

BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOMES OF NORTH CAROLINA

A Word from Michael C. Blackwell, BCH President/CEO

“Our world is engulfed in a myriad of struggles, storms and strife. The symptoms manifest themselves through the needs you and I see daily. They arise in our communities, churches, workplaces, friendships and in our own families. There are times the needs seem incalculable, overwhelming and nearly all consuming.. It is why I am thankful that we serve a Heavenly Father who remains unchanging and unfazed regardless of the uncertainty swirling around us. I am immeasurably grateful that Baptist Children’s Homes (BCH), through the unwavering support of NC Baptist ministry partners and friends, are perfectly positioned to share the light of hope into the darkest of circumstances. It is because we are *on mission together* that we are able to minister to children, families, intellectually/developmentally disabled individuals, senior adults, single mothers, expectant mothers, and foster and adoptive families. BCH’s ministry continues to grow as we are now located in 35 communities throughout North Carolina, South Carolina and Guatemala. *And in the past five years, we have seen 691 lives give their hearts to Christ.* Yes, there is much uncertainty in our world, but it is outweighed and outmatched by the grace of Jesus. Thank you, NC Baptists, for standing shoulder to shoulder with us as we shine the light of hope together.” – *Dr. Michael C. Blackwell*

Highlights

- Numbers: 156,508 lives were impacted in 2021 through the support of NC Baptists. In total, BCH has licensed 276 family foster care homes and served 586 children in those homes (see full numbers in EVERY CHILD section below). In the past five years, 691 lives have accepted Christ.
- The new EVERY CHILD Foster & Adoption Partnership between BCH and NC Baptists was unveiled at the 2021 Annual Meeting.
- Ministry to birth mothers, women who have chosen adoption for their babies, is a growing focus through BCH’s Christian Adoption Services. At its annual “Birth Mothers Retreat,” eight ladies made decisions for Christ. A piece of residential property is being renovated for the new “Emmanuel Home” – a supportive home for birth mothers after their babies have been placed for adoption.
- NC Baptists throughout the state collected more than \$500,000 in food, supplies and gift cards through the annual “Food Roundup.”
- Bikers participating in “Ride to Clyde,” the statewide motorcycle ride organized in partnership with NC Baptists, raised a record \$160,000.
- NC Baptists met the 2021 “Annual Offering” goal of \$1.5 million. **To support this year’s offering, visit bchoffering.org**
- Three new family foster homes are in the process of being constructed. “River Hill Refuge” in Shelby will provide BCH with a much-needed presence in this area of NC.

- Rob and Alex, residents at Alverta Bolick Home in Asheville, competed in the 2022 Special Olympics U.S. Games in Orlando where they won silver medals.
- North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry (NCBAM) celebrated the opening of the “Care Village,” that provides geriatric management services, at BCH’s Kennedy Home in Kinston. This was done with help from the Neuse Baptist Association and area churches.
- BCH was selected as one of the “2021 Best Nonprofits to Work For.” The national award presented by *The Non Profit Times* identified 50 organizations throughout the United States whose leaders have “excelled in creating quality workplaces.”

EVERY CHILD Foster & Adoption NC Baptists Partnership Unveiled

Baptist Children’s Homes of North Carolina (BCH) and NC Baptists launched a new partnership—**EVERY CHILD Foster & Adoption Ministry**. The partnership was unveiled at the 2021 Annual Meeting of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC) on Monday, November 8, 2021. With approximately 17,000 boys and girls in the NC foster care system, BSCNC executive director-treasurer Todd Unzicker presented BCH president/CEO Michael C. Blackwell with a \$300,000 contribution to equip more churches and couples through the EVERY CHILD initiative. In addition to training and licensing couples to be family foster homes, BCH works with pastors and their staff to establish a foster and adopt ministry within their churches to surround the couples and the children they foster with the needed support. In total, BCH has licensed 276 family foster care homes and served 586 children in those homes. Currently, as of August 2022, there are 149 active statewide foster homes serving 151 children. There are 54 families throughout North Carolina in the process of becoming licensed foster homes. Numbers of active homes change as some families adopt the children they foster (when applicable) and others are no longer fostering. **Learn more at every-child.org.**

