

# Spotlight

SUMMER 2015

METHODIST  
HOME FOR  
CHILDREN



Meet  
Dylan  
&  
Nancy

## Spotlight on the Family™

Published semi-annually by  
Methodist Home for Children

***In service to God, our mission is to build upon the social, physical, emotional, and spiritual strengths of children, youth, and families, and to affirm their worth.***

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# Heroes Among Us

In January 1838, Ralph Waldo Emerson gave a lecture at the Masonic Hall in Boston on the nature of a hero. He labeled his time a “decorous age” and worried that style was prized more than substance. His goal was to encourage the audience to dare to do great things and not be bound by convention or restrained by how others might react.

One of his lines from this lecture has been quoted frequently by politicians, pastors, coaches and teachers: “A hero is no braver than an ordinary man, but he is brave five minutes longer.”

In this issue of *Spotlight* you will find stories of ordinary people who have done, are doing and yet will do extraordinary things. They show great courage in opening their hearts and their homes. They are not merely brave at the beginning, but brave each and every minute children and youth are in their care.

The sudden, dramatic act of bravery is the one that is celebrated and for which medals are awarded. The determined day-in, day-out



excellence of our staff and foster families is often unseen and unsung. Yet it is, I am certain, the highest type of heroism that exists.

I encourage you to read on and celebrate with us these heroes.

Blessings,

Reverend Bruce E. Stanley  
President/CEO

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**ON THE COVER:** Dylan learns to ride a two-wheeler with help from his mother, Nancy.

Photo by Julie Williams Dixon

# News & Updates

## Jordan Center Getting Noticed

Senior U.S. education officials visited the Jordan Child & Family Enrichment Center in May to see for themselves how our inclusive classrooms serve children with varying developmental abilities and socioeconomic backgrounds. Roughly 35% of Jordan Center preschoolers are considered at risk because of family income or disability. But when they leave our 4-year-old classrooms, 100% of our children meet or exceed expectations for kindergarten readiness.



The Jordan Center's flower and herb garden was a point of interest for visiting education officials.

## The Right Treatment

Getting the right treatment quickly to a child entering the juvenile justice system can make the difference between a life spent productively or behind bars. That's why Methodist Home for Children, with its extensive record of treating juvenile offenders, has been chosen to open and operate two statewide assessment centers that will house and evaluate incoming juvenile offenders and connect them with the services they need (therapy,

counseling for substance abuse or mental health, educational/vocational training or other). Currently, youth are assessed in their home counties.

The new centers will open this year in Granville and Forsyth counties, serving ages 11 to 17. The goal is to improve and streamline the process of adjudicating youth—ultimately saving taxpayer money and reducing commitment of teenagers to secure facilities.

## The Importance of Life Skills

As an in-home therapist with Methodist Home for Children for the past 12 years, Julie Stone can tell you there's nothing easy about being a child caught up in the child welfare system. But it's not productive to blame or shame parents who may not have had good role models themselves. Read her column about teaching life skills at [bit.ly/JulieStone1](http://bit.ly/JulieStone1). ■



**Liquid Pleasure brought down the house again** at our Greenville benefit on May 28. We had a wonderful time and raised nearly \$40,000 for children in need! Special thanks to our guests, auction donors and sponsors: Ann Davis, Rev. Linda Taylor, Richlands United Methodist Church, Laura Dixon, Carla and Tommy Edwards, Minges Bottling Group, Jackie and Donald Taylor, SunEnergy 1 and Vidant Health.

# Baby Steps Forward

By Marion Blackburn

## Lilly reclaims lost childhood years.

**A**t the lowest, most miserable point of her childhood, Lilly was being sexually abused by a male relative. She wasn't going to school regularly, and she lived in a squalid home with her mother and various boyfriends, sometimes sleeping in the same bed with them. She was beaten in the head repeatedly by an older sibling. She was dressed inappropriately in high heels and makeup.

It was hellish. But it hadn't always been that way.

Lilly could remember a time when life was better—vaguely, she could recall a time when home was safe and her father was still alive. He'd died when she was 6, and by the time she was 10, she was in and out of foster homes.

At 12, she was in foster care for good, holding onto hopes for a “normal”

life. There'd be a time, she thought, when she'd have her own room, where she'd choose the color for her walls and the sheets on her bed.

**A** couple of counties away, Carla and Jeff were thinking about ways they could help a child in need. They'd been married five years but had no children. Carla is an elementary teacher with a strong maternal instinct and a growing frustration that she couldn't help children who needed more than tutoring or hugs—children who needed safe homes and loving parents.

As she talked about it with Jeff, the idea of adoption took shape and grew: “Here we are, a stable, loving couple, and I thought, why not us?”

In November 2012, Carla and Jeff became licensed foster parents through

Methodist Home for Children and they dreamed of adopting a child between the ages of 5 and 10.

