

[“Those who don’t confront, most often don’t care.” – Blackwell]

[“I needed someone to love me.” – Paulina]

10/14

Charity & Children 127/9

And now abides faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity. Baptist Children’s Homes of North Carolina

Invite BCH offering speaker to your church. (page 5) Tabitha takes Guatemalan mission trip. (page 8)

Four changed by living at BCH

By J. Blake Ragsdale, Managing Editor

Joe, Roberta, Paulina, and Travis act as if they’ve always known one another. The four-some could fool anyone into believing they are old friends or even relatives.

Joe, the oldest, was born when Harry Truman was President. While the youngest, Travis, just began his senior year in high school. Roberta is a mother of two teens, a singer and an author. And Paulina is pursuing her master’s degree in social work.

While not related by flesh and blood, the group shares a special kinship – they all lived at Baptist Children’s Homes (BCH). They all belong to *North Carolina’s largest family*.

Although there are smiles on their faces today, they share another commonality that once defined their lives – *hopelessness*.

“I didn’t know a lot about hope when I was 10 years old. I didn’t know what hope was,” 64-year-old Joe Knight reveals.

As a boy, Joe’s life was filled with turmoil. His father abandoned Joe’s mother and his siblings. Things were desperate as they moved from one place to another in constant search of shelter. Creature comforts, such as a warm bed or regular meals, were foreign to Joe.

In 1960, Joe’s mother brought her children to BCH’s Mills Home in Thomasville. Joe came to his new home with only one change of clothes. Being at Mills Home was the first time Joe recalls “sleeping between two sheets.”

“I remember my mother let go of my hand and someone else took my hand. That lady was an angel,” Joe remembers. “It took a lot of

courage for my mom to let go of her five children to come here, but she knew it was the best thing for us.”

While Joe’s mom kept her children’s best interests at heart, the same could not be said for Roberta’s mother. She and her siblings endured horrific abuse by her mother’s boyfriend.

“We didn’t know if we would be able to eat. We had to sleep outside,” Roberta Brunck shares. “We were beaten for anything we did wrong or was perceived as wrong.”

“The hardest thing was watching my mother do absolutely nothing to protect my brother, sister and me.”

Roberta and her siblings were removed from her mother’s care (she and her boyfriend were charged with 52 counts of abuse) and arrived at BCH’s Broyhill Home in Clyde in 1991.

“Being able to have a family at Broyhill Home that displayed what a mom looks like and what a dad looks like and what brothers and sisters look like was life changing,” Roberta explains.

In June 1993 while at Broyhill, Roberta asked Jesus to come into her heart. “My spiritual journey began by just being loved.”

Travis Martin intimately understands what it’s like to feel unloved. As a child, he watched his mother and father succumb to alcohol and drug



Former residents Joe, Paulina, Travis, and Roberta found hope through BCH.

addictions. When his father

asked Travis’ aunt and uncle to take care of his eight-year-old son, the boy felt abandoned.

“They didn’t do the things they needed to do to regain custody of me and that caused me to have a lot of anger – even anger towards God,” Travis reveals. “I didn’t feel worth anything since my parents didn’t care enough to do what they needed to do to keep me.”

As time passed, the boy’s anger and depression became deeply rooted. Despite the loving care of his aunt and uncle, Travis arrived at a breaking point. “There was a day where it didn’t matter to me anymore whether I lived or died. I was done.”

Continued on page 7.

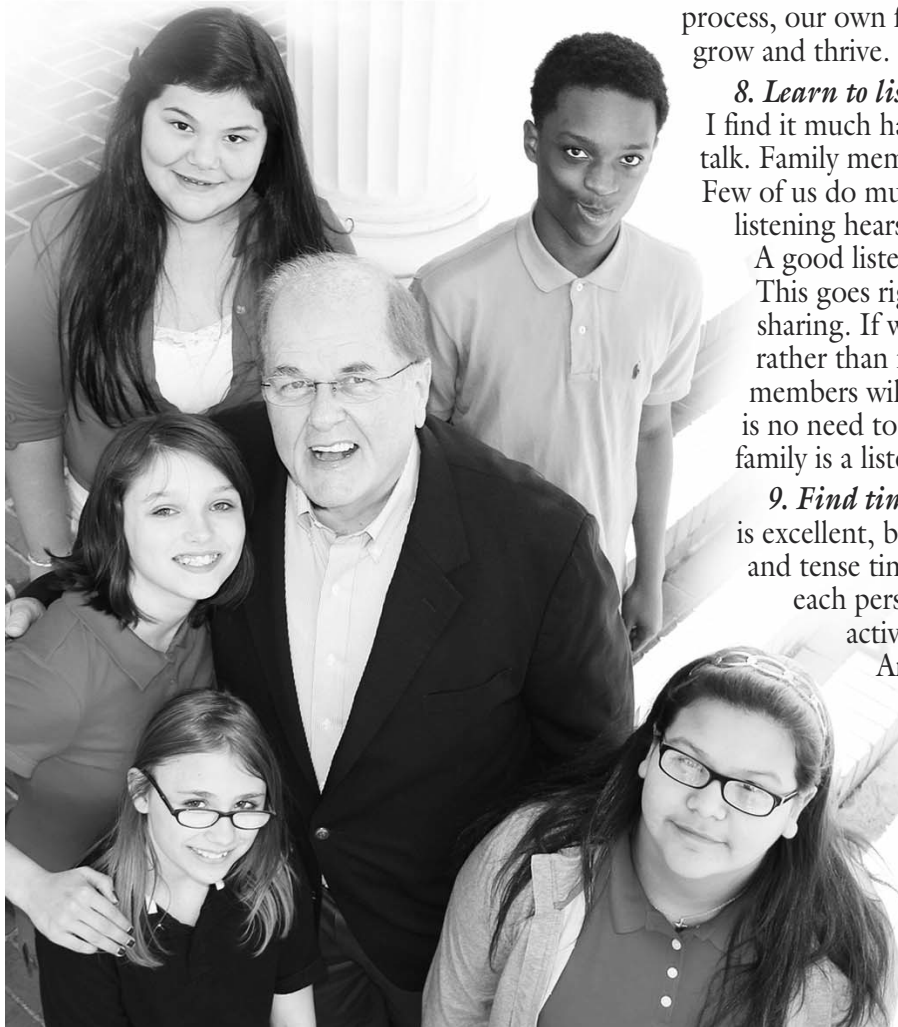
the Annual Offering
Redeemed
Week of Prayer: Nov. 16 - 23

Seek mind of Christ to make family grandest creation in God's beautiful world

By Michael C. Blackwell, President/CEO

In my September *Charity & Children* article, I referenced 12 suggestions for keeping our families strong and alive. Below is a list of my first six suggestions with the addition of the final six suggestions:

1. *Share your personal problems and ideas.*
2. *Divide responsibilities according to age, interest and capability.*
3. *Instill moral behavior in all family members and hold them accountable for high moral standards.*
4. *Find times to be together as a family.*
5. *Establish your family on a strong religious*



foundation.

6. *Respect the individually of each family member, including the right to privacy and independent thinking.*

7. *Bring generations together in order to begin or maintain special family traditions.* Keep a thorough family history. Wherever possible, allow children to have plenty of time with their grandparents. If there are no grandparents in the family, it is still important for children to have a connection with people of all ages. There are many people, especially older adults, who don't have anyone to be family to him or her. This gives all of us an opportunity to reach out and bless them with our interest and attention. In the process, our own family will be blessed, grow and thrive.

8. *Learn to listen. Listening take time.* I find it much harder to listen than I do to talk. Family members "talk over" one another. Few of us do much active listening. Active listening hears feelings as well as words. A good listener can be a good helper. This goes right along with respect and sharing. If we practice "selective hearing" rather than fully listening, our family members will come to know that there is no need to try to talk to us. A strong family is a listening family.

9. *Find time to talk together.* Mealtime is excellent, but often this is a stress-filled and tense time. Even a few minutes to let each person "report" on his day's activities is better than nothing.

And if your family never has a meal together, then perhaps you need this suggestion more than most. Once again, I suggest that you "set aside" opportunities to talk to each other. A former staff member of BCH once told me that she looked for opportunities when her children were a "captive

audience" in the car. She would take along stories and object lessons to share that they would remember years later. All five of her children have grown into adults who give of themselves to others.

10. *Encourage friendships and experiences outside the family.* Too much togetherness can stifle growth. Husbands shouldn't resent their wives participating in cultural and educational opportunities. And vice-versa. Not every experience can or must be shared within the exclusive confines of the family. The growth and enrichment of each family member enriches the entire family. Think of the scope of learning that each member of the family can derive from the experiences other family members share with them.

11. *Learn to confront problems head on.* Communication is the key. Don't nurse grudges or harbor resentments. When a problem arises, deal with it immediately. Problems multiply when they aren't handled quickly. Communicate, communicate, communicate. It is more important than ever in this fast-paced, hectic and uncertain world in which we live. A good principle to remember is that it is in confronting that you prove that you really care about the other person. Those who don't confront, most often don't care.

12. *Ask for outside help when needed.* We can't solve all our problems alone. Sometimes other family members can't help either. The most courageous thing to do is to seek the help of an outside counselor, friend or minister. Families whose communication process has broken down can and should seek outside help if they are going to survive. It takes wisdom and courage to take this most important step when it is needed. Family members need to support one another in decisions like these.

Remember, there is no magic ingredient that will make a family strong. It takes every member working together and seeking the mind of Christ to make a family the grandest creation in God's beautiful world.

Michael C. Blackwell leads the ministry with vigor and enthusiasm. He has served as president of Baptist Children's Homes since 1983 and has a record-setting 31-year tenure.

Charity & Children – Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina, Inc., 204 Idol St., P.O. Box 338, Thomasville, NC 27361-0338. Michael C. Blackwell, publisher; W. James Edminson, editor (wjedminson@bchfamily.org); J. Blake Ragsdale, managing editor (jbragsdale@bchfamily.org); Marcia Housand, Account Clerk. **Charity & Children** (ISSN 0009-1723-09 USPS 100-460) is published 11 times a year for friends and supporters of Baptist Children's Homes and is printed at Triangle Web Printing, Durham, NC. It is mailed by Excalibur, Winston-Salem, NC. **Circulation:** 62,000 seven times a year, 30,000 four 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 or call at 336-474-1209. **Subscribe online** at www.bchfamily.org/contact/index/charityandchildren. **POSTMASTER:** Send change of address to **Charity & Children**, P.O. Box 338, Thomasville, NC 27361-0338.

Autumn never stopped hoping

By Jim Edminson, Editor

The bright eyes and big smile of this 15-year-old don't reflect the heartache and hurt Autumn has experienced. In fact, listening to her talk about her past is like listening to someone talk about someone who lived far away, someone who was from a different time.

"Even when I was in the darkest of places," Autumn reflects, "I was hopeful. I was hopeful that I would get to where I am today."

That far away place was a home filled with unrest. Autumn's parents fought all the time. Her mother was immersed in a world of drug abuse and, eventually, her mom and dad split up. Autumn says spending her time living between the two made her feel weary and tired.

When living with Mom, Autumn says it was hard to physically care for her mother instead of having her mom care for her. Her world further spiraled down when her mother's friend attacked and hurt her. She withdrew into herself, and darkness fell around her.

"I shut off the world," she remembers. "I needed help and didn't know how to tell anyone. I wouldn't talk. I began to cut myself."

Autumn went to live full time with her father. She was seeing as many as three counselors and was given medication. But little helped. One day her father decided to give her medication that was prescribed to him – powerful pain pills and anti-depressants.

"I began hearing voices and having hallucinations that made me feel suicidal," she says. "I was scared."

During a doctor's appointment, Autumn disclosed what was happening. The doctor tested her for the drugs she mentioned and then called the Department of Social Services. The next day, Autumn was taken to Truett Home in Hayesville.

Truett Home began serving children in 2008 as a result of a partnership between Truett Baptist Association and Baptist Children's Homes (BCH). BCH staff and houseparents provide care for up to six boys and girls ages six and older.

It's been a year since Autumn came into care, and her life is now better. "I used to take four prescription medications, but now I take one – and it is half the dose it used to be."

Autumn credits her houseparents and social worker for the difference. She says she has learned coping skills that make her less dependent on medication. She has also learned the tools to use in building positive relationships with adults and peers.



Autumn has called Truett Home in Hayesville home for a year. In that time, she has grown in her relationship with God, learned important skills in dealing with some complex problems, and realized the hope that she held onto during the darkest of times in her young life. Truett Home serves as many as six children ages six and older and operates in partnership with the churches of Truett Baptist Association.

"I like the structure we have at Truett Home," she says. "I used to come home from school and not know who was going to be there, if anyone. Here there is always someone waiting for us when we come in from school. I can expect it, and I know what is expected of me."

Autumn says she accepted Christ when she was in the seventh grade and went to church every chance she could. Being at Truett Home has helped and she has grown in her faith. She credits her houseparent Judy Blanton with helping her to know God personally.

