



## Remember your mom and dad

The special commemorative section including honor or memorial gifts with yours and your parent's name(s) will be in the September **C&C** issue.

# Charity & Children

*The historic publication of Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina—first to tell the story since 1887.*



@bchfamily

August 2024

Issue 6

Volume 137

# A Legacy of Love

*The greatest legacy that one can pass on is a legacy of love for others. It is the sharing of one's faith and values. It comes from an authentic demonstration, unconditional and sacrificial. It is about the way one lives life, impactful and worthy of emulation, from generation to generation.*

## *From deep Baptist roots springs a legacy of love for hurting children*

George Washington Wall moves from Halifax County, Virginia and settles a large farm in the Piney Grove community, near present day Wallburg. With his bride Katie, he begins a nearly two hundred year legacy built on a love for each other and family, their community, and the Baptist church.

*Continued on page 8.*

Carroll and Maurine Wall, Sr. and their son, six-year-old Carroll, Jr. (c. 1931)

### Special Legacy Issue Contents:

Leaving a legacy of service | page 2 | Legacy of love impacts hopelessness | page 4 | Legacy giving makes a lasting impact | page 7 | Planned giving profiles of love | page 10 |

# Leaving a legacy of service as a ministry partner

By **Kristyn Butts**, BCH Director of Volunteer Engagement

**P**roverbs 13:22 reads, “A good man leaves an inheritance to his children’s children...” (NKJV). What if the inheritance you leave behind includes the legacy of service? Time and time again, we are asked if children can volunteer with their parents. In most situations, the answer is YES. Today’s children are our future. Moms, dads, and children from Crossroads Church Benson visited Odum Home in Pembroke. They were given a tour of the Odum Home campus by director Kathy Locklear. As they visited the cottages and met the children, they asked, “How can we help and be a regular ministry partner?”

Ideas included helping paint the gym, trimming trees, hosting a cookout, and playing games were all discussed. What a blessing! Kyle and Melissa Thrower, both on staff at the church, saw that their discipleship group had skills and talents that could be used to meet the physical and spiritual needs of those in care at Odum Home. While the group visited the girls’ cottage, they gathered in the living room and sang amazing grace. What a powerful moment of worship between new friends bonded by their love for Jesus and serving His children. The discipleship group intentionally wants to serve Jesus as a family and to model being the hands and feet of Christ to their children, leaving a legacy of service for their children and their children’s children. We are excited to see how God moves through this new partnership to help continue the mission of sharing hope and



Volunteers from Piedmont Crossing in Thomasville spread mulch at The Mill playground on the Mills Home campus. Below, Odum Home director Kathy Locklear welcomes members from Crossroads Church Benson. Right, 30 servicemen from Camp Lejeune volunteered at Kennedy Home in Kinston.



changing lives. Kennedy Home and Greater Vision Kinston were blessed by another group of young men from Camp Lejeune. Chaplain Jesus Dominguez and 30 Marines and Sailors from 2d Battalion 2d Marines tackled jobs including sorting donations, painting a storage room, and cutting back brush along the power lines. Chaplain Dominguez was so moved by the ministry and the work of the Lord that he committed to bringing additional groups of service members in the future to volunteer. These heroes are appreciated for their service to BCH, enabling BCH to continue to provide the highest quality of Christian service



beyond grateful for those who are committed to serving vulnerable children and families. Time and time again, volunteers have found their spot to serve across BCH’s many ministries and locations. Serve NC and Friends of Children are great opportunities for families, churches, and small groups to begin laying the foundation of a legacy of service. Visit [www.bchfamily.org/volunteer](http://www.bchfamily.org/volunteer) to Find Your Spot of service during one of these events. We’d love for you to say yes to being a ministry partner with BCH. Let’s go on mission together!

**Mission:**  
sharing hope . . . changing lives

**Vision:**  
To provide the highest quality of Christian services to children, adults and families in a caring culture of measurable excellence

**Charity & Children**—Established in 1887 as the official publication of Baptist Children’s Homes of North Carolina, Inc., 204 Idol St., PO Box 338, Thomasville, NC 27361-0338. Jim Edminson, editor ([wjedminson@bchfamily.org](mailto:wjedminson@bchfamily.org)); Blake Ragsdale, managing editor ([jbragsdale@bchfamily.org](mailto:jbragsdale@bchfamily.org)); Marcia Housand, account clerk. **Charity & Children** (ISSN 0009-1723-09 USPS 100-460) is published 10 times a year for friends and supporters by Triangle Web Printing, Durham, NC and mailed by Excalibur, Winston-Salem, NC. Circulation: 62,000 seven times a year, 30,000 three times a year. Periodicals postage paid at Thomasville, NC, and at additional mailing offices. For free subscription or to be removed from the mailing list or make address correction or change, use the above address and write to Attn: Circulation Manager, send an email to [address@bchfamily.org](mailto:address@bchfamily.org) or call at 336-474-1209. Subscribe online at [bchfamily.org/charityandchildren](http://bchfamily.org/charityandchildren). POSTMASTER: Send change of address to **Charity & Children**, PO Box 338, Thomasville, NC 27361-0338.

# Disney World is no competition for Camp BAM!

By Carol Layton, NCBAM Director of Communications and Administration

Aubrey's eyes shone with determination as she told her mom, "Make sure our Disney trip is not the week of Camp BAM. I will not miss that!" A rising high school senior, Aubrey has attended every Camp BAM as part of "IMPACT Community Youth"—a unique group comprised of church and unchurched teens from Stanly and Rowan counties.

Juan, another camper from IMPACT, was just as determined not to miss Camp BAM 2024. He worked his required 30 hours at Food Lion in just three days in order not to miss a single day of his third Camp BAM.

The zeal of these young campers may lead you to think Camp BAM is packed with thrilling adventures like ziplining, kayaking, and evenings around a campfire. While campers are offered pool time each evening, their days start early with breakfast at 7:30, morning devotions, and everyone arriving at their work sites by nine o'clock sharp.

Martha (McDowell) Hayes, pastor at Mattons Grove Methodist Church and IMPACT volunteer, was impressed with the campers' work ethic and believes their desire to serve will be with them for life. She recalls, "I did not hear one complaint from anyone. Not, 'I'm tired. I'm hot. The bugs are bothering me. My blisters hurt.' Nothing! They worked beautifully together as a team."

The fourth annual Camp BAM took place June 19-23 on the Mills Home campus of Baptist Children's Homes (BCH) in Thomasville. Hosted by North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry, (NCBAM), this intergenerational camp allows volunteers to serve aging adults by building wheelchair ramps, installing smoke alarms, and completing other projects. Thirty-eight campers from IMPACT and 11 from First Baptist Concord participated. They constructed five wheelchair ramps; installed two handrails; mowed, trimmed and cleaned three yards; moved two tons of durable medical equipment; and served four BCH ministries.

IMPACT volunteers Billy and Monica Talbert have attended Camp BAM each year. Interacting with BCH's kids in care was a highlight for Monica. "I love how these kids grew over a span of four days. They learned new strengths, how to work as a team, and to come out of their shells. They used tools that some of them had never laid eyes on. They built new friendships, gained confidence, and taught me things as well!"

Encouraging youth to have a positive self-image is important to Monica. She adds, "It's also important for them to realize it's not always about them—that it's important to serve and



Camp BAM participant Makynlie Holbert takes an "us-ie" of this year's campers on the ramp that IMPACT youth built for the Hammer family in Liberty. The fourth annual Camp Bam took place June 19-23 on the Mills Home campus in Thomasville and was hosted by NCBAM. This was Makynlie's third Camp BAM.

love on others! And that is exactly what they did!"

