

# Sunshine

The magazine of Methodist Children's Home

Fall 2009

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Head football coach Berry Benson and his Bulldogs have their sights set on a state title. MCH offers competitive sports for boys and girls at the University of Texas Charter School.

## Life Lessons

MCH helps youth discover hope for their lives through positive relationships with staff and peers and opportunities to develop their strengths and interests



**“I am proud of the fact that we have staff members from all departments who take a personal interest in our young people.”**

## Life-changing experiences

Through the years, I have become increasingly grateful for those special individuals who willingly shared their time, talents and wisdom to teach me important life lessons during my childhood and teenage years. These relationships and experiences enabled me to explore new opportunities, gain self-confidence and develop a sense of God’s calling for my life.

In the same way, Methodist Children’s Home changes the lives of at-risk youth by offering meaningful relationships with caring adults and a variety of positive learning experiences. Through these relationships and activities, the young people in our care gain a sense of belonging at the Home and develop their unique strengths, gifts and talents.

We realize that youth have different interests. As a result, we offer a smorgasbord of activities that enable all youth in our care to find something they enjoy doing, whether it is riding horses, cheerleading, playing sports, singing, camping, swimming or caring for animals. Every activity provides an opportunity for young people to connect with caring adults who are committed to their personal growth and success.

It is my belief that every employee at Methodist Children’s Home is a child care worker. I am proud of the fact that we have staff members from all departments who take a personal interest in our young people. These are life-changing encounters and relationships.

In this issue of *Sunshine*, you will read stories and see photographs that show how activities and relationships are changing the lives of our youth. You will see evidence of a busy summer for our young people and staff, achievements in education, leadership opportunities and contributions from donors who make this ministry possible through their financial gifts.

Thank you for your prayers, support and encouragement as we join efforts to serve more than 1,300 children and youth from Texas and New Mexico each day. Our relationship with you enables Methodist Children’s Home to offer hope to at-risk children and youth through a nurturing, Christian community.

For His children,

Bobby Gilliam

### MISSION STATEMENT

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

## The Prothro Home Collectible Ornament

The Prothro Home, built in 1941, is the third in a series of collectible ornaments highlighting the historic Waco campus.

The home was a gift from Mr. and Mrs. J.J. Perkins of Wichita Falls in honor of their daughter, Elizabeth Perkins Prothro. Mrs. Prothro passed away in August 2009. To learn

more about the Perkins-Prothro legacy at Methodist Children’s Home, turn to page 14 in this issue of *Sunshine*.

Ornaments are available for a donation to the Methodist Children’s Home Daily Needs Fund. For more information, call the Development Office at 800-853-1272.



Chris, left, and Christian enjoy a game of tetherball at Glen Lake Camp in Glen Rose.



**METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME**  
Waco, Texas

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# Never beyond hope

Brittany is a vibrant young woman. Her zeal for life and passion to serve others immediately shine through. But things were not always this way with Brittany. In fact, when she first came to Methodist Children's Home, she was often rebellious, disrespectful and unhappy.

For Brittany, the road to Methodist Children's Home was rough. Although she comes from a loving family, Brittany struggled with her parents' divorce, and she chose to rebel and get involved with the wrong crowd. Her decisions and behavior led to several unsuccessful placements in other childcare facilities, and Brittany was ready to give up.

"I felt that I didn't belong in those other placements," Brittany said. "And at first, I thought Methodist Children's Home would be just like all the others, but gradually things changed for me here."

Initially, Brittany rebelled against her staff and tested their authority, admitting that she was "self-centered and egotistical."

"I was really focused on me," she said. "I didn't think about anyone else and I didn't care about anything other than superficial things."

Sheila Hendricks, a unit manager at MCH, remembers the struggle to earn Brittany's trust.

"I wondered if Brittany would ever let us into her internal world," Hendricks said. "I knew we could only help her if she accepted the hope we offered."

Brittany's life began to change one evening last fall. As Brittany sat in her room crying over her frustrations, Michelle Sherman, a youth care counselor, came in to talk. As Sherman listened, Brittany told her that she felt her life was pointless and that there had to be more than what she was experiencing. Sherman prayed with Brittany and shared openly about the hope she found in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

"Miss Michelle was so amazing," Brittany said. "She understood what I was dealing with. She said we needed to pray about how I was feeling and give it to God — and not only that, but I needed to give my whole self to God."

During that pivotal conversation Brittany gave her life to Christ. Through the continued support of her staff and the religious education department, Brittany is growing stronger in her



Since she committed her life to Christ last fall through the influence of an MCH staff member, Brittany has become a leader on campus and a positive influence on her peers.

relationship with God and learning to shift the focus off herself and onto others. During the summer, she participated on a mission trip to Crockett and attended a Christian leadership camp in the Ozark Mountains. And during the last year, Brittany has worked to re-establish healthy relationships with her family.

"They are really proud of me," Brittany said. "I was raised in a Christian home, but now I finally understand what that means."

Brittany hopes to use her faith to impact the lives of the girls in her home while she finishes high school through MCH. She then plans to attend college and possibly become a missionary. Brittany has a special passion for working with young people who are struggling to find the right path.

"I know that this faith journey is a process," Brittany said. "There are good times and hard times, but through it all I am learning to trust God."

Hendricks and her staff have learned many lessons from working with Brittany.

"I think the biggest thing that I take away is to never give up," Hendricks said. "Our youth struggle, but they are not beyond the hand of God. He can bring hope to anyone."

**"I know that this faith journey is a process. There are good times and hard times, but through it all I am learning to trust God."**

— BRITTANY, MCH resident

# Summer '09!

For youth at Methodist Children's Home, summer is filled with fun and unique opportunities. With a variety of experiences – such as swimming, home unit trips, jobs or internships, mission trips, camps and community service – MCH residents stay busy during the “lazy days” of summer.