"My earthly father was so bad," she says. "I never thought about God as a *loving* father. But now I'm learning that He loves me the most, and all that's changed – *He is my loving Father.*"

Autumn says she reads the Bible regularly and

she feels she can talk to God and trust Him "with everything to do with anything."

Now, her mother has made a complete turn around. She is clean and is receiving the help she needs to stay that way. She has a place to live, and mother and daughter have been able to visit each other. The time is coming when Autumn will leave Truett Home to reunite with her mom.

"Mom is going to church again," Autumn says. "She is committed to a new life – a life where we can be together."

Autumn has begun her sophomore year of high school. She dreams of going to college and one day becoming a traveling nurse. Autumn says she never stopped hoping. She appreciates all the help she has received and thanks God for "his blessings on me and my life."

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“Thankful living” impacts the lives of children and families

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

The psalmist proclaims that God offers redemption from the hand of the enemy. This is not an affirmation of faith that was only true for the Israelites, but it is also true today for those who experience abuse, trauma, mental anguish, drug addiction and other forms of bondage.

To be redeemed. . .rescued. . .delivered. . . was the experience of those released out of exile and captivity. The Israelites had wandered in the desert for a long time. Tired, hungry and thirsty, their souls fainted within them. In their desperation they cried out to the Lord and He delivered them. The Lord filled their hungry souls with manna from heaven. David writes calling on them to give voice to their thanksgiving – recognizing they had been “redeemed from the hand of the enemy.”

Baptist Children’s Homes’ (BCH) Thanksgiving Offering theme this year is “Let the redeemed of the Lord say so.” Through the years there have been so many stories of redemption experienced through this ministry to children and families. Stories of children like Patricia who suffered so much abuse at the hands of her family and then experienced the unconditional love of houseparents who helped healing begin. Today, Patricia loves to share her story of redemption with churches across the state.

Roberta’s story included 52 counts of abuse against her mother and her mother’s boyfriend. Roberta’s story is one of forgiveness and redemption. Roberta has become a wonderful mother – breaking the cycle of abuse in her family.

Paulina’s father went to prison for abuse when Paulina was three-



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Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he has redeemed from the hand of the enemy. – Psalm 107:2

years-old. She is now in graduate school at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill working toward her masters in social work.

Like Patricia, Roberta and Paulina have shared their stories of redemption in churches all across North Carolina.

Joe and his five brothers and sisters did not have food to eat. Joe had never slept between two clean sheets. His brother Pete shares a story of being the only boy in his school who had to zip his pants from the side because he wore his sisters’ hand-me-down clothes. Both of these men have had successful productive lives. They do not hesitate to share their story of redemption at every opportunity.

Sedrick was tossed against a wall at the age of four, placed in hot scalding water, and suffered a traumatic brain injury. Life has been very difficult for Sedrick, but he has been unwilling to surrender to the trauma that threatened to rob him of life. Today, Sedrick is a bundle of love for the Lord and for the people in his life. He enjoys proclaiming his story of healing and redemption.

What do these individuals have in common? They were bound within the experiences beyond their control. Like the Israelites, they cried out

to the Lord in their time of desperation – and God redeemed them.

BCH is one of God’s tools for healing, and through this ministry each of these children and many others are touched by your gifts of love and prayerful support. I often hear our children and families share how BCH loves them and cares for them when their families “do not” or “cannot” love them. It is because of you that we are able to open our doors to so many in need. Because you have followed God’s call on your life to care for others, boys and girls are introduced to the transforming power of God.

Churches across North Carolina are busy planning their participation in the Thanksgiving Offering. Their gifts will help give children, families and individuals seeking refuge a chance to be redeemed, rescued and delivered from their difficult situations.

One of the ways you give voice to the redemption that has taken place in your life is through your stewardship. When you give, you share the Good News of redemption with others. Thank you for making Baptist Children’s Homes one of your priorities.

For more information on how you can help your church increase their giving to the Thanksgiving Offering, please call. If you would like to know how you can personally increase your giving through a gift now or through a planned gift, call me at 336-474-1230 or 336-689-4442. It would be a blessing to share with you how you can give your estate twice. . .once to your family and then to a charity of your choice. This is sometimes referred to as a “Twice Blessed Gift.” There are many planned giving options to help you meet your goals of Christian stewardship.

Let us all strive to live lives based on thanksgiving and thankful living.



Brenda Gray’s passion is children. She serves BCH as the executive vice president, development & communications. Gray directs all fund-raising/ friend-raising activities for the state-wide services.

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This short promo video is perfect to play before the start of your worship service. Get it on the **FREE DVD** or download it directly at www.vimeo.com/bchfamily/redeempromo

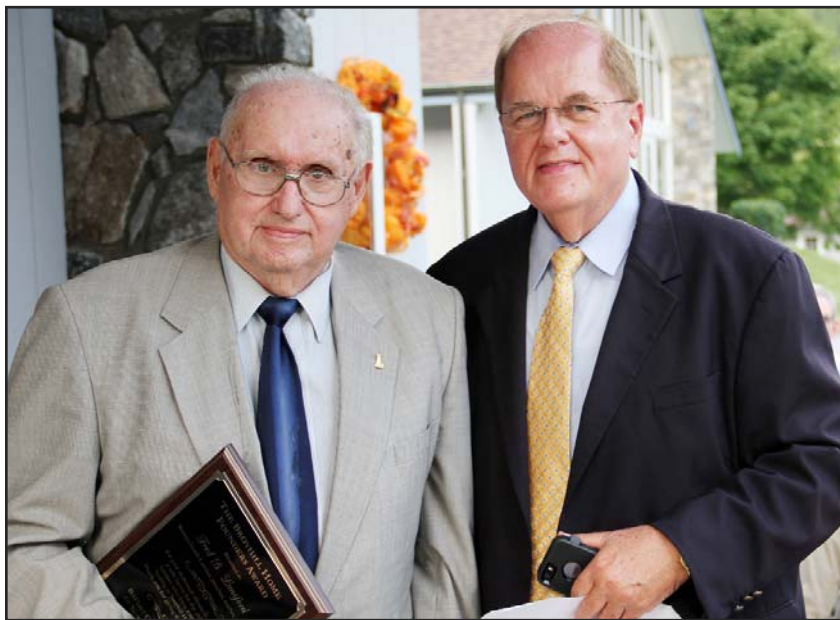
When your church participates in the Annual Offering, **CHILDREN'S LIVES ARE FOREVER CHANGED!** To order materials or schedule a speaker, call 1.800.476.3339, ext. 1209 Download slides, ads, videos, and more at www.bchfamily.org/offering.

