SUMMER 2020
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A quarterly publication
of Circle of Care, Inc.

Lifeline

OKLAHOMA UNITED METHODIST
CIRCLE of CARE
for CHILDREN and YOUTH

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OKLAHOMA UNITED METHODIST
CIRCLE of CARE
for CHILDREN and YOUTH

Ministering to Oklahoma's kids, youth & families through residential & foster care since 1917

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Lifeline

A Word From the President

KEITH HOWARD

How can we help? It is a question our team has been asking often during this season. It is not a new question. In fact, I think it is a question that points us back to 1917 when Methodists in Oklahoma City and women involved in the women's suffrage movement were launching orphanages in their own communities. They asked, "How can we help?" and then they answered the question with action.

I imagine, they were taken aback by the Spanish Flu in 1918, but regardless they persevered and kept serving.

So, we are doing the same. Since March, we have increased the number of children we are serving in foster care by 10%. We've added multiple new families, even reaching our annual DHS goal of recruiting 60 new families by April with 2 months to spare in our contract year. We've continued to support the young adults and women in our PAL and Pearl's Hope program, as we look at ways to increase the impact of both programs and "do more for more".

In addition, we are looking outside of ourselves within the community and asking other organizations, "How can we help?" In Tulsa, we've entered into a partnership with Life Change Tulsa. They are now using our gymnasium at Frances E. Willard to gather and sort the food they deliver daily to over 100 families.

I've had multiple conversations with other nonprofit leaders to determine if there are additional partnerships or needs that we should be aware of. We continue to pursue those opportunities and be responsive.

And, we asked you for help and you have responded overwhelmingly with your concern, prayers and financial support. When this pandemic first started I read multiple articles predicting that hundreds of nonprofits could close their doors during this season and stating almost 50% of nonprofits have less than 30 days of operating cash on hand. My heart went out to the other nonprofits and at the same time I was relieved that would not be us. Why? Because of you, our donors, and our supporters. Because of our United Methodist partner churches, and because of the legacy gifts that have been left over the years, increasing our endowment at the Oklahoma Methodist Foundation. Our core is strong, our vision is clear, and our mission is as evident today as it was in 1917.

In partnership with you, we are moving forward to provide help, healing, and hope to children and families across Oklahoma. Together we are making a positive impact during this time of uncertainty.

Thank you for partnering with us and investing in our collective mission of help, healing, and hope.

Together we are better!

To provide Christian help, healing and hope to children and families in crisis to ensure a safe, healthy, and spiritual future.

Circle of Care Mission Statement

COVID-19 CALLS FOR FOSTERS

"Really think about the kids that you know .... you would want someone to step up and take care of them."

Foster families across the state are faced with finding balance between work and family life. One Cherokee County family is no different. Emma and Jacob Holt have been foster parents for 5 years and are currently taking care of five foster children and their son.

Both Emma and Jacob work in "essential" positions and are currently working out of the home during COVID-19. Together they are working an average of ninety (90) hours a week. "We have been taking it one day at a time and seeing what each new day brings. We rely on resources that Circle of Care has to offer and also our other support systems, whether that be through church or friends," says Emma.

With the rise of child abuse with COVID-19, Emma encourages families to think of children they know and how they would want those children to be taken care. "Really think about the kids that you know .... you would want someone to step up and take care of them." The Holts have 6 kids in total. They are 4 months, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7. Emma describes fostering multiple sibling sets as fun chaos.

The Holts try to also focus on the biological families and make it a point to help with bridging. Bridging is when foster parents include biological family in the lives of the foster children.

"We have a lot of different experiences with bridging. We have had cases where bridging worked well and other cases where it was more challenging. Over all, we have grown a lot from bridging. We try to include the bio family as much as we can in the lives of their children as much as possible."

"We have a sibling set right now that we are working with. We have made it a point to stay in contact with the biological family and share pictures and videos of the children. We try as hard as we can to help with the process."

The Holts began their foster care journey when one of their nephews was being placed into state custody.

After being foster parents for a while Emma and Jacob began to realize they were falling in love with foster care.

"Anyone can do this. A lot of people say that they can never because they would get too attached and they wouldn't want to give them back. So I would want them to know that is okay. That is the point of foster care. We are here to let these children know that there is someone out there that will love them unconditionally and give them the love that every child deserves ... you are not alone in it. There are so many supports and resources out there."