Volunteer Jennifer Parker has attended since 2021. A highlight for her was when one of the campers felt prompted to pray with a ramp recipient. Jennifer recalls, "When the ramp was completed, she also did our closing prayer. It was wonderful to see the youth grow in their walk with Christ."

NCBAM's Austin Decker (north central regional director) returned as camp director for the second year. "Camp BAM is about more than fun, although we have a ton of that! These teenagers and adults get to see the impact they can have, build friendships, and grow closer to Jesus. It's powerful!"

Call Center Director Brian Roberts brought together worship teams from three churches, Triad Church Greensboro, Triad BC Kernersville, and Elevation Church Winston-Salem, to kick off opening night. Their offering set a tone for all the good to be accomplished. Brian is grateful for the difference the camp made in people's lives. "What would normally take a month for us to complete in the Call Center was done within four days! We were also able to stretch our budget with funds received from the American Res-

cue Plan Act. We used \$11,500 from the grant to purchase lumber."

IMPACT volunteer Martha previously served as south-central regional director for NCBAM. During her tenure, she hosted intergenerational camps and began to envision what would become the first official Camp BAM in 2021. At the close of that first Camp, the McDowell family established the "Live Out Luke" endowment fund in memory of Martha's youngest son, William Luke McDowell, who passed away in 2016 at age 20. Throughout his life, and even from a young age, Luke connected strongly and lovingly with older adults.

Martha loves Camp BAM as much as the campers. "Camp BAM is such a beautiful blessing to my husband Bobby and me! I know Luke would be very proud. It makes me feel close to him because I saw the same excitement in him when helping aging adults."

Contributions to the "Live Out Luke" endowment fund are tax deductible and will benefit Camp BAM in perpetuity. Designate your gift at [ncbam.org/donate](http://ncbam.org/donate) or checks designated for Camp BAM may be made payable to Provision Financial Resources and mailed to 201 Convention Drive, Cary, NC 27511-4257.

# Legacy of love impacts hopelessness for years to come

By **Brenda B. Gray**, Executive Vice President, Development & Communications

**L**egacy giving has been a part of our ministry since its beginnings in 1885. Through the years, thousands of legacy givers have lived out these words from James 1:27—“Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.” This verse speaks to God’s heart for the orphans and the widows. This verse also gives us an answer to caring for the “least of these” as God calls us—you and me to action.

One hundred and twenty years ago, on June 5, 1914, Kennedy Home in Kinston opened its doors to care for the orphans of that day. In 1912, Captain William Lafayette Kennedy and his wife Emily Hardee Kennedy heard God’s call and determined they wanted to make a difference—they wanted to impact the hopelessness of orphaned children in eastern North Carolina. They signed over the deed of their 1200-acre farm on May 14, 1912 to the Baptist Orphanage. Their love for children and commitment to seeing the orphanage grow was also realized when Mrs. Kennedy sold the diamonds her husband had given her each year on their anniversary to fund the building of a cottage in memory of her father. Mrs. Kennedy became terminally ill that same year but was determined to see the cottage built before she died. On May 10, 1918, the cottage was completed—Mrs. Kennedy died that very night. Her legacy of love will live forever through the lives of the children the ministry at Kennedy Home has touched over the years.

I am so grateful for the generosity and thoughtfulness of people who have chosen to be legacy givers—to make a difference—and impact the hopelessness experienced by children yesterday, today and tomorrow.

I know this statement will definitely get me in trouble with my Carolina, State, and Wake Forest friends, but I am a Duke Fan, have been since childhood. I recently learned Duke University was originally known as Trinity College. In 1924, Trinity College was renamed Duke University in honor of a legacy gift given by James Buchanan Duke. Mr. Duke wanted to be a part of changing history for thousands of young people through quality education. Like Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy, Mr. Duke desired to impact the hopelessness of children all across our state and beyond. For many years, Baptist Children’s Homes has been the recipient of Mr. Duke’s generosity through The Duke Endowment. This year the Duke Endowment celebrates its 100th anniversary.

What if Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy had not chosen to make a legacy gift? What if J. B. Duke had determined not to care about the future of

others? So many wonderful children and families would have had no place to go for hope and healing. The minds and potential success of thousands of youth would have been wasted.

Did you know that approximately two-thirds of all U.S. adults die without having a well thought out estate plan? In the parable of the faithful servant we read: “For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required” (Luke 12:48). The making of a Christian Last Will and Testament is a lasting expression of Christian stewardship.

An article in the *NY Times* several years ago, (“He Left a Fortune, to No One”) stated that a “\$40 million estate may default to the State of New York.” As I read this information, I felt an overwhelming sense of sadness as I thought about all of the hungry children these funds could have fed, the thousands of homeless families these funds could have rescued with a second chance, and the thousands of people fighting life-threatening illnesses these funds could have helped heal. The hundreds of minds that could have been challenged. The thousands of abused children that could have been rescued. So many lives could have been changed.

***With an estate plan, you can share your life’s treasures as you desire.***

Without an estate plan, state law will determine who will receive your life’s treasures.

***With an estate plan, you will select your guardian for your minor children.***

Without an estate plan, a court will appoint a guardian for your minor children.

***With an estate plan, you choose the executor of your estate.***

Without an estate plan, typically a court will appoint a paid administrator to oversee the distribution of your life’s treasures.

***With an estate plan, the Christian Kingdom Building Ministries you***

***love will be funded.***

Without an estate plan needs will go unmet.

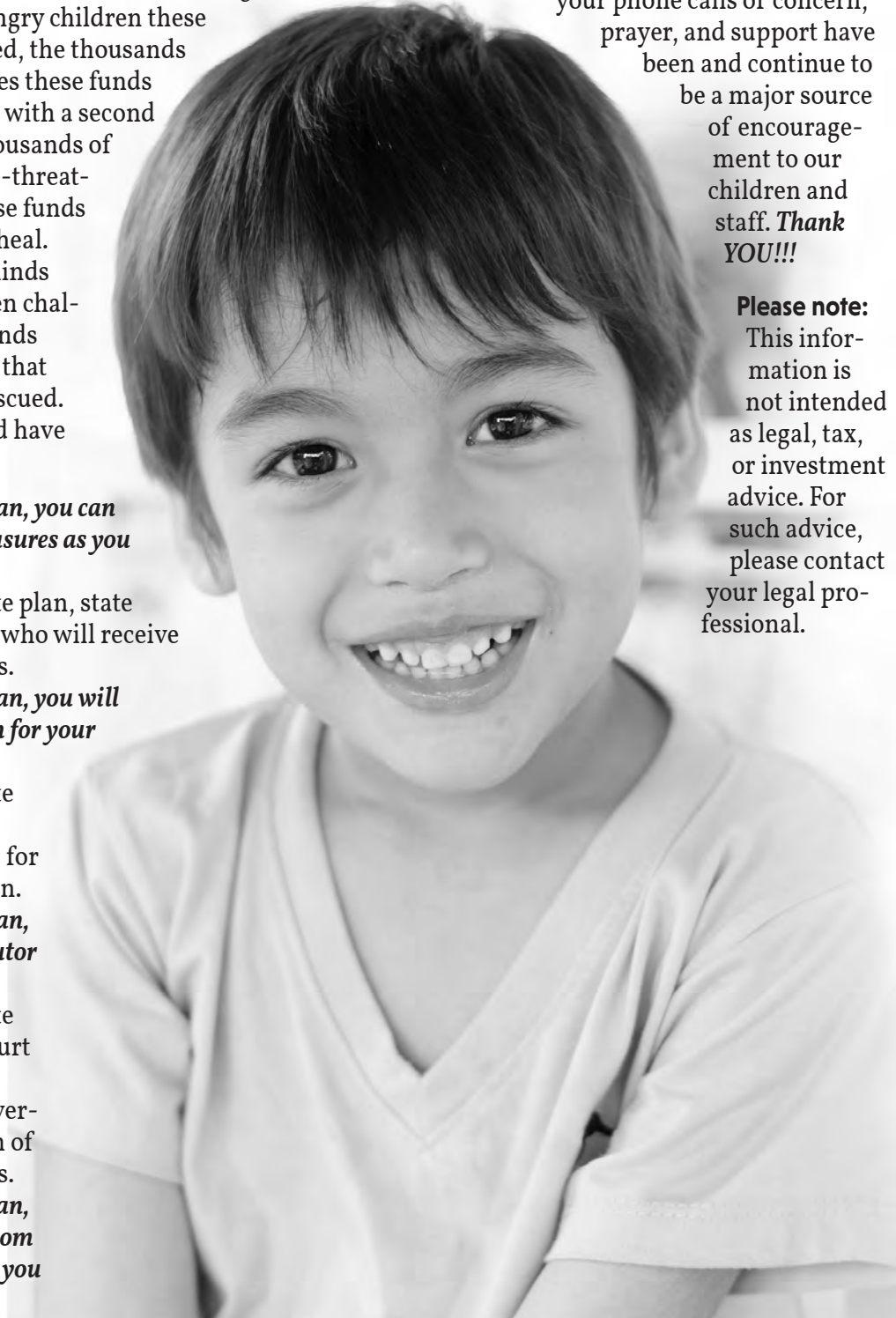
Will you join the Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy, J. B. Duke, and others in being good stewards of all that God has given you? Will you leave a legacy that will impact the hopelessness of children across our state? Will you be a part of our vision of ***sharing hope...changing lives?***