BCH friends meet at Broyhill Home

The threat of rain could not keep the more than 800 from attending the 55th Annual Western Area Conference at Broyhill Home in Clyde on September 4. Extra large tents were set up in case the rain tried to dampen spirits, but not a drop fell during the festivities.

The highlight of the event is always the seeing and the hearing of the children and residents. This year was no different as Autumn and Tabitha shared their testimonies and children sang “Jesus Loves Me.”

Long-time friend of Baptist Children’s Homes (BCH) and former director of missions for Truett Association Fred Lunsford received The Broyhill Home Founders Award presented by BCH president Michael C. Blackwell (see photo below). The annual Friends of Children award was presented to the churches of Mitchell Baptist Association. The Western Area Conference is held the first Thursday of every September.



Top, the developmental disabilities ministry residents from Alverta Bolick Home in Asheville perform. Above left, NCBAM west regional director Anita Davie, right, visits with FBC Brevard member Lana Burgess. Above, Mitchell Baptist Association director of missions Daniel Whetstine, left, and BCH’s Lewis Smith prepare to take the stage for the Friends of Children award presentation. Left, Daisy Shields, wife of Truett Baptist Association director of missions Mitchell Shields, and BCH houseparent Judy Blanton pose for a candid snapshot.

Founders Day gives guests a glimpse into life at Camp Duncan

Camp Duncan in Aberdeen held its annual “Founders Day” on September 9 hosting friends both old and new. The event was the first time Eric Davidson, the Interim Associational Missionary for Sandy Creek Baptist Association, visited the year-round residential wilderness camp for girls.

“I have been a Baptist for 28 years, and I have never been to one of these homes before,” Davidson said. “Every Baptist ought to see what I have seen today because it has changed me.”

The girl campers shared with Davidson and guests how their lives have been transformed at Camp Duncan. As a part of the day, they gave guided tours of the campsite where they live including the outdoor shelters where they eat and sleep.

“I was almost brought to tears when I saw a teddy bear on one of the girls’ beds. It made me think about my own daughter,” Davidson said. “That made it very real for me.”

The day concluded with a short program and lunch which was prepared by Duncan’s staff. The meal offered one more opportunity for the girls to spend time with their guests and share what they’ve been learning.

“They talked a lot about goals and working on different things which are good,” Davidson said. “Camp provides an atmosphere where they can do that.”



Camp Duncan hosted Founders Day on Tuesday, September 9. The day invites BCH friends to see the residential wilderness ministry firsthand and meet the girls. Above, Jessie shares her testimony at Camp Duncan’s Lake Catherine.

Hear the stories for yourself. Watch the new video at www.vimeo.com/bchfamily/redeemed

Redeemed

2014 annual offering for Baptist Children's Homes



Offering goal: \$1,500,000

Week of Prayer: November 16 - 23, 2014

Resources: www.bchfamily.org/offering

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Redemption story shared across the years by former residents

Continued from page 1.

In 2010, Travis came to Cameron Boys Camp in Moore County, one of BCH's two residential wilderness ministries.

"After about the first year, I realized my worth wasn't in my parents. I had God," Travis says. "I knew He was going to always love me no matter what happened."

Paulina Burch didn't know about God as a child. She only knew about the heartache she felt because of the dysfunction that festered within her family.

At age three, her father was imprisoned for abusing her mother. After her mother remarried, turmoil continued to plague Paulina's family which culminated in another divorce.

"I was angry and hurting," Paulina remembers. "I needed someone to love me."

Paulina was introduced to God's love when she came to Mills Home in 2006. One night, while sitting at the kitchen table in the cottage, her houseparents led her to Christ.

"I didn't know what unconditional love was before coming here," Paulina says. "I love sharing how much of a difference it made for complete strangers to care for me as if I were their own child."

Paulina, Travis, Roberta, and Joe successfully vanquished the darkness that put their futures at risk. As Travis explains, each of them used the foundation they received at BCH to build better lives.

"BCH gives a child the tools needed for their future," Travis explains. "It helps bring that redemption story into their lives so they can build a better future for themselves and their families."

The 18-year-old has returned home with his aunt and uncle, Karen and Dan Wood, where

he attends a local Christian academy. Travis serves with his aunt and uncle on his church's praise and worship team. He has developed gifts for singing and speaking. Travis shares his testimony at

Hannah.

"I think kids coming to BCH today still need hope," Roberta says. "They need to know that they're not alone – that they never have to be alone – and that they're loved."

Paulina graduated from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro on May 9 with a bachelor's degree in social work. She also received the Outstanding Senior Award from the Health and Human Services Department.

Only two days after commencement, Paulina began graduate school at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Inspired by the BCH staff who undergirded her with love and support, the former Mills Home resident is studying to receive her master's degree in social work.

"My dream is to give back and impact the lives of others just as my life has been impacted by BCH," Paulina shares.

Joe is making his own unique impact today at the place where he ran and played as a 10-year-old-boy. He owns a landscaping business and maintains the grounds at Mills Home. Through his company, Joe cares for the campus that has cared for him and countless others.

"There's been thousands of children and families rescued by the Baptist Children's Homes," Joe says. "Every time I come through that arch, I get this feeling that God loved me then, He loves me now – God loves me. And he loves these children, and He loves this place. This is God's place."



Joe Knight sings and strums his guitar while being filmed for "Redemption Stories," the 2014 Annual Offering video. Joe came to Mills Home in 1960 along with his two brothers and two sisters.

churches throughout the state.

"God put me through my situations so I could be where I am today," Travis says. "I'm able to speak about BCH and what God has done in my life. I can be an advocate and a strength to my friends and other kids that are in need."

Like Travis, Roberta actively sings and speaks about her life and the redemption she has found. She has written her first book, *I Choose Forgiveness*, which chronicles both her childhood and the spiritual journey that led her to forgiving her mother.

Roberta, a mother of two, has broken the cycle of abuse in her family. She has passed on the hope she has received to her children, Noah and



GIVE to
make an eternal
difference.

Tabitha realizes mission dream

By J. Blake Ragsdale, Managing Editor

The van ride from Guatemala City to Quetzaltenango (Xela) is a three-hour trip along a winding, mountain road. The drive is the last leg in the arduous journey to Good Shepherd Children's Home – Baptist Children's Homes' (BCH) new affiliate orphanage.

For Tabitha, the trip was a great adventure and dream come true. Earlier, she traveled from BCH's Broyhill Home in Clyde to the airport in Atlanta, GA. She then completed the three-plus hour flight from Atlanta to Guatemala City.

