

**The Baptist Children's Village
2014 Annual Report
Rory Lee, Executive Director**



The ever expanding ministry of the Baptist Children's Village is poised to impact more young lives as the Dorcas In-Home Service Program moves into Attala, Holmes, Issaquena, Leake, Madison, Rankin, Scott and Yazoo Counties. In 2012 the Dorcas Program was established to bring the healing ministry of Christ to children and their families at an earlier point in the cycle of need. The goal of the Dorcas Program is to minister to families who are near the point of collapse by providing needed services in the home that can give the family new hope and keep families together. With the 2014 expansion, the Dorcas Program is now operational in 22 Counties.

Applying the SAFE Track model of care which brings into focus Spiritual Growth, Academic Achievement, Family Values and Emotional Stability, the Dorcas Program is structured to improve the ability of the family to provide adequate care for the children for whom they are responsible. To date, 202 children have been admitted to the Dorcas Program and 199 of them have been able to stay with their families.

The expansion of the Dorcas Program has not lessened The Baptist Children's Village commitment to traditional group home care. Children ages one through 20 continue to be served in a homelike environment which exemplifies the BCV mission, "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." Because the need to serve very young children has increased, the BCV lowered the earliest age of admission from two years of age to one. During the past year The Baptist Children's Village has served 12 children age two and under. In 2014, 16 children made professions of faith, bringing the total to 252 for the past ten years. Seeds for these decisions were planted in local host church worship services, Bible studies, Vacation Bible Schools, Disciple Now weekends, as well as Christian summer camps and daily devotionals and prayer time in their cottages.

Though difficult, every effort is made to have the experience of the residents of The Baptist Children's Village be as homelike and normal as possible. In 2014, one resident was drum major of her high school band, one received a college softball scholarship, one went for basic training for the National Guard following her sophomore year of college and several other residents are involved in athletic and music programs. Two residents entered college for their freshman year.

Through the Cooperative Program of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, The Baptist Children's Village received 14.3 percent of its operating budget. An additional 44 percent of the budget comes from church gifts over and above the Cooperative Program. We are grateful for the continued support of Mississippi Baptists for this ministry to children.