Emma concluded her story with us by saying, "Even if you don't think it's for you, talk to someone who does it and at least hear them. Give them a fair shot."

Be the Light

Please join us for our Annual

Friends of Children Banquet & Silent Auction

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 2020

National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum
1700 NE 63rd Oklahoma City, OK

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

CHRISTINA MEREDITH

Abuse & Homelessness Survivor, Youth Advocate & Author of CinderGirl

Registration & Reception | 5:15 p.m.
Doors Open & Silent Auction | 5:30p.m.
Program & Dinner | 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.

{Semi-Formal Attire}

SILENT AUCTION **SNEAK PEEK**

Tulsa Ballet: Two tickets to the signature series

retail value: $40

Rustic Cuff: Bracelet set

retail value: $350

Oklahoma National Memorial Museum: Four general admission vouchers

retail value: $60

Panera Bread: Bread for a Year

retail value: $70

Top Golf: $50 off game play

retail value: $50

Carlton Landing: Two night getaway for 4-10 people

retail value: $1,200

Leave a Legacy

With charitable gift planning, you can leave a legacy that will continue to impact children for years to come. You can structure your gift to maximize its benefits in a way that is most favorable to you, your loved ones, and the organizations you choose.

Your legacy gift can inspire others. You can tell your story and become a role model to others thinking about leaving a legacy gift to Circle of Care.

There are many ways to include Circle of Care in your long-term philanthropic planning. We are grateful to those who remember us through a bequest or other types of legacy gift.

CIRCLE of CARE
Change Makers

What is Legacy Giving?

A legacy, or planned, gift allows you to leave a lasting impact while also meeting your individual financial and estate planning goals. Depending on the gift arrangement and your circumstances, you may be able to avoid capital gains taxes, reduce your estate taxes, or receive an income tax charitable deduction in a variety of ways.

At the same time, planned gifts connect your personal legacy to the clients we serve, and provide critical support for the organization's programs and initiatives. While many nonprofit organizations rely on annual cash contributions to support their operating budgets, planned gifts and estate gifts typically provide an assured, long-term base of support that can transform an organization and leave a lasting impact.

One important example is our Tulsa program site, Pearl's Hope, donated to Circle of Care by Pearl Thorp, a local teacher. Pearl's generous donation has ensured that we can continue to serve our clients in our Pearl's Hope Program in the Tulsa Area.

Options for giving

Since our founding, individuals dedicated to our long-term success have set up planned gifts for our benefit. Some supporters have included us as a beneficiary of their will, retirement plan [e.g., 401(k), 403(b), IRA], or life insurance policy. Others have contributed to our endowment to continue their annual support after they're gone. Just like any gift to Circle of Care, donors have the option to select where they would like the funds to be used. Currently, Circle of Care places all unrestricted bequests into our endowment funds so that those large gifts will continue to provide support for our programs for the life of Circle of Care.

Please join us!

We're happy to provide more information about wills, bequests, and other planned giving opportunities. Through a charitable bequest, you too can leave a lasting legacy by designating a percentage, the residual, or entirety of an estate to either create an endowment or make a gift to a charitable organization. We offer sample bequest language for either a will or a trust. For more information contact Sarah Steffes, at 405-215-1400.

*Visit **circleofcare.org/ways-to-give/legacy-a-legacy** to set up your planned giving today.*

GOOD NEWS

Circle of Care staff hosted personal fundraisers on social media during the month of April to raise funds and further the mission of spreading help, healing and hope throughout Oklahoma.

23 employees fundraised

249 individuals donated

$22,620 raised

Funds raised for Circle of Care go towards programs like Preparation for Adult Living (*Tahlequah*), Pearl's Hope (*Tulsa*) and Foster Care services (*statewide*).

New this year, we have added email updates as a way to keep our supporters informed and engaged in the mission of providing help, healing and hope to children and families across Oklahoma. Subscribers will receive two or fewer emails per month from us. If you're preferences change after signup and you no longer wish to receive emails, you can easily click the "unsubscribe" link in any email we send you.

For questions, contact Sarah Steffes, VP of Development, at **405-214-1500** or **sarah.steffes@circleofcare.org**. Thank you for your support and prayers!

BE A PAL SPONSOR

Support youth from underprivileged backgrounds through sponsorships. Minimally, sponsors are asked to give three times per year for (1) school supplies, (2) household/apartment needs and (3) to help fill Christmas wish lists. Optional giving may be for special work clothing/shoes, graduation gifts, apartment furnishings, welcome baskets, etc.

- **CHAMPION**: $1,200 annually (This is a "full sponsorship")
- **BENEFACTOR**: $600 annually
- **TUTOR**: $350 annually; Provides back-to-school supplies including clothing, equipment and materials.
- **ADVOCATE**: $300 annually for various needs
- **FRIEND**: Send birthday, Christmas and/or graduation gifts; approx.. $150 annually
- **GREETER**: Welcome basket items include laundry basket, Bible, alarm clock, towels, sheets, pillow cases, etc.; approx.. $100
- **SUPPORTER**: One time gifts/contributions ranging in value of $25-125.

To explore this opportunity further, please visit circleofcare.org

LEGACY OF CARE **UPDATE**

The impact on the lives of those we serve at Circle of Care cannot be overstated by the Shawnee Sibling Homes. Pottawatomie County struggles in major categories of foster care. For one, 72% of children have to be placed outside of the county. Much of this is due to extremely low traditional foster family rates, with only 39 families as of March 26, 2020. There is also a 1 in 3 chance in Oklahoma that siblings will be separated in foster care, but that chance is significantly higher with larger sibling groups.

Because of the Avedis Foundation and other supporters, we have been able to keep three sibling sets together in Pott County. This includes the only sibling set of 7 in the state that is able to stay together. We are currently able to serve 14 children ages 1 through 15 years of age. In addition, the media and attention around the sibling homes has helped us recruit at least an additional 4 families, with more considering foster care.

Of the 14 children in care on this campus, all 14 are able to receive direct, home-based behavioral health care through our own Licensed Professional Counselor. In addition, two excellent families stepped in to live in these homes - families with extensive foster care experience and the time and patience to work with the variety of ages and behaviors present in the homes.

On a personal level, the children in these homes are seeing healing and progress. Foster care, especially with such a broad age range, can be messy. However, our ability to offer a rent free, utilities free space for families to focus on healing and stability is a huge benefit. In addition, the two families have been able to support each other on the campus, providing an added level of encouragement.

The Legacy of Care campaign has a goal of raising $5 million and to date has raised $4,157,459. The project is building 8 large custom homes for sibling sets (and 4 clubhouses) in several communities: Alva, Woodward, Enid, Elk City, Shawnee, and Coweta. *With 6 homes and 3 clubhouses completed, you can help complete the last two homes and clubhouse by making a donation at Legacy.CircleofCare.org or mail a check to Circle of Care, 1501 NW 24th St., Suite 214, Oklahoma City, OK 73106.*

Thank you for your support!

Legacy of Care

100 YEARS OF HELP, HEALING & HOPE

Honors & Memorials

SUMMER 2020

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

We regret any errors or omissions. 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.