During the van ride, Tabitha's gaze was fixed on the world outside her window. This was her first trip to a another country.

"I loved that drive," Tabitha recounts. "I loved looking out the window and seeing the faces of all the people."

For years, Tabitha dreamed of seeing the faces, foreign landscapes and experiencing the cultures she learned about in grade school. She also desired for her first trip abroad to be a mission opportunity.

"I've always had an interest to work in the mission field," Tabitha explains. "Part of going to Guatemala with BCH was to see if it's something I really want to do."

The staff at Broyhill Home arranged for Tabitha and her brother Trevor, who is also a BCH resident, to travel recently to New York with a mission team from Riverside Baptist Church in Waynesville.

Helping the city's homeless alongside the Riverside group deepened Tabitha's desire.

When she first learned about BCH's partnership with North Carolina Baptist Men and International Indigenous Community Development (IICD) to begin the orphanage in Xela, she asked BCH's president Michael C. Blackwell and chief operating officer Keith Henry if she could go to Guatemala.

On May 15, the day after her 18th birthday, Tabitha received the news – she would travel with a BCH team for a week-long trip to the new orphanage.

"I was so excited," Tabitha recalls. "Ms. Vicki, Ms. Lou, Ms. Vivian, and Ms. Shehva all helped me to prepare."

Shehva Kier, resident manager at Moody



Broyhill Home resident Tabitha embarked on her first international missions trip in July. She became the first Baptist Children's Homes' (BCH) resident to travel to the Good Shepherd Children's Home, BCH's new affiliate orphanage in Xela, Guatemala. Above, Tabitha spends time with one of the ladies who assists with cleaning. Below, Tabitha and BCH's Shehva Keir begin working on the mural that now adorns the large courtyard wall at the orphanage.

Home in Franklin, accompanied Tabitha on her journey. They joined BCH's Regina Keener, Linda Russo, Miriam Matias and Brooke Childe on the trip. While the other team members spent the week training the Guatemalan citizens who will serve at Good Shepherd Children's Home, Tabitha and Shehva carried out their own unique mission. The duo created a mural on the building's large courtyard wall.

The courtyard is the central area of the facility and will serve as a play area for the children who will live there. Every room inside the structure has a door that opens into the courtyard.

"I like to paint, and I think the mural will be enjoyed by the children," Tabitha says.

Colorful drawings of flowers, butterflies and children adorn the long concrete wall. Scripture from Isaiah 54:13, written in the country's native Spanish language, completes the artwork.

"The building itself is beautiful," Tabitha says. "I hope it will feel like home to the children."

While the mural and training sessions took the majority of their time, Tabitha and the BCH team members were also able to explore the surrounding area.

Even though she knew about the difficult living conditions of the Quiche people in Xela, seeing it firsthand was eye-opening for the teen.

"I saw little children playing in a house with no roof, door or floor," Tabitha says. "I also saw a woman and children going through a trash pile on the side of the road looking for food. There was a dog with them eating out of the same trash pile."

Tabitha says it brought back memories from her childhood. "I know about being hungry. I remember growing up and occasionally eating at a soup kitchen – and not always having three meals a day. I'm thankful for what I have today."

The experience of her first foreign trip has fueled her aspiration to be a part of mission work in the future. "I feel that it's something I want to be more involved in. After seeing these things, I don't know how you would not want to help."



A 25-minute presentation featuring more than 200 BCH residents and staff.

RISE UP

Baptist Children's Homes
NOVEMBER 10, 2014 at 7:15 p.m.
Baptist State Convention Annual Meeting
Koury Convention Center
Greensboro, NC

New 2014-2015 alumni council announced – Prayer requested for ill and grieving

By Lib Smathers Johnson (336) 299-7412 libsjohnson@triad.rr.com

Simplicity says it best: A note from **Michelle Walker Ranney** reads, “I have just come to realize that a lot of hard work goes into preparing for our Mills Home Homecoming, and I would like to thank the Mills Home Alumni Council and others who helped with Homecoming. Thank you all for the hard work you did to give us a great weekend. Bless every one of you.”

And what a perfect lead for me to introduce the 2014-2015 Mills Home Alumni Council to you. Heading the list is **Estie Culler** who will be serving us as president. Just remember that if you wish to share your ideas on how to make Homecoming more wonderful, she is the one to call. Her contact information is: Estie Culler, 3901 La Port Court, High Point, NC 27265, phone-336-848-6557, estiemae1@aol.com. **Kaye Trantham Mills** will serve as first vice-president-president elect, **Evelyn Kirby Burns** will finish Kaye’s term as secretary, **Flora Hicks Patton** will serve as treasurer, **Jimmy Rochelle** will serve as 2nd vice-president, and these folks will serve as council members – **Keith Campbell, Barbara Bustle Canipe, Jeanie Helms Cooper, Faye Meredith Davis, Janice Lewis Doherty, Regina Keener, Diane Stewart, Elaine Sisk, Sharon DeHart Stiles, Harry Walls, Susana Meeks Woods, and Lib Johnson** (alumni column columnist). Serving as volunteers will be: **Mike Clay, Jim Hamby, Obie Harris, Bob Mayton, Pete Knight, Lisa Carter Lancaster, Teresa Murphy, and J.W. Wood**. I think we can expect great things from this council.

Evelyn Kornegay Dawson sends a very gracious thank you note after almost every Homecoming and she did it again this year. She also sent a newspaper clipping about having celebrated 60 years of marriage to **Nathan Dawson**. They were married June 4, 1954. She was employed by the G.E. Carolina Welds Co. until her retirement. She then earned a CNA degree and worked with

Wayne County Services on Aging. Nathan was employed at AP Parts until his retirement. The two of them manage to come to every Homecoming.

Right after Homecoming, we learned that **Judeen Talbert Ritchie** of Mt. Pleasant passed away on Sunday, August 3 at CMC-Northeast. A memorial service for her was held at St. John’s Lutheran Church. Judeen came to Mills Home from Stanly County in 1950 and she graduated in 1960. Siblings with her at MH were **Paul, Joy Doyle and Pauline**. She was a member of St. John’s Lutheran Church and loved spending time at the beach. She was preceded in death by a son, **Carey Ritchie**. She is survived by her husband **Ted Ritchie**, the siblings named above, one grandson, and one great grandson. Memorials may be directed to St. John’s Lutheran Church Music Fund, 100 St. John’s Church Rd., Concord, NC 28025.

