

Sunshine

The magazine of Methodist Children's Home

Fall 2011

A Summer of Discovery

Methodist Children's Home helps youth discover and develop their strengths and interests during a popular summer program

Austin, Jericho and Dylan (clockwise from top) won state awards for photographs they shot during a summer class at the MCH Boys Ranch



TIM BROWN
President

Celebrating growth in our youth, staff

Wow, what a tremendously hot and unusual summer we experienced this year! In recent months, there have been many difficult challenges across our country, particularly for those of us in Texas, New Mexico, the southwest and the northeast. Wildfires, earthquakes, hurricanes, droughts and economic crises have taken a heavy toll on people, but in many cases they will ultimately become catalysts for growth.

While we do not want these events or conditions to occur, the growth that can result from many of these challenges is good and necessary for progress. Fortunately for youth at Methodist Children's Home, growth is occurring as a planned and anticipated outcome. Growth is one of our Core Values, and it is expected and celebrated among our youth and staff.

As an agency, we grew during the past year as we completed two national accreditation studies. We are proud to report to you that we received accreditation from the Coalition on Residential Education (CORE) and the Council on Accreditation (COA). Both of these accreditation processes were difficult and lengthy, but the growth and the improvement we realized was, and will be, invaluable. We are also experiencing growth through our new strategic plan. The most recent example is a joint training and research venture with the Institute of Child Development at Texas Christian University. Dr. Karyn Purvis and Dr. David Cross, along with their research team, have spent countless hours instructing our staff members in TBRI (Trust-Based Relational Intervention), a new method and approach to working more effectively with traumatized children and youth. We hope this partnership will continue for some time and that our community and culture among staff and professionals will continue to provide exciting opportunities for youth to achieve success.

This issue of *Sunshine* features examples of the growth our youth experienced in recent months. Our summer enrichment program provides a great opportunity for youth to develop new interests as our staff members share their gifts and talents with our young people. In addition, youth participated in a variety of activities, ranging from leadership camps and peer mentor training to volunteer work and mission trips. You will read a story about Kayla, who is flourishing through her relationships with staff and involvement in our Ag Science program. You will also learn about Moises, who developed a unique and positive relationship with a long-term staff member through a summer internship. Our community services staff and foster families experienced a time of growth and fellowship during their foster care retreat in Waco.

As I reflect on a busy but productive summer, I deeply appreciate your continued confidence and investment in Methodist Children's Home. We could not provide opportunities of growth, reclaim lives and fulfill our mission of offering hope without your prayers and support.

Looking ahead, it seems impossible that it is already time to start planning for the Christmas season. It will hold more opportunities for youth to experience growth and blessings through the generosity of our friends. I know that in these economic times, asking for gifts for our children will mean sacrificial giving, and some may not be able to give this year. But for those who will, what a message this will send to our children. We value your prayers and support, and we can assure you that we are grateful for your sacrifice. Our children will know how blessed they are (and humbled we are) by your sacrifice and generosity. Thank you!

MISSION STATEMENT

Methodist Children's Home offers hope to children, youth and families through a nurturing, Christian community.

SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS

Youth from the MCH Waxahachie campus enjoyed the Alpine Tower Challenge Course during a summer trip to the Boys Ranch. The 50-foot Alpine Tower helps youth develop courage and confidence as they complete the different stages of the course.



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Waco, Texas

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MCH earns national reaccreditation from COA

President Tim Brown received word Aug. 10 that the Council on Accreditation (COA) granted reaccreditation to MCH.

Brown was notified of the reaccreditation in a letter from Richard Klarberg, president and chief executive officer of COA.

“Reaccreditation is a tremendous achievement that demonstrates that your organization is recognized as a provider that continues to successfully implement high performance standards and, as such, is delivering the highest quality services to all of its stakeholders,” wrote Klarberg. “Because COA reviews and reaccredits the entire organization, not just specific programs, you can have confidence

in the credibility, integrity and achievement of your entire organization.”

The reaccreditation process involves a detailed review and analysis of both an organization’s administrative operations and its service delivery practices. All are measured against national standards of best practice. In addition, they confirm that the services are provided by a skilled and supported workforce and that all individuals are treated with dignity and respect.

“I am delighted to receive this wonderful news, and I never cease to be amazed at the accomplishments and dedication of our staff, leadership team and Board of Directors,” Brown

said. “I am impressed and humbled by their teamwork and extraordinary efforts that enabled us to earn this achievement in the midst of a number of other time constraints and demands. I am proud of our compliance with best practices.”

Brown said he is also grateful for the prayers, encouragement and financial support United Methodists and other friends continue to provide MCH, which serves more than 1,400 children and youth throughout Texas and New Mexico.

“Our United Methodist constituents, donors, supporters and other friends should be encouraged by the news of accreditation as well,” Brown said. “As



CREDIBILITY • INTEGRITY • ACHIEVEMENT

we embark on our new strategic plan, I believe this reaccreditation will become even more significant for our ministry in the next few years.”

Founded in 1977, COA is an independent not-for-profit international accreditor of the full continuum of community-based behavioral health care and human service organizations. Fewer than 1,800 organizations world-wide have earned COA accreditation.



Stay connected to our ministry!

Visit our website to stay up-to-date on ways God is blessing children, youth and families.

www.methodistchildrenshome.org

Weekly Q & A feature • Blog • Student Achievements • MCH Video • Photo Gallery • Sunshine • Annual Report • Strategic Plan and more!

YOU CAN ALSO MAKE A SECURE ONLINE GIFT TO SUPPORT THE MORE THAN 1,400 CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN OUR CARE!



A Summer of Discovery

A summer photography class led Austin, Dylan and Jericho to the State of Texas 4-H photo competition awards banquet in August. These three Boys Ranch residents took an interest in a photography enrichment class and excelled with help from their teacher, Cheryl Dishman, a homeparent at the Boys Ranch.

Jericho won first place in the “Elements of Design” and “Landscape” categories, Austin won first place in “Animal” and “Macro Photography,” and Dylan won second place in “Dominate Color.”

Jericho has been in Dishman’s photography class for two summers. According to Dishman, he has expressed great interest in learning the art of photography and hopes to pursue a career in this field.