## Making new friends ...

“The best part of the summer was meeting all of the new kids who came to the Home. It was fun getting to know them.” – Tiffany



## Developing talents and interests ...

“This summer I spent a lot of time working on my music. I even got to go to the school and record some of my songs.” – Calvin





**Swimming at the MCH pool ...**

“Swimming was the best part of summer for me. I loved going to the pool all the time.” – Cameron

**Celebrating the holiday ...**

“My favorite part of summer was the 4th of July party on campus. It was really cool.” – Kandaja



**Serving on mission trips ...**

“I really enjoyed taking the mission trip to Crockett. It was awesome.” – Porshay

**Enjoying the outdoors ...**

“Two of my favorite things were swimming at the MCH pool and kayaking on Lake Waco.” – Dusty

# Life Lessons

Methodist Children's Home staff members understand the important role they play in helping youth identify and develop their unique strengths, interests and personal gifts. The following profiles are examples of ways the lives of youth are enriched through the Home's strength-based philosophy of care.

## Pursuing a Dream

When Linda arrived at Methodist Children's Home last year, she could not read a note of music. But with her long-standing love of music, she quickly became involved in chapel services as a member of the choir.

Through these experiences, Linda gradually learned to recognize some musical terms, but she wanted to do more. She wanted to express herself through music and eventually lead worship for her peers.

"When I first got here, the staff found out how much I liked music," Linda said. "They helped me get involved in praise band and singing in the choir."

Through her positive experience in the praise band, Linda discovered that she had a passion for making music, and she decided she wanted to learn how to play the piano. After sharing her enthusiasm with staff in her home, they were eager to help Linda pursue her dream.

Linda remembers the excitement of going to her first piano lesson with Colin Campbell, music director at MCH. In fact, she still remembers the exact day of her first lesson – Oct. 31, 2008. Linda had previously worked with Campbell on the praise band, and it was his love of piano that inspired her to take lessons.

"I was really excited to learn from Mr. Colin," Linda said. "He is a really good teacher, and he is also a lot of fun."

Campbell teaches 15 lessons each week to residents wanting to learn piano, voice, guitar or percussion, and he has used his contacts in the Waco community to offer instruction in other



Linda said she is "reaching a life goal" by taking piano lessons at MCH. Colin Campbell, music director at MCH, teaches a variety of lessons to meet the interests of youth.

instruments, such as the violin.

Campbell works to meet students at their individual skill level. For Linda, that meant starting out with simple finger exercises and learning the location of Middle C. Now she can read a piece of music and play what she sees on the page.

"I am just so thankful that I have this opportunity," Linda said. "Learning music is one of the best things I've ever done. It is kind of like reaching a life goal for me, because I have really always wanted to play music."

**"We help youth identify the things they do well and intentionally develop opportunities for them to use their strengths and talents to achieve success."**

– BOBBY GILLIAM, MCH president



Krissy, left, and Summer, residents in Waxahachie, prepare cheese biscuits as Shirley Garrett offers her support.

## The Art of Cooking

Ever since Summer met Miss Shirley, she knew she wanted to get to know her. A cook in Summer's home unit on the Waxahachie campus, Shirley Garrett has taken a special interest in Summer and makes her feel special. As their relationship grew, Summer became interested in cooking.

When Summer learned that she could participate in a summer internship and work with Miss Shirley to help prepare meals, she was overjoyed.

"I think cooking is the best," Summer said. "I loved the idea of making new things and learning how to do all the steps correctly."

Throughout the internship, Miss Shirley taught Summer how to prepare many entrées and side dishes. Summer's favorite thing to prepare is cheese biscuits. The biscuits quickly became popular with the girls in her home unit, and Summer was proud that they enjoyed something she made.

The increased interest in cooking led the Waxahachie staff to host a one-day class to teach residents how to make appetizers, main dishes, salads and desserts. At the end of the day, many of the residents' families came to campus to enjoy the culinary skills of their children, and some of the families requested recipes. The feast included party wings, macaroni and cheese, spinach salad and strawberry shortcake. Summer enjoyed having her family see what she had learned.

"The best part was having them eat something I made," Summer said. "Now when I go home, my parents let me make things in the kitchen since I know how to cook."

Other youth who participated in the class were also excited to share their creations with their parents.

"Even though we followed the recipe, it felt like what I made was mine," Darrian said. "They loved the wings I made."

Through this experience, Summer not only learned about cooking and working with others, but also about herself. While Summer plans to become a veterinarian, she wants to spend a lot of time in the kitchen perfecting her special creations.

"I'm just glad I got to do this," Summer said. "After all, I got a chance to learn from the best!"

## One-on-One

Although he was only 8-years-old at the time, Christian vividly remembers watching his first professional basketball game on television. He recalls that he was attracted to the fast-paced action of the game and one of its star players, Kobe Bryant of the Los Angeles Lakers. Since then, basketball has become a significant part of Christian's life.

"I really enjoy playing basketball because it makes me think," Christian said. "And, I like the feeling I get when I'm playing. I like having the ball in my hands."

Christian often has a basketball in his hands, whether he is on a court or hanging out around his home unit on the Waco campus. During his first day at the Home last spring, Christian quickly made his way to a basketball court near his home unit. Dwayne Simms, a youth care counselor in Christian's home, noticed him playing, so he walked over to shoot baskets with him. Their conversation quickly led to a competitive game of one-on-one.

"I beat Mr. Simms pretty bad," Christian said, with a smile, "but he was a good sport about it."

Simms admits that his game has room for improvement, and Christian enjoys helping him become a better player.

"I try to help Mr. Simms with his jump shot," Christian said. "He needs to work on a quicker release."

Christian knows that Simms helps him, too.

Continued on pg. 8



Christian and Dwayne Simms, a youth care counselor on the Waco campus, have developed a strong relationship through their interest in basketball.

**Basketball**, continued from pg. 7

“Mr. Simms has helped me stay out of trouble,” Christian said. “He’s been good for me.”

Simms and other staff members look for opportunities to build relationships with youth and help them develop their strengths and interests. When Simms observed Christian shooting baskets on the day of his arrival, he knew it was an open door to begin to build a relationship.