Each of us have the ability (through every gift God has given us through the years) to impact lostness and hopelessness.

It is with excited anticipation, I approach each day knowing God will send His provision through His people—through YOU! ***Thank you for your legacy giving!***

We are so very grateful for you! Everyday your phone calls of concern, prayer, and support have been and continue to be a major source of encouragement to our children and staff. ***Thank YOU!!!***

**Please note:** This information is not intended as legal, tax, or investment advice. For such advice, please contact your legal professional.



# Your gift makes a child's school success possible. Here's how:

Many of the children who come to us have nothing. They have often been removed from impoverished or neglectful situations where hungry bellies were normal, clothing was old and too small, and good grades were hard to come by because of the distractions of a difficult life at home.

Through your gift, we are able to provide all of the necessities a child has never counted on before. But the greatest thing your gift provides is hope.

Your gift ensures that when children come out of traumatic circumstances and into our compassionate care that they no longer have to be anxious or concerned about the things they have gone without. They are able to focus on simply being children. They can attend school wearing new clothes and carrying book bags full of supplies. They can focus on their studies—not their worries.

Through your Back-to-School gift, you show boys and girls that they are valued and loved by friends like you and, most of all, by a Heavenly Father. Change a child's life at [bchfamily.org/backtoschool](http://bchfamily.org/backtoschool) (you can also scan the QR code below) or mail your Back-to-School gift today.

Please don't wait! In the next few days, we will begin purchasing supplies for our children across the state as well as extras for the boys and girls who will need us in the days and weeks ahead.

Thank you!



## I want to be a difference maker for a child!

\$75    \$150    \$300    \$600    \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Any size gift!

To make a gift by check: Print your information below and mail this form with your check.

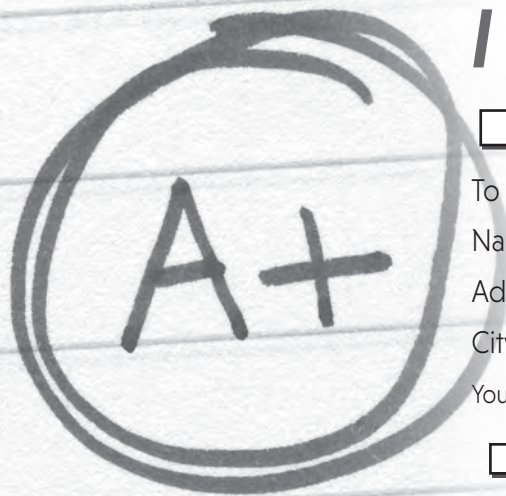
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

You can make a credit card gift at [bchfamily.org/backtoschool](http://bchfamily.org/backtoschool) or scan the QR code. You can also phone **Faith Frazier at 336-474-1312**.

- Yes, I would like to receive email updates.
- Contact me with information on how to prepare a Christian Will.
- I have included Baptist Children's Homes in my estate.



# Friends of Children offers missions day for all ages

By **Blake Ragsdale**, Managing Editor

Providing missions opportunities is a blessing that continues to inspire and encourage the children Baptist Children's Homes serves while giving NC Baptist volunteers a glimpse inside the statewide ministry.

"Friends of Children" Saturday missions days in the fall and spring have not only seen church volunteers tackle a number of projects at BCH's numerous locations, but it is introducing the next generation of NC Baptists to the ministry.

"Because Friends of Children is organized with all ages in mind, we have continuously seen more and more young people be a part of the day," says Brenda Gray, BCH Executive Vice President, Development & Communications. "We learn, for many of them, that it is an opportunity for their leaders to take them on their first mission trip. That is an exceptional blessing for us."

As volunteers tackle a number of projects both indoors and outdoors, their efforts open up gospel conversations between BCH caregivers and the boys and girls in their care.

"Our NC Baptist volunteers are here because they love the Lord," Gray continues. "They model the servant's heart of Christ for our children. It is a testimony of His love for them."



Children and their leaders from West Cabarrus Church tackled a number of projects at Baptist Children's Homes' (BCH) Mills Home in Thomasville. They are among numerous NC Baptist volunteers who serve at BCH locations throughout North Carolina. Through **Friends of Children**, a one-day missions opportunity that takes place on Saturdays, volunteers of all ages have the opportunity to serve while seeing the BCH ministry first-hand. Registration is open at [bchfamily.org/foc](http://bchfamily.org/foc) for six different statewide opportunities in the fall.

## Registration for statewide dates this fall is now open!

- 1) Go to [bchfamily.org/foc](http://bchfamily.org/foc) or scan the QR code
- 2) Click on the location where you want to serve
- 3) Sign in to our volunteering system or create an account
- 4) Sign up for your preferred project
- 5) You're ready to serve!

(To make a group reservation, email [kbutts@bchfamily.org](mailto:kbutts@bchfamily.org))

### DATES AND LOCATIONS:

Odum Home, Pembroke	Sept 14
Kennedy Home, Kinston	Sept 14
Mills Home, Thomasville	Sept 21
Camp Duncan, Aberdeen	Sept 21
Cameron Boys Camp, Cameron	Sept 28
Oak Ranch, Broadway	Oct 5

FIND YOUR SPOT TODAY! SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER BY SCANNING THE CODE >>>

## Video highlights the dedication of River Hill Refuge

Baptist Children's Homes (BCH) dedicated its newest location for helping with the tremendous foster care need in NC on April 27. River Hill Refuge in Shelby is comprised of three family foster homes where couples, who have been licensed to provide foster care, can live and take advantage of the homes' spacious floor plan in order to care for more children than would be possible in their personal homes.

*River Hill Refuge is still looking for additional*

*couples who desire to offer Christ-centered foster care to children in Cleveland County and surrounding area. For more information, call 336-474-1200.*

The short video highlights this special day and gives a glimpse inside the homes. Scan the code or see the story at [bchblog.org](http://bchblog.org)



**WATCH RIVER HILL REFUGE VIDEO**



# Make a Will: *Legacy Giving* makes a lasting impact

By **Jody Yopp**, Senior Director of Development and Planned Giving

In the rush of daily life, contemplating our own mortality often takes a backseat. But ensuring our legacy lives on after we're gone is a responsibility worth embracing. Make a Will Month provides the perfect opportunity to not only plan for the future but also leave a lasting impact through legacy giving.

