



SUNNY GLEN

Children's Home

The Reporter

Spring 2018

Volume 82, Number 1

Welcome Aboard

by Wayne Lowry, *Chairman of the Board*

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the board of directors, I want to thank you for your continued support and prayers as we provide a safe Christian home for displaced youth. Over the last year, we have seen God work in amazing ways, and we will continue to trust in Him to provide strength to press forward with our ministry.

Last January, our Executive Director/CEO Jay Williams, who has dedicated 19 years of his life to this organization, announced his plans to step down as the executive director/CEO at the end of 2017. He has expressed a desire to move back to his home town of Center, Texas. The board asked Mr. Williams to remain on staff to help develop and strengthen relationships across the state. After much prayer and consideration, we are excited to announce that Mr. Williams accepted the new role as executive director emeritus. Mr. Williams will be able to use his wisdom and experience to help advise the incoming executive director and other board members to help move the organization forward.

Last February, the Board appointed Tim Ousley, former board president and current member, to be the Chair of the Executive Director Search Committee. As a former pulpit minister and current local nonprofit executive director, the board felt he would be able to guide the committee to find an exceptional leader to take the torch from Mr. Williams in 2018.

The committee began a nationwide search to find a new executive director. After reviewing countless resumes and months of interviews, one name rose to the top. The committee asked that candidate to make one final visit to meet with each of the committee members individually and tour the campus. After that visit, the committee made the recommendation to the full board of directors at our November board meeting. The recommendation was approved unanimously.

Effective January 8, 2018, Mr. Chase Palmer became the 15th Executive Director of Sunny Glen Children's Home. Mr. Palmer brings a well-rounded background of experiences to take on the unique challenges of running a Christian children's home. He has over 14 years' experience in church ministry while leading the evangelistic outreach and teaching for the Church of Christ in Gallatin, Texas. For the last 8 years, he worked at the Rusk State Hospital where he learned skills that will assist children with more severe needs. His natural leadership was made evident when, at the age of 28, he was elected mayor of Gallatin where he served for six years and effectively managed a small city of 400 people with a very small budget. We are excited for you all to meet him in the near future.

We do not know what the future holds, but we know Who holds it. In the Lord we put our trust and hope.

God Bless,
Wayne Lowry



Chase Palmer

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My Grandma's Dollar Bill

by Chase Palmer, Executive Director

Sacrifice and service were the central themes of the ministry of Jesus. Consider what Jesus said about himself in **Mark 10:45** *"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."* Jesus asks us as His disciples to exemplify the heart of a servant in all that we think, say, and do and this heart is what motivates us here at Sunny Glen. Can you remember when you really learned the importance of giving? Maybe it was when you volunteered your time or when you gave someone else a free gift, or when you received something through the sacrifice of others, but for me, it was on a church pew in a small congregation in Asher, Oklahoma with my grandma.

As a little boy I loved visiting my grandparents because of the love and warmth that they shared and without fail, every Sunday that I was with them, we would drive to a small rural Church of Christ in Asher, Oklahoma.

I remember singing songs and classic hymns, praying together, listening to a sermon (when I wasn't digging in my grandmother's purse searching for a peppermint), watching as the adults took part in the communion service and then, my grandmother would reach over and hand me a \$1 bill.

The first time this happened, I thought to myself, this is great I just earned a dollar for sitting and being good, but as I attempted to put the dollar bill in my pocket, grandma grabbed my hand and said *"No Chase, this is for contribution."* Then I saw a basket being passed down our row and as it came to me, my grandmother said *"Put your dollar in the basket."* So, I dropped my newly earned \$1 bill into the basket and remember thinking, *"What is that \$1 going to do?"*

After the service, I asked my grandparents about our giving money to the church and they explained that the funds were used to cover the

expenses of the building, to support the spreading of the gospel throughout the world, and to help those who are less fortunate through benevolence. That all sounded good but I still did not understand how my \$1.00 would make any difference to anyone.

Then my grandmother opened her Bible to **John 6:1-13** and taught me about the miracle which Jesus performed by feeding thousands of people with 5 loaves and 2 fish. At my young age, I was still struggling to make the connection between this miracle of Jesus and my \$1.00. Then she asked me a question that I will never forget. She asked, *"Where did Jesus get the 5 loaves and 2 fish?"* I thought for a moment and looked in her Bible at the scriptures and I found the answer, **John 6:9** *"There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?"*

I excitedly said my answer, *"A lad!"* Which I quickly followed with the question, *"What is a lad?"* Then my grandmother explained that this young boy had given his personal meal to Jesus, and that what others may have seen as an insufficient amount of food in regards to the needs of 5,000 men was more than enough when blessed

by the Lord.

The lesson was clear and has stuck with me until this day that if we are willing to give what we have to the Lord, He will do amazing things. Now as the new Executive Director of Sunny Glen, I am reminded of this every single day. The needs of the children that we serve are great and at times truly overwhelming but we have faith and know that because of our supporters, like you, who sacrifice and give freely, that we will have the ability to continue spreading seeds of love, kindness, and knowledge of God and that God is able to bless these efforts in ways that we couldn't even imagine.