“I knew it was the perfect time to get to know him since we both like basketball,” Simms said. “My relationship with Christian started that day as he began to give me tips on shooting the ball.”

Staff members are committed to helping Christian pursue his interest in basketball. They enrolled him in a summer basketball camp at Baylor University, and he will have the opportunity to play for the Home’s charter school team this fall.

“I haven’t had a chance to play for a school team before, so I’m looking forward to it,” he said. “I’m ready to go out there and show them what I’ve got.”

Simms looks forward to watching Christian develop as a basketball player and, most importantly, as a person.

“I enjoy my relationship with Christian, and I’m pleased with the decisions he’s learning to make,” Simms said. “He’s beginning to understand how his choices affect his life on and off the basketball court.”

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## Growing in Wisdom

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Spending a hot summer evening picking weeds and harvesting vegetables is probably not on the priority list of many teenagers. However, for one home on the Waco campus, tending to a garden



Homeparent Danny Miller enjoys helping Katrina and the other residents in his home develop gardening skills.

has become a way to serve their community.

Since March, homeparents Danny and Jean Miller and the girls from their home have been giving their time to care for an on-campus garden. The girls worked with Danny Miller to till the soil, plant seeds, pull weeds, and harvest, wash and sell the produce to MCH staff members. When the Millers proposed the garden idea, they thought it would be a good learning opportunity.

“This is a way for the girls to learn more about taking care of something beyond themselves,” Jean Miller said.

The girls admit they are gaining important life skills through the hands-on experience of picking and selling their own vegetables. Their unit manager, Erica Reyes-Rosas, works alongside the girls and has developed a schedule where each girl is assigned a day of garden duty. However, everyone is involved in selling the produce to staff around the MCH community.

Katrina, a resident in the Miller’s home, enjoys working in the garden.

“On our garden day, we are responsible for turning the sprinklers on and off, picking weeds and harvesting ripe vegetables,” she said. “Taking care of a garden is a lot of work. It has made me appreciate little things and taught me responsibility.”

Growing up in a family of gardeners, Danny Miller was eager to pass on his knowledge of working the ground.

“Teaching these girls about the different types of plants and weeds and how to care for a piece of land is something that is second nature to me,” he said.

The Millers’ passion for teaching has taken the project to the next level. Initially, the garden was intended to be a way for the girls to give back to their community, but they are beginning to realize that the many lessons they are learning will go with them throughout their lives. The girls hope to use the small proceeds from the garden to benefit a charity of their choice during the upcoming Christmas season.

“It has been so good for these girls to learn to give back,” Jean Miller said. “These young women have benefited from the sacrifices of others, and now they are choosing to pass on that blessing.”

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## A Love for Children

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Kaleigh’s summer was nothing like she planned. When she arrived at Methodist Children’s Home last August, Kaleigh agreed to stay for one year, and she began counting the days until she could leave. However, as she began to build relationships, Kaleigh forgot about her “countdown” and began to consider MCH as a loving community and home away from home.

Stephanie Scott, a unit manager at MCH, saw something special in Kaleigh as she began to warm up to her MCH family. Scott observed that Kaleigh has a strong love for children, and she



Kaleigh appreciates the opportunity she received to gain child care experience through an internship with the Home's Grandparents As Parents Program. She is pictured here with Te'Aerra during a summer program for local families.

learned that Kaleigh had worked at summer camps and daycares in the past and planned to become a special education teacher.

When Scott heard that staff members in the Home's Grandparents As Parents Program (GAPP) needed student interns to help with their summer day camp, she immediately thought of Kaleigh. Scott even called Kaleigh during a home visit to ask her if she would be interested in the position.

"I was so excited," Kaleigh said. "I didn't know that I would get the chance to do something like this while I was at MCH."

Several weeks later, Kaleigh started her internship and never looked back.

"I love these kids so much," Kaleigh said. "Every opportunity to work with children brings me one step closer to my goal of being a great teacher."

Full of smiles, laughter and energy, Kaleigh engaged the children and made them feel special. Te'Aerra, one of the GAPP children, looked forward to the time she spent with Kaleigh.

"She is so fun," Te'Aerra said. "She listens and plays games and stuff."

Even though Kaleigh's summer was different than she had initially planned, she admits that it was much better than she could have imagined. Kaleigh now plans to stay at the Home for her senior year and then earn a special education degree.

"I'm just so thankful that I was able to do this during the summer," Kaleigh said. "GAPP is such a great program, and I know this internship will help me achieve my future goals."

## Finding a Niche

When Travis joined Phil Smith's auto mechanics crew at the Boys Ranch, he quickly found his niche.

Travis, who grew up working on old pickup trucks alongside his father, hit it off with Smith because of their shared interest. He started working with lawn mowers and other small engines at the Boys Ranch, and now he helps service vehicles.

"Mr. Phil has taught me a lot," Travis said. "It makes me feel good to know that there's someone at the Ranch who's interested in the same thing as me."

Smith, who serves as a homeparent along with his wife, Mae, worked 25 years in vehicle maintenance before entering child care. He enjoys the opportunity to share his knowledge and expertise with Boys Ranch residents as they help service lawn mowers and some of the Ranch vehicles. Like other staff members, Smith helps youth identify and develop their strengths. Two current residents, Travis and Jordan, quickly caught his attention.

"I saw their talent early on, and I think they can both make a good living doing this if they want to," Smith said. "They're able to comprehend what I show them, and they seem to really enjoy it."

Smith and other homeparents at the Boys Ranch offered a variety of hands-on learning opportunities during the summer. Groups of boys rotated every four weeks among different sessions, which included basic cooking skills, photography and guitar lessons, among others. The Ranch provided Smith an old truck as a training tool for youth. At the end of the program, Smith took the youth to meet a professional mechanic, where they gained insight into this career.

"The summer program was very successful in all areas," Smith said. "The homeparents enjoyed sharing their interests with the boys, and the boys seemed to enjoy their experiences."

