

Dear Friends,

I will never forget the time I held a 3-year-old on my lap as he thrashed with anger and grief. His head hit my mouth and I felt intense pain as my lip began to crack, swell, and bleed. But my pain was small compared to what that little guy was experiencing after just witnessing his mother removing her personal belongings from their house.

Calling her by her first name, he kept repeating, “ _____ doesn't live here anymore! _____ doesn't live here anymore!” My heart broke, and I tried to think of ways to comfort him. Then God gave me the answer. As I held him tightly, I explained that everyone else gets to call her by her first name, but there were only three people in the whole wide world who got to call her “Mom.” He was one of them! He began to relax, and his heart began to heal.

Would you join me in encouraging the current Baptist Children's Home housemothers as they serve and love the children in care on Mother's Day 2018?

During my years as “Aunt Rayna” at the Baptist Children's Home, God allowed me the privilege to lovingly care for children who are dealing with the pain and grief of not living with their biological parents.

I am so thankful for the ministry of our housemothers:

- ***Bekah Beals (Michigan)***
- ***Sarah Bosquez (Michigan)***
- ***Stephanie Karlik (Indiana)***

Would you keep each of these special mothers in your prayers?

Our houseparents willingly step in to perform the tasks that Moms do best, while pointing the children back to their biological parents and our Heavenly Father.

At the Baptist Children's Home, Mother's Day has a unique identity. In the week preceding, a housemother encourages and often helps the children tenderly prepare and mail a Mother's Day card for their biological mother. She may even give hugs and a Kleenex to dry a child's tears as they deal with their internal conflict which, if stated aloud, would sound quite like the

(Continued on page 2)



Rayna recently visited Mercy—born prematurely to a former child in our care.

(Continued from page 1)

3-year-old's, "I don't live with Mom anymore." Her heart and soul want to wrap each child up in her loving arms and "make their pain go away", but she must trust God for that healing as she goes about the home and do what godly Moms do best...love consistently and unconditionally.

When Mother's Day rolls around each year, my heart melts as I receive cards, phone calls, and social media posts from children whom I have helped raise. They are now old enough to recognize, appreciate, and put into words their thankfulness for the sacrifices made for them while I was their housemother.

Will you join me in celebrating a special mother in your life or a housemother of Baptist Children's Home? Your gifts mean that the impact of our housemothers can continue for generations.

With Love,

Rayna Oswald



Student of the month winner—Danielle!

Danielle's teacher wrote:

"Hello! I am nominating Danielle this month for student of the month! This month's trait is 'grit'. Danielle has shown a great resolve in class, especially in math, to do her best recently and I want to reward her efforts.

Danielle demonstrates 'grit' by having a strong resolve to always do her best in class. She is quiet, but still participates—even when it's not comfortable to do so! She never gives up and is always seeking to understand! I am so proud of what this girl has accomplished! :) Thank you!"

India Child Care Update from Bill Brittain

I have some very troubling news of what is happening with our child care efforts in India. Up until recently we have been caring for 365 children in 21 homes in India. Now we have been forced to close three of our homes there due to government regulations. In the end, it is probable that at least eight of our homes, representing about 180 children, will close.

Our homes are what these children know as "home." Losing that love, support, and security is a huge setback for the children. Presently, we are working on a plan to provide funds for these children so that they may continue with their education and get the financial support they need to be able to function at home.

Please pray for this very difficult situation. Also, pray as we seek ways to keep our remaining homes open under these new regulations, if it is possible. Meeting these new regulations will mean increased costs, modifying and expanding facilities, and hiring more staff, just to name a few of the many new hurdles. Now as much as ever, we need your prayers and support. Thank you.

Sarah's Kitchen Update!

DING! It's Done!!

"Sarah's Kitchen" was our Mother's Day Project for 2017. The kitchen in our Witmar home lasted for about 42 years without a major renovation, but it was time for an upgrade. Now we want to let you know how everything turned out.

A special "Thank You" to the churches and individuals that gave to make this important home improvement a reality.

Sarah is loving her new kitchen and the family is benefitting, too! Sarah loves to bake, so the new double oven and KitchenAid mixer really come in handy!

We especially want to thank First Baptist Church of Newaygo, MI for sending a work crew to complete the tear out of our old kitchen. That was a LOT of work! You left the space perfectly blank for the next work group to come in!



