

The Baptist Children's Village

2015 Annual Report

Rory Lee, Executive Director



During the past year, The Baptist Children's Village served 282 children. During this time, the need for The BCV to provide residential services to younger children has significantly increased. When school started in August of 2015, 19 of the children in the care of The Baptist Children's Village were too young to attend public school. BCV employees with decades of experience have indicated that there has not been a time in the last 40 years when so many young children have been in BCV care.

Over the past decade the average age of residents at The Baptist Children's Village has remained fairly constant, ranging from 11 years four months at its lowest in 2013 to 13 years five months at its highest in 2007. In 2015 the average age of children in care has moved considerably lower to nine years and seven months. While the increase in the number of younger children has brought about changes in day to day operations at each of the seven BCV campus locations, it is a wonderful prospect to serve such precious children and to have the opportunity to share with each of these young ones the bounty of God's love for them. The message of God's love and grace continues to take hold of those children in Baptist Children's Village care. In the past eleven years, 265 children have made professions of faith. Seeds for these decisions were planted in local host church worship services, small group Bible studies, Vacation Bible Schools, Disciple Now, as well as summer camps such as Central Hills and Camp Garaywa. The children are also nurtured in their faith during daily devotions and prayer time in their BCV cottages.

In addition to the growth in the residential program, the Dorcas In-Home Service Program continues to help Mississippi families stay together. 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.

In 2012, the first year of the Dorcas Program, services were provided in eight counties. The program was expanded to 13 counties in 2013, 22 counties in 2014 and by the end of 2015 to 32 counties. During the first four years of the Dorcas Program, 310 children have been served. To date, over 97 percent of the children who have been a part of the Dorcas Program have been able to stay with their families and out of state custody.

Every effort is made to create a home like experience and provide children with experiences appropriate for their age. In addition to their church activities, those in BCV care have participated in youth baseball and softball; high school band, cheerleading and sports; as well as summer field trips and cottage vacations. One resident received one of approximately 200 Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans Scholarships. Another resident received the Tessie Morgan Garner Scholarship from the WMU Foundation.

Through the Cooperative Program of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, The Baptist Children's Village received 14.2 percent of its operating budget. An additional 41 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 and their families.