



Baptist Children's Homes

of NORTH CAROLINA

2018 Report: July 2017 - June 2018

A Message from BCH President Michael C. Blackwell

Numbers can say so much: **80% of the children and families Baptist Children's Homes (BCH) serves come to us unchurched.** In 2017, BCH became home to **74 groups of siblings.** These precious brothers and sisters, for their safety, had to be removed from the custody of their parents or family members.

In 2012, just six years ago, BCH cared for 12 sibling groups. Those numbers have risen sharply for many reasons, but opioid use in particular has gripped mothers, fathers and families. It indiscriminately rips families apart. More than ever, our cottage parents and caring staff see the effects daily as children come to us hurt, confused and already weary from life's struggles.

As a child, it's heartbreaking when you cannot trust your family to feed you, give you clean clothes that fit, provide you a safe home, or simply give you the love you long for. At BCH, our cottage parents stand waiting in the doors of our caring cottage homes and say "**come**" to these children who have been neglected and often abused. They become a family to them. And they introduce children to the voice of Jesus Christ who says to them, "**Come to me...I will give you rest.**"

Again, numbers say so much: **203 lives were forever changed in 2017!** Because of North Carolina Baptists, children have hope. Souls are being saved. **You impacted a total of 32,576 lives last year!** This would not be possible without you.

Every day, more children are coming to us throughout BCH's 21 statewide locations and our orphanage in Guatemala. Please continue to help us offer places of healing, places of rest – compassionate places where children and families can rise out of brokenness and come into the arms of Jesus

Thank you for being our partners – our friends – in ministry.

Michael C. Blackwell | Baptist Children's Homes President/CEO

Note: Help by encouraging your church to be a part of the 2018 Annual Offering this fall. Schedule a speaker to share the BCH story with your church. Call 336-474-1209 and visit www.bchoffering.org.

Junior – A Life Changed!

“My cottage parents told me my relationship with Jesus needed to be personal – now it is.” – Junior | Accepted Jesus on June 29, 2017

Turmoil was normal to Junior and his younger brother. As toddlers, the boys were removed from their mother’s care because of her struggle with drugs. The brothers lived in multiple foster homes until their father came back into their lives. When a run-in with the law led to their father’s imprisonment, Junior was angry and hurt. The trauma he experienced throughout his young life was taking its toll. The boys’ grandmother turned to Baptist Children’s Homes (BCH) for help. Living at BCH with their cottage parents and the other boys has given them a caring home. Most of all, it has given them hope. During a youth camp at the church the cottage attends, Junior and the other youth were asked to write on a piece of paper the one question they would ask God. On his paper, Junior says, “I had asked God to save me.” That night, he says his life truly changed.

Numbers of Children in Need Rise in 2017

The needs of North Carolina children remained great this past year as BCH’s statewide homes stayed full or near capacity. Children are now living at BCH for longer periods of time in a trend that has shifted from 2016. A rise in abuse and neglect, often due to the nation’s growing opioid crisis, has resulted in children remaining longer in the safe, stable setting BCH offers. One measurement the nonprofit uses to analyze the need is called “days of care.” A day of care is counted every time a child is safely tucked in bed at night. In 2017, that number reached a staggering 125,889 days.

First-year Ministry Reaches Thousands

Greater Vision Outreach Ministry has quickly impacted the lives of community families throughout the state. In its first year, Greater Vision reached 9,393 individuals across North Carolina. The ministry’s purpose is to strengthen working families, who struggle financially, by meeting essential physical and spiritual needs. Greater Vision works in partnership with other organizations to provide food, resources, education, referral and preventive services. Greater Vision’s statewide headquarters in Thomasville, which can accept large donations, is opening summer 2018. **To donate, volunteer or learn more about services, call 866-904-0060 or visit www.bchfamily.org/greatervision**

North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry’s Influence Recognized

North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry (NCBAM) received both regional and international attention in 2017. The ministry received the 2017 Outstanding Community Service Award for North Carolina from the Southeastern Association of Area Agencies on Aging. This award recognizes an agency that has made positive contributions in the lives of older people. In June, NCBAM’s director, Dr. Sandy Gregory spoke at the 7th International Conference on Aging and Spirituality in Chicago. NCBAM also added new titles to the workshops it offers to churches and senior centers--now offering more than 40 enrichment workshops that address issues relevant to aging adults. **For information or to register for workshops and events, visit www.ncbam.org or call 877.506.2226**

Career Opportunities – Go on Mission at Baptist Children’s Homes

As local missionaries, everyone at Baptist Children's Homes (BCH) strives to care for hurting children and families and share with them God’s unfailing love. BCH is looking for married, Christian couples to serve as cottage parents who will love hurting children and families with the love of Jesus Christ. This is an opportunity to be a paid, full-time local missionary with great benefits. **Learn more about career opportunities with BCH at www.bchcareers.org**

BCH president Celebrates Milestones

Michael C. Blackwell celebrated multiple accomplishments in 2017. Blackwell was conferred the honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Gardner-Webb University in Boiling Springs, NC during its summer commencement ceremony on August 5 and presented the message to the graduates in attendance. On December 15, he was also awarded the honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Mars Hill University in Mars Hill, NC. Both universities lauded his achievements and his transformational leadership at BCH. In addition, Blackwell was named one of the Triad’s most admired CEOs by The Triad Business Journal. Trustees approved the Emergency Care Cottage at Broyhill Home to be named the Michael C. and Catherine Kanipe Blackwell Cottage. On August 12, Blackwell and his wife, Catherine, celebrated 50 years of marriage. And in 2018, he will mark 35 years as BCH president/CEO, a position held longer than any BCH executive leader.

Baptist Children’s Homes of North Carolina

Michael C. Blackwell, President/CEO

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