Then came 12-year-old Lilly in June 2013.

Lilly arrived as a respite placement on a short break from another MHC home, and Carla and Jeff thought she'd stay for a week and then go back. But when they met her, they fell in love. They saw in her a sweetness that drew them close. Within a few days, Lilly says, she knew she wanted to stay.

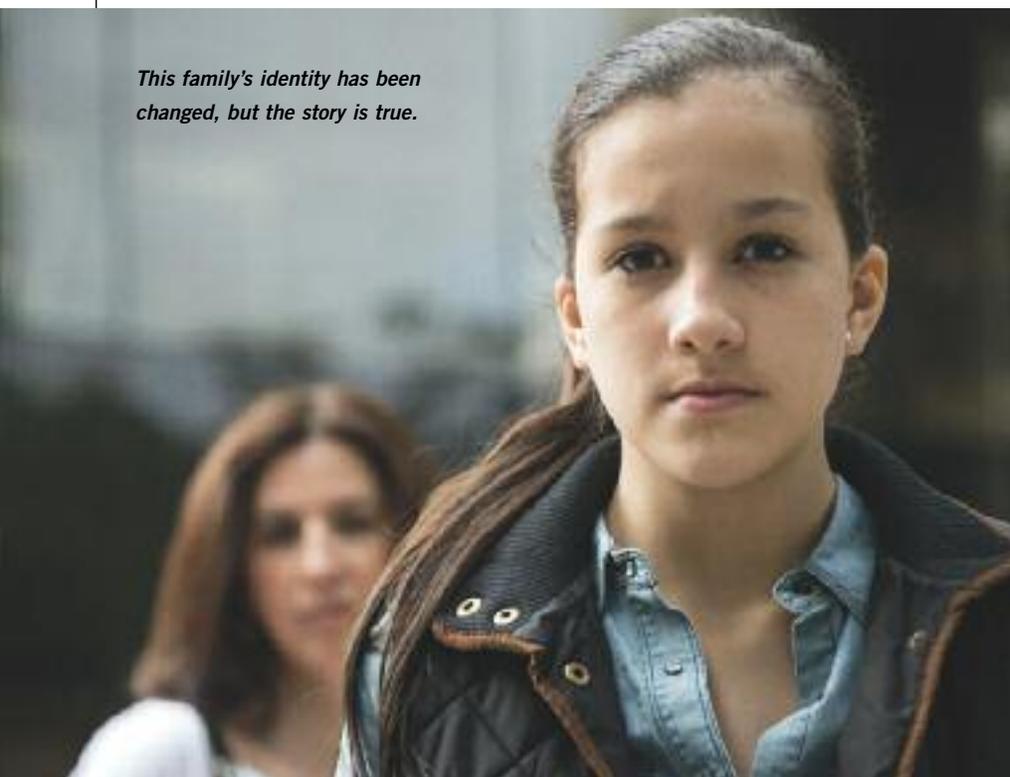
Carla and Jeff felt the same and they promised, when it was time for her to leave, that they'd ask to get her back in a long-term foster placement. They knew they couldn't assure Lilly it would all work out, but Carla sent her off with this reassurance: “If God wants you to come back, you will be back. And if not, He'll have something good for you.”

Lilly returned to them two months later, on Aug. 12, 2013, and her birth mother relinquished parental rights so that Carla and Jeff could adopt. Lilly became part of their family on Oct. 8, 2014.

**B**ut even with an ideal placement, adoption is not a happily-ever-after ending for a victim of child abuse and neglect. Lilly works with a therapist who specializes in childhood trauma and sexual abuse, and she made the decision to cut ties with her biological mother (see “Taking a Stand”). It was a tough choice, but in releasing that relationship, Lilly was able to share details from her life that Jeff and Carla had not known. “It's hard for us, even today,” Carla says.

Lilly has been working to build self-confidence since her adoption.

*This family's identity has been changed, but the story is true.*





“We love her so much that her pain became our pain. It was shocking.”

The family moves forward in “baby steps,” encouraging Lilly as she makes up for those childhood years lost to abuse, Carla says. She is being evaluated for possible neurological damage from the beatings to her head. Although she was diagnosed as developmentally delayed in

3rd grade and could barely read at the age of 12, she’s making progress in school with the help of a tutor. As she wrapped up 7th grade, her reading had improved to a 6th-grade level and math was at a 4th-grade level. She loves to draw and she takes karate lessons. She sleeps on a Hello Kitty pillow with matching pink sheets and blanket. She

has a white princess bedroom set with a nightstand for her Bible.

“She is full of life and has potential,” Carla says. “She is capable of more than she’s been given credit for.”

The family attends church on Sundays and shares a devotional reading every morning at breakfast. Carla finds Bible passages to inspire Lilly when she struggles. One of their favorites is from 2 Kings 20:5: “I have heard your prayer and seen your tears; I will heal you.” Another is Proverbs 3:5, a verse that girded them through the process of fostering and adopting: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.”