IN HONOR OF

Craig Stinson & Krista Jones
Patsy Tracy

Dayton B
T.N.T Class, Fairview UMC, Fairview, OK

Grandsons Gabe & Nate Space
Amy Reynolds

Grandsons Samuel & Keaton Baxter
Lonny & Freda Williams

Harold & Carol Wright
Joyce Teghtmeyer

Great-grandchildren Hailey, Bennett & Dylan
Sue Nelle Hall

Our Children & Grandchildren
Mickey & Linda Stubblefield

Pastor Sam Tucker
Dr. Bobby & Jayne Christensen

Tim King
Bob & Twyla King

Trish Harris
Jeanne Kelly

Trish Harris
Donald & Patricia Harris

IN MEMORY OF

Wife & Son, Emma & Larry Bailey
Lavell Bailey

Sadie Brehm
Leonard & Leta Brehm

Richard 'Rick' Cato
Laura Deerwester

Lloyd E. Cole
Stilwell United Methodist Men

Tommy Crane
Rance & Alice Willis

John Wesley Daniel
Harvey & Alene Arnold

C. G. Edwards
Clayton & Rhonda Edwards

Charlene K. Ernest
Clayton & Rhonda Edwards

Gail Ray 'Fergie' Ferguson
Louise Gelmers

Gail Ray 'Fergie' Ferguson
Betty Jean Gardner

Gail Ray 'Fergie' Ferguson
Bob & Nancy Rumbaugh

Gail Ray 'Fergie' Ferguson
Helen Thomas

Gail Ray 'Fergie' Ferguson
Barbara Walker

Christy Germany
Lizz Foxhaven

Lois Goetzinger
Don & Jean Lewis

Debbie Hix
Don & Alice Humphreys

Steve Humphreys
Patsy Humphreys

Jane Elaine Jones
Don & Jean Lewis

Fern Krehbiel
Sylvia Cox

Lois Jean Long
R. Hal Long

Carla Manley
Clayton & Rhonda Edwards

Patricia Meadors
Gregory Meadors

Glenn & Bette Millwee
Don &Karla Bowen

Bill Noble
June Tucker

Betty Nuckolls
Clayton & Rhonda Edwards

Rev. Orville & Elizabeth Parham
Ken & Marty Tharp

Evalyn Pazoureck
Annette Fisher

Any Peerson
Open Door Class, Barnard Memorial UMC, Holdenville

Mr. & Mrs. Waldo Ratzlaff
Donna Ratzlaff

Robert 'Bob' Reinking
John & Elma Philips

Robert 'Bob' Reinking
T.L. & Mildred Turner

Robert 'Bob' Reinking
Unit Corporation, Tulsa, OK

Robert 'Bob' Reinking
Will Rogers UMC, Tulsa

Robert 'Bob' Reinking
Lila Jean Alexander

Robert 'Bob' Reinking
Lila Berkley

Walton Ross
Don Conrad

Richard Sawyer
Sheryl Brown

Valerie Shaw-Hartzell
Eileen Stephens

Janet L. Smith
Allan Rau

Nathan Houston Smith
Jeremy & Amy England Smith

John Spencer
Ed & Karen Carlton

Phyllis St. John
Robert St. John

Elmer Lee Stipes
Vi Thomas

Garrett Lee Williams
Don & Jean Lewis

EVERYONE CAN DO SOMETHING

Current needs at Circle of Care

It is only with your faithful support that Circle of Care is able to meet the needs of the children and families we serve through Foster Care, Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) and Pearl's Hope (PH) Transitional Living.

1. **Diapers, pull-ups, wipes**
2. **Bibles, for all ages**
3. **Target or Wal-Mart gift cards**
4. **Full size toiletry items**
5. **New car seats, booster seats**
6. **Donated vehicles, working condition**
7. **Prayer, birthday cards**
8. **New PJs, underwear, socks**
9. **New small toddler/baby toys**
10. **PAL & PH sponsorships for birthdays, apartment needs, work clothing or materials**

Due to the overwhelming generosity of supporters, Circle of Care is not accepting: Clothing, blankets, quilts, hats, shoes.

For questions, please contact Tasha Atcity at tasha.atcity@circleofcare.org or 918-402-3247. For more on donating, volunteering or supporting Circle of Care, please visit us online at www.circleofcare.org.

TOP GIVING CHURCHES 2019

thank you for your support!

TOP PER CAPITA 2019

Duncan St. Paul's UMC	Duncan, OK
Enid Bethany UMC	Enid, OK
Claremore St. Andrews UMC	Claremore, OK
Wewoka FUMC	Wewoka, OK
Independence UMC	Independence, OK

TOP OVER ALL 2019

Duncan St. Paul's UMC	Duncan, OK
Chickasha Epworth UMC	Chickasha, OK
OKC Chapel Hill UMC	OKC, OK
Tulsa Asbury UMC	Tulsa, OK
Transformation Church Tulsa	Tulsa, OK

PEARL'S HOPE **SPOTLIGHT**

I started doing drugs at a very young age and continued using off and on through adulthood. I ended up dropping out of high school during ninth and tenth grade. I did, however, have the sense to finish my eleventh and twelfth grade and graduate. I got married to my high school sweetheart who ended up overseas for three long, hard years. When he came home, we were both different people and went our separate ways.

I started seeing an ex of mine and we got pregnant with my first child Zachary. Shortly after we had our son we started using drugs together. I had abstained from drugs for five years at that point – but it didn't take much for me to spiral downward again. By the time Zachary was six months old, his father and I were no longer seeing each other. I moved in with my mom and continued doing what I was doing. By the time my son was two years old, DHS was on my doorstep and my son was placed with his grandparents . I quit using the day they took him and started taking the steps to get him back. I got a stable job, hired a good lawyer, went to NA/AA meetings regularly and went to counseling after having a mental health evaluation. I had him home before his next birthday. I swore I would never do drugs again.

Nine months later, I was high. When Zach was six years old, I had Taylor. A year later, I had Atom. Another year later, I had Kristy. Each child has a different last name and father. Even though I managed to not use drugs with my first three, by the time I got pregnant with Kristy I was so addicted that I used while pregnant. I got to spend the first three days in the hospital with her and then she went home with her uncle. Nine days later, I went into an inpatient rehab for seven months.