See more pictures at baptistchildrenshome.org/sarahskitchen



Sarah and children baking banana bread in their new kitchen!

Thanks, also to the crew from First Baptist Church of Rochester, MI for giving your week to install the new cabinets, appliances, and flooring! You worked through every challenge that came up and left us with a beautiful kitchen!

thank you!

Sarah's Kitchen is a great example of God's people teaming up with BCH! You invested the needed funds, skills, and hard work to help us continue to provide a loving and functional home for the young lives God has placed in our care!

We couldn't do it without all of you!



Join us for Family Time—VBS 2018!

Our VBS project for 2018 is home furnishings for our families in the US and overseas!

Get all the information & posters by visiting:

Baptistchildrenshome.org/vbs

**Don't miss Scott's story of denting a mini-van!*



Congratulations, Delaney—Class of 2018!

“During my time at the Baptist Children’s Home, I have learned a lot about people and the importance of God in my life.

I am grateful for the Karliks (my houseparents) who taught me more about God and how good He is and how God will never leave me no matter what happens.

My favorite Bible verse is Joshua 1:9—”Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

I like this verse because it is a good reminder that I do not have to be afraid of whatever the future brings, or where I might end up, because God will be there to help me and get me through it.

After graduation, I am going into the Air Force, which I hope to make my career. My job is unknown yet, but basic training will be in June. I am super excited and cannot wait to see how God will use me in the service.”

- Delaney



Congratulations to Delaney, graduating June 2018.

Would you like to make a difference in the lives of children? We are looking for houseparents to join our ministry. Call us at 219.462.4111 for more information.

Dear Delaney,

We thank God for bringing you into our lives and are thrilled with the way you have responded to His work in your heart. We treasure memories of climbing trees, hammocks, solving puzzles, hiking, and so much more. But mostly, we treasure the capable young woman we see every day depending on God, making wise decisions, and living a life of service, generosity, and kindness. God is sufficient for your next steps and we will pray that His peace, wisdom, and joy will be yours as you step into adulthood.

Love Always, Uncle Brian & Aunt Stephanie | Elkhart Houseparents



Our New Wheels!

We are so grateful to two churches who have recently donated new (to us!) 15 passenger vans!

Thank you so much to Cornerstone Community Church in Millersburg, Ohio and First Baptist Church of Kouts, Indiana.

Check out one of the new vans (pictured left)! We still need three fuel efficient cars for our child care homes.

Honor, Memorial & Estate Gifts

**Thank you to many friends for providing a special gift "in memory" or "in honor" of a loved one or friend.
Gifts through September 1, 2017 — March 31, 2018**

In Honor of

Billy and Sarah Bosquez

Bev Shankle

Bill and Kathy Brittain

Jim and Debbie Blick

LaDonna Conroy

Warren and Kay Johnson

Nicholas Culp

Doug, Patricia and Nicholas Culp

Jim Geurink

Dean and Sue Everhart

Gavin Goodrich

Kerry and Robin Goodrich

A Grandson placed for Adoption

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Shepperd

Our Grandchildren

Denny and Roberta Wilburn

Our Grandchildren

Ron and Eileen Flater

Our Grandchildren: Ani, Dale, Kenny,

Abi, Esther, Josiah and Ruth

Gary and Connie Simpson

Gary Hanson

Herman and Louise Schneider

Elvin Harden

Mr. and Mrs. Duane Roux

Lelah Bartlett Henry

Forest and Janet Dillavou

Bruce and Lu Hodge

Ray and Sandie Love

Lorey House (100th birthday)

