

The Baptist Children's Village
Annual Report
2016-2017
Sean A. Milner, Executive Director

Your Baptist Children's Village ("BCV") continues to seek children and families in crisis. Whether they are in crisis as a result of their own decisions, or whether they are victims of circumstance, your BCV seeks to share the gospel message of Jesus Christ with all of the children and families who God entrusts to its care. This was God's call to Mississippi Baptists in the early 1890s and it remains our standard today. Feeding, clothing, educating and sheltering at-risk children are biblical requirements for God's people. This is you demonstrating the love and the gospel message of Jesus Christ to those who have been made deaf and blind by hurt, need and by their own failures. Your loving acts of service are undeniable and louder and clearer than all of the schemes of Satan. Once experienced, these children can hear and receive the spoken gospel message of Jesus Christ. Thanks, be to God for providing the answer to their need, and the means by which to express His love.

One of the young teenage girls that you have so served for several months, and whom you were bringing home from the doctor, looked at your staff worker and said, "We like living with ya'll." (She was speaking of she and her sisters). Your staff worker said, "Well, we are glad. We want you to like living with us." To which the young girl replied, "No, you don't understand, you make us feel important like we have value." Only after months of loving service, could she hear and see. You then shared with her how valuable she was to the Creator of the universe. So much so that He sent His son to die for her.

You have so ministered to an average of 66 residents and their families each month for the past year (July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017), through your residential care ministry. To these you have provided a monthly average of 26 doctor visits, 5 eye doctor visits, and 12 dental visits. In the last 12 months, you have also provided 2 hospital admissions and 10 emergency room visits (kids are kids no matter where they are). Most importantly, the gospel message of Christ was shared with all residents through word and deed. Eleven (11) residents made public professions of faith and 5 residents were baptized.

Dr. Rory Lee retired as the Executive Director of the BCV after 13 years of exemplary service and leadership. Dr. Lee continues to be a true friend to your ministry and continues to make himself available for wise counsel. Sean A. Milner became the 11th Executive Director of The BCV in November of 2016. Sean is an attorney and practiced law as a litigator specializing in family law, real estate, and wills and estates for 23 years. He is an alumnus of the BCV and holds the informal record of living at your BCV longer than any other child in its history-18 years.

In the spring of this year, the BCV held area banquets around the state. This is, and will continue to be, part of the BCV's effort to inform and engage all of the Mississippi Baptist Churches as to how they may best be involved in reaching lost and hurting children and families around our state. The BCV would like to thank First Baptist Church in Senatobia, Chris Williams, Pastor; Gaston Baptist Church in Booneville, Matt Brown, Pastor; First Baptist Church in Laurel, Randy Turner, Pastor; First Baptist Church in Greenville; First Baptist Church in Brookhaven, Greg Warnock, Pastor; Northcrest Baptist Church in Meridian, Dr. Dan Lanier, Pastor; and Morrison Heights Baptist Church in Clinton, Dr. Greg Belsler, Pastor; for so graciously hosting these events. It will be exciting to see what God will do through His church.

On May 12, 2017, your BCV celebrated 120 years of obedience to God through service to lost and hurting children and families. The number of children who have passed through your ministry is approximately 8,000. This number reflects the addition of 67 new children and their families every year for 120 years. My four siblings, my mother and I were among those who were served. The number of children that have been born to the five siblings in my family is 16. Multiply that number 8,000 times and you only begin to see the impact of a church obedient to God's call. God's word will not return void and its effects are immeasurable. Dare we imagine? What would the State of Mississippi look like without our Baptist Churches answering the call of God to care for children by establishing the ministry of The Baptist Children's Village. Thank you all for your obedience to God, and for your love for your BCV children and families.