## Understanding Legacy Giving:

Legacy giving, also known as planned giving, includes making charitable donations in your will or estate plan. It allows individuals to support causes they care about even beyond their lifetime. Whether it's donating a percentage of assets, a specific amount, or including a charitable organization like Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina as a beneficiary, legacy giving ensures your values endure.

## Why Make a Will Month Matters:

Make a Will Month serves as a crucial reminder of the importance of estate planning. It encourages individuals to confront the inevitable and take proactive steps to safeguard their assets and ensure their wishes are honored. Moreover, it underscores the significance of

considering charitable giving as part of this process, fostering a culture of generosity and philanthropy. Your Will, also known as a Last Will and Testament, shares your values and communicates to your family and loved ones what was important to you. It also has the potential to

model generosity through philanthropy. Before you pass share your values on giving with those you care about and then reinforce those beliefs in your Will. It may inspire your children and other family and friends to evaluate their own legacy.

## Embracing Legacy Giving:

Legacy giving isn't just about financial contributions; it's about leaving behind a meaningful legacy. By including Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina in your will, you're supporting causes that align with your values and priorities, leaving a positive impact on society long after you're gone. Legacy giving allows you to create a better world for future generations.

## Steps to Legacy Giving:

- 1. Reflect on Your Values**—Consider what causes are close to your heart and reflect on the kind of legacy you want to leave behind.
- 2. Seek Professional Advice**—Consult with



Baptist Children's Homes' development staff are trusted resources when one is taking the steps to prepare a will or make changes to an existing will. To schedule a visit in your home, contact Jody Yopp. Information provided by BCH is not intended as legal, tax, or investment advice. For such advice, please contact a legal professional.

legal and financial advisors to ensure your will reflects your wishes and complies with legal requirements.

**3. Choose Beneficiaries Wisely**—Select reputable charitable organizations that are aligned with your values and have a track record of making a difference.

**4. Specify Your Wishes**—Clearly outline your intentions regarding the distribution of assets and the percentage or specific amount allocated to charitable giving.

**5. Communicate Your Intentions**—Inform your loved ones about your decision to include charitable giving in your will to avoid any confusion or disputes in the future.

## The Impact of Legacy Giving:

Legacy giving has the power to transform lives and communities. It provides vital resources to Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina, enabling us to continue our important work and

implement sustainable solutions to the pressing needs of vulnerable women and children, special needs adults, and senior citizens. By leaving a legacy gift to Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina you become a catalyst for change, leaving behind a positive imprint on the vulnerable for generations to come.

Make a Will Month serves as a poignant reminder to not only plan for the future but also consider the impact we can have beyond our lifetime through legacy giving. By embracing legacy giving, we ensure that our values endure, our impact reverberates, and our legacy lives on in the hearts and minds of those we touch. Let us seize this opportunity to make a lasting difference

and leave a legacy of generosity, compassion, and positive change. Make a Will and bring comfort to your family and loved ones.

For more information about Wills and Planned Giving please contact Jody Yopp, Senior Director of Development and Planned Giving at [jyopp@bchfamily.org](mailto:jyopp@bchfamily.org) or call and leave a message at 704-314-5291.

Preparing a will is vital to safeguarding your assets, ensuring your loved ones are taken care of, and preserving your legacy.



Jody Yopp

# From deep Baptist roots springs a legacy of love for hurting children

By Jim Edminson, Editor

George Washington Wall's great-great-granddaughter Julia Wall Dunn takes the hands of her twin grandchildren Scout and Gunnar as she picks them up from children's church. They erupt in chatter, telling her about the Bible character they studied, and compete to garner Julia's attention to show off their brightly colored artwork.



Charles Moses Wall

She and husband David place a priority on the five-year-olds attending church. "It is a responsibility we welcome, one we were taught as children—God and family. We believe it is our responsibility to help teach them about Jesus and grow them in their faith."

Julia's father Carroll Charles Wall, Jr. and mother Betsy made sure their four children—Charles III, Sterling, Julia, and Thomas—were in church "every time the doors were opened." The Lexington natives loved their church and everything Baptist. "My dad's first love was family, then First Baptist, and finally Baptist Children's

Homes," Julia recalls.

Betsy Carrington met Carroll Jr. at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill in 1944 and the couple married October 28, 1945. She was the "matriarch of the family—warm and loving." A faithful church member, she took an active role in the Woman's Missionary Union, taught Sunday school classes, and headed up all things hospitality.

Julia and her siblings have memories of Mills Home Homecoming, swinging on the playground, attending services at Mill Home Baptist Church, and "wonderful" picnics. Carroll Jr. and Betsy were personal friends of BCH president Dr. W. R. Wagoner and his wife Elizabeth. Her dad served as a trustee, rotating terms from 1960 to 1986. He was board chairman six times. Betsy fulfilled his final term after his untimely death in 1986.

"I was deeply moved

when Dad told stories of the tragedies many of the children in BCH's care had suffered and how they were helped at Mills Home," Julia says.

Julia's passion for helping at-risk children took root as a child, springing from these experiences. She dedicated her life to children, becoming a public school counselor and helping some of the most vulnerable children in Lexington and Davidson County.

Carroll Jr.'s son Sterling took up the mantle as BCH trustee, serving rotating terms for nearly 30 years. His impact through his professional land and timber management expertise has been vital.

Farmer George Washington Wall's son, Samuel Wilson, operated a smithery and built wagons. He served in the North Carolina

legislature for 20 years and established his home in Wallburg. The first school in the community was operated out of his wife Christina's kitchen and the first post office out of their living room. The family was active in church.

Their fifth child, Charles Moses (C.M.), and his older brother George were in business together. Their interests included lumber, grain, and a mercantile. Hard work paid off as the businesses grew, expanding into manufacturing boxes, wooden casks, and furniture. C.M. moved his family to Lexington, and they became members of First Baptist Church.

C.M. was "an earnest and active churchman." He was a prosperous business man and shared his success by contributing to many Baptist causes. He supported Wake Forest, Meredith, and Mars Hill colleges. He and wife Betty had nine children, four daughters and five sons—all their sons graduated from Wake Forest.

In 1939, following his heart and desiring to help hurting children, C.M. deeded the 160-acre Wallburg farm that had been in his family for more than a century to BCH's Mills Home in Thomasville. He and his son Carroll built a home for the supervising resi-

dent "master farmer" C.C. McKoin. The farm was a valuable addition to the orphanage's vocational agricultural department that had made its mark through exemplary farming, dairying, and poultry breeding.

Upon C.M.'s passing, it was written: "His family life approached the Biblical ideal to a marked degree and his children and grandchildren looked to him and his late wife for inspiration, counsel, and guidance..."

Betty and C.M.'s fourth child was Carroll Charles Wall. Carroll Sr. married Maurine Brittain, made Lexington their home, and Carroll Sr. worked with his father in the family's business.

"Papa Wall," as granddaughter Julia called him, was involved in Baptist life

as a trustee of Baptist Children's Homes, his alma mater Wake Forest College, and Mars Hill College.

"Mams" was Julia's inspiration. Maurine was the first woman to serve on the Lexington School Board and as a deacon in her church. She collected VBS materials to share with churches who could not afford to buy them.

Julia wrote about her Mams: "Music was her gift which she used to enlighten children and praise God...She spread sunshine upon all she met."