Paula James

Jesus

Mrs. Kemper

Tom and Pam Weaver

Kay Johnson

Kjell and Valerie Johnson

Warren Johnson

Kjell and Valerie Johnson

Arthur and Susie Kinzinger

Robert Kinzinger

Scott and Maggie Kigar

First Baptist Church of Rochester, MI

The Lost in Your Care

Gordon Herndon

David and Janet McClain

Doug and Sharon Martin

Ruth Miller

Steve Miller

Mr. and Mrs. David Molfenter

Gerald and Joan Molfenter

All Moms and Dads

Lloyd and Wanda Lamphere

Grant and Kathy Myers

Grant and Kathy Myers

Hannah and Hannah Palmer

Betty Guthrie

Mr. and Mrs. Ken Rumbold

Warren and Kay Johnson

Ardell Shirey

Carl Shirey

Richard and Linda Utterback

John and Vada Berkshire

Cindy Walker

Bobby and Edna Smith

Tim Walker

Bobby and Edna Smith

Mr. and Mrs. Ken Wang

Warren and Kay Johnson

Dave and Paula Wells

Marge Nimon

Mary Whalley

Bobby and Edna Smith

Jack and Betty Whitesell

David and Rosemary Day

Tifani Hamann Williams

Don and Ann Haman

Drs. Don and Nan Worch

Greg and Nancy Bastian

In Memory of

Herbert and Vivian Alexander

Joan Alexander

All Children

Mr. & Mrs. John Floyd

Rev. Andrew Allen

Mr. & Mrs. Merlyn Brugler

Ardys Angstrom

Kay Angstrom

Merlin Arends

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Arends

Mary Arends

Sheila Sue Arends

Sharon and Bonnie Abbas

Andy and Barb Alfseike

Mary Arends

Nick and Lisa Bickelhaupt

Troy and Sarah Bickelhaupt

Johnie and Becky Christenson

Charles and Karla Dahl and family

Greg and Amy Davis

Marilyn Dill

Scott and Paula Ervin & family

Tim and Vi Hall

Lois Holmes

Valerie Monroe

Mr. and Mrs. Lanny Nihart

Eleanor and Ronnie Robertson

Jim and Dee Yenck

Aunt

Hazel Kovacs

Freida Bailey

Scott and Maggie Kigar

Dave Barr

Bethel Bible Church Winamac IN

Scott and Kathy Leman

Mary Lee Shoback

Malcolm & Kathy South & Family

Elden and Vergie Beauchamp

Mr. & Mrs. John Beauchamp

Dorsie Betner

Mary Rooks

Charles Boyer

LaVerne Boyer

James A. Brazelton Sr.

Holleen Brazelton

Jim Breiter

Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Dickinson

Ada Brickner

Miss Ella Wall

Betty Browning

The Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway

Rose Marie Burkholder

Mr. Glen Burkholder

Raymond Byrne

Glenna Byrne

Cathy Carpenter

Mr. Rennie Carpenter

Lloyd Carter

Mrs. Delores Carter

Henry and Faye Cayton

Paul Boucher

Carolyn Chester

Mr. and Mrs. Don Mills

Lee Cody

Susan Riggs

Marcia Colbert

Mr. John Colbert

Russell Colburn

Mrs. Arlene Colburn

Philip W. Cox

Mrs. Philip Cox

Roy Cupples

Frances Cupples

Lillian David

Mr. & Mrs. John Beauchamp

David DeHayes

DeHayes Family Foundation, Inc.

Marian Louise DeSchamps

Drs. Don and Nan Worch

Bob Dyer Sr.

Mr. and Mrs. Ron Javaux

James Ferguson

Scott and Maggie Kigar

David Fields

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Fields

Lila Mae Fields

Mr. and Mrs. James Anderson

Wayne, Pearl and Albert Gerber

Jeanne Mudie

Joyce Glass

Margaret Nimon

Kailani Gober

Pete and Kathy Bardolph

Christopher Gober

Pete and Kathy Bardolph

Jack Goldsberry

Mrs. Wanda Goldsberry

Kathleen Grimes

Gerald Grimes

Constance Grubb

Mr. Joseph Clark

Sonia Grunwald

Mrs. Elizabeth Boggess

Gloria Guest

Mr. Duane Guest

Judy Haines

Wayne & Joanne Alshouse
Gary & Jeri Current
Jerry & Nancy Lau
Don & Connie Lundell
Randy & Mary Plante
Mike & Jo Vath

Norman Carl Hall

Alene Green

Elda Ann Harden

Mr. & Mrs. Duane Roux

Barbara Harolson

Mr. & Mrs. Irwin Crosby

Rick Harrison

Mr. & Mrs. Joe Harrison

Doris Helton

Mary Arends

Paula Hibner

Sabra Hill
Kocourek Automotive
Carol Schweigert

Martin and Sena Hoffman

Carolyn Stembel

Albert and Grant Holthof

Mrs. Lillian Holthof

Dennis Hopkins

Agnes Hales

Steve M. Horvath

Frances Horvath

Violette Humphrey

Joyce Humphrey

John Javaux

Ron and Carolyn Javaux
Drs. Don and Nan Worch

Merle and Freda Javaux

Mr. and Mrs. Ron Javaux

Kay Jennings

Berean Baptist Church Davenport IA
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Fogel
Ernie Jennings
Mark Jennings

