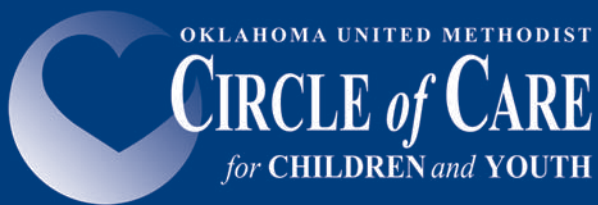


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www.circleofcare.org

Lifeline

A quarterly publication of CIRCLE OF CARE, INC.

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We Knocked and the Door was Opened



Donald R. Batson

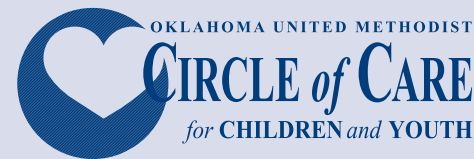
Having just celebrated Thanksgiving and with Christmas approaching, I would like to take a moment to let you know of some exciting opportunities ahead for the Circle of Care and many of our communities across the state, and to thank our generous supporters for making these opportunities possible. Jesus told us that, "... whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me..." As you know, since 1999, the Circle of Care has been recruiting and supporting foster homes for children in crisis. However, it has always remained a problem expanding these programs because there was always a shortage of funding and any monies that were available were designated for only a few counties or metropolitan areas. The state only provided funds for the Oklahoma City and Tulsa areas, and even those funds were only a portion of what was needed. Still, with the support of our churches and your generous giving, we served many families in need in those regions. Further, with volunteers

from our churches and the support of our faith based communities, we even extended support for several areas, like Lawton, Ponca City, Elk City, and Enid, not funded by the state. This past year, due to settlement of a class action lawsuit against the Department of Human Services, the state was forced to issue contracts to recruit, certify and support across the entire state of Oklahoma and to provide adequate funding to support those homes. The Circle of Care sub-contracts to provide these services, and helps lead the way in developing these much needed foster homes. However, funding remains a problem because no support funds are paid until homes are found, trained, and certified and children are placed. Once that occurs, support monies are provided to support those children placed in the homes.

This still sounds like a pretty difficult problem to overcome, but we were determined that if a child was in need of a loving, Christian home anywhere in the state, we would make these services available. Jesus also told us, "Seek and ye shall find, ask and it shall be given..." A few short months ago, Mr. Paul Milburn from Shawnee called me and asked how we were doing and where we were looking to go next. I explained our opportunity and our dilemma. Mr. Milburn asked for us to visit to look at some options. When we visited, Mr. Milburn told us that he was committed to our dream of serving new communities, and pledged that if we could identify four communities in need, and if we could get the support of those communities, he would pledge half the cost of hiring someone from those communities for one year to find and certify foster homes for the children in those communities. So that, by the end of that year, that Family Specialist could recruit, certify and train enough families that the support from the state funds for those children would provide on-going permanent funding.

With this opportunity before us, we began to contact areas whose churches had told us of a need in their communities and wanted a Circle of Care presence locally. The response was phenomenal, but no more than you would expect when the church sees a need in for their children and are given an opportunity to step forward. We met with Mr. Milburn on August 27th and had secured the matching funds for all areas by mid-November. As I write this missive, we have hired workers in Shawnee, Stillwater, and Ardmore, and we have a candidate in Weatherford. Local churches in all four areas have found offices for our new workers to occupy and are planning kickoff events in January and February. Due to Mr. Milburn's commitment and that of those communities, we hope and plan

Continued on Page 3



Ministering to Oklahoma's children, youth and families through residential and foster care since 1917

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Lifeline

Published by CIRCLE OF CARE's Public Relations Department, this quarterly publication is designed to highlight CIRCLE OF CARE's programs, to encourage inquiries about potential admissions and to challenge donors to continue their generous support of our mission to provide possibilities, potential and promise for Oklahoma's children and youth.

'Challenge' issued, accepted, answered!

Donor match enables foster care expansion

Thanks to a rapid response from individual donors, grant-making institutions, and local churches, \$69,000 was raised to match a challenge issued by a generous supporter. As discussed in the 9/19/2014 issue of *The Contact*, Circle of Care was 'challenged' by a generous donor to add foster parent recruiter/trainers in areas of the state where Circle of Care does not currently operate the Child SHARE program. There are approximately 11,500 children in the state's foster care system and not nearly enough homes. When children are abused or neglected and placed in state custody, they are matched with an available home if one is available. If there is not a home available, then children live in county shelters until a foster home opens or they are reunified with their families.

Circle of Care has developed a plan to increase the number of homes available for children in crisis situations and also make use of their contract with the state of Oklahoma. Using funds from this challenge, they will hire four foster parent recruiter/trainers to work in a 50 mile radius of the following communities: Shawnee, Stillwater, Ardmore, and Weatherford.

In each region, the new staff members will maintain an office in a local United Methodist church. Partnerships have been established at Stillwater First, Ardmore First, Weatherford First, and plans are in the process of finalizing space with a Shawnee area church.