Karen Melton, director of program services at the Boys Ranch, is appreciative of the staff members who made the summer program a success.

"The boys enjoyed what they learned, and they will be able to use these skills the rest of their lives," she said. "Most importantly, I am thankful for the commitment of our staff members and the way they reached out to our young people. Staff members at Methodist Children's Home have amazing hearts."



Homeparent Phil Smith, right, taught an automotive repair class at the Boys Ranch during the summer. Travis, pictured in the background, appreciates the opportunity he has received at the Ranch to further develop skills he learned from his father.

## MCH youth attend regional leadership conference

Sixteen youth and staff sponsors from the MCH Waco campus attended the Southwestern Association of Executives of Homes for Children's Youth Leadership Conference in August.

The conference, which was held at Shepherd of the Ozarks Retreat Center near Harriet, Ark., provided an opportunity for MCH youth to interact with other young people living in group home settings.

Youth attended leadership sessions taught by nationally-recognized motivational speakers, participated in group activities and enjoyed the outdoors.

Meeting other students and leading a Bible study were the best parts of the conference for Harold, an MCH resident.

"It was cool because everything we did at the conference had a purpose," he said. "We were able to dig deeper in our relationship with God."

Lee Davis, a youth care counselor supervisor at MCH, also enjoyed the event. The conference provided opportunities for Davis and other

staff members to network with child care workers. However, the real blessing for Davis was observing the participation and leadership demonstrated by MCH youth.

"It was a privilege to see our kids take on leadership roles," Davis said. "By the end of the week, they were leading Bible studies and staying up late talking about their personal relationship with Christ."

Both Davis and Harold came away from the conference with a renewed energy.

"I enjoyed learning how to help others find their individual strengths," Harold said. "It has been great putting those ideas into practice at MCH."

As a senior at Waco High School, Harold has also been able to use the lessons he learned at the conference to reach beyond MCH.

"I am looking forward to stepping up my leadership role as a member of the track and tennis teams," Harold said. "I am glad I went to the conference. I think it helped prepare me for my next step in life."



Harold (l-r), Jerrell, Gregory and Jose were among 16 MCH youth who attended a summer Christian leadership conference at Shepherd of the Ozarks Retreat Center in Arkansas. In addition to enjoying the outdoors, youth attended sessions and participated in group activities that focused on the importance of developing leadership skills.

## EDUCATION UPDATE



### Boys Ranch students attend charter school

Beginning this fall, students from the MCH Boys Ranch are attending the University of Texas Charter School on the Waco campus. This move will enhance the educational opportunities for Boys Ranch students and help strengthen relationships among youth, teachers and staff on the two campuses.

In addition to a full academic curriculum, Boys Ranch students will receive opportunities to participate in more extracurricular activities, including athletics and UIL competitions. The agriculture studies program and FFA that have been offered at the Boys Ranch school are now available for all students. With the addition of the Boys Ranch students, the University Charter School is serving about 170 students.

### Charter school students earn high TAKS rating

The University Charter School earned the highest TAKS rating for at-risk schools for the sixth consecutive year.

### Charter school adds technology program

The charter school will offer five new courses this year as part of a Career and Technology Education program. The courses include agriculture mechanics, animal science and food technology.

### MCH students earn UIL honors

MCH students earned honors at the '09 state UIL contest in May. In the solo competition, Irwin earned a 1st Division Rating and Ashleigh and Christian earned a 2nd Division Rating. MCH's ensemble earned a 1st Division Rating.

### College program continues to grow

Seventy-six former MCH residents are currently enrolled in college or vocational training programs throughout Texas. Among the colleges and universities MCH alumni currently attend are Texas A&M, UT-Austin, North Texas, Houston, Baylor, UT-San Antonio, UT-Arlington, McLennan Community College and Texas State Technical College. Students are studying such fields as business, social work, science, math, journalism, welding and cosmetology.

### Three alumni earn college degrees

Three MCH alumni earned college degrees in May. Lakita Williams graduated from the University of Houston, Mimi Geleta from North Texas and Heather Reed from Texas A&M.

# Methodist Children's Home 2009 Senior Awards

Methodist Children's Home recognizes the achievements of the following graduates who received special awards during the annual Senior Sunday celebration May 17.

## **Flora Weekley Torrance Graduation Award (Outstanding Senior)**

Katrina Krebbs  
John Mead  
Matthew Wills

## **Mariam Hawes Academic Excellence Award**

James Hall  
Katrina Krebbs

## **LaTonya Basey Circle of Courage Award**

Brittane Robinson  
Bosho Tilahun

## **Spirit of Belonging Award**

Jessica Alvarado  
Tigistu Kassa-Mengistu

## **Tom Strother Spirit of Generosity Award**

David Buckingham  
John Mead

## **Spirit of Independence Award**

Samantha Bryan  
Sarah Mae Miller

## **Spirit of Mastery Award**

Jose Gomez  
Lauren Matthews  
Abyan Tilahun  
Anthony Wood

## **Resiliency Award**

Zachary Adams  
Victoria Devereux

## **Bulldog Award, Waco Campus**

Tucker Goodwin  
Lindsey Phillips

## **Ramrod Award, Boys Ranch**

Matthew Wills

## **Top Hand Award, Boys Ranch**

Anthony Wood

“Achievement based on real accomplishments is necessary for development.  
Our community should provide a variety of opportunities for youth to develop and utilize their strengths.”

Methodist Children's Home Strength-Based Principle

inside out a blog of METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2009

### hands-on experience

The new school year at MCH's Charter School has brought along some new experiences for youth from the Waco campus. Several youth from the school have chosen to participate in the hands-on animal behavior class. The class is taught by Irene Brown and John Kaymark. Irene and Kaymark teach a variety of agriculture and vocational education classes through the school. Their classes give students from both the Ranch and Waco campus an opportunity to work with their hands and learn to care for something beyond themselves. They also receive advice for the FFA club.

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## Get the latest MCH news!