Linda Helderma McDonald sent the sad news that her mother-in-law **Mary Lois McDonald** passed away on August 21. Lois McDonald and her husband **Robert Glenn McDonald Sr.** served as houseparents at MH from 1959 until 1965. She was preceded in death by her husband and their son **Robert G. McDonald Jr.** She is survived by her daughter **Judy Lachaney** and daughter-in-law **Linda H. McDonald**. Judy was the caregiver for her mother for the last nine years. Friends can send condolences to Linda at mcdonald.linda.home@gmail.com and to Judy at judiann4159@aol.com.

Renita Mooney Bryant, Danny Bryant’s wife wrote on August 8: “I would like to ask all the brothers and sisters of Mills Home to remember **Dwayne Griffin** and his wife **Linda** in prayer as he is battling pancreatic cancer. Dwayne was at Mills Home from 1968-1971. I’ve seen the love you all have for each other and I know the value of prayer!”

A note on facebook from **Lorraine Owen Brewer** says, “I am beginning my battle with cancer after a serious

operation two weeks ago. God never lets us walk a storm without being there for us. I am thankful for caring neighbors Faye and Roger for being there for me and especially my husband **Tommy**. Life is full of God’s love and salvation. Please continue to pray for me.” Friends can send cards to Lorraine at 263 North Ford Rd., Black Mountain, NC 28711.

Rick Smoot sent a note asking for prayers for the husband of **Linda King Elliot** (1966). Linda and her husband have relocated to be near Duke awaiting and hoping for a lung transplant for her husband.

Two short items: **Joan Towe Higgins** requests prayers for her sister **Carolyn Miles** who continues a seven-year-long battle with cancer. Carolyn was recently hospitalized.

And, **Bennie and Tony Phillips** reached another milestone when their granddaughter **Paula** enrolled at UNCG with a double major of biology and Physical Therapy. Paula is the only child of the couple’s only child, **Sonja**, and they have really enjoyed watching her mature into a beautiful young lady.

Bennie’s note also mentioned that **Sandra and Coach Darrel Corder** had called to express regrets that they would not be able to attend Homecoming this year because of some health issues. He said they love all their MH children and think of them all the time. Sandra says she feels as though all the alumni of their day are their children! The Corders attend the First Baptist Church in Greenville and have been members of the Seminar Class for 36 years. They have a total of 143 on the membership roll, but because of age and some being home bound, they usually have only about 50 in attendance on Sunday mornings. Coach Corder is chairman of the Care and Concern Committee which keeps him very busy. Sandra types up an update newsletter each Sunday and sends it out to 90 people, e-mailing most of them and sending about 20 through the mail. They were pleasantly surprised recently when their

church, in their honor, renamed their Sunday school class The Seminar-Corder Class. Sandra said it is truly a wonderful and caring class and she and Coach Corder consider them their Sunday school family.

Since the publication of the last column, I have received a more preferred address for **Henrietta Everett Adams**: 658 Halifax St., Asheboro, NC 27205.

A note from **Sharon DeHart Stiles** says, “Lib, I wanted to let you know that I got a sweet letter from **Shirley Pressley**. She was a member of a family that I spent several weeks with one summer while I was at Mills Home. They were the Pressleys who lived in Cullowhee. I lost contact with them as I got older. Shirley was reading *Charity & Children’s* MH alumni column and saw the article about me. She sent me the nicest card and also she wrote a check to Sterling House in honor of me. I can’t tell you how thrilled I was to hear from her. In the letter she wrote, ‘the article was fascinating and I went on line to see the video about your Hero Award.’ During the time I visited with them, she and **Joe** had four children: **Mickey, Rhonda, Chuck and Jim**. They were so kind to me and I felt like a part of their family. Later on, they had another child named **Beth** whom I never met. I wrote back to Shirley and in the near future I plan to visit her. I just wanted to share this with you because it means so much to me. Without that article in the alumni column, I would have never been able to reconnect with her family.”

Finally, I was pleased to hear that **Dan Lambeth** had received an acknowledgement from President Obama regarding Dan’s exhibit on education from 1610 to 2010. Dan will be taking the exhibit to Washington, DC.



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



Every day at churches and BCH facilities "around the state," residents, staff members and North Carolina Baptists are making news. In *Charity & Children* and through BCH's social media posts, friends can connect daily, weekly and monthly to learn about all of BCH's happenings.



Stay connected online at www.bchfamily.org and on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Vimeo. Also follow NCBAM (www.ncbam.org) and BCH's Developmental Disabilities Ministry (www.hereismyhome.org).

2014 Connections Conference



Baptist Children's Homes served as the host for the 2014 Connections Conference in Asheville. Connections is the Association of Baptist Children's Home Professionals. The annual conference was held August 24-26 uniting development and communications professionals from Southern Baptist child care agencies from around the United States. As a part of the event, the group visited Broyhill Home in Clyde for an evening of singing, food and a time of sharing by the children in care.

Weekday Education



Dressed as secret agents, Weekday Education's summer students ended their week-long vacation bible school at the Child Development Center with a presentation for family members. Bible school took place the week of August 4. Learn more at www.bchfamily.org/weekdayeducation

Family Care



The Ladies Auxillary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9899 donated dozens

of plush bears in memory of member Anita Moore. Moore spent hours crocheting clothing for each bear. Pictured, Essence is a resident of Mills Home's Family Care program.

Bike for Change



Children in Wallburg recently participated in a Bike for Change to raise money for Baptist Children's Homes. The bike-a-thon was a neighborhood initiative organized by Wallburg resident Katy Oliver. Boys and girls living in the Meadowlands neighborhood, pedaled their bikes to raise donations for BCH's boys and girls. Learn more about hosting a Bike for Change with your group or church children by visiting www.bikeforchange.org

NCBAM



Scott Lee, left, the nephew of NCBAM (North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry) director Sandy Gregory, right, was recently awarded the badge of an Eagle Scout. His required service project for the award was a unique awareness program in which he informed healthcare and emergency service providers in Iredell County about Red Bags and their role in medication management for aging adults. Red Bags are part of NCBAM's Priority #1: Prevention. Ten thousand Red Bags have been distributed statewide. Learn more about the ministry to aging adults at www.ncbam.org

Mills Home



Summer was filled with activities for BCH's boys and girls. Above, Mills Home resident Thomas cools off in the pool with houseparents Shawn and Samantha Snipes. Below right to left, Thomas, his brother Jon, and fellow Mills Home resident Keontae observe the chimpanzee during their trip to the North Carolina Zoo in Asheboro.



