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The many ministries of Baptist Children's Homes (BCH) are *united in purpose* during unprecedented times.

Overcoming challenges and welcoming opportunities have thrust us into an upward spiral signifying significant growth through quality services and quality relationships — an upward spiral of growth that seems to reach beyond the earth's ionosphere. To help the BCH family navigate this fantastic journey, I introduced a dynamic, strategic plan, "EMBRACE: For Such A Time As This."

We at BCH never shy away when God leads. From my almost 40-year perch as BCH President, I have seen time and time again God strike out before us, calling us to go with Him. And we followed.

This is a time of rapid change and with that change comes a good amount of uncertainty. But it is not a time to falter. Now is a time that demands we not only follow but embrace a vast unknown future, trusting in the all-knowing God of the cosmos. During my tenure, I have overseen many Strategic Plans, but none is as important for such a time as this.

As a noun, EMBRACE means "an act of holding something closely in one's arms." We at BCH "embrace EMBRACE!" Think of EMBRACE this way: *Enthusiastically Managing Both Results And Compassionate Enterprises.*

Without results, a strategic plan sits on a shelf, gathering dust, and is not worth the paper on which it's written. This plan oozes with new ideas — measurable results — and takes bold steps to create and sustain new enterprises (projects that require effort). EMBRACE dramatically (with goals and objectives) shows that BCH is both relentless and resilient: relentless in our pursuit of quality services and quality relationships and resilient enough to be open to new ways to serve the needs of humankind, especially the most vulnerable.

Every aspect of our sharing hope...changing lives ministry has come under the microscope. Every action, on page after page of this Strategic Plan, has been filtered through our mission to help individuals to begin well and end well. We celebrate our strengths and vigorously address our weaknesses, drawing on our collective creativity, courage, confidence, and curiosity. It is all in EMBRACE.

BCH operates within a "culture of excellence." This is not a term we applied to ourselves. It was given to us at a closing accreditation conference when the visiting team leader representing the Council on Accreditation bestowed it upon us. It was a humbling moment, and we work tirelessly to improve on that culture—remembering, the sun never sets on excellence. But it is my belief and that of the Strategic Planning Committee that we are entering a new era, one that demands more. This is not the time to be ordinary or meet the status quo; this is the time to rise upward and be extraordinary. To that end, we launch EMBRACE—our newest and boldest effort for such a time as this" (Esther 4:14).

MICHAEL C. BLACKWELL, PRESIDENT/CEO

EMBRACE



BCH Embraces an Upwards Spiral of Growth

Despite uncertain times, Baptist Children's Homes (BCH) has been undeterred in embracing opportunities to grow its outreach to vulnerable children, families, and individuals. Through the leadership of BCH president/CEO Michael C. Blackwell and his strategic planning team, BCH unveiled its new strategic plan for 2022-2026 — **EMBRACE: For a Time Such as This**. The initiatives outlined in the plan lean into this season of growth which includes adding and expanding its footprint through key ministry initiatives:

River Hill Refuge: Construction of three new family foster homes in Shelby, NC, made possible by a lead gift from the Westmoreland family, is underway. Couples aspiring to be foster parents can do so by living at these new homes which will allow them to care for more children, including sibling groups, than their personal homes will allow.

Laura's Homes: BCH will be overseeing two existing cottage homes for children in Shelby. The leadership of these independently operated homes asked BCH to take ownership which will begin in January.

Truett Ministries: Through the support of the Dogwood Foundation, BCH acquired the two additional facilities on the same property as its Truett Home, a cottage for children, in Hayesville. Turner Cottage, named for C. B. Turner who made a \$200,000 renovation gift, will be a family foster home. The other will be an independent living home for youth aging out of the foster care system with little or no family support.

Emmanuel Home: Renovations are almost complete at Emmanuel Home in Thomasville. A dream project of BCH's Christian Adoption Services, the location on the outskirts of Mills Home in Thomasville, will provide a home and support to women who chose adoption for their babies.

