

The Baptist Children's Village
Annual Report
2009
Rory Lee, Executive Director

The year 2009 has seen the continuation of the transition of The Baptist Children's Village from a centralized to a more statewide ministry. In April, Ramey Cottage in Nanih Waiya was dedicated and was near capacity when school began in August. The India Nunnery Campus extended care is being relocated to Star and work has begun on the Powell/Walley Campus in Waynesboro.

Discussions are underway to add facilities in the Delta and Northeast Mississippi in the next few years. The current and planned construction will get The Baptist Children's Village to the goal of positioning a campus within 50 miles of any child needing our services. The smaller, more homelike settings will give us increased accessibility to families and will allow us to more effectively minister to children and their families who need us.

Over the last 12 months, 252 children were served by The Baptist Children's Village. With each child, the mission statement, "to help children and their families fully understand and experience the healing ministry of Christ by meeting their daily needs, and inspiring them to become Christian adults who are happy, healthy, and mature", and the S.A.F.E. Track program are emphasized. The S.A.F.E. Track program brings into focus **S**piritual Growth, **A**cademic Achievement, **F**amily Values, and **E**motional Strength. In addition to the children served, BCV staff worked with over 300 other individuals who have a relationship to the children in our care in order to better meet the needs of the children.

There are specific individual goals set in each of the S.A.F.E. Track areas for every resident as they are admitted to the BCV. These goals are discussed and reviewed with the resident to get their input, and to let them know what is necessary to meet the established goals. The goals themselves, and progress toward attaining those goals, are reviewed for each resident every six months.

Services at local churches, daily Bible studies in the cottages and individual conversation about spiritual matters are continually emphasized as a foundational part of the BCV ministry. Over the past year, 19 children made professions of faith. This brings the total to 131 over the past five years.

Two residents graduated from high school in May. Each has chosen to continue their education. One enrolled at Gulf Coast Community College and one is attending Mississippi College.

Through the Cooperative Program of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, The BCV receives 14% of its operating budget. An additional 40% of the budget comes from church gifts over and above the CP gifts. We are grateful for the continued support of this ministry.