When Kristy turned three months old, they gave her back to me. My other three children remained in my custody but were placed with family while I completed rehab. I graduated the facility in March of 2019. I got to bring my daughter home with me. Within two months they had taken Kristy again and I was in my second rehab facility.

This time I paid attention, listened to what they were saying and tried to apply the skills they were offering me. The judge saw the change and decided to give me one more chance. I thought she would terminate my rights but she didn't. She gave me back my daughter, Kristy. I still remember her face and the words she said that day. "I don't do this, Sherena. I've never given a mom this chance, but I believe in you. Don't let me down."

I chose not to go back to my hometown and instead I looked into Pearl's Hope. I went through a screening process. Then I prayed I would get in. Without them and their support, I had nowhere to go except back – and I couldn't go back. After two weeks of chewing my nails and pulling out my hair, I got the phone call that I had been praying for – they accepted me! I had somewhere to take my daughter. Somewhere safe.

I am now working with Tulsa Tech's Project Hire program to be a legal assistant. I recently passed my entrance exams and I start classes in August 2020. I have developed so many different connections to outside resources for moms in my situation thanks to Pearl's Hope and its staff. My oldest son will be moving in with me on August 22 and hopefully he will be followed by my other two children. DHS is planning to close my child case in February and have declared me a success story. Sadly, my judge tells me I'm one of the few.

I'm an extremely positive and very excitable person. I bug Pearl's Hope staff daily. What they don't know is that those moments I show up – moments that they may think are completely random – those are the moments I can't get out of my own head. Those are my red flag moments when I have to distract myself. Those are the moments they don't realize how much I need them and how thankful I am they are there. They have given me purpose and hope. They have given me my life back. They are my prayers answered!

Thank you,

Sherena

WAYS TO **GIVE**

At Circle of Care, we're dedicated to providing Christian help, healing and hope to children and families in crisis across Oklahoma.

An easy way to double your contribution is through employee giving programs. Many corporations match employee donations (or the tax deductible component of your membership) to our organization. If you volunteer with us, your employer may also provide us with a grant as a way to recognize your ongoing support.

To see if your employer matches donations, visit **circleofcare.org/double-the-donation**.

amazonsmile

Imagine if all of your purchases helped to make a difference for kids.

Learn more at **smile.amazon.com** and support Circle of Care.

*This creates no additional cost to you and converts spending into giving!

facebook.com/circleofcareok

Support Circle of Care with a personal touch and host your own fundraiser on Facebook !

1. Log in to Facebook and go to Facebook.com/fund.

2. Select "Raise money for a charity".

3. Search for "Oklahoma United Methodist Circle of Care".

4. Fill out your fundraiser settings and you're ready to go!

JOIN CIRCLE OF CARE'S FRIENDS OF CHILDREN

Supporter - $500
Believer - $1,200
Sustainer - $5,000
Advocate - $10,000
Benefactor - $15,000
Champion - $25,000

HOW TO GIVE

Mail
1501 NW 24th, Suite 214
Oklahoma City, OK 73106

Online
CircleofCare.org

SITES

Administration
1501 NW 24th St, #214 OKC, OK 73106
405-530-2078

Children's Home
549 Mathes Park Drive Tahlequah, OK 74464
918-456-6166

Boys Ranch
PO Box 999 Gore, OK 74435
405-530-2078

Frances E. Willard Campus
1616 N Gilcrease Museum Rd Tulsa, OK 74127
918-583-9506

Holsinger Home
Enid, OK 73703

Oh Be Joyful Farm
Haskell, OK 74429

PROGRAMS

Foster Care Services
720 W Wilshire Blvd, # 117 OKC, OK 73116
866-978-2956

Preparation for Adult Living
549 Mathes Park Drive Tahlequah, OK 74464
918-456-6166

Pearl's Hope
1616 N. Gilcrease Museum Rd Tulsa, OK 74127
918-583-9506

Outpatient Counseling
405-593-6306

1501 NW 24th Street, Suite 214
Oklahoma City, OK
73106-3635

Non-Profit
Organization
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Oklahoma City, OK

Friends of Children Banquet

National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum

Saturday, August 1

Join us for the annual banquet and silent auction.
For more information and to learn about sponsorship opportunities, visit **circleofcare.org**.

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