So, as you consider your support for Sunny Glen remember that 5,000 men were blessed because one young boy simply gave all he had to Jesus, and Jesus has freely given us more than we can imagine by His offering on the cross for our sins.

Thank you all for your continued support and may God receive the glory and praise as we together provide for the needs of our Children!




"Family" Means Unconditional Love

by Hannah Keel, *Clinical Director/COO*

If we were to all sit in a circle and describe the first thing that comes to our minds when we think of the word "car", we would have dozens of different descriptions of what a "car" is. I think of my sensible four door sedan. You might think of a classic car you've been restoring. Someone else may think of a minivan. What about the word "family"? Maybe you think of loving parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. Maybe you think of holidays, birthdays, and Sunday lunches. Maybe that word makes you feel warm and safe. For children from abusive situations, the images and emotions associated with the word "family" are mixed.

How are you supposed to feel when your family has hurt you the most? For so many children in foster care, those definitions of "family" carry forward and are further twisted with each failed placement. This is especially true for the children with the higher levels of care we have been taking for the past year.

When children come to Sunny Glen, it is not uncommon for them to be on their 6th or 7th placement since being

removed from their families. Some have even been in over 20 placements. Their experience of "family" is so far from what God intended. They have no reason to trust us and feel safe with us. They certainly have no reason to believe us when we tell them we care. We know that we care, and we know we are safe, but those children are carrying years of abusive experiences in their hearts and memories. What could possibly make them think that this placement – this "family" – would be any different? Why should they do as they're told when, based off of their past experiences, we are just going to give up on them, anyway?

The answer is **unconditional love**. Unconditional love from caregivers will earn trust from children. It is pretty easy to say that we love children when they are being sweet. It is not as easy when those children are screaming at us and calling us names. It is not so easy when they are throwing things at us and trying to hit us. But this is unconditional love: to be steadfast with the children when they are at their worst, teach them the appropriate ways to behave, forgive them, and wake up

the next day ready to love and care for them again. **Romans 5:8** says, "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." This is how we truly mirror the love of God to the children. Caring for children with trauma and behavioral difficulties is obviously more challenging than to just say that we will love them. It takes love and action. Unconditional love is the foundation upon which every other action (such as counseling, proper nutrition, advocacy, etc.) is placed.

When people hear about the kinds of behaviors we deal with, it surprises many to know that good behavior is actually not the ultimate goal (though it certainly is a goal). The end goal is to show children the love of God by connecting our hearts to their hearts and earning their trust. The goal is to give them a new definition of "family" – a positive one filled with images of love, care, and nurturance that they can carry with them for the rest of their lives. The good behavior will follow when the children feel a deep sense of trust and belonging.

Upcoming Events

by Yolanda Saldivar, *Volunteer Coordinator*

Dear Donor/Sponsor,

The **6th Annual Incredible Kidz 5k-1 Mile Fun Run** benefitting Sunny Glen Children's Home will be held this year on April 28th, 2018 at McKelvey Park in Harlingen, TX. The race will be from 8:00 am - 11:00 am. The committee is anticipating a successful event and expects a great turn out.

We are seeking contributions to help our **6th Annual Incredible Kidz 5K-1 Mile** be a successful one. All the proceeds will help provide a safe, loving environment for neglected and abused children through residential care,

counseling services, and supervised development programs.

The **Incredible Kidz 5k - 1 Mile Run** is one of the fundraisers our children look forward to attending every year. It will also be a great opportunity for bonding within your family.

Generous donors/sponsors like you are the key to our organization's success. We hope that we can count on your support to help us with our mission.

Please make your donation to Sunny Glen Children's Home, P.O. Box 1373 San Benito TX 78586 or drop off at our

location at 2385 W. Expressway 83. Call Yolanda Saldivar (956) 399-5356 to pledge your support.

We thank you for your time and consideration.

Holiday Time

Thank you to everyone who made our Thanksgiving and Christmas time wonderful for our children! Here are some pictures of our wonderful community coming together to provide a memorable holiday season for our children. They include:

**AGGIES OF CHRIST
CHEDDARS
FUN N SUN RV PARK
HARLINGEN POLICE DEPARTMENT
SOJOURNERS
WALMART**

There are too many others to mention individually but we appreciate you all. Special memories were created!



