcomed new families.**
2. **Staff volunteered at the Compassion Center.**
3. **Said goodbyes to families as they began their new independent lives in the community.**
4. **Celebration of birthdays for moms and their children.**
5. **Moms earned their high school diploma at the Women's Learning Center! Thank you, Alisha, and staff.**
6. **Other moms successfully complete work toward earning their high school diploma.**
7. **Other moms doing college course work.**
8. **Individuals following through with believers' baptism.**
9. **Moms received their driver's license and purchased cars.**
10. **Employment and job promotions.**
11. **Money saved and debts paid.**
12. **Families reunited.**

Each achievement is a major step toward the building and rebuilding of their lives as a family. HomePlace staff guide the moms in the process. They celebrate victories, encourage them, and sit by their side during the disappointments they may encounter.

The staff have an incredible opportunity to "do life" and love on these families each day. A simple question such as "where were you this time last year" can make all the difference. When asked this question one mom, simply said "bouncing around and doing drugs. I didn't have my child." Looking back was difficult but as she looked at her life today, she smiled. Her entire perspective changed.

A new year has great opportunities and challenges for everyone, but it is important to remember where we have been and continue to move forward. Pray for the HomePlace ministry and staff as we move forward to a more effective ministry.

For more information on the HomePlace Ministry, please visit www.lbch.org or call us at 318.343.4445.

MEMORIALS

November 21, 2025 - January 20, 2026

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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November 21, 2025 - January 20, 2026

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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 11 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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