Today, the Wall siblings share their legacy of love with their children and grands. Julia introduces Scout



Children Sterling, Julia, and Tom with mother Betsy

and Gunnar to ways First Baptist supports BCH—the spring food roundup and the yearly offering. She tells them that she and David give personally, and they can, too.

The entire Wall family have passed on a great legacy. Through prayer, hands on service, and financial support, generations have demonstrated great love "for the least of these."



Maurine and Carroll Charles Wall, Sr.



The Carroll Wall, Jr. family in 1971: Chuck, Julia, Carroll, Jr., Betsy, Sterling and wife Tina, and Tom



# Planned giving profiles: Leaving legacies of love

By Jim Edminson, Editor

A lot of good conversation can be had when sitting on the tailgate of a pickup truck. Nolan DeWitt was mowing grass when Lewis Smith drove up and parked his car in front of a beautiful new home. Smith's first attempt to visit with Nolan and his wife Frances took him to an empty house.

Cutting the mower off, Nolan dropped his truck's tailgate and invited Smith to visit. As they talked about the weather and church life at Iotla Baptist Church, Nolan began to share the dream he and Frances had, a dream to help children for many years to come.

The DeWitts had moved and built a new home only a short distance from Baptist Children's Homes' (BCH) Drake Cottage near Franklin. The home the aging couple built was far too large for just them, and in fact, it was a chore to keep the yard and house looking so pristine. Curious, Smith



Stella Smith with Development Director Lewis Smith

asked why they had built such a large house. Nolan replied, "We built it for BCH."

The DeWitts built their home with the intention that one day it could be a BCH group home for children. Through their estate planning,



Nolan and Frances DeWitt

it would become BCH's property upon their passing.

"It amazed me to see how people who are willing can do so much through their estate and planned giving," Smith says. "It opened my eyes to legacy giving. By planning, you can impact your life's passions even after you're gone."

Lewis Smith was called into church ministry in December 1972 and began serving as a children's evangelist the following year. In 1976, he took his first pastorate and continued serving churches as pastor for 28 years before becoming BCH's western area development director.

"When I became a development director, I realized I was not leaving ministry," Smith confesses. "I'm not pastoring a church but almost every Sunday I stand at a pulpit telling the good news of Jesus and sharing about BCH."

BCH's development directors see the work they do as a calling. They assert that God daily puts them in the places He wants them to be.

"As it unfolds, you see God at work," Smith adds. "He goes with us every day."

Smith is grateful for his visits with Wilburn and Ruby Lefler of Hendersonville. Wilburn just retired from the pastorate and the Leflers own an apple orchard. Lewis and Wilburn are both Fruitland Baptist Bible College graduates. Every year during Smith's year-end donor visits, the Leflers treat Lewis to a couple of bushels of apples and give a generous offering to BCH. The couple have also included BCH in their will.



Wilburn and Ruby Lefler

"Couples like the Leflers give to help children and are determined to make a difference even after their passing through estate planning," Smith asserts.

A.P. and Bunch Anderson were close friends with BCH Trustee and former pastor of First Baptist Church of Lenoir David Smith. Smith was an encouragement to the Andersons who were long-

time BCH supporters. Through ongoing gifts, gifts to special projects, and including BCH in their will, the couple invested in the welfare of hurting children while they were alive and after their passing.

"Being a part of caring for donors like the Andersons is a blessing," Lewis says. "I'm often reminded that my job is to help others help us help children."

Stella Smith from Kings Mountain lived a simple and joyful life. She and her husband Vernon had no children, but Stella embraced every BCH child as her own.

"Stella always said she was saving up to help the children," Smith recalls. "When she could no longer drive, she gave her car to BCH. She lived simply and included BCH in her will. She was looking down the road so she could make an eternal difference in the lives of the children. It was her goal to give everything to BCH."

BCH donors become friends. Development directors like Smith share their joys and sorrows. Each director is a specialist at helping others leave their very best legacy of love.

Would you like to learn about planned giving? Contact Lewis Smith at 828-421-9300 or Jody Yopp, Sr. Director of Development and Planned Giving at 704-314-5291 for more information.



A.P. and Bunch Anderson

## PROVISION

**Provision Financial Resources** is proud to announce the expansion of its services to include **free will and estate planning services for all North Carolina Baptists.**

This new offering allows you to establish a Last Will & Testament, Financial Power of Attorney, and more! All accessible through an online portal. To learn more about Provision's mission and this free service, please visit [provision.org](http://provision.org).



“Entering into these waters is my son, Tyler. Last week, we got official legal guardianship of him. But entering into these waters (today) is my brother in Christ.”

**CHRIS CIUFO**

TYLER'S FOSTER, NOW ADOPTIVE, FATHER AND ASSOCIATE PASTOR, COWEE BAPTIST CHURCH IN FRANKLIN, NC



WATCH TYLER'S BAPTISM

NC Baptist couples like Chris and Lindsay Ciufo (*pronounced Chee-fo*) were able to foster and then adopt brothers Liam, age two, and Tyler, age 17. As a result, Tyler accepted Christ in 2023. He and Liam have found their forever family with the Ciufo's and their four biological children. **God uses your mission dollars through the Baptist Children's Homes (BCH) Annual Offering to make stories, like the Ciufo's, possible!**

There were 117,502 lives ministered to in 2023 and 844 decisions for Christ made in the past five years because BCH and NC Baptists are on mission together! Hope is shared with abused and neglected children who are among the 10,000+ boys and girls in NC foster care. Love and care is extended to families, special needs adults, single moms, expectant mothers and others across NC, SC and internationally thanks to your offering.

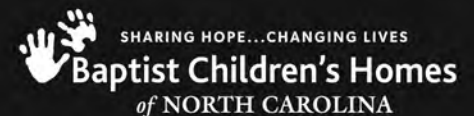


ANNUAL  OFFERING

ORDER MATERIALS >> SHARE THE CIUFO STORY >> HELP CHANGE LIVES!

WEEK OF PRAYER: 11/3 TO 11/10 | GOAL: \$1.5 MILLION

RESOURCES: BCHOFFERING.ORG OR 336.474.1218



# Lambeth's lifelong bond becomes full circle of love

By **Carol Layton**, NCBAM Director of Communications and Administration

**D**an Lambeth's 57-year journey with Baptist Children's Homes (BCH) is a testimony to the enduring power of God's love in action. In 1967, nine-year-old Dan came to live on the Mills Home campus. His house mother, Estelle Crouch, provided Dan with nurture and guidance, and now, at age 66, the same ministry has come full circle—by building a wheelchair ramp to support Dan's safety and independence at home.

Dan spent only 14 months at Mills Home's Hutchinson Cottage, but his house mother Estelle Crouch made a lasting impression on the young boy. "We as children were loved and cared for. I was there in third grade as a flunkie. Miss Crouch made me study with no play time until I got my grades up. She got me straightened out and I went from all F's to all A's."

Dan also credits Estelle Crouch with creating a tradition that enabled the boys' teachers to better understand them and their situations. "Miss Crouch would invite all of our teachers to the cottage once a year for supper."

Dan has never forgotten Miss Crouch and the changes she brought to his young life—as she empowered him to see that he could excel at school. He recalls, "She was a firm believer in the value of a good education."

In recognition of Miss Crouch, Dan was part of a committee in 2000 that established the Crouch-Pinnix Scholarship fund in honor of his beloved house mother as well as Lugenia Pinnix who retired after serving 21 years as a dietician at Hutchinson Cottage. The scholarship fund benefited students attending Davidson County Community College.

Dan also fondly remembers "Miss Pinnix", the cook for Hutchinson cottage who made special cakes for each of the boy's birthdays. Dan's tenth birthday occurred within days of him leaving Mills Home. Dan remembers, "My cake was decorated with cowboys and Indians and I tried to leave it there, but Miss Pinnix made me take it with me and told me she would make another one for the cottage."