“Jericho goes beyond the classroom with his photography,” Dishman said. “He is always looking for a photo opportunity and researching how he can improve his skills.”

While Dishman agrees the boys’ accomplishments are no-

A SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM AT
METHODIST CHILDREN’S HOME ENABLES
YOUTH TO EXPLORE NEW INTERESTS AND
BUILD RELATIONSHIPS WITH STAFF

table, she believes photography has, more importantly, helped improve their confidence and self-esteem.

“Photography is something tangible that the boys can show someone,” Dishman said. “It’s something they can

do well and it has been a confidence-builder for them.”

Dishman has been interested in photography since she was a child, and she enjoys sharing her knowledge with youth.

“Photography is something I love and something I love to see other people discover,” Dishman said. “It wakes up their interest, and they learn that it’s something they can be good at doing.”

That’s the idea behind the Home’s summer enrichment program, which is offered to youth on the Waco and Waxahachie campuses in addition to the Boys Ranch. Each campus develops its own classes, which are taught by MCH staff. The summer program enables youth to maintain a structured schedule during the summer while exploring new interests.

Continued next page

Pictured: Austin, Jericho and Dylan (left to right) hold their photos that won awards at the state 4-H competition. They are pictured with Cheryl Dishman, a homeparent at the Boys Ranch, who taught their summer photography class.

Enrichment classes enable youth to learn valuable lessons and new skills. Youth have the opportunity to dive into certain subjects they may not have the chance to experience during the school year.

Charlsie Whitney, a Waco campus administrator, helped initiate the enrichment program three years ago.

“Our summer program promotes personal growth and enhances individual talents by helping youth gain needed skills while enjoying classes that are of interest to them,” Whitney said. “Enrichment classes have also proven to be a wonderful experience for staff to share their wealth of knowledge and build meaningful relationships with the youth.”

Anna, a resident on the Waco campus, participated in several classes this past summer. While she enjoyed her experiences in the classroom, she is appreciative of the relationships she developed in the process.

Anna spent time with many staff members this summer, two of whom were Regina Akers and Clarence Degrade. Akers, food services coordinator at the MCH charter school, led a cooking class, and Degrade, at-risk coordinator at the school, taught an arts and crafts class.

“Ms. Regina and Mr. Clarence were really cool,” Anna said. “They were both encouraging and knowledgeable in their fields.”

Through the influence of staff, Anna gained a sense of accomplishment and developed more confidence in her creative ability.

“Before taking the art class I was cautious in my drawing,” Anna said. “With Mr. Clarence’s encouragement, I’m more confident in what I create.”

In his role as at-risk coordinator during the school year, Degrade does not have an opportunity to teach classes. The summer program provides an avenue in which he can connect with youth by sharing his gifts and talents as an artist.

“During the summer, I can establish relationships with new youth coming into MCH and show them different forms of art, which can lead to other creative interests,” he said.

Enrichment classes enable youth to learn valuable lessons and new skills. Youth have the opportunity to dive into certain subjects they may not have the chance to experience during the school year.

Candice Darwin, Waxahachie campus administrator, is a strong advocate of the summer program.

“We offer a variety of opportunities to students in order to provide each resident with an activity that interests them,” Darwin said. “Enrichment opportunities expose youth to new things and can help spark interest in areas a resident may have never taken an interest in otherwise.”

Many enrichment classes are hands-on, and they provide opportunities for youth to role-play and get more involved in the learning process. Robin Newman, transition services coordinator, led an independent living skills class this summer. According to Newman, hands-on activities keep the students focused during class.

“We like to keep the students interested by bringing in guest speakers, creating different activities and offering prizes for good work,” Newman said.



Stephanie Inglehart, a member of the food services staff, enjoys sharing her cooking tips with youth during the summer enrichment program.

Summer Enrichment Program

MCH staff shared their gifts and talents to offer the following classes to youth this past summer.

BOYS RANCH

All About Events
Bob and Sandy McClory
Homeparents

Art
David Jordan
Homeparent

Arts and Crafts
Mary Ann Stone
Jeanean Slonaker
Homeparents

Auto Mechanics
Phil and Mae Smith
Homeparents

Cinema Chat
Nicole Ehler
Director of Program Services

Cooking
Martina Martin
Homeparent

Desserts and Pastries
Karylene Jordan
Stacy Schmidt
Homeparents

Drums
Jim Dishman
Homeparent

Fishing
James Fairchild
Recreation Coordinator
Ken and Colleen Howell
Randall Thomas
Homeparents

Guitar
Marty Martin
Homeparent

Keeping Memories
Robert and Amelia Hood
Homeparents

Life Skills
Kristen Rall
Recreation Coordinator

Photography
Cheryl Dishman
Homeparent

Workout Madness
Larry Slonaker
Homeparent

WACO CAMPUS

Arts and Crafts
Clarence Degrate
At-Risk Coordinator
MCH Charter School

Cooking
Regina Akers
Food Services Coordinator

Decision-Making
Ahmad Washington
Former MCH social worker
Christian musician

Healthy Relationships
Trina Cooper
Admissions Intake Coordinator

Independent Living Skills
Robin Newman
Transition Services Coordinator

Music
Colin Campbell
Director of Music

Sex Education
Katie Wolfe
Volunteer Coordinator



WAXAHACHIE CAMPUS

Cooking
Nancy Teagardner
Director of Food Services

Peer Mediation
Pablo Villanueva
Admissions Intern

Sex Education
Phyllis Carlson, Phillippa Whitfield
Shirley Anthony, Brian Henson
Unit Managers

Field trips to a state park, planetarium and the University of Texas at Arlington

Jeffery, a resident on the Waco campus, paints a mask he created in an arts and crafts class taught by Clarence Degrate, a member of the MCH charter school staff.

Newman's class covered budgeting exercises, money management and job hunting, among other independent living skills. According to Newman, the students enjoyed creating budgets based on salaries for professional and non-degreed positions.

"The budget planning activity caused me to think of all the details involved in creating a financial plan for life on my own," said Abenezer, a Waco campus resident. "It taught me that I have to plan ahead and satisfy my needs before my wants."

For Percy, the independent living skills class reinforced the importance of education.

"The budget planning exercise taught me that even with a job, I may struggle," Percy said. "I know now that continuing to get an education will help me succeed in the future."