Methodist Children's Home recently began a blog: a web site that allows us to update friends, donors and staff members on exciting events throughout our ministry.

You can visit the blog anytime to stay up-to-date. If you would like to receive an e-mail when we add new content to the blog, you can sign up for our e-mail list.

<http://www.methodistchildrenshome.blogspot.com>



# A season of joy and hope

Individuals and churches can help provide lifelong Christmas memories for children.

Family Christmas traditions are as distinctive as they are meaningful. Carols around the piano, celebration services by candlelight, gifts exchanged over cups of hot cocoa ... Holiday memories span generations and link participants in ways no other events can.

For the children and youth at Methodist Children's Home, their Christmas memories are as varied as their pasts. But while living at the Home, youth have an opportunity to experience a unique and meaningful Christmas season.

"We offer hope to children and families year-round," Bobby Gilliam, MCH president, said. "At Christmastime, we celebrate the hope we have through Jesus Christ, and we want to make our kids' experiences meaningful and joyous."

Since Methodist Children's Home does not receive church apportionments, much of the money used for Christmas celebrations and gifts comes from individual and church donations. MCH must raise more than \$3 million annually to provide daily care and necessary items for the children. In addition to annual gifts, a financial gift at Christmas is extra-special to the children, because it provides something different and memorable.

The following are a few ways you or your church can bless the more than 1,300 children we serve:

- **Annual Christmas Offering:** Since 1895, churches have collected donations for MCH at Christmastime to help meet the daily needs of residents throughout the year.
- **The Secret Santa program:** MCH supporters provide gifts for the children by donating \$75, which the Home matches, for one child to receive items on his or her wish list. Churches can receive credit for church members' donations.
- **Christmas gifts:** Every dollar designated to "Christmas" helps support special holiday experiences for our young people. Children served through Methodist Children's Home include youth on our Waco campus, Boys Ranch, Waxahachie campus and those served through outreach offices in Abilene, Corpus Christi, Crockett, Dallas, El Paso, Houston, Lubbock, San Antonio, Sulphur Springs, Tyler and Albuquerque, NM.

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Thank you for helping to provide the children, youth and families we serve with meaningful Christmas memories of joy and hope.

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To contribute to the children's special Christmas experience this year 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](mailto:slewis@mchwaco.org).

## MCH opens new Boys Ranch activities center

MCH hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony on August 1 for the newly-constructed Boys Ranch Recreation and Activities Center, a facility that has been in the hearts and minds of staff for years.

Trey Oakley, vice president of development, was eager to see the realization of that long-standing vision.

"I am so grateful to the donors and friends who stepped forward to help us realize this dream," Oakley said. "The addition of this facility helps to further the vision of our organization to provide exceptional care for youth."

The facility, which will be used for a variety of activities, includes a basketball court, office and kitchenette.



The Recreation and Activities Center features a basketball court, office and kitchenette.

Ranch youth were excited to host special guests for the ribbon cutting, especially MCH Board member Dick Kenyon. When Kenyon attended the groundbreaking for the facility in October 2008, he challenged the boys to a free-throw contest once the gymnasium was complete. The boys did not forget

his challenge, and they came to the ribbon cutting excited to show off their skills. However, Kenyon made good on his challenge and won the shooting contest.

For MCH staff, having an indoor recreation facility provides a place where youth can channel their energy into posi-

tive athletic pursuits.

"Sports and athletics are interwoven throughout the lives of our kids," said Bobby Gilliam, MCH president, during the ribbon-cutting ceremony. "Our goal is not to teach kids how to win or lose, but how to excel in the midst of difficulty."

## A Day of Celebration

August 1, 2009



Left: Boys Ranch residents Dylan and Tyler cut the ribbon to officially open the new Recreation and Activities Center. Also pictured are (l-r) Dick Kenyon, Board member; Bobby Gilliam, president; Dottie Briggs, Boys Ranch administrator; and Trey Oakley, vice president for development.

Right: Dick Kenyon, MCH Board member, challenged Boys Ranch residents to a free-throw shooting contest following the ribbon-cutting. He made good on his challenge and enjoyed the opportunity to spend time with the youth.



Right: Participants in the free throw contest were, l-r, Clayton, Clifton, Saber, Dick Kenyon, William and Tyler.



# Perkins and Prothro families: A legacy of love

Methodist Children's Home has been blessed by the friendship, loyalty and financial support of countless benefactors for 119 years. The Home lost one of its special friends on May 23, 2009, when Elizabeth Perkins Prothro passed away in Wichita Falls. She was the daughter of the late Joe and Lois Perkins and the wife of the late Charles Prothro.

Through the years, the Home's children and staff enjoyed a special relationship with the Perkins and Prothro families. This friendship began in the early 1930s when Mr. Perkins, a businessman from Wichita Falls, traveled past the Home during a trip to Waco. As his attention was drawn to children playing on the front lawn, he drove onto campus and began visiting with the boys and girls. As he shared a basket of apples with them, he was quickly surrounded by a large group of boys and girls who wanted to enjoy this special treat.

Through this experience and future visits, Mr. Perkins grew in his love for the children and devotion to the Home, and he established a longtime friendship with Dr. Hubert Johnson. The Home's administrator from 1933-66, Dr. Johnson once described Mr. Perkins'



Joe and Lois Perkins made significant contributions to the lives of children and youth through their support of MCH.

first visit to campus as the "most momentous event in the history of Methodist Home."

The Perkins family supported the Home in many ways. After sending candy and shiny new coins to the children at Christmas in 1934, they began sponsoring the annual Perkins Christmas Party, where children received a sack full of fruit and candy, along with money, from the Perkins and Prothro families. Elizabeth's husband, Charles, and their children, Joe Prothro, Kay Yeager, Mark Prothro, and the late Charles Vincent Prothro, along with their families, traveled to Waco for many years to join in this annual celebration. Today, funds provided by the Perkins and Prothro families continue to provide Christmas parties

for all of the Home's residents.