Toward the end of her life, Lugenia didn't drive and so Dan drove her to Troy for visits with Estelle. When Estelle Crouch passed away in 2004 and Lugenia Pinnix in 2006, Dan attended both of their funerals. Dan remembers sadly, "They raised all those children and I wanted to be there to honor them for the difference they made in my life."

As a faithful reader of *Charity & Children*, Dan, now age 66, knew of BCH's ministry for aging adults—North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry (NCBAM). When he began to need



This wheelchair ramp, constructed by volunteers from United Methodist Church in Archdale, has improved Dan's quality of life and greatly increased his safety and independence. Dan enjoys people and this ramp allows him more opportunities to attend church, get fresh air, and engage with his community.

a walker and have difficulty with the steps leaving his home, Dan contacted NCBAM to have a ramp built that makes his life much safer now. Dan was able to purchase the materials himself and greatly appreciates the work of crew chief Matthew Hunt and other volunteers from United Methodist Church in Archdale who constructed his ramp.

Dan's 14 months as a child in care at Mills Home had a lasting impact on his life. As an adult, he was a faithful son to both his parents in their later years. "I helped my parents until they passed away. And before my grandmother passed away, I used to drive her to church and to Winn Dixie."

Dan continues to attend alumni Homecoming events at Mills Home and has had cookouts and trips with other Mills Home alumni over the years. "The Homecoming and being with other alumni always brings a lot of good feelings," he says. Dan deeply appreciates the guidance and compassion he received as a young boy as well as the help extended to him as an adult.

Dan Lambeth's story is a powerful reminder of the lasting impact that love, care, and community can have on a person's life. His journey, from a young boy at Mills Home to an adult supported by the same ministry, showcases the transformative power of God's love.

Dan's life and experiences inspire us at BCH

and NCBAM to continue to fulfill our missions. Please consider contributing to the circle of care, whether through donations, volunteering, or spreading the word about the work of BCH and NCBAM. Together, we can ensure that more children and adults receive the love and support they need to thrive, just as Dan did.

PRESENTED BY NCBAM

*Field of*  
**MAKERS**

ESTABLISHED 2022

**Saturday, September 7**  
**Mills Home, Thomasville**  
**9am - 3pm**

---

This annual fundraiser benefits  
aging adults served by NCBAM.

# Homecoming Team plans event all will remember — Sunday worship theme is “Walking in Brotherly Love”

By **Lib Johnson** (336) 299-7412 [libsjohnson@triad.rr.com](mailto:libsjohnson@triad.rr.com)

**H**omecoming! August 2-4, 2024! The Mills Home “Homecoming Team” (Alumni Council) has worked hard to put together another great homecoming event. They are among the many old friends yearning to see you again on the beautiful Mills Home (MH) campus, so please plan to attend Homecoming 2024. Remember this crowd loves to hug and reminisce about the old days, so feel free to start hugging with the first friend you run into. And keep in mind the theme for the weekend is “Celebrating The Impact of Sports/ Recreation on our Lives.”

When you get to the gym, stop by the registration table where you will see most of the “Homecoming Team” hard at work checking people in and arranging display sale items. Registration will run from 11:00 to 5:00 pm on Saturday. Check in, pay dues, pick up items you’ve already paid for, like the Saturday dinner ticket, and get your name tag. Check the display of shirts and souvenir items and make purchases. Remember that we accept only cash or checks. We hope you registered early for Friday’s free supper which is provided by two generous alumni and will be delicious hamburgers and hot dogs with all the trimmings. And you can end the meal with delicious sweet treats made by Rich Lewis.

During Saturday afternoon, in spare moments that you are not talking with friends, you can engage in things like corn board, checkers, watermelon cutting at 3:00, and looking over items in the Silent Auction. The “Homecoming Team” will begin at 3:30 setting up the tables for the Associational Meeting at 5:00 and the Alumni Dinner is at 6:15. Again you can look forward to the delicious Saturday evening meal prepared by **Danny and Jane Helms Brown and Linda Rochelle**.

In case you misplaced your letter from **President Ruth Berndt Hodges** and the “Homecoming Team,” here are a few more reminders regarding the weekend’s events. We hope you have searched your home or yard sales for items you can donate to the Silent Auction which is our best fundraiser and is run by **Cecelia and Mark Wilkerson** on Saturday and Sunday. You still have some time to search. Each item donated should have a value of at least \$10.00. Remember to get those items to the gym no later than Saturday so they can be placed on display in a timely manner. The auction will close at 1:30 pm on Sunday and the bid results will be announced at 2:00 pm—which is pay and pickup time. If you have questions, you can contact Cecelia Townsend Wilkerson at this number, 919-314-7704, or Mark Wilkerson at this number, 919-358-0320.

**Vice-president Jackie Elliott Walker** has planned a wonderful worship service for Sunday morning. The speakers will be **Charles and Clifton Lambreth** for the worship service. The theme is “Walking in Brotherly Love.” We will honor the Mills Home alumni who passed away since last August by listing their names and dates of admission and discharge from MH in the church bulletin. Deceased workers will also be listed with the dates for their years of service. A choir of alumni will enhance the worship service with **Dr. Randy Stewart** at the organ. After the lunch, all alumni will gather in the gym at 1:30 for our yearly group photo. Please join us for a great homecoming!

A call from **Bob Mayton**, class of 1970, brought sad news of the death of his sister **Lovina Mayton Leslie**. Lovina, or Lou Ann as she was called by some, passed away in the hospital in Denton, Texas in mid May, 2024. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by

her husband **Stephen George Leslie, Sr.**, brothers **Buddy, Joe, Furman Jr.**, and sister **Marcia Pendergraph**. She is survived by her daughters **Sharon Farmer, Zoey Smith, Mary Leslie**; son **Stephen George Leslie, Jr.**; and brothers **Bob Mayton and Julius Walker**.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. Inurnment will be at God’s Acre on the MH campus in Thomasville where Lovina lived from January 3, 1961 to September, 1963.

Lou Ann sometimes felt like she did not fit into the life at MH so she left after two years. Thinking things over years later, she expressed the feeling that maybe she should never have left MH probably because she had come to understand how valuable was the life MH offered. We were years apart in living at MH, but I had the privilege of getting to know Lovina and I appreciated her sweet and kind spirited manner. I enjoyed speaking with her at several Homecomings before she moved to faraway Texas.

We were saddened by the death of **Martha Joyce Helms McCartney**, alumna from the 1960s. She was wife of **Gary McCartney** and devoted mother of **Eric** and the late **Douglas**. Martha was part of the popular Helms family at MH that included the following: **Helen H. Johns, Jane H. Brown (Danny), Jerry F. Helms, Robert A. Helms**, and the late **Jeanie Helms Cooper and Van F. Helms**. A well-known fact about Martha was that she was very intelligent and she always took great pride in her work. Jobs she held were usually higher level office jobs.

Martha was born in North Carolina on August 2, 1953 and lived most of her adult life in Cambridge, Maryland. She passed away at her Cambridge residence on June 2, 2024. A funeral service for her was held at the McCully, Polyniak &

Collins Funeral Home in Pasadena, MD on June 6, 2024.

**Neci (Sharon) Freeman Gray’s** update sheet shows her to be a resident at 6582 NC Hwy 150, Maiden, NC 28650. She entered MH in 1977 and graduated in 1980. She states strongly that she would not be alive today if it were not for the life she was able to have at MH. She is so grateful for the atmosphere of the campus life, the love she was given, and the expectations made of her in her short time on campus. Neci very much loves her job as a home health nurse and has found it helps as a caregiver for a beloved in-law. When possible, Neci enjoys traveling and reading—a pastime she developed at MH.