Whitney said the success of the summer program relies on the support and contributions of many staff members. To continue on this path of success, MCH's recreation coordinators on each campus work hard with the administrators each year to provide an abundance of activities for the Home's youth. Coordinating the summer schedule is no easy feat, but Whitney knows the effort is worth it.

"Our enrichment program has become a vital and rewarding aspect of our summer program," Whitney said.

A Contagious Spirit

Kayla's personality and enthusiasm for life have blossomed since she arrived at Methodist Children's Home.

When Kayla came to Methodist Children's Home two years ago, she was heartbroken and hopeless. Now, she exudes a love for life and looks forward to the future.

Kayla's childhood was a rocky one. Her father was incarcerated, and she and her younger brother had been removed from their mother's home by CPS and placed with her grandfather. According to Kayla, she and her grandfather began to have many conflicts as she got older.

"My grandfather and I didn't see eye-to-eye," Kayla said. "I was failing school and started to rebel."

Kayla's family decided to place her at MCH. Although Kayla did not want to leave her home in New Mexico, she hoped her time in Texas would be the best decision for her future.

Kayla's homeparents at MCH, Danny and Jean Miller, were the first people she met on the Waco campus.

"I immediately connected with the Millers," Kayla said. "They made me feel at home."

Kayla and the Millers have become close, and she describes them "as the parents I never had." Though the Millers treat all youth in their home unit the same, Jean Miller reminds their girls that "what you put into the relationship is what you get out of it." To Kayla, building positive relationships is worth the effort.

"She's the kind of girl you can fall in love with right away," Jean Miller said.

With her uplifting spirit and obvious love for life, things have turned around for Kayla as the Home enables her to thrive.

Kayla, who grew up on a ranch in New Mexico with her grandfather, is taking advantage of the Home's Agriculture Science and FFA programs at the MCH charter school. Three years ago, the Ag Science program was made available to students on the Waco campus when the youth from the Boys Ranch began attending school on the Waco campus. This transition in the school program opened the door for girls on the Waco campus to become involved in Ag Science.

Kayla feels at home when she is spending time with animals or building a shop project at the Boys Ranch. Through Ag Science, students are responsible for taking care of their animals during the school year, and they learn how to show them



Kayla, who grew up on a ranch, feels at home when she is raising animals or building shop projects through the Ag Science program at MCH.

in competition. Last year, Kayla showed a goat at local livestock shows, and she is showing a heifer this fall. Kayla spends as much time as she can with her heifer, which she named Lady New Mexico.

Being involved in Ag Science has given Kayla hope for her future. She plans to earn a degree in agriculture and business management in college and become a veterinarian technician. She also wants to own a ranch and raise cattle.

"I love everything about ranching," Kayla said. "Since I grew up on a farm, I feel at home there. Without Methodist Children's Home, I would have dropped out of school. I wouldn't have known that I could succeed at something."

Staff members began to notice a significant change in Kayla's outlook on life as she became involved in campus life and gained confidence.

"I can see a transformation in how she truly feels about herself," said Erica Reyes-Rosas, Kayla's unit manager. "When Kayla came to the Home, she was very quiet and unsure of herself. She sought others' approval and put everyone else's needs before her own. She was not able to utilize her gifts to the fullest prior to being here."

Staff members admire Kayla's desire to take initiative to develop new skills and become a well-rounded person. She continues to improve her grades in school and participates in basketball and volleyball. She also enjoys learning about gardening with the staff and youth in her home unit, in addition to wood-working and welding through the Ag Science program. Most importantly, Kayla continues to learn more about herself.

"Kayla has learned that she can just be Kayla, and she now knows that is enough," Jean Miller said.

In addition to her accomplishments, Kayla has improved her relationship with her grandfather. According to Reyes-Rosas, he is impressed with Kayla's growth, independence and plans for the future.

Kayla's personality shines through everything she does. She is full of life and happy, and she loves to smile and give hugs to anyone who is willing to receive them.

"My favorite thing about Kayla is how loving she is," Reyes-Rosas said. "Her optimism is contagious."

Mission trips offer life-changing experiences

Mission trips are an opportunity for MCH youth to show Christ's love by sharing their time and talents to help meet needs across Texas.

"For many of our youth, it is the first time they have an opportunity to express the love of Jesus to people in other communities," said Kim Hammitt, religious education director at MCH. "It is important for us to put our youth in situations that enable them to serve others on mission trips."

Fourteen youth from the MCH Waco campus and Boys Ranch attended the U.M. ARMY mission trip in Marshall July 17-23. MCH youth were sponsored by Kingwood United Methodist Church and hosted by First United Methodist Church of Marshall. The theme of the mission trip, "Servant," focused on qualities of service, including courage, perseverance, joy and meeting the needs of others.

Kandaja is a resident on the Waco campus, and this was her first mission trip. Kandaja was part of a group who worked on a house that was falling apart. The house was owned by an 80-year-old man named Bobby, who needed a wheelchair ramp built along with roof repairs.

"I was overwhelmed by the situation and could not believe people had to live this way," said Kandaja. "The third day we were there, Bobby's home was robbed. Our group never



Fourteen youth from MCH joined teenagers from church youth groups across Texas for a summer mission trip to Marshall in July. Pictured above as they work on housing renovations are, clockwise from left, Sam (right), Anthony and David. The MCH group was sponsored by Kingwood United Methodist Church.

gave up despite the setbacks. I felt God working in my life. I was so proud of the hard work we had done. Bobby was so appreciative. I felt very happy and did not want to leave."

Andre, also a Waco campus resident, said his group leader told them they were "abnormal."

"He said some people would describe us as abnormal because we chose to spend the last week of our summer vacation working in the heat helping those who could not help themselves," Andre said.

Andre said he enjoyed mak-

ing new friends, and, most importantly, he had a life-changing experience.

"This was my first mission trip and I did not know what to expect," he said. "Each morning and night, we had worship and a sermon. On the second night, I was motivated by the youth minister's words, and when he asked if anyone wanted to accept Christ, I decided I did not want to be alone anymore and stood up."

Hammitt and other MCH staff who sponsor the mission trips are blessed to witness

changed lives as youth meet the needs of others and experience God's love in a fresh and powerful way.

"Getting out of their comfort zone to serve others in need gives our youth the opportunity to grow spiritually," Hammitt said. "Our youth may not understand that they have something special and unique to share with others. Mission trips provide the opportunity for them to learn new skills and work with other teenagers who have the same passion to help people in need."

"It is important for us to put our youth in situations that enable them to serve others on mission trips."

— Kim Hammitt, MCH religious education director

MCH hosts retreat, training for foster families

The foster care retreat in July gave MCH foster families across Texas a chance to connect and get a reprieve from their busy schedules. The two-day event offered activities for children, fellowship among foster families, and training opportunities.

On Friday, families enjoyed a barbecue meal, swimming and ice cream fellowship on the Waco campus. The next morning, parents attended training hosted at Austin Avenue United Methodist Church in Waco.

Dr. Susan Fletcher, a psychologist and author, was invited to speak on "Living and Working in the Smart Zone." According to Melissa Opheim, MCH vice president for community services, Fletcher provided insights and techniques to effectively use and manage emotions within relationships.

"It was a nice reminder that we are all responsible for setting the tone in our homes and in our relationships," she said.

According to Opheim, the



The foster care retreat provided fun activities for children like Serena (above) and Madison (right), along with training and fellowship for foster parents and MCH staff. Also pictured above are Jerushah DuToit (left), a caseworker in the Tyler Outreach Office, and foster parent Kathy Turner.

foster care retreat provided opportunities for families interested in investing in the lives of children to connect and support one another in their fostering experience.

"It is a powerful thing to have so many dedicated individuals in the same room at the same time," Opheim said. "Their

stories of fostering inspire and bring hope to all of us."

During a luncheon, foster parents and community services staff members received awards recognizing their service to children and families. Staff awards were given based on the employee's demonstration of the Home's core values.



Veronica Whalon-Peters, director of the Houston outreach office, received the Katherine Anglin Outstanding Social Services Award. This award honors a caseworker, selected by colleagues, who exemplifies the commitment and passion Anglin demonstrated in her 13 years at MCH.

Methodist Children's Home Outreach Offices

Please contact the outreach office in your area to learn more about services provided to children, youth and families throughout Texas and New Mexico. MCH recently relocated staff in the Crockett office to Lufkin to serve the East Texas region more effectively.

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Teaching by Example

Moises has learned important life lessons while working alongside Johnny Salas during summer internships.

For more than two decades, Daniel Salas faithfully worked in the plant department at Methodist Children's Home where he helped take care of the 130-acre Waco campus.

As part of his responsibilities, Mr. Salas drove a dump truck to haul trash to the landfill. During the summer, he often stopped by his house to pick up his young son, Johnny, so they could share time together. Johnny looked forward to hearing the large truck rumbling down his street.

"I remember bouncing around in the seat as my dad drove that big green truck and looking out the window thinking that I was somebody," Johnny said. "It made me feel good to go to work with my dad."

During these trips, Mr. Salas shared important life lessons with Johnny. After Mr. Salas retired, Johnny carried on his father's legacy at the Home, joining the plant staff in 1985. Johnny now serves as the lead painter and helps maintain campus facilities and grounds. Combining their years at MCH, the Salas family has served the Home for 50 years.

Just as Mr. Salas shared wisdom and insight with Johnny when he was young, Johnny has a strong desire to pass on those same lessons with youth at MCH.

Three years ago, Johnny received an opportunity to serve as a summer internship supervisor to Moises, a new resident at MCH. Moises wanted to work on campus, and he had an interest in painting. Johnny and Moises worked well together, and this past August Moises completed this third internship working alongside Johnny. Moises and Johnny have painted buildings, plastered and repaired walls, stained office furniture, tiled floors and striped parking lots.

In addition to teaching job skills, Johnny is helping Moises build a strong foundation for life. Johnny developed a positive work ethic from his father. Johnny shares the same sense of pride and commitment in his work at the Home, and he wants to help Moises develop responsibility and accountability in the workplace.

"I tell Moises that when he has a job, he needs to get up every day and go to work," Johnny said.

It is a lesson Moises has taken to heart.

This past summer, Johnny scheduled an early morning to paint stripes on a parking lot. Due to the summer heat, Johnny wanted to start painting as the sun began to rise. Moises told Johnny he would be there to help him. At 5:45 a.m. the next day, while Johnny was getting ready to paint, he looked up and saw Moises walking toward him.

"I wanted to show Mr. Johnny that I'm responsible, that I'm a man of my word," Moises said.

Johnny was impressed with Moises' commitment.

"Moises is a good worker and a good guy," Johnny said. "He's



Johnny Salas, left, a staff member in the plant department at MCH, has helped Moises develop job skills and a strong foundation for life during summer internships.

willing to learn, and he needs to learn as much as he can while he's here."

Laura Bonner, a unit manager at MCH, has witnessed the growth Moises has experienced through his internships.

"This job has given Moises more confidence, which has contributed to his leadership in our home unit," she said. "Moises has learned the value of a good work ethic. He appreciates the time Johnny spends teaching him new skills."

Moises admits he has learned a lot from staff after coming to MCH in 2008. His mother placed Moises at the Home to remove him from negative influences in his hometown. Moises was familiar with MCH, having visited two sisters who lived on the Waco campus when he was a young boy. Through the years, he has gained an appreciation for MCH.

"I don't know where I would be without Methodist Children's Home," he said. "This is my home, and I'm not afraid to say it."

Although he still has a few years of high school to complete, Moises is already thinking about the future. He would like to become a social worker at MCH as a way to express his appreciation for the Home.

"I love helping people, and MCH is my family," Moises said. "I believe this is why God put me here."

Whatever career Moises chooses one day, he will be prepared to pass on the life lessons he has learned from his staff, including Johnny Salas.

"Everything is a fun experience with Mr. Johnny," Moises said. "He's always telling me stories or giving me advice. He's a big role model in my life. I'm just trying to follow in Mr. Johnny's footsteps."



A season of hope

You can help provide lifelong Christmas memories for children through:
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Reasons to support the MCH Christmas Offering:

For the 1,400 children and youth served by Methodist Children's Home, Christmas is a reminder of how much they are loved by God, their MCH family and the wonderful benefactors and volunteers who make Christmas at the Home a special and meaningful experience.