The Perkins family also played an important role in the growth of the endowment fund and the development of the Home's first campus master plan. The Perkins family contributed significant financial support, including funding

for construction of the Perkins Home and the Prothro Home, the administrator's residence, and assistance with the current administration building. Members of the families have also served on the Home's Board of Directors.

"Words cannot express the sense of gratitude we have for these families that have enriched the lives of children in so many ways," said Bobby Gilliam, president. "While we were saddened by the passing of Elizabeth, we were reminded of the simple acts of love and generosity expressed by these families that have enabled us to bring joy and hope to at-risk children and youth. Their legacy will remain a strong presence at Methodist Children's Home for many years."



The Perkins' daughter, Elizabeth Perkins Prothro, far right, and her husband, Charles Prothro, far left, made sure their family continued the Perkins' legacy of love and generosity.

**"...brick and mortar, grass and trees are not enough to make a home. You have not only given these, you have also brought a spirit of friendship and love to the children."**

Recognition of Mr. Joe Perkins during a Board of Directors meeting in 1940

# MEMORIAL GIFTS AND GIFTS OF HONOR

Gifts made from May through July 2009.

## Memorials

### Jack M. Adkins

James and Jeanne Blackwell

### Joe D. Ahlfinger

Patsy Ahlfinger

### Erma Anderson

Nicky and Donna Nix

### Forrest M. Archer

Lela and Jim Windham

### Richard Truman Armstrong

Mrs. BeBe D. Armstrong

### Mr. Thomas O. Arnold

Mrs. W. Carter Grinstead, Jr.

### Patti Avery

Cotton and Marion Spurgin

### Roland M. Aycock

Mrs. Hazel F. Jackson

### Sherman Bales

Jim and Eileen Kitchens

Mr. Rodney Lee

May Quick

The Brit Webb Family

### Sara E. (Babe) Barrington

Mrs. Mary R. Luetkemeyer

### Earl Bartley

Ms. Peggy Gillespie

### Wanda Sue Biggard

Mr. Blake Moore

### Leta Buttrill Bills

Leta M. Barry

### Ellen Bird's mother

Cotton and Marion Spurgin

### Joyce Inez Bittle

James and Laura Milam

### Jimmie Earleen Hall Bradford

Mrs. Robert Cooper

### Delbert Brewster

Ms. Jana Craddock

John and Pat Tausch

### John S. Brown, Sr.

Celeste Hart and Family

### Louise Mitchell Bryan

Gerald and Sandra Ritchie

### Patrick and Kathleen Byrnes

Mr. and Mrs. Ezra F. Robinson

### Pat Cain

Leslie and Candy Mallonee

### Benjamin Franklin Calk

James and Laura Milam

### Faye Campbell

Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Wallace

### Rick Carter

James and Laura Milam

### Henry W. (Hank) Carver

James and Jeanne Blackwell

### Jo Anne Chavez

Bill and Jeri Lynn White

### Dr. Nancy Chin

Mary M. Stewart

### Ann Coates

Jack and Mary Ann Edwards

Kay Knowles

### Irving F. (Jerry) Conely, Sr.

Kathy and Cary N. Bargas

### Joyce Conner

Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Watkins

### Odell Conner

Gerald and Sandra Ritchie

### Robert (Bob) H. Cooper, IV

Tracy L. Dedek

Anand Ivatury

Bhanu Ivatury

Peggy Myers

Terry and Candy Myers

Mike and Renee Sanders

Don and Glenna Sparkman

Mr. Jim Strange

Patrick and Bobbie Swindle

Constance E. and Lawrence E.