I had a lot of fun reminiscing about life at MH with **Betty Mull Carney**, class of 1956, one day recently. We remembered a couple of serious admonitions. “If you can’t say something good, don’t say anything at all.” That one was okay. About food, we were told: “You must eat everything on your plate or you can’t go swimming.” Well, that one we did not like—but Betty solved that problem. She would eat all she could, put the one hated item into her mouth, carry her dishes to kitchen, pass from the dining room, and then rush to the bathroom to spit it out. Mission accomplished! More reminisces next month.

Please contact **Flora Patton** at [florapatton@ctc.net](mailto:florapatton@ctc.net) or 704-791-7866 if you wish to add or correct an address for the alumni directory or for your **Charity & Children** subscription. Contact **Sharon DeHart Stiles** to discuss use of the God’s Acre Columbarium. Call her at 704-685-2443 or mail to 1588 Elkhart



Circle, Gastonia, NC 28054.

Lib Johnson was a resident of Mills Home from 1946 to 1957. Johnson began writing the Mills Home alumni column in 1992.

# Making News Every Day Around the State



**Sixteen year old foster child baptized**  
A girl living at a Baptist Children's Homes (BCH) cottage in Western NC was baptized at Old Savannah Baptist.



**Couple celebrates adopted child**  
Christian Adoption Services worked with Tyler and Suzanna, and the birth mother, to make this adoption possible.



**Church spends weekend at Mills Home**  
A group from Pearl Baptist spent the weekend with children at Mills Home. Mills Home pastor Luis leads prayer time.



**Canoe trips build campers' skills**  
Boys from Cameron Boys Camp completed a recent canoe trip. Trips promote team building and goal setting.



**Baseball players recognize Victoria**  
The Boone Bigfoots Baseball team invited ladies from Joy Cove Ministries to a game. Victoria won a signed baseball.



**Children experience beach vacation**  
Girls from Broyhill Home in Western NC went to the coast with cottage parents. Many saw the ocean for the first time.



**Church gifts its VBS missions offering**  
BCH's Lewis Smith (center) at Pine Branch Baptist in Spruce Pine is presented a check for \$1,300 from their VBS mission offering.



**Association volunteers aid clean up**  
Piedmont Association volunteers helped with the clean up of a building being revitalized in Thomasville.



**Odum blessed with paper products**  
Members of Zion Hill Baptist in Rennert collected paper products for boys and girls living at Odum Home in Pembroke.

*every*  
**CHILD**  
foster & adoption ministry

We equip your church to be a part of foster care & adoption so that **every child** receives the caring home he or she deserves.

Get connected at [every-child.org](http://every-child.org)

**TURN YOUR CALLING INTO A CAREER**

Statewide positions to serve children, families and/or adults are available for you or someone you know.

**BCHCAREERS.ORG**

**DONATE YOUR VEHICLE**  
and it becomes a part of the ministry. Doctor visits, rides to school, church activities — *your vehicle helps!*

Contact Sam Barefoot  
at [svbarefoot@bchfamily.org](mailto:svbarefoot@bchfamily.org)  
or call him at 336-474-1224

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**JOIN US FOR SUMMER & FALL EVENTS/MISSION DAYS**

<p><b>AUGUST</b> 24: Hope in Style children's fashion show and silent auction <a href="http://hopeinstyle.org">hopeinstyle.org</a></p> <p><b>SEPTEMBER</b> 5: Western Area Conference at Broyhill Home in Clyde <a href="http://bchfamily.org/wac">bchfamily.org/wac</a></p> <p>7: NCBAM Field of Makers at Mills Home in Thomasville <a href="http://ncbam.org/events/">ncbam.org/events/</a></p>	<p><b>NOVEMBER</b> 3-10: NCBAM: Week of Prayer for Baptist Children's Homes <a href="http://bchoffering.org">bchoffering.org</a></p> <p>4-5: Annual Meeting of NC Baptists in Greensboro <a href="http://ncbaptist.org/annual-meeting">ncbaptist.org/annual-meeting</a></p> <p>09: Thanksgiving Dinner at Cameron Boys Camp in Cameron</p> <p>23: Thanksgiving Dinner/Founders Day at Camp Duncan in Aberdeen</p>	<p><b>FRIENDS OF CHILDREN SATURDAY MISSIONS DAYS</b> Odum Home, Pembroke – Sept 14 Kennedy Home, Kinston – Sept 14 Mills Home, Thomasville – Sept 21 Camp Duncan, Aberdeen – Sept 21 Cameron Boys Camp, Cameron - Sept 28 Oak Ranch, Broadway - Oct 26</p> <p>Complete info and registration at <a href="http://bchfamily.com/events">bchfamily.com/events</a></p>
--	---	--

How can we help you? Contact 1.800.476.3669 or [bchfamily.org/referral](http://bchfamily.org/referral) >>>

For each person's specific need, Baptist Children's Homes offers a unique ministry that is prepared to help. Reach out today.

**SECC**  
State Employees  
Combined Campaign

**#3641**

# September 1 deadline for Beach Retreat sign up — Summer vegetables made wonderful dinners

By **JOHN THOMPSON**, 102 Maritime Court, Havelock, NC 28532 (252) 671-3515 jbthompson43@gmail.com

**S**ign up for our Annual Fall Beach Retreat held at the BCH's Beach Cottage. We want to have a huge crowd this year. Your cost will be \$20 a night for each person who attends. Where else could you ever find a place at the beach and a bed, breakfast, lunch, and supper—plus Christian fellowship—for that price. This will help cover the cost of renting the building plus buying the food for the meals. You can come on Friday after lunch and stay until after lunch on Sunday. We ask that you bring some delicious “homemade” desserts and drinks to share. **Debbie Caulder** and I are in charge of buying the food and helping with the cooking. Females will be on one side of the building and males on the other—just like you are used to. There will be rooms for husband and wife until they run out. Please let Debbie or me know if you plan to attend by the first of September.

**Debbie Stallings Lassiter** lived at Kennedy Home (KH) from 1969 through 1976. Debbie recently shared: “In 1994, **David** and I began our journey together as a married couple and, over the years, we have been blessed with a beautiful blended family. Our eldest child, **Stephanie**, has dedicated her career to educating young minds as a school teacher. Following her, our second child, also named **David**, serves as a mechanical engineer for the government, contributing his skill to important projects. The youngest of our trio, **Erin**, works for the North Carolina State Employees Credit Union, helping to support our community's financial well-being.

“We couldn't be prouder of our children who have grown into remarkable individuals and upstanding citizens of this country. Our family and joy has expanded with five grandchil-

dren—three energetic boys and two spirited girls. Each of them is incredibly smart and full of life, finding joy in sports, hiking, and hunting.

“My life at KH instilled values that I carry on in my family today. The children I grew up with at KH are truly my brothers and sisters. I am forever thankful for the adults who added value to my life. Returning each year for Homecoming is one of my greatest blessings. This year's Homecoming was filled with happiness and joy. I eagerly look forward to our next gathering in October at Atlantic Beach.”