Broyhill Home



Chris and Kathy Medlin of 3/20 Water Ministry treated boys at Drake Cottage in Franklin to a day at Lake Chatuge. It was the first time the boys had the opportunity to go knee boarding and wake boarding.

Camp Duncan



Camp Duncan resident Jessie, left, drills the hole while Chief Gwen holds the pole steady. The group is building their new chuck tent where they eat their meals.



You can meet the daily needs of BCH's boys and girls by sharing your time, talents and resources. You can help in these ways:

Friends of Children Workdays:

The perfect one-day missions outreach. Projects for all ages! Statewide BCH workdays available throughout May and September. Call 336-474-1209.

Bed Sponsor Program: Become a bed sponsor and have a plaque with your name mounted on a child's bed. Your name reminds a child that you are praying. Call 336-474-1277 or www.bchfamily.org/bedsponsor.

Mile of Pennies: Help by collecting a "Mile of Pennies." When it comes to providing care for hundreds of children, it takes everyone working together - one penny added to another penny and then another penny. Continue to multiply the pennies and just imagine how far you can go in making a real difference! Call 336-474-1209.

Walk for Change: Perfect for your church or community organization - walkers recruit financial sponsors to give a cash gift for walking a certain distance. Set your goal, secure your sponsors, designate a safe route, and have fun! Call 336-474-1209.

Recycle Projects: Collect empty printer cartridges (laser, inkjet and fax cartridges). Deliver items to any BCH facility or use prepaid shipping labels to send items to recycler. Millions of cartridges are thrown away each year. Begin collecting and help this year-round program earn money for children. You can recycle cell phones, too. Call 336-474-1209.

Bike for Change: Bike for Change is a fun and dynamic way for children to help "change" the lives of children. By pedaling bicycles, children raise support and awareness for BCH's boys and girls. It is a great service project for schools, churches, and other children's groups. It also teaches children the importance of participating in missions outreach. To learn more, visit www.bikeforchange.org. Download a planning guide and other resources. Contact Bike for Change coordinator Jay Westmoreland at bikeforchange@bchfamily.org for more ideas.

Volunteer at Unite on October 18: The event at Mills Home in Thomasville needs 150 volunteers. Unite is a day of worship, evangelism and fun for middle and high school age youth. Volunteer online at www.standupunite.com

One last word on centennial celebration – News and information needed for column

By **John Thompson**, 2500 Simpson Street, Apt. 102, Windsor Place, Jacksonville, N.C. 28546

(252)671-3515 jthompson117@ec.rr.com

I saved this last article about Homecoming for last. It is written by our very own **Donna Duty** (1967-1974). This is what she writes: “The year 2014 will always have a special meaning to me because I was asked to serve on the committee to help plan Kennedy Home’s 100th anniversary. I served alongside several of my alumni brothers and sisters who are close to my age and lived at KH when I did. I also served with some of the BCH staff who I did not know at all before serving on the planning committee – **Brenda Gray, Alan Williams, T.J. Slaughter, Jeff Joyner**, and KH director **Brian Baltzell**. We met several times during the year – meeting twice at the BCH beach cottage which was very exciting for myself and my alumni friends because we had not been back to that cottage in 40 something years. It was like stepping back into yesterday and oh, how the memories came back as we rocked on the upstairs back porch, walked on the beach, and walked down to the sound. Each time the committee met, the plans began to come together more and more and our excitement grew. We all worked well together, played well together, and prayed well together. It was a wonderful, rewarding experience that I will never forget.

“At long last, the anniversary Homecoming weekend arrived and it was time to get things set up and get ready for folks – the community, alumni and families – to arrive on campus. Myself and those on the planning committee arrived at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, July 4th. We met in the gym to get our ‘marching orders’ and work assignments for the day. Then we all dispersed and got to work. I helped a group of alumni and BCH staff work in the alumni room. The walls in the alumni room had been beautifully painted and alumni photos needed to be hung back on the walls. So all of us got to work organizing and hanging the alumni photos. It was slow going at first because we only had one drill. But soon we had a total of three drills and that made things go a lot quicker. By the time we finished in the afternoon, the alumni room

looked *alive* again and more beautiful than ever with photos on the wall and farm trophies and other farm items for display on the shelves.

“KH staff fed us hamburgers that day for lunch and they sure were good. After lunch, we worked a little longer then broke up to head to our hotels or homes we were visiting for the evening. I stayed in LaGrange at **Gary and Debbie Caulder’s** home, and had such a wonderful time. That Friday night, we stayed up until 12:30 a.m. laughing, telling old KH stories, and sharing other things about our lives and our families. Debbie and Gary even turned on the beach music and gave us a few dancing lessons in preparation for the alumni Sock Hop set to occur the next evening. What fun that was for me because of how much I love to *boogie!*

“Saturday morning, July 5th came early as the workers had to be at the gym again, this time by 7 a.m. We once again got work assignments and got busy. Some helped set up tents, some set up chairs, some helped get the gym ready by setting up alumni photos on easels in the lobby, and some helped get games and inflatables set up for the kids. There was still a lot to do before the community arrived at 10:00 a.m. but with God’s help we got it all done in time. At 10 sharp, a beautiful horse and carriage came down the avenue with Captain and Mrs. Kennedy (alumni **Jim Dyer and Doris Powers**) in it. They represented Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy with pride and looked so wonderful – we alumni were so proud of them. We all followed the carriage down to the Cedar Dell grounds where everyone sat in chairs and listened to Captain and Mrs. Kennedy give an opening “hello” along with BCH president **Michael C. Blackwell**, the mayor of Kinston, other community officials, and BCH and KH staff members. The opening ceremonies were very special. After the ceremonies, the campus was open to all for tours of Cedar dell and other fun activities. I had a friend that I used to work with, Pam, who came for the day. This was her third year of coming to KH Homecoming with me, so she now feels like one of the

alumni. She and I took a tour of Cedar Dell. The Cedar Dell renovations were beautiful. This was the first time we could go all the way to the top floor.

“Saturday afternoon was time for just the alumni. We visited in the gym and in the alumni locker room – some went swimming. Then at 5:00 p.m., we were served a delicious meal of spaghetti and salad by the KH staff. After dinner, a brief alumni business meeting was held which was well attended by alumni. Then one of the most exciting events that I had been waiting for all year was about to occur – the alumni SOCK HOP! Oh boy! I had my dress costume on and also had my *boogie shoes* on and I was ready. We had a great DJ who was a friend of alumnus Jim Dyer. We danced for two solid hours. I didn’t sit down very much, so by the end of the night was tuckered out. But I don’t regret it. I had a blast dancing with all my alumni brothers and sisters. This was the first time I ever remember a dance being held on the actual KH gym basketball court floor – a historic event for sure!

“Sunday morning arrived and **John Thompson** gave alumni strict orders to be at that church ready for a final choir practice at 9:00 a.m. sharp – and we better not be late. Well, John was afraid the day before when we practiced that the choir loft wouldn’t be full on Sunday. We all proved him wrong as it was over-flowing to the point where myself and three of my alumni friends had to stand on the steps leading up to the podium to sing with the choir. We all sang at the top of our lungs and praised God for such a large turnout of alumni and friends. About 250 filled the church that day with chairs in the aisles and standing room only for some. **Dr. Blackwell** gave a very meaningful monologue of the history of Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy and how they started KH out of the generosity of their hearts and their love for children. Some were in tears as they listened to the story.

“After church, we all gathered at the gym for the usual Sunday Homecoming lunch and the food line was

out the doors of the gym. That sure was a pretty sight to see! We ate delicious food catered by Wilbur’s BBQ, visited, laughed, took pictures, and went down to Cedar Dell for the alumni picture. The last event of the day was burying a time capsule which has never been done at KH before. This was done between the church and the administration building. Many thanks to **Dickie Maynor** for all he did to get the time capsule, fill it with items, and then bury it. We will dig it up in 25 years (I will be 80.).

“Finally, it was time to say our goodbyes until next year. We hugged and hugged and then hugged some more – not wanting to leave. As we passed through the gates to head to our homes, I’m sure each one left with our heart full of the wonderful memories. We all had a wonderful weekend and we vowed to meet again next year. The whole weekend was so meaningful to me and I wouldn’t have missed it for the world. I love my KH and my alumni brothers and sisters!”

Thank you, Donna!

Why don’t you e-mail Donna and let her know how much you appreciated her article? She loves all of you.

My space is gone, so please let me encourage you to write me some news of what you are doing now, what your job is, how your family is doing, or what exciting thing you have done recently. Each of you has a story to tell. Please help me tell your story.

This job is hard to do without your help. I need you. Please help. Write me or send me an e-mail. I will start the next article with a beautiful note from Mrs. Doris Powers. She wrote a very exciting story about the past. Please continue to pray for her as she has had a lot of physical problems.

I also would like for you to send me some items about things you did during your Thanksgiving breaks while you lived at KH.



Love each of you a bunch!

John Thompson was the choir director at Kennedy Home from 1972-1977. Today, he enjoys a very active retirement.

Parenting from the backseat

By Jim Edminson, Editor

Most people will say that they prefer never to take the backseat to anyone. I understand. We are independent people. We like to be in the driver's seat – in control. We even believe that's part of the American dream. But it is an idea that can be fleeting, especially as our children grow into adulthood.

As a child growing up in the 60s, a long trip in my parents' car meant I would be resting on the floor board with my pillow or lying near the back window on the flat area behind the backseat. My mom and dad weren't irresponsible – as it may seem today. Kids did not have car seats, vehicles were so much larger, and Dad felt he was responsible enough to prevent being in an accident – and he never was in an accident.

My son Kyle was born in 1982. Kathy and I were part of a wave of change in regard to the safety of children and automobiles. The hospital where Kyle was born and the pediatrician we chose demanded new parents have car seats for their newborns.

We were all in. We were proselytes. The car seat went everywhere Kyle went. All four of our children rode in the car seat, and for safety, they always rode in the backseat.

But my reality has changed now.

The drive to Jenny's new job is 80 miles from our home. It's a great first job, and she is enjoying putting years of education and training to work as a substance abuse counselor. On this

Saturday, Kathy and I are joining her on a trip to help her put the finishing touches to her new office. We also plan to check out a few apartments closer to her job. The 160 mile daily commute is beginning to wear on her.

The car is loaded with framed pictures, a decorative blue fabric-covered bulletin board, and framed diplomas from UNC-Chapel Hill and UNC-Greensboro/NC A&T. Jenny's new subcompact car is spacious and Kathy and I settle in; but Jenny is driving, Kathy is beside her in the passenger seat, and I'm traveling in the backseat.

My role has changed in my daughter's life. She is not a child dependent on me for everything. Today, mine is the supporting role. And even though Jenny values my opinion about many aspects of life, the decisions she makes now are all her own.

When our children are younger, being in the driver's seat is part of the job of the parent. It is a position of paramount importance to the child's well being – spiritually, emotionally and physically.

In his online article "Parenting Adult Children," Christian writer and pastor Todd Carey reminds us that parenting adult children is rooted in the lessons we teach them when they are young (Proverbs 22:6). Carey writes: "With proper teaching in their background, young adults should be

able to think through and consider the responsibilities that come with their age. If they are wise, they will look to the example of their parents and the wisdom of the Bible."

I am discovering that this change in car seats is not such a bad one. On this recent trip, I see the road from a different perspective, one I would have missed if I'd been driving. I start writing this article, daydream and even dose a little. Rather than making the decisions, I offer input. I support my daughter as she confidently and competently takes control, steering her way along the roads. She looks in the rearview mirror to change lanes, and she smiles at me as our eyes meet.

The miles go by, and I find I'm enjoying this journey. Whatever seat I sit in, I remain Jenny's dad. That will never change. From this new perspective on parenthood, I realize being together is what matters most. And I'm thankful.



Edminson is editor of *Charity & Children* and writes "Homeward" to inspire and encourage families in the midst of full lives and hectic schedules. He has recently published his first book *Under One Roof*. Email him at wjedminson@bchfamily.org or call 1.800.476.3669, ext. 1217 for information on how you can get your copy. Proceeds benefit the children and families served by BCH.

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- 1. **Western Area Family Services**
Linda Morgan, Lead Dir.
828.627.9254
- 2. **Central Area Family Services**
Regina Keener, Dir.
336.474.1200

- 3. **Eastern Area Family Services**
Brian Baltzell, Dir.
252.522.0811

- 3. **Odum Home**
Kathy Locklear, Res. Campus Mgr.
910-521-3433

- 4. **Cameron Boys Camp**
Stephen Ashton, Dir.
910.245.4034

- 5. **Camp Duncan for Girls**
Paul Daley, Dir.
910.944.3077

- 6. **Oak Ranch/Family Care**
Lynn Garner, Dir.
336.474.1240

- 7. **Weekday Education**
Linda Russo, Dir.
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- 8. **Dev. Disabilities Ministry**
Peggy Pennington, Dir.
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Ideas or suggestions, contact: Keith Henry, COO at 336-474-1215



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