In 1895, churches in the Texas Conference took up a special offering to support MCH at Christmas. The following year, churches throughout Texas provided their support during the Christmas season. This special offering continues to serve as an important source of financial support for this ministry to at-risk children.

A significant amount of the money used for Christmas celebrations and gifts comes from individuals, Sunday School classes and churches since Methodist Children's Home does not receive church apportionments, and less than five percent of funding comes from government sources.

Every dollar designated for "Christmas" helps support special Christmas experiences for our children in Texas and New Mexico.

To contribute to the children's special Christmas experience or to order Christmas Offering envelopes for your church, please call the MCH development office at 800-853-1272 or e-mail slewis@mchwaco.org.

Thank you for helping provide our children with meaningful Christmas memories.

MEMORIAL GIFTS AND GIFTS OF HONOR

Gifts made from May 2011 through August 2011

Memorials

Martha Akin

Sergeant James G. Akin
Ms. Sue Perkins

John Allen

Kathy and Ben Ellebracht

Earline Allred

Ms. Kay Hyde

William Amos

Mrs. Pat Keen Hendley

Johnnie L. Anderson

Mr. Harold G. Anderson

Harold Baenziger

Joe and Myra Wheeler

Douglas Balentine

Bob Balentine

James and Coleta Barley

Ms. Ruth D. Fisher

Billy Bartosh

Robert and Ima Brown

Elizabeth Davis Batton

Mrs. Pat Keen Hendley

Floyd and Johnny Beach

James and Phyllis Beach

Harvey Kenneth (Ken) Beil

James and Carol Ainsworth

The Campana Family

Mike and Linda Chaddick

Shirley Charpiot

Ms. Patsy Faken

Roy and Carolyn Golan

The Hillezess Company

Calvin and Aline Jahnke

Ms. Marjorie King

Marilyn LaRose

Kay and Jim O'Jibway

Frank and Barbara Robinson

Seekers Sunday School Class

Bellville UMC, Bellville, TX

Mr. and Mrs. Doug Summerour

Darlene Wells

Workshire Lodge

Al and Donna Work

Estes Park, CO

Frances Belew

Stephanie Deby

Irvin Bentley

Koinonia Sunday School Class

First UMC, Garland, TX

Edna Earle Benton

Silas and Patsy Brandenberger

and Family

Harry M. Bettis

Martha Neil and Bobby Gamblin

David and Elizabeth Lowrance

Margaret Blanch

Dale Dowell

Martha P. Bland

Julie Reid

Leota Bolding

Wanda Langston

Alma Boyd

Mrs. Phyrne O'Day

James Boyd

Dr. and Mrs. Jack Kyle Daniels

Mary Ann Boyd

Steve and Meda Beard

Joyce Bradley

Robert and Ima Brown

Ida Lee Bradshaw

Craig and Jan Jaynes

Lon David Brannies

Ms. Agnes L. Smith

Doyle Brooks

Bruce and Patsy Pruett

George Brown

Mrs. James R. Baxter

Lucy Alice Brown

Jimmie Porter

Shauna Family

Sheridan Family

Reverend Robert Brown

Stephanie Deby

Muriel Browning Sunday

School Class

Adult Sunday School Class

Elma Campbell

Peggy and Jim Collier

Shirley Smith

Cedar Creek UMC,

Cedar Creek, TX

Mr. Robert (Bob) Bruce

Dr. and Mrs. Fred L. Fifer, Jr.

Mildred Buchanan

Mr. and Mrs. D. R. Wilkinson

Diana Arline Buckew

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Webb

Mrs. Cecil Callahan

Bill Gresens

Joan and Glenn Gresens

Laura and Randy Hebert

Hazel Cambell

Bill and Carolyn Downs

Marianne Judith Cannavale

Dr. Louis F. Cannavale

Margie Carlton

Durkee United Methodist Women

Durkee UMC, Houston, TX

Jeanene Cash

Mr. and Mrs. Philip E. Orr, Jr.

John D. and Wavy D. Charles

Mrs. Anneliese Charles

Mary Emma Childress

Mr. and Mrs. Guy Durham

Gary Ciuca

Mr. and Mrs. George Morrison

Donna Cocks

Charles and Carol Brown

Richard L. Cole Birthday

Mrs. Barbara J. Cole

Nancy McKay Cook

Mrs. Barbara H. Lowe

Veigh and Elray Conn

Suzanne Conn Brown

Hal Cropper

Ms. Agnes L. Smith

Ada Sophia Dahlsten

Adam and Shayne Warner

Oma Lee Davenport

Reverend Allie M. Davenport

Hettie Lois Davis

Glenna S. Kinnibrugh

Mrs. Eleanor Denker

Mr. William C. Denker

H. Tom Denman

Pat Ford Denman

Mr. Ted DeRuyter

Mrs. Peggy DeRuyter

William (Bill) Dishman

Mrs. W. Carter (Linda)

Grinstead, Jr.

Pat Dowell

Dale Dowell

Anthony J. Dugas

Ms. Bobbie Dugas

Richard Bruce Duncan

Mr. and Mrs. William McPike

Dorothy Louise Edwards

The Havens Family

Jerry Edwards

Mike and Becky Truitt

Nellie James Ellis

James and Doris Long

E. Jean English

Anonymous

Annell Leavell Eppright

Martha Rita Vaughan

Ms. Jamie Eshenbaugh

Pat and Sharon Wise

Mildred Evans

Joe and Myra Wheeler

Mrs. Ruth Farris

Mr. and Mrs. R. Mark Hardisty

Nina Blackburn Ferguson

Timothy and Joyce Woodlock

Wiley J. (Snapper) Flint Jr.

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Elvin H. Ford

Pat Ford Denman

Robert H. Ford

Pat Ford Denman

Reverend Billy Foster

Mrs. Cynthia B. Feagan

Ms. Patricia Francks

Dr. and Mrs. Marcus E. Young

Jo Freeman

Mr. Jack R. Bos

Kittra Scarlett Freeman

Marinelle Freeman

Mary Lou Galletty

Mr. and Mrs. Philip E. Orr, Jr.