Gideon Ezra Johnson

Mr. & Mrs. Warren Johnson

Leola Johnson

Judi A Bass
The Donahey Family
Jarell Kuney
Arnold and Sharlene Liimakka
Elena Meadows
Robert & Karen Robinson
Karen J Woodall

Norman E. Johnson

Mr. and Mrs. Mark Johnson

Frances Johnston

Mr. & Mrs. Allan Fitzgerald

John Keithley

Cathy and Mike Steiner
Tom and Kathy Tillett

David Krawczenia

Mr. & Mrs. Nick Krawczenia

Alvin Launstein

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Launstein

Axel Lavery

Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Trumbo

Henry and Marjorie Lawrence

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Fields

Clarence C. Lee

Mrs. Donna Lee

David Lee

Calvary Baptist Church Sandusky, OH

Allen Loftis

Dennis and Linda Wallace

Gilbert and Mary Long

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Long

Our Deceased Loved Ones

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Monroe

Ray Marienski

Jacqueline Mills

Donald McClary

Susan McClary

Joseph and Betty McDaniel

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Bayless

Dorothy McLain

Karen Geysbeek

Mr. & Mrs. Charles McMurtry

Mr. & Mrs. Russell Pierce

Alice Messenger

Mrs. Sue Myers

Jack and Ruth Miller

Mr. Steve Miller

Peggy Mockridge

Jean Fish

Rosalene Mort

Mr. Donald Mort

Don Mueller

Mrs. Bernadine Mueller

Jerry L. Murphy

Mrs. Jerry Murphy

Wallace Murphy

Mrs. Wallace Murphy

Rev. David Myers

Mrs. Sue Myers

Virginia Marie Gray Nance

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Moffitt

Thelma J. Newberry

Mr. Dennis Newberry

Michael Nimon

Margaret Nimon

Nancy Noble

Mr. & Mrs. Irwin Crosby

Rosella Noble

Mr. & Mrs. Irwin Crosby

Gil Oldberg

Mrs. Gil Oldberg

Mrs. Shirley Pals

Mrs. Bernadine Mueller

Parents: Paul and Gaynell

Vivian Foster

Emma Parker

Ms. Kathleen Parker

Verl Paullin

Lois Paullin
First Baptist Church Guthrie Center IA

Karen Peck

Irwin and Rosemary Crosby

Rosemary Phipps

Dr. & Mrs. James Phipps

John Pike

Mrs. John Pike

Edward and Arlene Reimel

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Gallagher

Mr. and Mrs. Irv Renner

Mr. Jim Renner

Omar Rooks Jr.

Mrs. Mary Rooks

Dean H. Rothrock

Mrs. Dean Rothrock

Keith Ruffaner

Gloria Ruffaner

William F. Russell

Mrs. Bill Russell

Marcianna and Ignacio Salinas

Mr. & Mrs. Gary Chace

Ada Scharer

Scott and Maggie Kigar

Daniel and Edith Schatz

Mary Jane Weyandt

Ronald and Elizabeth Schildroth

Mr. and Mrs. Scott Schildroth

John T. "L.J." Schultheis

Georgia Huntworth
Marsha A. Schultheis

Duane Schut

Mrs. Duane Schut

Morris and Betty Scutt

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Presser

Rev. Morris Scutt

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Wacker

William Jack Screws

Leisa and Jim Breeden

Lynette Shanton

Dr. & Mrs. Dean Kiesling

Mason Sherman

Mr. & Mrs. James Day

Noel Shier

Ed and Jan Shier

Candy Lynn Smith

Mr. and Mrs. Kent Smith

Stan and Chloan Smith

Jane Aldrich

Frances Smoldt

Charles Smoldt

Bob Snyder

Mrs. Robert Snyder

Florence Soliday

Ron and Helen Sinclair

Frank and Beatrice Spotts

Techla Spotts

Bonnie Jean Stacey

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Fuerstnau

Phillip N. Stan, Sr.

Mr. and Mrs. David Soliday

Matthew and Sarah Stearns

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Bos

Albert A Stembel

Carolyn Stembel

Sue Tate

Nancy Cox
Cathy Figler

Pastor John Taylor

Holleen Brazelton

Kenneth and Audrey Vance

Mr. Daniel Vance

Roberta Vandiver

Mr. Stanley Vandiver

Thomas Walmsley

Mrs. Tom Walmsley

Scott Weyandt

Mary Jane Weyandt

Gordon Wilkinson

Anonymous

David Zelhart

Margaret Zelhart

From India

It is our pleasure to visit the countries where we care for children all over the world. When we visit our homes we bring small gifts for the children and our wonderful caregivers.

While we were recently in India, we visited one of our homes in the state of Odisha. We have three homes there in partnership with Agape Royal Ministries. The village where these homes are located is remote and impoverished.

Two years ago we visited these homes and brought small, die cast cars for the boys. This year we did the same thing. The boys were excited to receive them.

As we spoke to the group of boys, we asked them if any of them still had their toy car given at our previous visit. The answer, through our interpreter, surprised us.

Many of the boys had never opened the see-through, plastic package that the car was in; they cherished it so much. The interpreter went on to say that some of them wanted to keep it and show it to their wives when they grow up and get married.

Wow, what a thought. The boys appreciated and cherished the little toy cars so much, that it would not be handled or worn out. Instead, they admired and kept them pristine and still in the box. We were just hoping to maybe see some of their old cars and would have been happy to hear how much they had enjoyed them.



Bill, Kathy, and Jeff visited a group home and were surprised about their toy cars.



Giving out the toy cars

The boys' high level of appreciation and gratitude is almost unimaginable to us who have so much. So we think about where these two worlds touch. God has blessed us with so much, and when we give some of the excess to Him, it means the world to someone else.

Thank you for your generous giving. We can tell you it truly means so much to the grateful children in our care. Thank you, with great appreciation and gratitude.

With love,

Handwritten signature of Bill Brittain in blue ink.

Bill Brittain and the BCH team worldwide.

A Culmination of a Dream

The Dream

Hope Student Center, a safe place where young people in our care can live while attending university in Liberia, is the next phase of a dream that began years ago. The original dream was as simple as it was profound: provide excellent care for orphaned and needy children in Liberia within a biblical family framework.

Not an American model for care, but rather God's model for family! Former President Jim Geurink led BCH to partner with the Baptist Children's Care Foundation (BCCF) of Liberia.

This partnership linked desperately needed resources, lovingly provided in the United States, with fellow believers in Liberia to care for children in crisis.

This dream has led to multiple homes caring for over 350 children, and a Christian school. As BCH President Bill Brittain said in his dedication speech, *"Hope Student Center is a culmination of a dream to see a number of children we are helping become all they can be."*

The Build

The challenges to completing the Hope Student Center were imposing. BCH took on a long-distance project in a war-torn country.

We praise God, who worked mightily through His willing servants to make Hope Student Center a reality.

We thank everyone who had a part in making this project possible and for all who partner with us caring for children.

Our foreign partners and the children in our care fully are very aware that gifts from the US and Canada provide for their needs. They are very appreciative of the support they receive. Now back to the celebration!

The Ribbon Cutting

God provided a beautiful day to dedicate the Hope



Still want to help?

Bunk beds are still needed for the Hope Student Center. Any gifts received above the cost of the beds will be used for the daily care of children.

Our Wish List:

- Commercially processed beef/pork/poultry
- Serving bowls/platters
- Diapers (size 3-6), pull ups, or diaper wipes
- Stainless steel cookware set
- Toaster
- 3 fuel efficient cars
- Blender
- Food processor
- Gift cards to major grocery/home stores for groceries and other group home items

*Gift cards or donations to purchase these items are welcome!

If you would like to donate these items, we can provide more information. Call 219-462-4111 or email info@baptistchildrenshome.org

Student Center. The organizers invited many of our children in care to attend. They wanted the children to see what was possible if they applied themselves to their studies and how our love and care for them went even beyond their homes.

Bill Brittain inspired the audience,

"We envision this beautiful building to house Christian college students who will go on to influence the great country of Liberia and our world for years."

This building will be so much more than a home. It will be an opportunity for spiritual, social, and intellectual growth that we hope will help our

children on a path to Christian maturity that will impact generations to come."