**W**hen Carla and Jeff set out to adopt, they had their own ideas about the child who’d one day be theirs—and it wasn’t a teenage girl with a traumatic abuse history. But God had another plan, they say, and as they watch their “angel” grow and flourish, they can’t imagine life without her.

“I know we’re making a difference, through the grace of God,” Jeff says. “She’s very happy, like a completely different child. She has really blossomed.” ■

### Taking a Stand

Family ties are preserved as much as possible when a child is adopted through foster care. But Lilly felt that ongoing phone conversations with her birth mother kept her from moving on. She was inspired to cut ties after hearing Elizabeth Kelly speak about a similar childhood decision.

As a child, Elizabeth felt like she never belonged. She didn’t fit—not even in her own family. She was the oldest of four born to a mother with multiple addictions. She was biracial, unlike her half-siblings. She was terrified of her siblings’ father, who abused the kids and their mother.



The children were placed into foster care when Elizabeth was 8, and they continued to

*Elizabeth Kelly*

see their parents on supervised visits. But Elizabeth always came away from those visits shaken and afraid. By the time she was 10, she risked everything she knew—including her relationship with her siblings—to end contact with her mother and step-father.

The decision to stop family visits led Elizabeth to be placed in foster care apart from her siblings, but it empowered her and it changed her life. “Once I got used to my new environment it seemed as if my whole world just fell into place,” she says. “I became more outgoing, more outspoken, and I was able to feel comfortable in my own skin.”

Life wasn’t always easy after she was adopted through Methodist Home for Children, but Elizabeth knew her new mother loved her as completely as a child she had birthed. “My adoption was a commitment that she made to me—and I to her. I finally had a family, a mother who loved me unconditionally not because she had to but because she wanted to.” Today, Elizabeth is married and a working mother with two children of her own.

# Trust & Courage

## The currency of foster-to-adopt

By Julie Williams Dixon

The sky is threatening rain, but Nancy Almon helps 7-year-old Dylan strap on elbow and knee pads and buckle his helmet before he climbs onto his brand-new freestyle bicycle.

The scene is almost Rockwellian. Nancy's yard overlooks a sprawling field and pond, complete with a white farmhouse in the distance. As Dylan takes off on his two-wheeler, his mom runs alongside, helping him master one of childhood's most beloved rites of passage: Riding without training wheels.

Fundamentally, the task of learning to ride a bike is about mechanics and balance. But in practice, it's so much more. It's about trust and courage. The child has to learn to trust himself. The mother has to summon courage to let the child try and fail—at least a few times.

Nancy and Dylan are familiar with these qualities.

Trust comes slowly to children who've lived with trauma, and Dylan is no

exception. But he can turn on the charm with smiling brown eyes and an intellect unmistakably beyond his years. As he talks for this article, he wants to construct the narrative himself: "Just say that I like it here. That could be your whole story. Say that I like the house, I like the food and I like my mom."

But that's not the whole story. For Dylan and for Nancy, there have been plenty of bumps and unexpected turns.

Dylan and his two older sisters were removed from their home in November 2010 and placed into foster care. When that happens, the first goal usually is to reunite parents and children—and that was the case for Dylan's family. Parents wanting to regain custody are required to reach certain milestones, like passing drug tests, getting a job and proper housing, and showing up for appointments.

Sometimes that process takes months. Other times, it takes years. For Dylan, the waiting went on for nearly three years

### Types of Foster Care at MHC:

**Regular**—for up to a year on average, depending on the needs of child and family.

**Respite**—for a few days or weeks to let regular foster parents rest.

**Emergency**—for children at imminent risk who must be removed suddenly from their homes.

**Therapeutic**—for children with mental health diagnoses.

as his parents did enough to keep the process alive, but not enough to bring their children home.

Nancy can remember the day she saw Dylan for the first time. It was a Saturday in December 2010 and he was at a Methodist Home for Children party, spending his first Christmas in foster care. She didn't meet him then or learn his name, but she recognized him 28 months later when he walked into her home for an overnight respite stay.

An elementary school guidance counselor, Nancy had always wanted a family, and when she found herself



PHOTO BY JULIE WILLIAMS DIXON



PHOTO BY NANCY ALMON

Happy moments at Artsposure on their first weekend together and at home as mother and son.

Nancy was delighted when Dylan called her “Mommy” after two months together, but she hadn’t anticipated the emotional backlash as Dylan’s behaviors disrupted in school and at home. Together, they’ve worked through the aftershocks of trauma.

childless at age 45, she decided to adopt through MHC’s foster care program. “Here I was middle-aged, with no family,” she says. “I was going to do whatever it took to adopt a child, which I thought about my whole life.”

But she had learned an early lesson in caution. Shortly after she started fostering, she thought she’d found the child she would adopt—a sweet 3½-year-old girl. She grew attached in their three months together and was heartbroken when social workers moved the child into a different foster home to live with her brother. “I loved her dearly and really wanted to keep her,” Nancy says. “I needed some time to get past that.”

She took a break to grieve her loss and, later, to buy a new home. She had just returned from her foster care hiatus when Dylan arrived for respite care one night in April 2013—and he gave her the courage to try again.

Nancy and Dylan started with a couple of short overnight visits and then, on a weekend in May, everything felt right. They were walking around together at a local arts festival when they came to a chalkboard with a writing prompt neither could resist: “Before I die I want to \_\_\_\_\_”

Nancy wrote: “adopt a child.”

Dylan wrote: “grow up.”

Nancy launches Dylan on his new bike in their front yard.



PHOTO BY JULIE WILLIAMS DIXON

**B**y the time he met Nancy, Dylan had spent half of his life in foster care—and he’d had a few rough spots. He’d lashed out with angry tantrums in his first two homes and he’d been separated from his sisters. He’d tested for ADHD and Oppositional Defiant Disorder, which qualified him for therapeutic foster care.

Dylan found stability with Crystal Pargo in her therapeutic foster home. He knew she wasn’t going to adopt, but he grew to love her dearly in their two years together, joining holidays and vacations with her extended family and bonding with her granddaughter, who also lived in the home.

He still loved his parents and he’d

been allowed unsupervised visits to see them—but he couldn’t go home for good unless they met their reunification goals. Nor could he be adopted unless his parents relinquished (or a judge terminated) their rights to him.

Dylan had started to build a bond with Nancy through their respite visits when the waiting ended in June 2013. His father had gone to jail and his mother wasn’t able to keep a home on her own, so they decided to end their rights to Dylan and his older sisters.

For the girls, that meant adoption by extended family members. For Dylan, that meant leaving Crystal for a family wanting to adopt.

Nancy was first in line.

Dylan will go to Royal Family Kids' Camp this summer with other children in foster care or adoptive homes.

**O**n a Saturday in August 2013, Dylan moved into Nancy's home, and 14 months later, his adoption was finalized. Nancy had her wish—but it had not come easily.

Dylan wrestled with anger and feelings of rejection by his biological family. A younger sister, born while he was in foster care, moved into Nancy's home at the same time he did. He was jealous that she got to make home visits to see their biological mother. He did not. Eventually she went back to live with their mother. He did not.

He will struggle with the terms of his early childhood for years to come—no matter how much he loves Nancy and accepts her as his mom, says MHC Foster Care Specialist Cheryl Warren. How do you explain to a child that his biological mother relinquished rights to him—but not to her youngest? That she got her act together for a sibling—but not for him?

Therapy and psychiatric counseling have helped, and Nancy keeps the family ties that are important to Dylan. They stay in touch with weekend visits to Crystal's house, and Dylan gets to spend occasional Saturdays with his sisters and great-aunt. Taekwondo lessons have been a saving grace, Nancy says, with their emphasis on respect for parents and keeping your room clean. "The taekwondo



PHOTO BY JULIE WILLIAMS DIXON

place is his safe haven," she says. "The masters are kind and confident people, and he's moving the whole time so it's something he enjoys."

Nancy is determined to see Dylan through his pain and help him become the happy and fulfilled person God meant him to be: "I really look forward to watching him grow and seeing what his talents are—and helping him develop his gifts."

**T**rust and courage have brought the two of them this far. They're in evidence on the day that Nancy helps Dylan learn to ride a bike—and they'll sustain this family in the years ahead.

When Nancy bought the home they live in, she says she was captivated by its peaceful view. The soft cushion of needles from the large old pines will bode well for Dylan as he learns to ride his bike.

On this afternoon with his mom, Dylan builds up speed and stays upright for quick bursts through the yard. He topples to the side when he feels like he's losing control. And Nancy is there to watch—and to pick him up each time and dust him off. ■

#### WHEN NC CHILDREN LEAVE FOSTER CARE ...

- 46%** reunite with parent/caretaker
- 3%** live with other relatives
- 24%** are adopted
- 15%** enter guardianship
- 10%** are emancipated
- 2%** other

SOURCE: National KIDS COUNT

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# Independent Streak

## Teen learns limits

A few things you should know about Austin: He is not afraid of work. He cooked and cared for his brother and sister while his mom worked late shifts at her restaurant job. He's got a mind for business and he's good with his hands, finding odd jobs painting, building fences or decks, roofing or car repairs.

But in January, his independent ways landed him in the Chowan multipurpose home. He had quit going to school and he was making decisions like an adult—at the age of 15—without the benefit of age and experience.

"Austin grew up a little faster than other youth at his age," says Chowan Program Manager Nicole Walker. "He was independent and did what he wanted to do."

These decisions were jeopardizing his future, and his court counselor saw Methodist Home for Children's Chowan home as a way to get him back on track.

Teens who come to MHC multipurpose homes are repeat juvenile offenders, often arriving on a probation violation. They are referred when someone in the juvenile justice system sees their potential.

Austin is smart and resourceful. He loves cars and started helping his mechanic father when he was 8—"under the hoods like a grease monkey." But his troubles began when he was 10 and his parents split up. Austin was devastated. The boys lived first with their father and later moved in with their mother and her boyfriend in a new town.

By then, Austin was an 8th grader with a strong dislike for authority. It seemed to him that the adults in his life could not be trusted. His family had fall-



en apart. His mother's boyfriend was a drug-user. And his new school wasn't doing enough to protect his 6th-grade brother from bullies who were harassing him. At that point, Austin decided he'd fix the one problem he could handle: He would stop the bullying.

The resulting fight on a school bus ended in an assault charge against Austin and probation—not the outcome he'd expected—and he "retaliated" in frustration by skipping classes. By 9th grade, he was missing school to work, taking jobs in his neighborhood or late kitchen shifts at the restaurant where his mother bartended. "I was too tired to go to school or I didn't care about what they were doing that day," he says.

But his court counselor cared, and those missed classes violated a probation requirement that Austin earn A's and B's in school.

By the time Austin was referred to the Chowan multipurpose home, he says, he was arrogant and disrespectful. He didn't see the problem

Austin had to learn to trust the adults in his life.

at first. But the structure and discipline of the home appealed to him, and he began to appreciate the skills he was learning, like asking for permission and accepting feedback. He also began to think about the decisions he'd made and the choices that could have been better.

"I can see that I was trying to be the adult in my house when I was only a kid," he says. "I felt like I was the one who had to fix my brother's problem with the bully, because I didn't feel I could trust the adults to do it."

So today, Austin has a new plan.

He doesn't want to go back to being the person he was before. But he doesn't want to go back to high school either. He'll get his GED and go to college for computer integrated machining and welding. "My dream is to open a restoration shop when I get out," he says. "Cars are my thing."

Change is hard work, but Austin is thankful his court counselor steered him back toward his dreams. "He wants me to have a good life and I realize now that he put me in here for a reason. He wants to see me doing something better with my life." ■

## Let's Connect!



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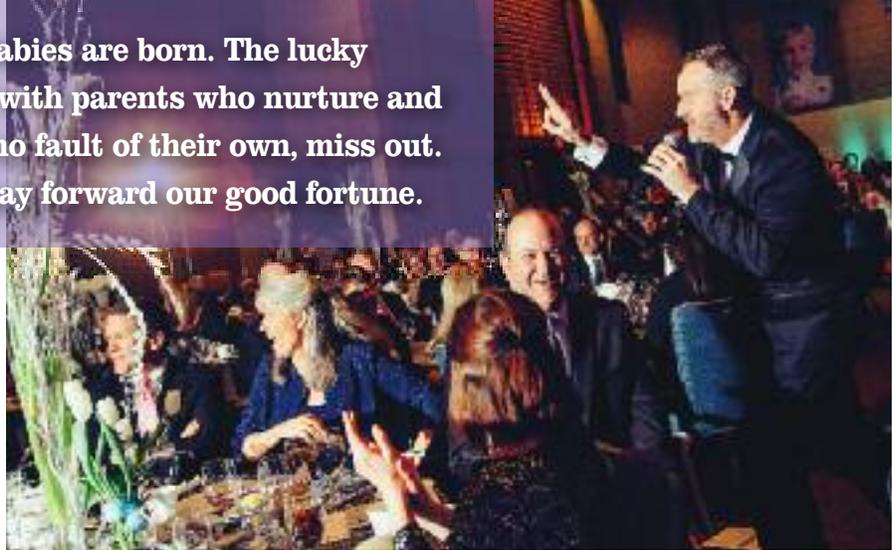
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# A Winter's Tale Gala 2015

On any given day, 360,000 babies are born. The lucky ones win the "birth lottery" with parents who nurture and love them. Others, through no fault of their own, miss out. As lottery winners, we can pay forward our good fortune.

We are thankful to Methodist Home for Children Board Chair Erik Ross for this reminder on Jan. 31 as he welcomed guests to our 18th annual *A Winter's Tale*. The Raleigh gala raised a record \$260,000 and recognized four new members of the Guardian Angel Society: Bladen Charge (Bethlehem, Live Oak and Windsor UMCs), Becky Johnson of Winston-Salem, The Principal Financial Group and St. Mark's United Methodist Church of Raleigh. ■

William Lassiter, N.C. Deputy Commissioner for Juvenile Justice, carried the "birth lottery" theme in his own story about bullying and the unconditional love of his parents.



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- Photo gallery
- Guardian Angels
- William Lassiter's story

Save the date for next year: **Jan. 30, 2016.**

# Opportunities & Open Houses



**Opening Our Doors** — Open houses this spring gave visitors the chance to see how our multipurpose homes operate and to meet the teens in residence. Methodist Home for Children runs seven multipurpose and transitional living homes in partnership with the N.C. Department of Public Safety. The teens had a great time showing visitors around the homes and practicing their hospitality skills. See the photos at [bit.ly/MHCopen](http://bit.ly/MHCopen).

**Independent Living** — Tyanna and other teenagers got plenty of one-on-one time for career assessments and mock job interviews at MHC's Independent Living Forum in Rocky Mount. More than 150 children and families came from our foster care, in-home and transitional living programs. The day included panel discussions, career-exploration activities and a vendor fair with representatives from colleges and independent-living resources. Read Tyanna's story at [bit.ly/siblingsadoption](http://bit.ly/siblingsadoption).

College campus tours, field trips to the U.S. Capitol and to Carowinds, a visit to historic Fort Macon and a teenager's first sighting of the ocean. These are just a recent few of the opportunities and experiences that our staff have created for youth in our care. [Read here about others.](#)

**Seeing the Future** — No wonder they're still talking about it! The girls in our North Hills Transitional Living Home were dazzled by their April tour of the SAS campus in Cary—especially its on-site video & news production studio. They got to tour the campus inside and out, including the SAS energy-generating solar farm, and met with a panel of employees to talk about networking, corporate career opportunities, resumé building, internships and overcoming adversity.



# Love Wins Out

By Kramer Jackson

The circumstances of my journey to the Methodist Orphanage in Raleigh are not unlike those of many children who grew up there.

My father died a sudden and tragic death in May 1941, leaving behind a 23-year-old widow with three children. At 2½, I was the middle child with a 6-year-old sister, Ruth, and a 2-week-old brother, James.

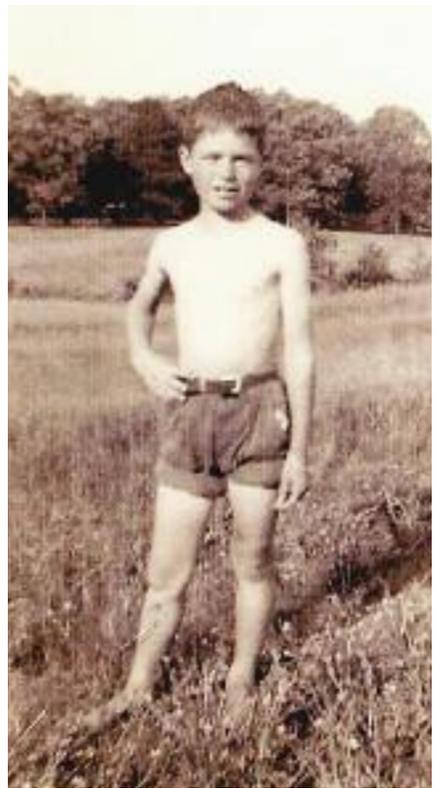
Our mother was devastated by our father's death. With a 4th-grade education, no income and no experience other than the work required of a child growing up on a tenant farm, she was unable to face the bleakness of her circumstances. She abandoned her children. Our sister was doing her best to care for us when we were discovered alone, and family stepped in to take us. Ruth went to live with an aunt, while James and I went to live with our maternal grandparents.

My grandmother soon became the love of my young life, and I never fully

understood why I had to leave her until I requested my records at age 76 from Methodist Home for Children. I learned for the first time that my grandparents were too old and too poor to keep us. In November 1943, the Elm City Methodist Church filed an application for our admission to the Methodist Orphanage. Ruth entered in December, but with no vacant beds for boys, I was deferred until Valentine's Day, 1945. James arrived four months later.

My first memory of my mother is the day I was delivered to the orphanage. I remember that she showed up out of the blue, and we rode to Raleigh in the backseat of someone's car. I don't know who the car belonged to or who was driving it. We stopped in front of the infirmary and my mother asked me to get out of the car. I recall that the only thing she said was for me to be a good boy. I stood in front of the infirmary crying my heart out as I saw them drive away.

With the love and patience of Miss



Mary, my 1st- and 2nd-grade teacher, I learned to live in the orphanage, and my 10 years there influenced the rest of my life. I was taught that there is right and wrong and good and evil in the world, and that good trumps evil, right trumps wrong, work trumps laziness and love will win out if you give it a chance.

At the age of 18, my life was turned over to me. I understood perfectly that the rest of my days would be determined by the choices I made. My first big decision was to join the Army. Being in the Army was a lot like the early years at the orphanage. I slept in a small bed, in a very large room with 29 other boys. I had a wooden box for my worldly belongings. I was told when to go to bed, when to get up, when to go to meals in a very large dining room with 300 people.



Top: Kramer, age 8, on the grounds of Methodist Orphanage.

Left: Kramer and Annis with their granddaughter, Whitney.

The most glaring difference was that a sergeant replaced “the bell,” which regulated our lives at the orphanage, telling us what to do and when to do it.

My second major choice was to get a college degree. With one year remaining in the Army and a salary of \$160 per month, I saved enough money to cover my first year at Atlantic Christian College. I graduated in three years by going to school year-round. I later attended N.C. State studying archives administration and later still attended UNC-Chapel Hill studying public administration.

Over the years, I worked as an archivist for the N.C. Department of Archives and History, as an administrator/criminal justice planner for seven mountain counties and 21 years as a county manager.

Along the way, I met the lovely Annis Ward of Watauga County. Surely the best decision I ever made was to ask Annis to marry me. She has been most successful in her own right: a graduate of Atlantic Christian College with a Master of English at East Carolina University, an English instructor at Atlantic Christian, coordinator of English as a Second Language for the N.C. Community College System and author of 22 published books.

We have one daughter, Michelle, two sons, Anthony and Christopher, and four grandchildren. We retired in 1993, purchased a 25-acre mountain ridge farm just off the Blue Ridge Parkway in Alleghany County, and we spend every day working at the things we love most: gardening, riding trails on our horses, woodworking (for me) and writing (for Annis).

I have had a good, happy and successful life. I’ve had many good friends. The friends who remained constant and enduring are those children I met at the orphanage when a friend was the most important thing in my life. ■

## They don't know your IRA or 401K can help them,



## but now you do.

Here are 3 steps to making Methodist Home for Children a beneficiary of your retirement plan.

1. **CONSIDER THIS:** If you leave your plan to an individual, a considerable amount of the value will be lost to income taxes as the beneficiary withdraws the retirement funds. If you leave it to MHC, the FULL VALUE will be used to help children and families.
2. **GET THE FORM:** A change of beneficiary form is available through your plan provider or your human resources department.
3. **FILL IT OUT:** Name Methodist Home for Children Foundation (EIN 56-2259577) as a full or partial beneficiary.

**THANK YOU** for making a beneficiary designation  
that will provide life-changing programs  
for one or more of God's children.

# You Make It All Happen!

## 1K FOR 1KID

**Dr. Josh McMillon** and the **Proactive Health & Wellness staff**, Raleigh, donated \$4,000 through new-patient assessments and a patient-appreciation program.

**Sarah**, a 16-year-old in Burgaw, raised \$2,000 from friends and family in honor of her milestone birthday. Read her story at [mhfc.org/sweet16](http://mhfc.org/sweet16).

**Seeds of Faith Preschool at Fuquay-Varina UMC** successfully completed its third consecutive 1K FOR 1KID campaign! Thanks to director **Lynn Sorrels**, her staff and generous parents.

**Seekers Sunday School Class at Apex UMC** gave \$2,000 in December.

**Rev. Hope Vickers** challenged her congregation at **Epworth UMC**, Durham, to raise \$1,000 for children in our care. Their response? More than \$3,000!

## INTO THEIR HANDS

Parents and children in our family preservation program sometimes lack important household items—beds, clothing, rugs, pillows, towels, toys and more. Thank you to our community partners who help these families get up on their feet: **Dorcus Group at Wesley's Chapel**, Elizabethtown; **The Good Samaritan House**, a clothes closet of **Wesleyan Chapel UMC**, Wilmington; **Island Chic Consignment**, Carolina Beach; **Harbor Thrift Store of Faith Harbor UMC**, Surf City; **S.H.A.R.E.**, Wilmington; **A Carolina Wedding**, Wilmington.

**Harbor District** churches made sure our children were ready for school with "Pack the Backpack" donations. Special thanks to **Devon Park UMC**, **Grace UMC**, **Pine Valley UMC** and **Wrightsboro UMC**,

Wilmington; **Wrightsville UMC**, Wrightsville Beach; and **Wesley UMC**, Riegelwood.

Thanks also to **St. Paul UMC**, Carolina Beach, for its weekly food ministry—delivering groceries, produce, bread and toiletries to our families.

The rooms in our Wayne multipurpose home are a lot more cheerful thanks to bedding donations by the **Officer and Civilian Spouses' Club at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base**. Partnering with Belk, they set us up with bright, new comforters, sheet sets, pillows and rugs. Thanks also to the **SJAFB Vehicle Maintenance Division** for spending a Saturday painting the walls with our kids. The place looks great!

Children who are removed from their homes often arrive into foster care empty-handed. Thank you to partners who donate kits and bags to help comfort these children: **Bags of Love at Wilmington Seventh Day Adventist Church** and **Kids In Mission at Windborne UMC** in Raleigh.

Check out these personalized "sweet-cases" for foster children! Big thanks to **Ali, Kate and Clare**—three UNC-CH freshmen who fundraised for months to create 42 journey bags through their internships at **Together We Rise**. The bags are stuffed with blankets, coloring books, hygiene kits and teddy bears for children as they come into our care. Very sweet, indeed!



## FUN FOR A CAUSE

**Edenton Street UMW**, Raleigh, raised \$3,500 in September with its annual barbecue fundraiser.

**Goshen UMC**, Newton Grove, and the **Electrolyte Depletion Cycling Group** raised more than \$2,000 with Ride for a Reason, a charity bike ride, in May.

**Kids Caring About Kids**, a concert by kids for kids, raised \$1,150 in April in Wilmington. Big thanks to the band and chorus at **Williston Middle School** and the jazz band at **New Hanover High School!** We're grateful also for organizer **Shirley Clawson**, Williston Band Director **Gwen Fitzpatrick** and for **Lear Corporation's** generous support of the concert.

**Paula & Angie Music Ministries**, Wilmington, donated \$200 from an October gospel performance.

**Wakefield UMC**, Raleigh, donated croquet, bocce ball and badminton sets



Thank you to **N.C. State's Students Advocating for Youth (SAY)** mentors—and their energetic elementary and middle school partners in Raleigh. Together, they raised \$500 to help children in need of stable and loving homes. Their rally and walkathon is a year-end celebration of the mentoring program.

to our North Hills Transitional Living Home, along with other sports gear.

**Wrightsville UMC**, Wrightsville Beach, donated \$3,000 from its annual **Son Run 5K** in October.

#### GETTING CREATIVE

**Sophie and John Pellizzari**, Raleigh, raised \$425 from a \$30 Mina Project investment at Hope Community Church. They used their “mina” to create

48 *Frozen*-themed ornaments and exchanged them for donations.

**Charlene Hein**, Clayton, donated \$100 from the fall/winter sales of her coastal-themed crafts.

Thanks to our church partners for donating space as we've needed it: **St. Mark's UMC** in Raleigh and **Jarvis UMC** in Greenville for our foster care and group home Christmas parties, **St. James UMC** in Greenville and **First UMC** in

Cary for our foster parent appreciation dinners, and **Grace UMC** in Wilmington for our parenting sessions.

#### CAMPAIGN COUNTS

**North Carolina State Employees' Combined Campaign** raised nearly \$15,300 for MHC. Tell your state-employed friends that MHC is charity #1588.

**Combined Federal Campaign** raised about \$5,650 for MHC. Tell your federally employed and military friends that MHC is charity #28619.

#### HOLIDAY HELPERS

Children in our family preservation program woke up Easter morning to baskets loaded with goodies from the **Walk in Faith Sunday School Class at Wrightsville UMC**. Thanks also to **Lunchbox Love** for donating Easter totes to children in our foster care program.

**Christmas Angels** delivered! Thank you to all who made the holidays brighter for our children. Thanks also to the **Scott Hannon Memorial Foundation** for raising \$9,000 to take 75 children and teens on a \$120 shopping spree and to Target for covering the \$600 in taxes. See Christmas Angels at [mhfc.org/christmas2014](http://mhfc.org/christmas2014). ■

**TUNA RUN 200: Wesley's Midnight Runners** finished in 32 hours and 22 minutes, with **Looney Tunas** clocking in at 33 hours and 53 minutes. Together, they raised \$3,055 for Methodist Home for Children in the 200-mile overnight race from Raleigh to Atlantic Beach.



**Methodist Home for Children Foundation**

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Raleigh, North Carolina 27605-1259  
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## Employee Excellence Awards

Methodist Home for Children employees put in long hours to give a brighter future to children who need loving structure, guidance and support. Six staff members were recognized this year with Employee Excellence awards.

**Cindy Cooke**, program manager, FACT Residential Services

**Julie Glasgow**, associate director, Jordan Child & Family Enrichment Center, Early Childhood Services

**Kamika Henderson**, lead teacher, Jordan Child & Family Enrichment Center, Early Childhood Services

**Shaun McCallum**, resident counselor, Robeson Multipurpose Home, Residential Services

**Jonathan Rockoff**, foster care licensing specialist, Foster Care & Adoption Services

**Claudia Wiggins**, administrative/intake specialist, Foster Care & Adoption Services



**TEAM UP FOR KIDS!**

It's as easy as 1-2-3.

*Start your own 1K team to help MHC children!*



- Go to [1kfor1kid.org](http://1kfor1kid.org) and name your team.
- Create a team page with our easy-to-use template.
- Tell friends about MHC with our social media widgets and emails!

**CHOOSE OUR CHILDREN** 

**combined campaigns**

*It's combined campaign time!*  
Every donation counts, so make Methodist Home for Children your charity of choice this year—and tell your co-workers!

**State Employees Combined Campaign [1588]**  
**Combined Federal Campaign [28619]**