Virginia Garlington

Shelby, Amy, Hanna and Kallie

Barley

Hazel Garrett

Burnet Class of 1961 and 1962

Bertram, TX

Herbert Gerhardt

Ms. Margaret Gerhardt-Miller

Mary Gill

Russell and Sheila Landry

Sheree Lovett Gill

Sharon Grandstaff Holden

Joanne Gilmore

Linda and Greg Freeman

Mrs. E. Marie Gilmore

Mr. and Mrs. Roger Gilmore

Dick and Peggy Glover

Asbury UMC, Odessa, TX

Peter Goldberg

Moe and Janet Dozier

Eva Mable Goolsby

The Baehl Family

Baker Botts L.L.P.

Houston, TX

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Michele and Jim Grace

B. A. and Jeanette Honey

Ladoyce and Gloria Lambert

Stephen A. Massad

Fred and Sidney Meisenheimer

Carl and Gerrell Moore

Mr. L. E. Newton, Jr.

Susan and Eddie Palmer Jr.

Patti and Joe Poff

Mr. Mark R. Robeck

Dave Martin and Shelley Starr

Charles and Jane Szalkowski

Sallie and Bob Wright

A
Four hundred fifty dollar gift
in memory of
Raymond (Rick) Wolfe
by
Ms. Debe' J. Piatak
New Home, TX

A
Five hundred dollar gift
in memory of
John King Brannan
by
Sarah Ann Brannan
Jasper, TX

A
Five hundred dollar gift
in memory of
my father,
A.W. Hearn,
by
Mrs. Norma Douget
Bay City, TX

A
Five hundred dollar gift
in memory of
Stan Alford Saunders
by
Mr. and Mrs. William R. Saunders
Georgetown, TX

A
Five hundred dollar
endowment gift
in memory of
Charles Virgil Echols
by
Mrs. Sue Schwartzman
Albuquerque, NM

A
Five hundred dollar gift
in memory of
Mary Hines Sicilio
by
Ms. Mimi M. Sicilio
College Station, TX

A
Five hundred dollar gift
in memory of
Rick Wolfe
by
LeLand and Barbara White
Tahoka, TX

A
Five hundred, fifty-four dollar
and fifty-eight cent gift
given by the
Hankla-Hurt Memorial Fund
in memory of
John Boston,
Ida Irene Hankla, and
Joe and Eva Hurt

A
One thousand dollar gift
in memory of
Virginia Fern Martin
by
Ms. Glenda Chambers
Bedford, TX

A
One thousand dollar gift
in memory of
John William Perry, Sr.
by
Mrs. Bessie K. Perry
Bryan, TX

A
One thousand dollar gift
in memory of
The Frazier Family and
The Elam Family
by
Bubba and Nancy Smith
Austin, TX

A
One thousand dollar gift
in memory of
Florine Beall Shank
to the
Weston Earl Shank
Scholarship Fund
by
Francis S. Stover
Jacksonville, TX

A
One thousand dollar gift
in memory of
my husband,
Grady Thompson,
by
Mrs. Dortha H. Thompson
Brownwood, TX

A
One thousand dollar gift
in memory of
Mary Wheat
by
Mr. Russell H. Wheat
Canyon Lake, TX

A
One thousand dollar gift
in memory of
Reverend F. M. Wheat
by
Mr. Russell H. Wheat
Canyon Lake, TX

A
Five thousand dollar
estate gift
in memory of
Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Moody

A
Fifty thousand dollar
endowment gift
in loving memory of my wife,
Naomi Embry Austin,
teacher, counselor and educator,
by
Mr. Vernon Austin
Gainesville, TX

John Gorrell
Danny, Tyna, Brittany, Daniel
and Mack Spurlock
Margaret (Allene) Gourley
Mr. and Mrs. Philip E. Orr, Jr.
Paul Green
Tom and Virginia Buckingham
Virginia Palmer Harris
Linda and Greg Freeman

H. C. Hastings
Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Davis
David Lyndal Hatton, Sr.
Harold and Jeanette Coburn
Bobby Helm
Mr. and Mrs. Philip E. Orr, Jr.
Mark Robert Henson
Dorman and Martha Pickering

Pat Herd
Arledge and Peggy Brashers
Hank Herrington
The Steve Almquist Family
K. D. Hestes
Mrs. Pauline B. Webb
Hazel Holt Higgins
Ms. Dorothy Prunty

J. B. Hill
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Harold E. Hillin
Eugene and Joyce Spencer
Walter Eugene Hillin
Eugene and Joyce Spencer
Rita Hodges
Marc and Becky Clark

Paul Hudiburg
Mr. and Mrs. Philip E. Orr, Jr.
L. B. and Rozina Hurst
Reverend Phillip R. Hurst
Cyndi Hurst Snokhous

Lloyd Allen Hurst
Reverend Phillip R. Hurst
Cyndi Hurst Snokhous
Elizabeth E. Hutchins
Joe and Sue Kotanchik
Carole Hysmith
Bill and Carolyn Downs
Bill and Kathie Pritchett

Virginia Siddons Jackson
Ms. Sue Kimbrough
Jack Jeffrey
Larry and Betsy Pennington
Marjorie Brown Johnson
Robert and Ima Brown
Mrs. Martha Johnson
Challengers Sunday School Class
First UMC, De Kalb, TX
Mary Clinton

Pat Johnson
Al and Marion Mills
Danny Burdette Jones
Mr. and Mrs. Leroy G. Hyltin, Jr.
William Keeling
Clint and Martha Surles
Diane Kelsch
Covenant Sunday School Class
First UMC, Waxahachie, TX

Tommie M. Kennedy
Mr. Alton R. Fairchild
Faye S. King
Mr. and Mrs. Joe R. Fincher
Mrs. Dortha Thompson
James W. and Virginia B. Knight
Ms. Kathleen M. Knight

Martha C. Knight
Ms. Kathleen M. Knight
John David Lackmeyer
Delbert and Carolyn Stovall Bruns
Dr. and Mrs. Jack Kyle Daniels
Timothy and Joyce Woodlock
Robert Lathem
Dorman and Martha Pickering

Joseph Lees
Ralph and Bobbie Detwiler
William Henry Lightsey
Lonnie L., Sr. and Derilda Ann Jones
Amanda Ethel Litton
Mr. and Mrs. John R. Pugh

Jerri Loftis
Joe and Katherine Pitts
Stan Loper
Ms. Cubelle L. Harris
Gary T. Luckie
The Irene Kirby Family
Vivian Leigh Luster
Glenna S. Kinnibrugh

Marvin Lynch
Janice Hill
Donna Ray
The Wylie Bunch
Ronald P. Mafriage
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas F. Patterson
Betty Nalley Mahanay
Billy and Patsy Mahanay

Don C. Martin
Mrs. Betty S. Martin
Virginia Fern Martin
Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire
Control
Fort Worth, TX
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Onkels
Pi Delta Chapter #5459
Allen, TX

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Pam and Bob Rudnicki
Leon and Elaine Simmons
George and Jane Ann Lane
J. F. Matthews, Jr.
Mrs. Daphne H. Matthews
Rebecca Barret Matthews
Marc and Becky Clark

Lois Martin Mayer
Leslie and Candy Mallonee
Jimmy Maynard
Mrs. Helen Maynard
Mrs. Ann McKee
Mrs. Barbara J. Cole
Jack E. McKinster
Mrs. Joann McKinster

Mrs. Amy McLaughlin
Mrs. W. Carter (Linda)
Grinstead, Jr.
Dr. and Mrs. Marcus E. Young
John R. McLeod
Fred and Sharon Sperry
Paul McMullen
Karen and Russ Ault
Jim and Kathryn Beard

Mrs. Myrtle M. Meador
Mrs. Dorothy J. Herring
Aline Mecke
Mr. Michael B. Mecke
Charles Metzger
Gloria A. Palmer
Chub and Juanita Milner
Mrs. Linda M. Lindsey

Wilson Moon
Robert and Ima Brown
Daurice Moreland
Johnel and Arcynthia Louie
Sam Moses
David and Jean Hooten
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Mr. and Mrs. Gil Lillard

Vivian Myers
Pat and Sharon Wise
Mrs. Beulah G. Nardell
Mr. J. L. Beckham
Carl A. Newman
Martha H. Newman
Rose Nicoletti
Dr. Louis F. Cannavale

Marie Norwood
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Virginia Nungesser
Mr. Abe Nungesser
Mrs. Ruth Oates
Helen Pace Wardlaw
Bryan Odom
Charles and Cindy Huffman
Mary McAllister
Mark and Chris Odom

Kathryn Orth
Barbara Beall Coward
Mark Coward
Bob and Anna Misak
Mrs. Ruth Pack
Mrs. Genie Atmar
Ann Palmer
Mr. and Mrs. Frank W. Greenhaw

Geraline (Jerry) Parker
ABC Sunday School Class
Grace UMC, Alamogordo, NM
Fred and Sally Henderson
United Methodist Women -
Joy Circle
Grace UMC, Alamogordo, NM

Mr. Robert Goodwin Parse
Mrs. W. Carter (Linda)
Grinstead, Jr.
Inez H. Patterson
Janice Patterson Taylor
Victor T. Patterson
Harry and Carol Frankson

Gene Peacock
The Fisher Family
Robert C. Potter
Mr. and Mrs. William Simpson
Dr. Marcia Pritchard's mother
Margaret Briley
Jeremy Pryor
Tommy and Sue Patterson

Anna Jo Risinger
Mrs. Sarah Summers
Trey Robb
Beth Buckley
Bert Robertson
Dolores Flynn Lawhorn
Travis Wells Robertson
Richard and Sue Eriksson

Delbert Rose
Ms. Meredith McCulloch
Michael Lavelle Sampson
Charles and Carol Brown
David G. Schell
Mr. and Mrs. Leroy G. Hyltin, Jr.
Watson Seely
Charles and Carol Brown

Linnet Brown Shade
Grover and Sue Shade
Florine Beall Shank
Connie and David Emerson
Eris Shelton
Mr. Herbert Shelton
Mary Lou Simms
Mike and Jennifer Rapstine

Henry H. Sirman
Mr. Bobby Sirman
Norman Smith
Mary M. Stewart
Inez Sparks
James and Juanice Powell
Dana Squires
Johnny and Sharon Acker

Leo Stark
Sharon Holden
Ethel Stone Sterns
Mrs. Genevieve Cox
Thomas John Suits, Jr.
Steve and Jennifer Betts
Mr. Daryl B. Crown

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Mrs. Julia Maher
Kay and Statia McNeese
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Cinderella Suzanne Terry
Melvin and Nelda Walker
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Kent County Nursing Home
Jayton, TX
Joe Franklin Thomas
Reba Weesner
Billy Bob Thomason
Jimmy and Myrlene Bradshaw
Bob and Wendy Donnell
Eddie D. Moore, Jr. and Staff
Randy and Peg Pickens
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Virginia and Harry Stone
Grady Thompson
Helen C. Benson
The Tommy Williams Family
Blocker Thornton
Linda and Greg Freeman
Kathleen Thornton
Ms. Meredith McCulloch
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Nita and Bill Fry
Jimmy and Martha LeVelle
Marty and Michael Murray
Bettye W. Vanderwoude
Hubert (Tommy) Treadwell
Tom and Virginia Buckingham
Dotty Trenton
Finis and Edith Collins
Robert G. (Bob) Tribble
Ben and Joan Morton
Naomi Trost
Joe and Myra Wheeler
Val Tumlinson
Jess and Susan Laird
Katie Vincent
Ms. Joy A. McDonald
Bob Voss
Ms. Mary Siler Voss
Tom Voss
Ms. Mary Siler Voss
Jo Anne Walker
Lexie and Mary Lou Gregg and
Family
Beverly Walter
Charmie Mantooth
Gladys Walters
Mrs. Barbara J. Cole
Kenneth P. Walters
Mrs. Barbara J. Cole
O. D. Walters
Mrs. Barbara J. Cole
Mary Ware
Mrs. Estella E. Morris
Mr. S. Tom Morris
Lawrence Wagner
Bill and Carolyn Downs
Willadean Watson
The Irene Kirby Family
Ryan Webster
Reverend Phillip R. Hurst
Cyndi Hurst Snokhous
Mr. Whitmire
Kent County Nursing Home
Jayton, TX
Bonnie Wilkerson
Jason and Amanda Rimmer
Preston Wilson
BC Produce, Inc.
Muleshoe, TX
Lavena Winfree
Mr. and Mrs. Philip E. Orr, Jr.

Reverend Raymond (Rick) Wolfe
Nancy Boles
Bushland Community Church
Bushland, TX
Matt Hall
Donald and Joyce Hancock
Robert and Cami Hill
Vickie James
David and Marcia Mack
Stan and Lana McRae
Lee and Lit Moore
Jennifer Melton
Nancy Nenstiel
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New Home, TX
Trey and Karen Oakley
Camille and Patrick Owens
Ms. Debe' J. Piatak
Mr. Norman Roe
Maggie Rogers
Phillip and Patricia Schraub
Pamela Shamblin
Herb and D'Aun Tavenner
Reverend and Mrs. Delbert Taylor
Dickie and Gerry Turner
Mr. James H. Wright
Reverend Barbara Wordinger
Dr. Robert J. Wordinger
Walter Young
Kopperl UMC, Kopperl, TX
Timothy and Joyce Woodlock

Honorariums

Virginia Abernathy's Birthday
Virginia P. Jackson
L. B. Atterbury
Brenda and Milton Evitt
Wayne and Mary Billeck
John and Ruth Haigood
Tim and Susan Brown
Donna O. Karn
Jason Cannavale
Dr. Louis F. Cannavale
Allison Crawford and Family
Mr. Doyle Ogle
Bill and Helen Dickinson
Dr. and Mrs. Thomas L. Flick
Kim Dickinson
Mr. George S. Halfin
Joyce Ferguson
Ms. Hilary J. Ferguson
Allan Fink's 80th Birthday
Ms. Carol J. DuBose
Foster children – Alanna, Marie, Linda, Jimmy, Todd, Patricia and Stacy
Jerry and Carol Terrell
Rosemary Fuller
Godley UMW, Godley, TX
Faune Futral
Ellyn Ponton
Eunice Getzendanner
Victor Sunday School Class
First UMC, Palestine, TX
Harry A. Gump
Mr. Richard T. Gump
Mr. Robert M. Gump
Mr. and Mrs. Harry A. Gump's 60th Wedding Anniversary
Mr. Robert M. Gump
Bishop John W. Hardt and Mrs. Hardt
Gene and Jennell Sanders
Nelda Hazelwood
Debbie H. Louder
Mrs. Sam Hoerster
Mr. Tommy R. Splittergerber

Sheldon Johnson
Pastor Leadership Development
Group
First UMC, McAllen, TX
Mitchell Jones
Ms. Janelle Brinck
Ms. Myrna Kepford
Ms. Jaunita Honeyman
Mr. and Mrs. Stan Klein
Alyce B. Stephenson
Reverend Mike and Susan Love and Family
Lonnie L., Sr. and Derilda Ann
Jones
Marie Manning
James and Juanice Powell
Delores Martindale
Bill, Shari and Steph Jennings
Lyle C. Mason
Marilyn LaRose
Men of Aldersgate UMC
United Methodist Women
Aldersgate UMC, Arlington, TX
Trey Oakley
Salado UMC, Salado, TX
James N. Orr
L. D. Hawkins
Erskin Melton
Olivia and Ian Payne
Sue White
Doug Petty
Ms. Roberta E. Yarbrough
Annette Pfeil's 80th Birthday
Ms. Carol J. DuBose
Reverend Judy and B. J. Richmond
Lonnie L., Sr. and Derilda Ann
Jones
Reverend Eugene B. Robertson
Alan Evans
Marriage of Sandra Kay Mathis and James F. Robinson
Margaret and Jack Gressett
Bryan F. Russ, Jr.
Tony and Patricia Boykin
Herbert Shelton
Jim and Lynn Stuckey
James T. Stuckey
Jim and Lynn Stuckey
Mrs. James Warren
Mr. Russell J. Warren
Sandra Watkins 75th Birthday
Davolyn Davidchik
Mrs. David D. Davidchik
Woodrow Watts
Victor Sunday School Class
First UMC, Palestine, TX
David Wright, Sr.
William and Dotsy L. Wright
Mrs. Georgia Wright's 102nd Birthday
Mrs. Cleo B. (Pat) Curtis
2011 High School Graduates
Andrew Baker
Ryan Bremer
Michael Burton
Cody Goehring
Renee Hajek
Cameron Lott
Monica McCafferty
Emile Schwarz
Kira Van Dresar
Dylan Walsh (Ross)
Derek Watson
Brittany Wich
Friendship Sunday School Class
First UMC, La Grange, TX

An
Anonymous gift
in memory of
Arthur Capps

A
Five hundred dollar gift
in honor of
Lyle C. Mason
by
The Birdwells
Bryan, TX

A
Five hundred dollar gift
in honor of
our children
by
Mr. and Mrs. James W. Dees
Porter, TX

A
Five hundred dollar gift
in honor of
Lee Moore
by
Ms. Debe' J. Piatak
New Home, TX

A
Five hundred dollar gift
in honor of
Richard Wade Spencer Coulter
by
Ms. Lou Weems
Roxton, TX

A
Five hundred five dollar gift
in honor of
Lit Moore
by
Ms. Debe' J. Piatak
New Home, TX

A
One thousand dollar gift
in honor of
Allan Fink's 80th Birthday
given by
your wife,
Betty Fink, and children,
Ellen, Carolyn, Laura and George
Cost, TX

A
One thousand dollar
endowment gift
in honor of
Lillie Payne
by
Les and Bobbie Mungle
Weatherford, TX

A
special gift
in honor of
Robert and Georgia Shipley
by
Guy and Betty Garrett
Richardson, TX

Methodist Children's Home
1111 Herring Ave.
Waco, TX 76708

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STEEL DRUM BAND

Shyla, a Waco campus resident, earned a spot in the Steel Drum Ambassadors at A.J. Moore Academy this fall. This select group of students represent their high school at local events. Shyla received her first drum set at age eight, and she hopes to one day play in a college band. She is grateful for the support and encouragement of Julie Spiech, her unit manager, and other staff. "They knew my goal was to attend public school so I could play in a band," Shyla said. "It showed me that people believe in me and want me to reach my goals."

To read about Shyla and other youth at MCH, check out our weekly Q & A feature on our website: www.methodistchildrenshome.org.