NC Baptists Step Up Foster/Adopt Efforts

In partnership with NC Baptists, BCH is seeing more and more churches becoming a part of the EVERY CHILD Foster & Adopt Ministry. Through the initiative, BCH staff members come alongside churches to train and license couples in their congregations to be foster parents and support the churches in establishing their own foster/adopt ministries. The EVERY

CHILD numbers as of November 31, 2022 are as follows:

- Current foster care homes: 162
- Children currently in foster care homes: 157
- Total children served in foster care homes: 624
- Total licensed foster care homes: 301
- Number of adoptions in 2022: 61

EVERY CHILD is a complement to BCH's cottage care ministry where children live with cottage parents in family-style homes owned by BCH. When one option is not the best fit for a child, the other ministry is available to meet that child's needs. Learn more at every-child.org.

Rob and Alex Win Silver at Special Olympics

Rob and Alex, residents of Alverta Bolick Home in Asheville, participated at the Special Olympics U.S. Games in Orlando, on June 5-12. The duo were part of the Special Olympics North Carolina soccer team who were awarded silver medals. Alverta Bolick is one of nine statewide homes BCH operates for intellectually/developmentally disabled adults.



CAS Grows Efforts to Reach Expectant Mothers

The mission of Christian Adoption Services (CAS) is to *"build God's kingdom by connecting vulnerable children with Christian families."* BCH's adoption ministry accomplishes this through domestic adoption, international adoption, and support for both expectant mothers and birth mothers.

Birth mothers are women who have given birth and their baby has been successfully placed with a CAS adoptive family. CAS ministers to these courageous women after the adoption is final knowing that support and counseling is essential. One of the ways this is accomplished is through the annual Birth Mothers Retreat. This past April, 38 birth mothers

attended the event's 25th anniversary. There, the attendees were celebrated as they took part in activities that helped them to continue to heal and encouraged them spiritually. At the event, eight women gave their hearts to Christ.

CAS is increasing its efforts to reach expectant mothers who face an irrevocable choice regarding the future of their unborn child. CAS staff members have the opportunity to show an expectant mother the beauty of choosing life for her baby. Regardless of circumstances, CAS comes alongside birth mothers to discuss their options confidentially and without pressure. CAS gives women unparalleled support in creating an adoption plan for their child and walking with them throughout the process including post birth. The

challenge CAS faces is finding effective ways to connect with expectant mothers. One way CAS staff is spreading the word is by reaching out to statewide Pregnancy Resource Centers (PRC). Recently, two PRC events were hosted to inform their staff of the services CAS is able to offer the expectant mothers who visit their centers. Another key resource,

as always, is the church. When church leaders or members become aware of a need in their community, they can refer an expectant mother to CAS with the mother's permission. The CAS contact information is:

Phone: 1 (800) 453-1011 (24/7 hotline)
Text: 704-619-3531
Email: pregnant@christianadopt.org

NCBAM Launches its First Care Village

Although years in the planning, 2022 will mark the year North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry (NCBAM) launched its Care Village model of ministry. In March a ribbon-cutting was held at the Care Village at BCH's Kennedy Home in Kinston, and by

the end of 2022, plans were in place for a Care Villages at the Baptist Convention building in Cary. NCBAM works with churches, aging-service providers, and others to bring services to Care Village members living in their own homes. This allows them to age "in community."

During **Rampin' Up! 2022**, NCBAM was able to match more than \$29,000 to 49 churches to build 62 wheelchair ramps for seniors in need. NCBAM also received a second Fire Prevention and Safety grant from FEAM (\$78,000) to help make seniors safer at home.

Greater Vision*

The Bob and Carolyn Tucker Greater Vision Outreach Ministry continued serving the needs of the central and eastern areas of the state. Skilled volunteers have helped refurbish a building at Kennedy Home in Kinston that will serve as the ministry hub and headquarters for Greater Vision in Eastern NC. The second location's efforts have been successful despite not having a physical location. The headquarters will allow Greater Vision to offer more services and resources to community families that are struggling with self sufficiency. In 2022, both locations impacted 129,665 lives through the following ways:

- Meals Served 129,397
- 93 families (268 household members) served by the self-sufficiency program
- 115 partnering agencies who distribute items to additional individuals and families in crisis through their own networks.