The collective result of these positions will be, after 12 months, an addition of at least 72 new foster homes in the state of Okla-



Paul Milburn (L) receives the OK CARE social service award from Don Batson(R), President/CEO of Circle of Care.

homa that will serve approximately 144 children.

Circle of Care has already filled the positions for Shawnee and Stillwater. Patricia Collar, the new Child SHARE staff member for Shawnee, brings personal experience to this role as a foster parent and adoptive mother. After these individuals are hired and trained, they will reach out to churches in each area to offer presentations and training

related to foster care. Churches can support this effort by inviting the Child SHARE representative on a Sunday to share a mission moment, present information to a Sunday School class, or host a foster care information session.

If you live in or near one of these expansion areas and want to learn more about being a foster parent, please call Child SHARE's toll free number: 866-978-2956.

We Knocked, and the Door was Opened

Continued from Page 2

that by mid-year, up to one hundred and fifty more children will have safe, loving, Christian homes in their time of need.

As exciting as this news is, I must add: When I visited with Mr. Milburn to report the meeting of his challenge and to thank him, he asked if there were four more communities in need of homes for children, and pledged his support if there were. I know that places like Lawton and Ponca City who have volunteered their support of foster children the past several years with only limited support from the Circle of Care, realize the need. I believe that communities like Muskogee, McAlister or Woodward who have asked us in the past about opportunities to step forward and serve, may decide that this is the time to make that final decision. We look at those communities

with the greatest need, but there are few who have not the need.

We look at those churches with a passion for serving children and families in crisis, but know that all our churches share that passion.

We may not know exactly which communities will step forward first to help us meet this most recent challenge and opportunity.

We may not know where we next will have the opportunity to find and support homes for children in need. But we do know that whichever community it may be, whichever churches are called to serve, there are children in need of homes there. We know that the Bible commands that we care for the widows and the orphans. And we know that wherever there is a need, the Circle of Care and your prayers and support will be there. May God's Grace be with you and those you love.

Volunteers Respond in Season of Giving



Volunteers and staff prepare stockings at the Frances Willard ministry center for Child SHARE families.

One of the great annual traditions of Circle of Care is the annual fulfillment of wish lists for kids in each of our programs. Every child is asked to write a letter to Santa. Thanks to the generous support of individuals, Sunday School groups, missions committees, and so many others, all children receive gifts. These gifts demonstrate to the kids in our care that there is an entire community that loves them and is there to support them. Circle of Care gives thanks to all the church groups and volunteers that help us support hundreds of children each Christmas.



Circle of Care is expanding its foster care programs in western and southeastern Oklahoma!

If you are interested in working for us, and you have a minimum Bachelor's degree in social work or a related field, please contact us.

If you have a vehicle, or office furniture that you can donate to help us in these areas, please contact us.

www.circleofcare.org
405-530-2078

Brenda Gill: New Pearl's Hope Director

Circle of Care is pleased to introduce Brenda Gill as the new Director of the Pearl's Hope program at Francis Willard Ministry Center. Brenda will oversee both the Pearl's Hope program and provide administrative supervision to all the programs located on the Francis Willard campus. Brenda earned her Master's Degree from Oklahoma State University in Family Relations and is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. She brings a wealth of programmatic, administrative, and community relations experience. Immediately prior to accepting this position, Brenda spent 17 years as Senior Counselor over Sexual Assault Programs and Shelter Services at Wings of Hope Family Crisis Services in Stillwater, OK. While

working at Wings of Hope, Brenda played a key role in the long process of preparing for, securing, and then implementing a Donald W. Reynolds Foundation grant to build a new service center for that agency. Over a period of 10 years, she worked with the agency's director and a team of staff to build the 18,000 square foot facility that unified all of their services. Like so many of Circle of Care's staff, Brenda feels like this role is where God wants her to be. She has a passion for the agency's mission to provide Christian help, healing, and hope to children and families in crisis. To learn more about Pearl's Hope or schedule a volunteer project, please call: 918-583-9506.

A little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation: I the Lord will hasten it in his time. - Isaiah 60:22

Will You Join Us & Become One of the

1000

Anonymous x 13
Kay Adair
Bill & Karen Anderson
Harvey & Alene Arnold
Donald & Cheryl Baker
Randy & Eddisu Barker
Don & Lynn Batson
David & Janet Battles
Enloe Baumert
David & Laura Beal
Maejean Bennett
Mike & Jeannene Blevins
Wesley Fellowship, Boston Ave. UMC Tulsa
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Spencer & Mary Wheeler Brown
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Michael & Leanne Chaffin
UMW, Claremore FUMC
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Randall & Kathryn Coit
Lloyd E. & Melissa Cole
Edgar & Betty Collins
Lyle & Shirley Combs
Robert & Debbie Craine
Elda Cressman
David & Robin Croninger
C.C. & Anna Marie Crooch Estate
John & Jamie Crooch
Michael & Janet Crooch
Philip & Lisa Crow
Curtis & Patricia Crowe
Anna Cypert
Bobby & Shirley Darnell
Marsha Davis
John Dixon
William & Donna Dodson
Rev. Robert & Brenda Duran
Gregory & Mary Ann Edwards
Barbara Eskridge
Fellowship Class, Barnard Memorial UMC
Don & Wanda Fischer
Jo Fowler
David & Cindy Frieze
Mike & Elaine Frizzell
Jerry & Jane Gamble