Wood

### Charles Crank

Texas Farm Products Company

Nacogdoches, TX

Sue Abernathy

Amy Floyd

Stan and Paula Sisco

### Louis Crenshaw

Edna M. Brown

Jane and Phil Jones

### Bennie Curtiss

Mr. and Mrs. C. V. Nelson

### Reverend Claude Decelle

Jack and Billye Bradberry

Mr. and Mrs. Mallie Buckner

Dan and Bonnie Rach

### Maida Draker

Shannon Eckols

Patricia Holtman

### Ruth Virginia Drewery

Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Watkins

### Billy Jo Ducker

Ms. Agnes L. Smith

### L. C. Duncan

James and Jeanne Blackwell

### Frances Durst

Silas and Pat Brandenberger

Don and Frankie Hendley

### Jo Ann Edwards

Mr. and Mrs. Carey C. Whitman

### E. Jean English

Anonymous

### Jerry Everett

T.J. and Sandy Ermoian

### Reverend Ray Forbes

James and Kay Batton

### Grace B. Foster

Jason Wegener

### Jane Foster

Ms. Nalda B. Steagall

### Jody Lane Foster

Ricky and Paula Ray

### Donald Bert Garrett

D. L. O. Tafallo

### Odie Gibson

Jim and Marilyn Clanahan

### Gary Gierczak

Ms. Lucille Bida

### Mrs. W. E. Glenn

Mrs. Anne Louise Boswell

### Michael Grady

Paul and Wanda Smith

### Mr. Charles Wayne Graham

Ben and Elizabeth Sutton

### Charlie Greer

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

### Bessie Hale

Kent County Nursing Home

Jayton, TX

### Mrs. Billie Hale

Mary R. Buford

### Rosalie Harris

Jerry and Ann Gibson

### Vernon A. Harrison

Anonymous

### Davis Hart

Virgie Sheffy

### William Hassel Hartsell

Hunter and Totsy Cunningham

### King B. Hegwood

Andrew and Dorthy Dunn

### James (Tex) Herring

James and Laura Milam

### Bill and Bob Hodges

Ms. L. K. Downing

### Evelyn Howell

Durkee United Methodist Women

Durkee UMC

Houston, TX

Maureen Akin

Wilda Montgomery

The Thraikills

Watzlarick Families

### Jean Huff

McAlister, Sweet & Associates

Houston, TX

Ron and Ellin Delsener

Wayne and Joann Goldberg

Darthie R. Kees

Jolynn McEachern

Dr. and Mrs. Robert D. Stipanovic

### Gerry Lyn Hunt

Mr. Tom Hunt

### Katherine (Kitty) Hunt

Mr. William C. Denker

### Lloyd Hurst

Tommy and JoAnn Anderson

### Evelyn Irish

Ms. Lucille Bida

### Bobbie Jackson

Madeline T. Wingrove

### E. C. Jackson

Dr. Sandra K. Oliver

### Luther Kenneth Jackson

Marc and Carrie Anderson

Larry and Rita Jackson

Mr. and Mrs. Gary Lewis

Mrs. Rebecca McPherson

Mr. and Mrs. Bryan Mize

### James Burnett Jennings

Gerald and Sandra Ritchie

### George Johnson

Nelda Hardin

### Robert Earl Johnson

Mrs. C. P. Metcalf

### Florence (Flo) Jones

Glenna and Danny Bodeker

Arledge and Peggy Brashers

Carroll and Sarah Coombs

Mrs. Edith E. Craig

Dr. and Mrs. Jack K. Daniels

Debra and Bill Duncan

Louis, Martha and Deborah

Gillispie

Ms. Patti Hough

Wildon and Della Hundley

Delbert and Betty Hundley

Glen and Sue Hunt

Mr. and Mrs. Daryl R. Lostak

Ann McAdams

Ms. Jill McFarlen

James and Laura Milam

Frank and Mary Jane Roth

Eugene and Joyce Spencer

Mr. and Mrs. Edward L.

Stephenson

Lisa Stephenson

John and Joy Taylor

Timothy and Joyce Woodlock

### Mrs. John Jones

Harmony Class

White Rock UMC

Dallas, TX

Mrs. Sara D. Adams

Ms. Louise U. Bosco

Arledge and Peggy Brashers

Ms. Patricia A. Carlson

Mrs. Edith E. Craig

Dr. and Mrs. Jack K. Daniels

Debra and Bill Duncan

Louis, Martha and Deborah

Gillispie

Harold and Fran Hoerster

Delbert and Betty Hundley

Wildon and Della Hundley

Glen and Sue Hunt

Mr. and Mrs. Mansel W. Lane

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas G. Little

Ann McAdams

James and Laura Milam

Raul and Sylvia Ordenez

Eugene and Joyce Spencer

Mr. and Mrs. Edward L.

Stephenson

Lisa Stephenson

Paul Waits

Mr. Ed Waters

Timothy and Joyce Woodlock

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest D. Worm

Gary and Arne Ann Youngblood

### Louis (L. J.) Jones

James and Laura Milam

### Reverend Larry Kelley, Sr.

Larry and Betsy Pennington

### Dub King

Bonnie Garrison Sunday School

Class

Garrison UMC

Garrison, TX

### Adele Klein

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

### Rickie Knoles

Mrs. Edith E. Craig

James and Laura Milam

### Nathan Jon Krone, II

Dale and Louise Krone

### Billy Joe Latty

James and Laura Milam

### Ruby Ledbetter

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Ms. Betti A. White

### Finis Wellin

George and Jackie Blake

### Mr. William Henry Lightsey

Lonnie L., Sr. and Derilda Ann

Jones

### Charles Little

Milton and Mary Lou Lorenz

### Elizabeth (Lib) Little

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Faye and Gayle English

Vivian O'Leary

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Janet and Rich Pattarozzi

### Dr. Charles Livingston

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### Jim Lowery

Dan and Sue Jackson

Sandra Matus and Family

Rhonda and Steve Nieman

### John and Doris Luton

Ms. Nancy M. Luton

### Emily Maness

V. Straughan and Family

### Sue Elaine Mangum

Joanna Moss

A  
One Thousand dollar  
Endowment gift  
in honor of  
President George Bush's  
Service to our country  
by  
Robert Shipley  
Heath, TX

A  
Five Hundred dollar  
Endowment gift  
in memory of  
Andy McMahan  
by  
Jim Chionsini  
San Angelo, TX

A  
Five Hundred dollar  
Endowment gift  
in memory of  
Reverend John T. King  
by  
The Board of Directors of the  
Jesse T. and Jodie E. King Foundation  
Houston, TX

A  
Five Hundred dollar  
Endowment gift  
in memory of  
my aunt,  
Berneice Laird Lee,  
by  
Mrs. Dorothy T. Morgan  
Corsicana, TX

A  
Five Hundred dollar  
Endowment gift  
in memory of  
Don Gardner  
by  
The Shipley Family  
Heath, TX

A  
Five Hundred dollar  
Endowment gift  
in memory of  
Aunt Dorothy Oldson  
by  
Dan and Susan Stage  
Arlington, TX

A  
One Thousand dollar  
Endowment gift  
in memory of  
my husband,  
Raymond Bergstrom,  
by  
Mrs. Raymond Bergstrom  
El Campo, TX

A  
One Thousand dollar  
Endowment gift  
in memory of  
Elizabeth Perkins Prothro  
by  
Mrs. Edith E. Craig  
Grants Pass, OR

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Larry and Betsy Pennington  
**Ann Mathis**  
Jess and Susan Laird  
**Maria McAlister**  
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**Elsie McAnally**  
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Kenny and Marylin Taylor  
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Garrison, TX

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**Elizabeth Richardson**  
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**Twilla Riebel**  
Kenny and Marylin Taylor  
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Hewitt, TX  
Bobby Caswell  
**Mildred Peterson Roush**  
Pat and M.F. Markley  
**Lucile Smith Rowntree**  
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**Nancy Young Sampsel**  
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**Eddie J. Saylor**  
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**Leo Strom**  
Marti McLemore

**Norman Szafir**  
Dale Dowell

**Adam Taylor**  
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**Dan Toal**  
Mr. Montie R. White

**Mattie Trammel**  
Kent County Nursing Home  
Jayton, TX

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Pete and Betty Martin

**Glen Underwood**  
James and Laura Milam

**Tom Waggoner**  
James and Jeanne Blackwell

**Thomas Craig Wagner, II**  
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**Eugene S. Ward**  
Mr. Carl L. Carpenter, Jr.  
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Mr. and Mrs. John Sleeper, Jr.