Harlingen Police Department & Walmart's Christmas Party



Cheddar's Christmas Party



Fun N Sun R.V. Park's Christmas Party



Sojourners & Aggies for Christ Luncheon



Sojourners Build Covered Bus Stop



Aggies for Christ Evening Devotional

**WASHED IN THE BLOOD
BAPTISM
WINTER 2017**



THE TRIBUTE PROGRAM

September 1, 2017 to January 31, 2018

In Honor Of

RONNIE ASTON
Mr and Mrs William R Aston

GREGORY DALTON BROOKS
Mr and Mrs George D Brooks

HUSTON & BENIFER BROUGHTON
Mr and Mrs E M Wood

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Mrs Carlos N Humphrey

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Mrs Wil Cunningham

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Mr. and Mrs. Robert R. Farris

JOAN KUNITZ
Mr and Mrs E M Wood

ROBERT LENTZ
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Mr and Mrs R Ford
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MICHAEL & SOPHIA STREIGHT
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JENNIFER WOLF
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In Memory Of

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Mrs Joe E Frenzel

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ROY D ALLEE
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Lamesa Church of Christ

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Dr and Mrs Charles D Kolb

JAMES BALLOU
Mrs Johnny M Stephens

FRED B BANKSTON
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Mrs Beverly J Moore
Mrs Jack R Nettles

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Mr Michael Williams
Mrs John J Jaap
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Mr and Mrs Daniel Crosby
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Mr and Mrs Tommy Dugger

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Mr and Mrs Tommy Dugger

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EVELYN EVERETT
Mrs Anne Johnson

ORLEANS P EYMARD
Mr Joe E Baldwin
Mr and Mrs Bobby Ostos
Dr Gerald Hollier

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September 1, 2017 to January 31, 2018

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MAEBELLE DOWNES FISHER

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MARY FURRER

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Mr and Mrs Loyd E Wright

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Ms Kathy Haynes
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Mr and Mrs Robert Pitts

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Mrs Wil Cunningham

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FRED STEVE JACKSON

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Lamesa Church of Christ

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Mr and Mrs Sam Stubblefield

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Mr and Mrs James E Day

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Mrs Sammy W Ford Sr

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Mr and Mrs Tommy Dugger

GRACE LOWRANCE PICKINS

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THE TRIBUTE PROGRAM

September 1, 2017 to January 31, 2018

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Mr and Mrs Tommy Dugger

LARA D POWELL

Mrs Mary Alice Powell

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Mr Joe E Baldwin
Dr Gerald Hollier

PATSY E READ

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Mr Kenneth J Ammann

BILLY JACK REED

Mr and Mrs Tommy Dugger

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Mr and Mrs Gerald Lee

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Woodville Church of Christ

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Mr and Mrs Zane Rhyne

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Mr and Mrs David E Foster

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Ms Mary Ann McCarn

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Ms Julie B Borgan
Mrs Jane Runnels Clark

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Mr and Mrs Tully Shahan

ANDREW "ANDY" J SHEWMAKER

Mr and Mrs Robert Pitts
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Mrs Mary E Reed
Dr and Mrs Charles D Kolb

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Mr and Mrs Lawrence M Wilson
Mrs Keith R Collier Jr
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The Christie Dunnahoo Family
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LAURENCE SOWLE

Mr and Mrs Sam Stubblefield

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BONNIE J STEED

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Mrs Elizabeth A Storey

CHARLES A STROOPE

Mr and Mrs Gerald Lee

CLAUDINE A TALLEY

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Miss Laura M Wright

CHARLES TARVIN

Mr and Mrs Sam Stubblefield

JOYCE L TAUBERT

Mr C Gene Taubert

ALLISON TAYLOR

Mr and Mrs Kip Dove

SONONA G TEINERT

Mr and Mrs Ronald Hedtke

GERALD "BUBBA" S TERRY

Mrs Bobby C Rich

JANIE TUBBS

Mr and Mrs Thomas E Johnson

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Mrs E A Titsworth

NORMA B WALKER

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Mr and Mrs Loyd E Wright

JAMES "JIM" L WIMBISH

Mrs James Wimbish

BRETT WINTERS

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Mrs Donnie D Medders

MILDRED WYATT

Dr James L Wyatt Jr



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SUNNY GLEN CHILDREN'S HOME

P.O. Box 1373

San Benito, Texas 78586

(956) 399-5356

Fax (956) 361-3668

info@sunnyglen.org

www.sunnyglen.org

THE TRIBUTE PROGRAM

There are many ways one can pay tribute to those who have made a difference in their lives.

One very meaningful way is by providing for the needs of others. Honoring the memory of someone special with a **Memorial Gift** to Sunny Glen Children's Home ties memories of the one who has passed this life to a child's future, a new home and a fresh start. It gives hope and a pathway to a better life.

It is a comforting thought for the family who has lost a loved one and for the gift donor to know the gift provides a safe Christian environment where children are taught the love of Jesus by dedicated houseparents. A place where health care and professional counseling are provided along with shelter, clothing and nutritional meals where their mind and body can flourish.

Honor Gifts are a complementary component of The Tribute Program. Many choose to recognize friends or loved ones on special occasions with an Honor Gift bringing attention to a birthday, anniversary, holiday or special accomplishment.

Acknowledgements are promptly sent by letter to the bereaved family or the person being honored. Notification never includes the amount of the gift.