The Mill: Coffee & Community Opens

BCH introduced its new public coffee shop in October. **The Mill: Coffee & Community** is a fitting name for the new shop in Thomasville as it is located at Mills Home, the nonprofit's oldest location. The Mill provides indoor and outdoor seating as well as access to a fully-fenced children's playground families can enjoy. The shop and its spacious outdoor area has proven to be a perfect place for home school groups, Bible study groups and stay-at-home families. As time progresses, the plan is to offer jobs to older children and single mothers in BCH's care as well as opportunities for intellectually/developmentally disabled adults.

Leadership

Dr. Michael C. Blackwell
President/Chief Executive Officer

Keith Henry
Chief Operating Officer

Brenda Gray
Executive Vice President
Development & Communications

Sam Barefoot
Senior Vice President

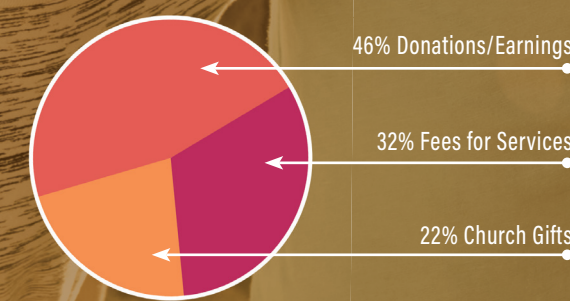
Bond Kiser
Vice President
Staff Engagement & Compliance

Bill Chaisson
Treasurer

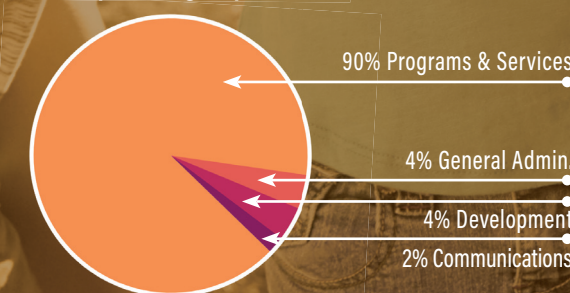
Trustees

Carl Anderson | Leasburg
Bill Boddie | Rocky Mount
Bobby Boyd | Conover
John Cashwell | Concord
Lenuel Chamberlain | Yadkinville
Jim Dyer | Wake Forest
Kent Fann | Salemburg
Gayla Freeman | Conover
Matt Glover | Seaboard
Jim Goldston | Raleigh
Ken Haigler | Wilmington
Marcia Heckman | Concord
Ronnie Holman | Granite Falls
Jerry Jordan | Oakboro
Gail King | Reidsville
Kenneth Lance | Winston-Salem
John F. Lee | Nashville
Justin Lee | Clinton
Mike Leslie | Waynesville
Joann Lutz | Boiling Springs
Rhonda Martin | Raleigh
Cameron McGill | White Lake
Karl Milliren | Thomasville
Lyndell Pate | Rockwell
Marian Phillips | Winston-Salem
David Powell | Sylva
Steve Shreve | Pleasant Garden
David Smith | Granite Falls
Gary Stanley | Dobson
Steve Strickland | Pembroke
Ryan Thomsen | Raleigh
Bobby Tucker | Kannapolis
Eric Vernon | Sanford
Sterling Wall | Lexington
Chris Watkins | Raleigh
Jay Westmoreland | Fort Mill, SC

Operating Revenues



Operating Expenses



Outreach Numbers 2022

Children & Family Services

Children Served	1,271	Family Members Served	3,563
Children Adopted	61	Expectant Mothers Counseled	243
		Days of Care	109,619

Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities

Residents Served	49	Family Members Served	107
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North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry

Clients Served	4,801	Call Center Calls	13,221
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Greater Vision Outreach Ministry

Lives Impacted
129,665

*See previous page for breakdown of service numbers

Evangelism & Outreach

Lives Impacted
14,699

Decisions for Christ

173



Michael C. Blackwell, President/CEO
Founded November 11, 1888
bchfamily.org | everychild.org

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