**Donna Duty** writes to share more about this past Homecoming: “I always enjoy every Kennedy Home Homecoming that I attend, but this year's was more special for me because I spent time with three of my alumni sisters who lived with me in the Brokenhurst Cottage in the late 1960s—**Becky Rochelle Barnet, Debbie Connie Daniels, and Debbie Stallings Lassiter**. Becky brought her daughter **Jennifer** and we all enjoyed seeing her again. All of us enjoyed the hot dog lunch together under the picnic shelter and then we made our way up to the campus church to look at the new alumni rooms. We enjoyed seeing old photos of when we were children—as well as seeing some of our alumni friends. It brought back a lot of good memories of our times living on campus. Sunday, I brought my former social worker, **Ann Wilkerson Arant**, to the Homecoming church service. She enjoyed seeing and visiting with several at the church and also during the alumni lunch in the gym. Ann was my last and best social worker while living at KH. She had a guitar that she played very well and had a great singing voice (still does). She and **Sharon Garner**, now deceased, would sing

with us in the choir and join us on our choir trips when we visited area churches. **John Thompson**, our choir director, would share with the church about KH and our choir would sing at the top of our lungs! Those choir trips were a lot of fun. We would stay in the homes of some of the church members as we visited churches throughout North Carolina. Those times of singing in the choir were very special for me and taught me to love praising God in song. Thank you John, Ann, and Sharon for investing your time and talents with us and helping us learn to love to sing in the choir!”

**Georgia Roach** shared these words with us: “Back in Pollock Cottage, I remember the days of summer when we had to go to the garden and pick veggies. That summer sun was scorching and it was hard to stay out there doing that job. I still remember thinking someone would pass out in that heat but all of us also thought how wonderful dinner would be that night eating the vegetables we were picking. After all these years, I still remember sitting on the front porch of the cottage shelling those beans until I thought my fingers would fall off. It always seemed like hours before the job was finished.

“On Saturday mornings, we always had to do our chores and mop along with buffing the floors downstairs. That buffer was something to behold when you couldn't control it! It ran away from me lots of times and bumped into the couch. I remember how **Miss Simmons** would always peek in on me to make sure I was doing it correctly. She was a lady of perfection for sure, but she taught us girls how to clean and it has stuck with me now for more than 30 years!

“One of my jobs I chose was to clean the church during the summer and I enjoyed that job—it was

by far the best of any shore I had during my years at KH. There was always such a peace and it was a serene place for me. I always tried to look real busy when **Mr. Vance Russ** came by to check on my work. He had the most compassionate heart I'd ever seen. He has always remained my fondest role model. I also enjoyed working in the canteen with **Mr. Beacham**. I always thought he was the best looking fella.”

Thank you for sharing your stories! Remember, sending your stories make the column better. I depend on you to help me every month.

**Gene Heath** shared news of his brother **Larry Carl Heath** passing away. Larry was at KH from 1955-1961. After leaving KH, he enlisted in the Army. He faithfully served his country for 21 years. He went on to serve the Lord as a missionary until he got sick and couldn't continue his work. His wife **Nenette** was by his side until his death.

I once played the piano at Centerville Baptist Church. This year, their VBS, with 401 attending, gave their mission offering of \$3,000 and designated it to Kennedy Home. Thank you!

I need your help. I believe **Mazie Warters and Louise Maready** are the only two housemothers living that served at the same time I did. If you know of some others, write me a note and mail to 102 Maritime Court, Havelock, N. C. 28532.

I need you to write me something to share with all the alumni and readers. Mail or email me and let me know how you are doing.

I hope to see you at the Beach Retreat and Christmas Party this

year. Love you all!  
—jt



John Thompson served at Kennedy Home from 1972-1977. At age 80, he continues to serve the Lord.

# Retreat, reflect, rejuvenate, refocus, and reconnect

By Jim Edminson, Editor

**T**he last bell rings and graduation for Kathy's students is only a few days away. The final semester for seniors is a sprint to the finish line and has its challenges. By the time her last student turns in the last assignment and the final grades are posted, she is spent. This year marks 20 years as a public school literature teacher. But unlike the football player whose team has just won the Super Bowl, she doesn't want a trip to Disney World. Instead, she craves a time of solace and retreat.

On retreat, one doesn't do stuff so much as reflect stuff. Our days at the retreat center north of Greensboro unfold as time spent reading, strolling, writing, hiking, watching, hearing, and sharing. To Kathy's delight, the center has a huge collection of books on myriad subjects and boasts five libraries; some of the rooms have tables with chairs but others have comfy chairs and sofas. These encourage solitude. I develop a routine of finding my own way, and yet my paths always intersect Kathy's paths. I like her, and I have the habit of gravitating toward her, even on retreat. Most often, she could be found in the largest library, the one with lamp lighting and comfy chairs, the one almost announcing that this is a place of silence and private contemplation. Her world slows down.

On a bookshelf in Kathy's library, I find a collection of jigsaw puzzles, choose one, and go into another room, one with a large table adjacent to the coffee service area.

I love puzzles. I love solving and resolving puzzles. The graphic nature of the colorful bits draws me in; the challenge engages my mind.

I share my jigsaw fascination with daughters

Mary and Amie. I recall that my mom enjoyed a good puzzle as well. But when I scatter pieces of puzzle onto a table, I think immediately about Paw Paw and his table with a jigsaw puzzle always in process. His front door opened into his family room, and straight across from the open front door sat his brown La-Z-Boy. Next to the recliner, he had a folding card table, and on that table stood a puzzle box lid with the colorful photo of a distant place.

Paw Paw readily gave his time to anyone venturing in, stopping for a good conversation with family and friends. His smile welcomed all into his sanctuary, and when he had company, he moved his table against the wall. People took precedence over puzzles, and I learned early how to prioritize time and attention by watching my grandfather. But in my memory, his puzzle in progress was always nearby. I don't think I ever helped with the puzzles he worked; when I was there, he gave me his attention, another lesson he taught me about priorities.

I snap a photo of my puzzle box lid and send to Mary, put the puzzle pieces out, face up, and form the outer border of the jigsaw, separating the flat-edged pieces from the others. The majority of the pieces, the inside ones, lie in a single layer to the side. I stand the box top upright and begin. I listen to the hubbub of the coffee drinkers and resist stopping, my attention centered on the puzzle and its challenge. I work quickly and methodically, and before our afternoon walk, the puzzle is complete. I snap my "after" photo, type a message to Mary, and

send to show off my accomplishment. (Mary sends a response, noting the quickness of the completion, and giving me encouraging emojis for a job well done!)

Thus began a new part of my days on retreat. Soon, people checked in on my progress. When I chose puzzles with bigger counts, they shook heads, smiled their encouragement and commented about how these challenges "sure were puzzling, huh!" The puzzles, meant to be a time-passer for a lone person, slowly drew me into community and shared cups of coffee, becoming common ground.

Paul instructs us in his letter to the Ephesians: "Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace" (4:3). Time apart rejuvenates the spirit, and unity with like-minded people refocuses our energies, equipping us for our days ahead, confident that we are parts of

one picture, uniquely suited to be one in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

Edminson encourages others through the Good News of Jesus. Invite him to speak to your church or organization. You can email him at [wjedminson@bchfamily.org](mailto:wjedminson@bchfamily.org).



Edminson encourages others through the Good News of Jesus. Invite him to speak to your church or organization. You can email him at [wjedminson@bchfamily.org](mailto:wjedminson@bchfamily.org).

# SHARE

The Story!

## 3

**WAYS A BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOMES (BCH) SPEAKER CAN SHARE AT YOUR CHURCH:**

### 1

**FULL SERMON**  
20-25 mins

A speaker will prepare a message for your worship service to edify the congregation, provide a BCH missions update, and share stories of lives that have been changed through your support.

### 2

**MISSION MOMENT**  
2-5 mins

A speaker will share a BCH update and talk briefly how your missions dollars are impacting God's kingdom. The speaker can also set up a small display table to greet people.

### 3

**SMALL GROUP/SUNDAY SCHOOL**

A speaker will share a BCH mission update and stories of lives changed. Your group will hear ways to pray, volunteer and support the ministry as a group or as a church.

**TO INVITE A SPEAKER, GO TO [BCHFAMILY.ORG/](https://www.bchfamily.org) SPEAKER OR SCAN THE CODE. CALL 336-474-1218.**