Jeannine Gibbens
Robert & Prudy Gorrell
Jim & Elaine Gragg
Bud & Jane Griffy
UMW, Grove FUMC
Earl & Marlene Haggard
George & Jo Hall
Marie Hancock
Rudolph & Madeline Hargrave
Ralph & Linda Harker
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Billy & Ann Hebblethwaite
Jono & Jenny Helmerich
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UMM - Okmulgee UMC
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To make your pledge today, please call 405-530-2078 or visit our website at:

<http://www.circleofcare.org/1000.html>

Honors & Memorials September – November '14

Circle of Care sincerely appreciates the following who support this ministry through the Honors & Memorials program.

We regret any errors or omissions. Please help us correct our records by writing Circle of Care, 1501 NW 24th Street, Suite 214, Oklahoma City, OK 73106, or by calling (405) 530-2078.

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DAVID, LAURA & KARA BEAL
David Hoff

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STEVEN BRINKWORTH
Phyllis V. Bennett

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DON & SARAH HORTON
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JAMES KIRBY
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JOHN P. MARCH
Margaret Cooper Newendorp

MICHAEL AT BOYS RANCH
T.N.T. Class, Fairview FUMC

KIVA CLASS, NICHOLS HILLS UMC
Anonymous

ROUNDTABLE CLASS, NICHOLS HILLS UMC
Anonymous

PATRICK & JENNIE STONE
Sandra Pratt

BLACKBURN UMC
Deloris Higgins

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
Grandfield UMW

E. A. WARE
Eric & Elizabeth Ware

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All-New Friends of Children Banquet Set for April 17th

Mark your calendars for the Friends of Children Banquet on Friday April 17th!

Circle of Care will host a formal banquet to share the good news of transformation in the lives of children and families in crisis in Oklahoma and raise funds for the agency. The dinner will be held both in Oklahoma City and Tulsa on the same night at the same time. Those individuals enjoying the event in Oklahoma City will be able to see and wave "hello" to their counterparts in Tulsa.

What?

You read that correctly. Like many churches

do every weekend, this event will utilize telecommunications technology to connect people across the state. Part of the program will take place in Oklahoma City and part will take place in Tulsa. The banquet's speakers in Oklahoma City will be live-streamed to Tulsa and the Tulsa speakers will be live-streamed to Oklahoma City. This will be the first time, that we are aware, a statewide nonprofit in Oklahoma has utilized this approach to their annual dinner. The evening's program will include testimonials from Circle of Care clients.

We want you to join us for this celebration!

Come as an individual, a couple, with your Sunday School class, or women's group. Seating will be limited to 250 individuals per city. Starting today, you can call and reserve your seat! Tickets can be purchased by calling 405-530-2080.

Do you own a company? You can join our corporate sponsors! Sponsorship benefits include a full table reserved for your party, statewide exposure, and the satisfaction of supporting children and families in crisis. Call 405-530-2081 to learn about corporate sponsorship opportunities.

Save the Date!

Circle of Care's Friends of Children Banquet

*Friday April 17, 2015
Oklahoma City & Tulsa*

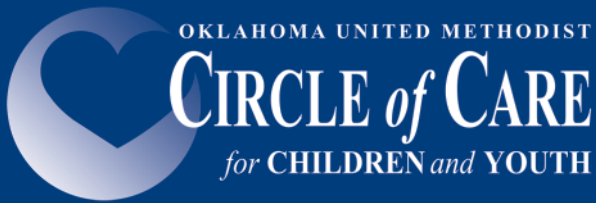


Donations That Can Make a Difference



YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING for an excuse to get one of those fancy new washers and dryers but your old ones work just fine. Well here's your excuse! Donate your perfectly good washer and/or dryer to the women of Pearl's Hope Transitional Housing. A reliable used machine is hard to find and can still cost a couple hundred of dollars only to break down next month. These families will appreciate moving into their new house or apartment with a machine that can be trusted to spare them the burden of going to the Laundromat with all children in tow.

If you'd like to donate your washer and/or dryer, please contact Pearl's Hope Transitional Housing, at 918-583-9506.



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for CHILDREN and YOUTH

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UM Boys Ranch

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(918)487-5281
FAX (918)487-9929

UM Children's Home

1 Mathes Park Drive
Tahlequah, OK 74464
(918)456-6166
FAX (918)456-8216

**David O. Beal Independent
Living Program**

1 Mathes Park Drive
Tahlequah, OK 74464
(918)456-6166
FAX (918)456-8216

Holsinger Home for Children

3316 N. Oakwood Road
Enid, OK 73703
(580)540-4940

**Pearl's Hope @ Frances E.
Willard Ministry Center**

1616 N. Gilcrease Museum Rd.
Tulsa, OK 74127
(918)583-9506
FAX (918)583-2093

Child SHARE/Foster Care

720 W. Wilshire Creek Blvd., Suite 117
Oklahoma City, OK 73116

(866)978-2956 - Toll Free

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