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and Rehabilitative Services  
Division of Rehabilitation  
Services  
Austin, TX  
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Mr. and Mrs. Don Barnfield  
Alene and Phyllis City  
Robert Dod  
Bobby and Mary Ann Donaldson  
and Family

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Mr. and Mrs. Alfred King  
Mrs. Louise Lowe  
Mr. Doug Massey  
Mr. and Mrs. John G. Minniece, III  
Hayes and Julie Mitchell  
Ms. Consuelo R. Nunez  
May Quick  
Vern and Carolyn Rosson  
Lindsey and Janet Wallace  
Mr. and Mrs. Carey C. Whitman  
Mr. Tom Wood  
Ms. Sue Wray

**Deryl White**  
Mrs. Jane W. Brown

**Foye D. White**  
Elsie D. Moore

**Medora White**  
Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Watkins

**Judge Robert E. White**  
Dr. Edwina and Herbert L.  
Brown, Jr.

**Hester Beck Willis**  
Beverly Quinius  
Larry Quinius

**Oleta Wise**  
Liberty Community Church  
Cameron, TX  
Virginia and Tom Buckingham

**Judy Wisnowski**  
Cindy and Bob Tuttle

**Bobbie Wood**  
Mike and Janet Arnold

**Mrs. Nola Yellott**  
Marge and Dan Cammack

## Honorariums

**Virginia Abernathy's Birthday**  
Virginia P. Jackson

**Gwen Becker**  
Camp and Nancy Gilliam

**Ben Cooner on Father's Day**  
Richard, Charla and Zach Miller

**Randy and Charlise  
Cunningham's Wedding  
Anniversary**  
Hunter and Totsy Cunningham

**Evelyn Daniels**  
Mrs. Mary Louise (Sherry) Hill

**Victoria Elizabeth Devereux**  
Ms. Nancy M. Luton

**Marriage of Jamie Dodson and  
Jeff Brown**  
Mrs. Jane H. Wilkinson

**Bill and Carolyn Down's  
50th Wedding Anniversary**  
Mrs. Mavis McGowan

**Graham Warner Eliot**  
Sandra S. Chapman  
Mr. and Mrs. N. R. Crites  
Anne F. Curran  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert K. Gayer  
Jerry and Marda Tayloe  
William and Blythe Thomas  
Mrs. Connie F. Townsend

**Father's Day**  
Tobin Park UMC  
El Paso, TX

**Reverend Travis Franklin**  
Rita and Allen Rice

**Allen Gump's Birthday**  
Charlotte and Harry Gump

**Mr. Harry A. Gump's Birthday**  
Mr. Richard T. Gump  
Mr. Robert M. Gump

**Harry and Charlotte Gump**  
Allen, Kim, Lauren and Allyson  
Gump

**Karen and Jordan Hiefner**  
Sandy and Wayne Gilliland

**Jeanette and Ron Hobbs'  
40th Wedding Anniversary**  
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Garrett

**M. C. and Inez Howe's  
65th Wedding Anniversary**  
Bette Nolen

**Kaleidoscope Sunday School  
Class**  
**St. Mark's UMC  
Mesquite, TX**  
Ms. Jerra Price

**Hanna Kate**  
Ricky and Paula Ray

**Ms. Myrna Kepford**  
Ms. Jaunita Honeyman

**Jody Lindh**  
**Director of University Park  
UMC choir  
Dallas, TX**  
Hunter and Totsy Cunningham

**Ann Mason**  
Victor Sunday School Class  
First UMC - Palestine  
Palestine, TX

**Melvin Mason**  
Victor Sunday School Class  
First UMC - Palestine  
Palestine, TX

**Men of Aldersgate UMC  
Arlington, TX**  
United Methodist Women  
Aldersgate UMC  
Arlington, TX

**Margaret Gerhardt Miller**  
United Methodist Women -  
Bertha Circle  
Industry UMC  
Industry, TX

**My Birth Parents - unknown**  
Patrice V. Berry

**Beverly Wingo Purinton's  
Birthday**  
Tommie and Sylvia Huckabee

**Jay Schwartzman**  
Ms. Gwendolyn Weeks

**Reverend Judith Sellers**  
Ray, Alice, Cherie and Melva  
Sutherlun

**Glenn and Jan Smith  
for Mother's and Father's  
Day**  
Mr. Robin Smith

**Reverend Herb and Mrs. Judy  
Stallknecht**  
Mary R. Buford

**The Stamey Family**  
Alice M. Sheffield

**Lianne Turner**  
Mrs. Margaret B. Cole

**John D. White**  
Elizabeth Ann Franklin

A  
One Thousand dollar  
Endowment gift  
in memory of  
Betty Nabours  
by  
Hilry Nabours  
Abilene, TX

A  
One Thousand dollar  
Endowment gift  
in memory of  
my parents,  
Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Sears,  
by  
Mary Beth Ward  
Pantego, TX

A  
One Thousand dollar  
Endowment gift  
in memory of  
Charlie J. and Pearl Ruth Werlla  
by  
Charles and Virginia Werlla,  
and grandchildren,  
Hunter Z. Werlla and  
Vanessa Lynn Werlla, M.D.

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

A  
Five Thousand dollar  
Endowment gift  
in memory of  
my father,  
James F. Burton,  
by  
Terri Burton Gugenheim  
Houston, TX

An  
Anonymous  
Endowment gift  
in memory of  
Willie Tichenor

An  
Endowment gift  
in memory of  
George and Mable Braddock  
by  
Ava Putnam  
Hamptons Bay, NY

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

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
WACO, TEXAS  
PERMIT NUMBER 392



#### CREATIVE EXPRESSION

Angela, a resident on the Waco campus, painted this artwork during a summer class at Art Center Waco. Methodist Children's Home provides a variety of opportunities for youth to develop their strengths and interests.