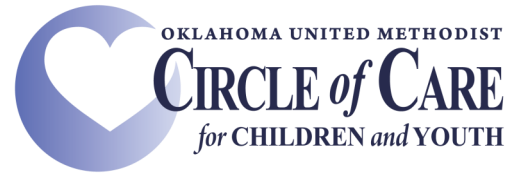


August 2017

MISSION MOMENT

Sharing Circle of Care's Story and Appreciation



Circle of Care's mission is to provide Christian help, healing, and hope to children and families in crisis to ensure a safe, healthy, and spiritual future.

Dear Circle of Care Ambassadors,

This year marks our 100th year anniversary. To celebrate, we have planned numerous events at our different locations throughout the state. Our most recent celebration was at the Children's Home in Tahlequah. Alumni from all over the country along with community and church members were in attendance. We had the opportunity to hear the testimonies of many different individuals who once called the Children's Home campus, home.

In this edition of the Ambassador Newsletter, we are sharing two stories of alumni of the Children's Home. Roger grew up at the Children's Home in Tahlequah with his two younger brothers. He currently works at the Children's Home and enjoys reminiscing about old memories. Nadean lived at the Children's Home in Britton, Oklahoma before it moved to Tahlequah. She and her family attended the Children's Home celebration in July. She was delighted to search through old photographs and share her experience.

We hope you will share these stories with your church and others around you. We hope to see you at the upcoming events. You can find event dates and descriptions on our Facebook page, website, in the Lifeline magazine and also the Ambassador Newsletter.

UPCOMING EVENTS

August - Back to School Drive

September 9th- Frances E. Willard Celebration

November - Angel Tree

December 17th- COC Sunday



Nadean lived at the Children's Home in Britton, Oklahoma before the location was moved to Tahlequah.

Nadean's Story

Nadean lived at the Children's Home in Britton, Oklahoma from 1931 to 1938. She spoke of her appreciation for the Children's Home and how much it impacted her life. She was very grateful for all the support she received.

During her years at the Children's Home, which was during the Great Depression, she was never hungry or cold. After leaving the Children's Home, she continued her education. As she looked through the old photographs she was reminded of the wonderful memories she had. She spoke about her appreciation of one church in particular that sponsored her clothing and schooling. Circle of Care has forever made an impact on not only her life, but the lives of her children, five of whom were in attendance at the event.

We were honored to here of her appreciation and her testimony. Celebrating 100 years of service is something we are thankful for because of the life-changing impact it has made in the lives of many.



Growing up at the Children's Home



Roger Durossette sharing his Testimony with guests at the Children's Home Centennial Celebration.

The Oklahoma United Methodist Circle of Care recently celebrated its 100th year anniversary at the Children's Home in Tahlequah.

The Children's Home started out as an orphanage in 1917, relocated to Tahlequah in 1942 and transitioned to foster care in 2014. The Children's Home is known across the state and recognized for its ability to bring help, healing and hope to children and youth in need.

For many, the Children's Home was more than a place to sleep and eat, it was home. That is exactly the case for Roger Durossette, who grew up at the Children's Home from 1967 to 1974.

"We didn't have a lot of supervision or guidance. Our mother would be gone for weeks at a time. I had no other choice but to scavenge for food," said Roger.

Upon entering the Children's Home Roger was one of five children. However, during his stay at the Children's Home, Roger's mother had two more children making him one of seven.

"My two younger brothers and I were the only siblings taken to the orphanage. My older sister Bonnie got married at the age of 15 to avoid being placed in the orphanage. My youngest brother Donny

was a just baby so my mom kept him.

When Roger arrived, he was unsure of what the Children's Home was and thought he and his siblings had done something wrong. Roger felt as though his mother didn't want them.

"The last thing my mother said before she left us at the Children's Home was 'you boys behave and be good.' Then she gave us a kiss on the cheek and left. It never was explained to us why we had to be there," said Roger.

Roger and his brothers lived in three different cottages because of their ages. During their first year, he never got to see his youngest brother Jonny.

"My brothers and I may not have seen each other for a while, but I knew where they were and I knew they were safe," said Roger.

After all these years, Roger has always remembered the impact the Children's Home made in his life.

"I never forgot about this place. The Children's Home was the greatest place in the world for me. It still is right now. Looking back now, going to the Children's Home was the best option for us," said Roger.

Roger is now a member of the maintenance team at the Children's Home. Every day he remembers something new about the time he spent at the Children's Home.

"To come back and work for Circle of Care means so much to me. I get to give back to the place that saved my life," said Roger.

Today the Children's Home campus is home to foster families. Our goal is to keep siblings together and continue providing Christian help, healing and

Did you know...

- Every day, nearly 200 children and youth are placed in state custody
- A sibling group of 3 has only a 65% chance of being placed together
- 45 sibling set of 4 were not placed together as of July 2017
- 87 sibling sets of 3 were not placed together as of July 2017



OKLAHOMA UNITED METHODIST
CIRCLE of CARE
for CHILDREN and YOUTH

**Frances E. Willard
Centennial
Celebration and
Open House**

**Alumni and Community
Members Welcome**

September 9, 2017
11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

*Join us in celebrating the Alumni and
the History of Circle of Care.*

Call Denise Ebersbach for more information
(405) 613-2276



Like us on
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For more information on upcoming events or to schedule a meet and greet contact, Tasha Atcity, at 918-402-3247 or tasha.atcity@circleofcare.org.