Birth Mother Home Established, Eight Women Accept Christ at Retreat

Ministry to birth mothers is a vital and growing aspect of ministry for BCH’s Christian Adoption Services (CAS). Coming alongside expectant mothers, who have chosen adoption for their babies, and providing ongoing support to these courageous ladies is important especially in today’s climate. The “Emmanuel Home” is being established as a supportive residential program where birth mothers are able to reacclimate themselves after their child’s birth and placement. The home is in the historic district of Thomasville, adjacent to BCH’s Mills Home, and is being renovated thanks to Baptists on Mission volunteers, church volunteers and donors. The CAS “Birth Mothers Retreat” celebrated its 25th anniversary in April. Thirty-eight birth mothers attended the weekend event and eight of the ladies accepted Christ as their Savior. The annual retreat is a part of CAS’s commitment to providing lifetime support to mothers who chose adoption for their babies. **Learn more at christianadopt.org**

River Hill Refuge Fills Void in the State

The building of three new Family Foster Homes for children has begun at River Hill Refuge. NC Baptists and friends of BCH met the \$4.3 million fundraising goal and the ground-breaking

ceremony was held on September 11, 2021. Each home will have a set of BCH-recruited Christian foster parents who care for as many as five children at one time. They will be trained and supported by BCH foster care staff, but are licensed as state foster parents. The homes will provide BCH with a much-needed presence in the Cleveland County area.

Rob and Alex Win Silver Medals at Special Olympics U.S. Games

Rob and Alex, residents at the Alverta Bolick Home in Asheville and teammates on the Buncombe County Special Olympic soccer team, competed in the 2022 Special Olympics U.S. Games in Orlando. Alberta Bolick Home is one of BCH's nine statewide homes for intellectually/developmentally disabled adults. All five Alverta Bolick Home residents participate at county Special Olympic events throughout the year. Rob is a "Global Messenger" who has been trained in public speaking and serves as an ambassador for Special Olympics. Rob recruits potential athletes, volunteers, and sponsors through public presentations. Alex and Rob's team received silver medals at this year's Games.

NCBAM's New Care Village Launches in Partnership with Churches

The opening of the North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry's (NCBAM) new "Care Village" was celebrated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on March 1, 2022. Based at BCH's Kennedy Home in Kinston, the Care Village partners with the Neuse Baptist Association, community partners, and 42 churches in Lenoir and Wayne County to connect Village members with needed resources. Members receive geriatric management services as well as spiritual support.

- In June, NCBAM partnered with FBC Lexington to provide window fans for low-income seniors living in an apartment complex whose AC was destroyed in an electrical storm.
- The second annual "Camp BAM" was held in June at the Kennedy Home in Kinston. Forty volunteer campers, aided by 16 mealtime volunteers, completed five wheelchair ramps, 10 safety projects, and one technology class. Supported by seven local churches, the volunteers served 25 seniors in four counties.
- NCBAM's "State Leadership Conference" was held in May in Raleigh. Attendees learned how to prevent and recover from identity theft as well as how to protect their homes and other assets.

Learn more at ncbam.org.

BCH Recognized Nationally as One of the "2021 Best Nonprofits to Work For"

The NonProfit Times selected BCH as one of the "2021 Best Nonprofits to Work For." The national award presented by *The Non Profit Times*, the leading publication for nonprofit managers, along with the Best Companies Group, identified 50 organizations throughout the United States whose leaders have "excelled in creating quality workplaces." Three-quarters of the evaluation was based on results from each organization's employee survey to "measure the employee experience." BCH was one of only six nonprofits to receive this award.

Michael C. Blackwell / President/CEO, Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina