The Methodist Home

GATEWAY

WINTER 2026



CELEBRATING THE SEASON!

Read about Eagle's Nest Children's Center on Page 9!

The Methodist Home
for Children & Youth

Americus • Columbus • Macon
St. Marys • Valdosta

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Issue 3 Volume 48 © 2026



Read about Campus Activities on Page 20!

Thanks to a very special donor, our boys from The Carpenter's Way Ranch got to attend the Auburn/Baylor game at Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta.

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MISSION STATEMENT

In response to Christ and the Church, the mission of The Methodist Home is to be a model agency that restores childhoods, strengthens families, and cultivates a people building organization.

CIVIL RIGHTS STATEMENT

We accept all children and youth regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, or religious background. The Methodist Home is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

The Methodist Home
P.O. Box 2525, Macon, GA 31203 - 2525
304 Pierce Avenue, Macon, GA 31204
Email: Information@TheMethodistHome.org

ACCREDITATIONS:

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To comply with privacy expectations put in place by the state of Georgia, The Methodist Home may edit identifiable pictures of our DFCS children in our magazine. We have also changed the names of many of our children in the magazine to protect their privacy. We appreciate your support and understanding.



ALISON EVANS
President/CEO
The Methodist Home

He heals the brokenhearted
and binds up their wounds.

Psalm 147:3 (NIV)

As President of The Methodist Home, I occasionally have the honor of presenting a handmade quilt to the children we serve. These beautifully crafted gifts are made by caring people who want our boys and girls to know they are dearly loved by Christ and others.

When I study the intricate nature of these quilts, I see the varied pieces, sometimes scraps or leftovers, taken from their original bolt of cloth and **perfectly woven into a new, spectacular purpose.** What an amazing analogy of God's love for our children!

Sometimes pulled apart, torn, or separated from their family by trauma or other difficult situations, they are **prayerfully and purposely stitched into our Methodist Home family, the family of God.** Through our ministry, we believe we are a part of God's plan to help heal their broken hearts and bind up their wounds as proclaimed in His word.

Psalm 147 is a song of praise to our Father for His many blessings. It acknowledges heartache and brokenness but also reflects the glory and power of God. As I reflect on our blessings, I am reminded of you. We are so thankful for all you do to assist us in this important service to His most vulnerable children.

As our hearts, minds and worship tune into the Christ child this Christmas season, I want to personally express my appreciation to you for providing the financial and prayer support we need to stitch lives back together and offer comfort, healing, and help to those in need. **Thank you for making our children a priority in your life.** Your kindness and generosity makes a significant impact in the lives of our boys and girls. We are truly grateful for you!

Warmly,

Alison Evans
President/CEO
The Methodist Home

PS: Wishing you and your family a very special and meaningful Christmas, stitched together with love and prayers.

Thank you for your faithful support!



Alison presents a quilt to one of our kids!

ON TRACK FOR SUCCESS



In the beginning, The Methodist Home was just a place, another residence for Jamirah, but over time she realized she wanted to be here. It became her home, and after over two years of living at The Home, Jamirah calls this place her family.

When Jamirah first came to The Methodist Home's Macon campus, she was feeling abandoned and angry. She wasn't sure she could trust the people around her. Growing up, Jamirah experienced abuse and neglect, something no child should ever have to endure. She learned to have her guard up and that guard came with her to The Home. After years of living in survival mode, letting her walls down and allowing herself to trust others took time. "I felt like everyone was against me," Jamirah shared. "But I realized it was just my mindset and my trauma affecting me. I was easily triggered which made me immediately defensive towards others. I felt like I always had to protect myself."

A turning point came when Jamirah began therapy through Lighthouse for Families Counseling Center. For the first time, she began to process what she had carried with her for so long. Jamirah began to heal. Before she knew it, her behavior began to change and so did her perspective. The staff she had once felt wary of became her family. She now saw the other residents around her not just as other youth in the same boat, but as her sisters and brothers.

Along with counseling, something that really helps Jamirah and has been a safe haven for her for a long time, is sports. She began playing sports when she was younger as a way to escape the abuse she was experiencing. But the more she kept playing the more she began to genuinely love it. Jamirah played everything from softball, basketball, cheer, band, flag football, and track. Today, Jamirah is focusing on softball, basketball, and track, with a dream of one day playing professionally in the WNBA.

There is no doubt Jamirah has a talent for athleticism, but what really stands out is her determination. Jamirah works hard and continuously challenges herself to improve, not just in sports but in every area of her life.

"I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO IMPROVING MYSELF."

Before coming to The Methodist Home Jamirah had never received straight A's on her report card. Today, she consistently earns high grades, maintains a high GPA, and is even taking dual-enrollment classes. This young lady who once spent so much energy protecting herself is now spending that energy building a future.

Between school and sports Jamirah has plenty to keep her busy. However, The Methodist Home has also given her opportunities to experience something just as important–the chance to just be a kid. Earlier this year, Jamirah traveled to Key West, Florida along with some of our other youth to attend Seacamp. She went swimming, snorkeling, sailing, and more! A lot of them were firsts for her, including getting on a plane. Jamirah made lots of new memories and had an amazing time.



JAMIRAH SHOWING OFF HER CATCH FROM A FISHING TRIP AT SEACAMP!



JAMIRAH ON THE SOFTBALL FIELD!

As well as Jamirah is doing, she wants to do even better. "I'm looking forward to improving myself. I feel like I still have things to work on. I'm improving but I'm not there yet, but I'm working on it," she shared. Jamirah's commitment to herself is beautiful, and we are so proud of the work she has done to get to the place she is now. We know Jamirah has a wonderful and bright future awaiting her, and we are so honored to be a part of her journey!

GROWING TOGEHTER

Fraternal twins Brian and Brise have always walked through life together. When they arrived at The Carpenter's Way Ranch over a year ago, they were feeling a little nervous. At 16, they were experiencing their first placement in foster care. At first, they mostly kept to themselves, talking only to each other. But with time, the staff at The Carpenter's Way Ranch helped the twins feel welcome and even comfortable in their new home.

"Mr. Glenn and the other people here made me feel like I belonged here," Brise shared. "I began to feel like this could be home for now. I started talking more and hanging out with the other kids here." Today, the brothers have tons of friends on campus and great relationships with the staff. They have truly come into their own in just a short time.



Brise and Brian at The Carpenter's Way Ranch!

Brian is the campus cowboy, and it shows. He spends most of his free time working with animals, tending to cows, sheep, goats, hogs, and dogs. With a heart for this kind of work, it comes as no surprise that Brian's dream is to live on a farm. However, Brian is also a practical and smart young man and has made sure he is prepared for anything. Through his high school classes, he is learning about automotive work, construction, and welding!

> "I BEGAN TO FEEL LIKE THIS COULD BE HOME FOR NOW."

Brise enjoys similar interests to his brother although he gravitates more towards building things and working on cars. Right now, he is focused on getting good grades and passing his classes but is considering turning his hobbies into a career. "After graduating, I would like to hopefully get a job in construction or mechanics," Brise shared. Wherever their path takes them, we know these hard workers will do well for themselves.

With one year of high school left, they are looking forward to their senior year but dreading the day they will have to go their separate ways. They plan to remain close as they enter adulthood. After all, they have always looked to each other for comfort and strength. Despite annoying each other, as brothers do, they have always been there for one another.

Brian and Brise are grateful to have someone who is always able to understand what the other is going through. Something they discovered together at The Carpenter's Way Ranch was faith. When the brothers first arrived, faith was unfamiliar to them. Through conversations with staff members and regular Bible studies with Rev. Lynn Meadows-White, they began asking questions and exploring what the Bible teaches. Now they better understand the role God can play in their lives and are excited to keep learning more. The Methodist Home has given both brothers opportunities to explore their faith alongside caring adults.

Some of which are Mr. Nick Bruner and Mr. Allen Levi, who have encouraged the twins, offering guidance and modeling what it means to live out their faith. Through these mentors, Brian and Brise have learned that spiritual growth takes time and a willingness to keep learning.

Since arriving, Brian feels like he has really matured and grown. ***"Carpenter's Way is not a bad place to be at," he shared. "I think it's a good place for kids my age and younger to enjoy their time. They can have fun like we did. They can make memories here so that, when they get older, they can look back on a childhood filled with fun and be able to say they learned about God."***

As Brian and Brise enter their senior year of high school, they have the resources, love, care, and the guidance of The Methodist Home behind them. Most importantly, as they step into their future, these brothers have each other.



Pictured (L-R): Young Life Leader Nick Bruner, Rev. Lynn Meadows-White, Brian, Volunteer & Mentor Allen Levi, and Brise at The Carpenter's Way Ranch Awards Banquet!

GIVING CHILDHOOD A CHANCE

Luncheon Benefiting *The Carpenter's Way Ranch*

MARCH 16, 2027 | ST. LUKES MINISTRY CENTER | 12:00 PM



FEATURING GUEST SPEAKER

MALCOLM MITCHELL

Accomplished Author • Literacy Advocate • Former UGA Football Player • Former Professional Athlete • Valdosta Native • CEO of Share the Magic Foundation

For more information about this event, please contact JoAnn Roberts at (478) 751-2898 or JoAnn.Roberts@TheMethodistHome.org

We hope to see you there!

FIRST AID TRAINING

What began as a simple question about an AED mounted on the wall quickly became a learning opportunity for our youth. With the support of our Training Department, our young ladies in Sullivan Cottage on our Macon campus completed their certification in First Aid Adult/ Pediatrics First Responder!

One of the most memorable moments came when a girl proudly declared, "I can teach my family." Her words reflected the impact of the training. Our youth not only gained valuable skills but also realized the importance of sharing knowledge and helping others. We are incredibly grateful to our Training Department for investing in our children. This milestone is a wonderful reminder that learning can happen anywhere, and a child's curiosity can lead to something extraordinary!





OUR GIRLS FROM SULLIVAN COTTAGE PARTICIPATING IN A CPR AND FIRST AID TRAINING WITH PROGRAM MANAGER DAISY MARTIN!

Lighthouse for Families

SELF CARE FAIR!

Our staff at Lighthouse for Families Counseling Center hosted a Self Care Fair for our children, led by therapist Randi Darby! Self care is all about taking care of yourself physically, socially, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually. Through activities like painting, creating stress balls, exploring nature, and more; our residents learned about different ways to support themselves. We are thankful to our Lighthouse team for teaching our girls and boys to prioritize their well-being and develop healthy habits that will support them for years to come!



Therapist Chole Austin (R) helps our kids make a homemade sugar scub.



One of our boys making artwork with natural objects!



Therapist Randi Darby (R) handing out speical treats to a resident!

Celebrating Generations of Love at Eagle's Nest!



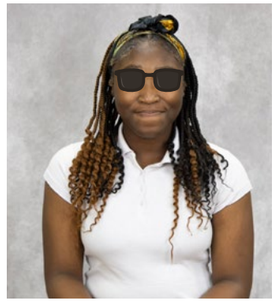
Our kiddos loved celebrating with their grandparents for Grandparent's day!





The love between a grandparent and their grandchild is a special one. On Grandparent's Day, our little ones at Eagle's Nest Children's Center had a wonderful time celebrating together. We love being able to help create these sweet memories for our kids and their families!

PICTURE DAY AT PRICE ACADEMY!



Malaiyah



Jurson



Keana



Oakley

SAY CHEESE! Our students at Price Academy enjoyed their very own Picture Day! For children in foster care, something as simple as school pictures can feel out of the ordinary. Moving between foster homes and changing schools can mean missing picture day, not receiving a yearbook, or losing photos of significant moments. These small traditions help children feel a sense of belonging and give them moments they can look back on for years to come.

These photos capture more than just smiling faces. Every child deserves the chance to enjoy these milestones and have photos to remember their childhood. We are thankful our students had the opportunity to participate in this special day and simply enjoy being kids!

Care That Reaches the Whole Family

Sophia found Lighthouse for Families through the Department of Children and Family Services. In January of 2025, her son, Ezra*, was placed with her family, and she began looking for somewhere he could get therapy. Although Ezra was only three years old, Sophia felt counseling was necessary and would be beneficial because of his experience in foster care.



Sophia, her husband Paul, daughters, and Ezra after his adoption!

At Lighthouse for Families, Ezra began play therapy, with Sophia by his side. Through games, toys, pretend play, and acting out different scenarios, Ezra was able to express the feelings he was too young to put into words. His sessions did not feel like traditional therapy. They included dress up games, sensory activities like using sand trays, and even yoga. Sophia participated alongside Ezra, playing board games and completing activities under the guidance of their counselor, Dottie Chambers. Together, they learned new ways to understand Ezra's emotions and needs.

> *"Lighthouse is one of the reasons my son can behave normally and have healthy relationships."*

Sophia hoped therapy would help Ezra with his behavioral issues. When he first got placed with her family, he struggled with extreme aggression. He would act out by pushing, hitting, and kicking Sophia's biological daughters. But Sophia knew this aggression was not really who Ezra was, it was his trauma.

Sophia and her husband had been waiting for the call that would introduce them to a child they could adopt. At the time, their oldest daughter, Sarah*, was just four years old, and their youngest was only six months old. When Ezra got placed with Sophia and her family, she immediately felt a connection. She knew Ezra was her child, and he belonged with their family. Sophia still remembers watching Sarah meet Ezra for the first time. She was sitting beside him on the couch sharing a snack, exactly like siblings do. Within two weeks, Ezra was calling Sophia and her husband "Mom" and "Dad," and Sarah was thrilled to have a little brother. Their family had been waiting to adopt for a while, so she was well prepared. However, they were not prepared for the immense joy they would feel at making their family official. To celebrate their newest addition, they announced they were having a baby and even arranged a maternity photo shoot.







Ezra and his parents finalizing his adoption in court!

There were some learning curves in the beginning and when the tough times did come, Sophia knew therapy could help. They went to Lighthouse for Families every week. Over time, Ezra showed tremendous improvement, and before they knew it, he was ready to graduate from therapy. It was hard for Sophia to let go of the services that truly helped her family. Leaving Lighthouse was hard, but Sophia knows they will always be there for her and her family if they need support again.

Sophia has seen firsthand the difference Lighthouse for Families has made for her family's life. Her children do everything together as siblings should. "Lighthouse is one of the reasons my son can behave normally and have healthy relationships," she shared. She will always be grateful for the assistance they received.

Lighthouse for Families provides high-quality counseling and support services to restore childhoods, promote stability, and strengthen the families in our community. For Sophia and her children, these services helped turn a difficult transition into a healed and connected family.

**Children's names changed for privacy.*

LOOKING FOR SUPPORT?

Lighthouse for Families is here for you.

Our mission is to provide high quality counseling and support services to restore childhoods, promote stability, and strengthen the families in our community.

CONTACT US TO GET STARTED:

MACON: 478-464-3001 | *COLUMBUS:* (706) 596-5129

www.LighthouseForFamilies.org

LighthouseForFamilies

SCAN TO LEARN MORE



LIGHTHOUSE for FAMILIES

DAMIR'S STORY



Damir with Independent Living Coordinator Sherard Whipple and Human Services Professional Natasha Butler.

Ever since he was nine years old, Damir dreamed of becoming a first responder. While attending South Georgia Technical College, he discovered his passion for law enforcement and began working toward that goal. After months of training, early mornings, late nights, and a tremendous amount of hard work, Damir proudly graduated from the police academy earlier this year. Today, he serves as a deputy sheriff with Bibb County and continues his training. Damir shared, **"I want to help people. I want to bring closure and answers to families in pain. I want to be part of a good cause here in Macon."**



Bibb County Sheriff David Davis swears in Damir as a Bibb County Sheriff's deputy!

Throughout his journey, The Methodist Home has encouraged and supported Damir. It helped him stay focused when the finish line seemed so far away. He is very grateful to the people who continue to check in on him and celebrate his progress.

Damir has a desire to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others, especially children who need someone willing to stand up for them. **We are so proud of Damir!**

It Takes A Village

Ms. Audrey Earl has been a teacher for 34 years. Alongside teaching, for the last 18 years, she has been tutoring our young men at The Carpenter's Way Ranch. Ms. Earl has always believed everybody has a purpose, and hers is to work with children. In addition to helping them with their homework and making sure they are caught up, Ms. Earl just wants to show our youth they are cared for by their community.

"The Carpenter's Way Ranch is a safe place for boys and young men," Ms. Earl shared. "Here, they have a chance to figure out who they are. It's a place of respite where they can get the help they need." She also believes it is up to us to help our young people grow up to be productive and caring members of society. ***"They need us, and it takes a village. I'm just one little segment of what those boys are getting and need."*** Ms. Earl finds a lot of joy in tutoring our residents, and we are so grateful for her giving heart!

It is incredibly rewarding to make a difference in a child's life. As Ms. Earl says, "Just as much as I give to them, I get from them."



Thank you, Ms. Earl, for the time and love you have dedicated to our young men for 18 years!

THANK YOU

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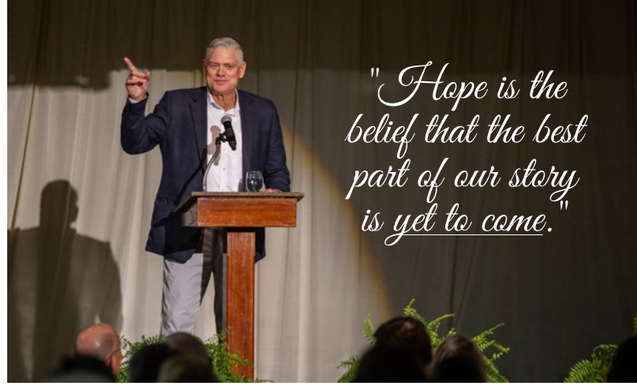


OCTOBER 8, 2026

Evening of Hope

"Swing hard, in case you hit it." Dale Murphy shared these words and more during our annual Evening of Hope fundraising dinner. We were honored to have Dale, an Atlanta Braves legend and former Major League Baseball player, as our guest speaker this year. His stories inspired attendees, but it was his message about hope that truly resonated with our hearts. "Hope is the most powerful thing we have in our lives. Hope is something we feel. Hope is something we choose. Hope is something we give to others," Dale shared.

The evening also featured a testimony from alumna Joyce Grimes. Her words were a beautiful reminder that the care provided at The Methodist Home can reach far beyond childhood, creating a lasting legacy of hope which continues for generations.

True to its name, the evening was filled with hope, and we are incredibly thankful for everyone in attendance who came out to support our mission through this event. A special thank you to our sponsors and donors, whose generosity enables The Methodist Home to continue providing children and youth with the safety, stability, guidance, and opportunities they need to heal and grow. Because of you, hope is more than a message we share; it is a promise we work to fulfill every day! Thank you for helping us restore childhoods, strengthen families, and build brighter futures!



Mr. Bill Fickling, III was honored at The Methodist Home's 2026 Evening of Hope event as our Heroes, Saints, and Legends awardee. Pictured with The Methodist Home's CEO Alison Evans.

2026 HEROES, SAINTS, & LEGENDS
Mr. Bill Fickling, III

Mr. Bill Fickling, III, comes from a family with a longstanding commitment to The Methodist Home. His grandfather, William A. Fickling, Sr., served as a trustee in the mid-1970s, establishing a legacy of service that Bill proudly continues today in his second term on The Methodist Home's Board of Trustees. Bill remains dedicated to supporting the children and youth whose lives are transformed by the organization's mission.

After earning his MBA from the University of Georgia in 1982, Bill enjoyed a wide-ranging career that included hospital administration, investment banking, and executive leadership. He held leadership positions at Beech Street Corporation, the nation's first managed health care organization, served as Chief Operating Officer for an offshore private lending firm, and most recently, was a partner and consultant with a merchant banking firm. He also chaired the Board of Precision Aerospace and Defense Corporation. Bill helped establish the Fickling Family Office, where he manages investments in hotels, real estate, automotive dealerships, timberlands, healthcare, and venture capitalist projects. These endeavors fund many worthwhile causes through The Fickling Family Foundation.

Bill has dedicated countless hours to local charitable, civic, and religious organizations. He serves on the board of the Macon International Cherry Blossom Festival and has held leadership roles with Scouting America at both the local and national levels. His service also includes numerous other organizations such as the Committee of 100 of The Candler School of Theology at Emory University and Wesleyan College, where his mother, Neva, attended.

Faith has been a constant throughout Bill's life. Baptized at Mulberry Street United Methodist Church in 1956, he is a third-generation member of the church and a fifth-generation Methodist. The Christian values instilled by his grandfather, father, and mother continue to guide his service and generosity for others.

Bill's devotion to family is just as evident as his dedication to the community. He and his wife, Kerri, have renovated homes in the Grant Park neighborhood of Atlanta and worked hard to save so many of our four-legged friends through SOS Animal Rescue organization. Bill has four accomplished children: a son who is an Eagle Scout and Certified Financial Planner, a daughter who is a landscape architect and Master Gardener, another daughter who has built a successful career as a sought-after producer on the West Coast, and a third daughter who is pursuing her education and preparing to make her own mark on the world.

When asked about receiving the Heroes, Saints & Legends Award, Bill humbly expressed that he felt overshadowed by the accomplishments of his grandfather, father, and mother. But Bill's life tells a story of its own. **Through his professional accomplishments, faithful service, generous spirit, and continued support of The Methodist Home, he has not simply inherited his family's legacy; he has made it his own.**

The Methodist Home is proud to recognize Bill Fickling, III, as its Heroes, Saints & Legends awardee. His leadership has helped carry his family's legacy into a new generation. As Bill looks to his own children, there is every reason to believe that this legacy of faith, compassion, and dedication to community will continue for generations to come.



Bill Fickling, III and his wife Kerri Fickling with Evening of Hope guest speaker Dale Murphy.

"Last year, we had the best Christmas ever."

When Kayla* shared these words with me, I could see the joy on her face as she remembered the precious memories she made with her son that Christmas morning.

Kayla is part of Establishing Mother & Baby Relationships in an Affectionate and Caring Environment (EMBRACE), a program for teen mothers in foster care and their babies.

For a young mother who did not often celebrate Christmas growing up, last Christmas was a gift in more ways than one. She experienced the excitement and giddiness of seeing presents under the tree with her name on them for the first time. However, what brought Kayla the greatest joy was watching her son, Alex, experience that same excitement. She is giving him the childhood she wished she could have had, filled with love and laughter.

Here at The Home, Kayla and Alex are cared for, encouraged, and given new experiences and opportunities for growth. Through EMBRACE, she is receiving the guidance and stability she needs to build a strong foundation for herself and her son.

We are not only restoring Kayla's childhood; we are helping her create a joyful childhood for her son. Kayla is grateful for The Methodist Home and gives thanks and praise to God. "I feel very happy because Jesus gave His life so that we could be in the world. If it wasn't for Him, we wouldn't be here."

Kayla's words remind us that Christmas is about more than a single day or season. **It is about God's extraordinary love for us, revealed through the gift of His Son.**

In Jesus, we see the heart of a God who comes near to us, who meets us in our brokenness, and who offers hope where there has been despair and hardship. That is the hope we want every child and family at The Methodist Home to experience.

Your generosity helps provide a magical Christmas for our kids. But beyond the presents, celebrations, and the traditions, **your generosity** helps us share the love of Christ with children and families who need to know they are never alone.

Will you help us continue creating these moments of hope and joy?

Your gift will help restore childhoods, strengthen families, and share the love of Christ with those who need it most.

Please give generously and join us in praying that, above all, our children will know that the greatest gift of all is Jesus Christ, our Savior.

May the love of Christ fill your heart and home this Christmas season!

Warmly,

Alison Evans
President/CEO

PS: Once we have fulfilled each child's Christmas needs, we will use additional funds to support the general needs of our youth throughout the year. May God bless you and your family greatly. **Merry Christmas!**

*Name changed for privacy

Scan for a quick and easy way to donate!

YOUR STATE TAX DOLLARS AT WORK!

When you choose to divert you state taxes to The Methodist Home, it benefits young adults like Camari!

Camari graduated from Georgia Southern in 2025 and is pursuing her master's degree in social work at Valdosta State. She also works full-time as a social worker at South Georgia Medical Center. A Methodist Home kid since age 14, Camari said, *"I don't have biological family support. All I've had to depend on is The Methodist Home. They're family to me, and **the tax credit program has alleviated so much worry and stress**."*

THE 2026 CAP IS $30M

REMAINING AVAILABLE STATE FUNDS FOR 2026:

$18,110,366

Remainder as of 9/29/2026

WE HAVE RECEIVED OVER

$3,000,000

SINCE 2023

Tax Credit funds can cover tuition, books, supplies, room, board, transportation needs, medical costs and other supportive services.



SCAN TO LEARN MORE & APPLY!

You must apply to utilize this benefit!

When you participate in the Foster Child Organization Tax Credit, you invest in the future of our young people.

QUESTIONS? Contact Rev. Lynn Meadows-White

(706) 464-6231

Please consult with your personal tax advisor as needed.

*Those who contribute 100% of their approved amount will receive the full dollar-for-dollar credit. Starting in 2026, contributors who pay less than their approved amount will receive 95% of their contributed amount in tax credit.

A Lifetime of Hope

"The Methodist Home has made a significant difference in my life. I was not here for a very long time, but the impact, for me, has lasted a lifetime. It was here that I learned I did not have to live a fearful life and that I could overcome anything."

Joyce Grimes was 16 years old when her mother died as a result of domestic violence, and her father went to prison. This tragedy left five children, between 8 and 18 years old, with nowhere to go. Joyce's father had worked for a trucking company owned by Larry and Linda Brewer. With understanding and compassion, the Brewers stepped in and connected the family with The Methodist Home for Children & Youth. Joyce's brothers chose to stay with their grandparents, but she felt that The Home could help her. In 1973, Joyce and two of her sisters arrived at The Methodist Home.



Joyce (L) with her Brother Jonnie, father, and sister Jill Before she came to The Home.

Before coming to The Home, they all lived in a small, unfinished house built by their father. It had no indoor plumbing and, more substantially, no sense of safety. At The Home, Joyce began to experience a world she had never known. Everything felt like a luxury, for the first time she had plenty of food and clothes. Growing up, she had not been allowed to have friends. At The Home, however, she formed friendships with people she still remembers to this day.

What Joyce enjoyed, most of all, was finally resting, in a bed of her own, and being able to feel peace instead of fear. "My father was very destructive and abusive. We never knew what was coming next," she shared. As the older sister, Joyce felt responsible for her younger siblings. She watched over them and tried to protect them, just as their mother tried to protect all of them. Joyce could not remember having a full restful night's sleep until she came to The Methodist Home. She realized she didn't have to be on high alert anymore or constantly looking over her shoulder, Joyce could simply rest.

The year before she came to The Methodist Home, Joyce had found God through her grandmother, who shared the Gospel with her every chance she could. Joyce had to ask her father for permission to attend church. On the rare occasions it was granted, she would walk a mile to get there. It was worth it, as her faith was very important to her. When she accepted Christ as her Lord and Savior, she shared the good news with her pastor. Soon after, she was baptized. "None of my family was there, **but God was there**," Joyce shared. "Jesus saved me from my sins and even with all the things that my father had done, with God's help, I was able to forgive him." Joyce found so much strength and love from her Heavenly Father. When The Methodist Home not only encouraged her in her faith but drove her to church every Sunday, she was very grateful.

"The Methodist Home restored my childhood," Joyce shared. But The Home gave her even more – a future. "I wanted to help children in our community just as I had been helped so I served in children's ministry in my church and helped in my community with children's projects," she shared. The support that Joyce and her sisters received was life-changing, and that support did not end when she left. It instilled in her the desire to make a difference in the lives of others.

"For all these years that The Methodist Home has been here, I can imagine all the lives that it's changed because I know how much it's changed my life. **The Methodist Home provided us with love, care, protection, an education, and everything we needed mentally, physically, and spiritually,**" she shared. Joyce found refuge in The Methodist Home, and she believes it continues to be an amazing organization restoring the lives of vulnerable children and youth.



Joyce and her husband Bruce on their wedding day!



Joyce and her family at Evening of Hope where she was recognized as our Alumni Spotlight!

Pictured (L-R): Joyce's daughter Kristi, her husband Brian, Guest Speaker Dale Murphy, Joyce Wood Grimes, and her sister Jill Henley.

Joyce reunites with Larry and Linda Brewer, almost 55 years after they helped her find The Home!

Pictured (L-R): Larry Brewer, Linda Brewer, and Joyce Wood Grimes.



CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

Thanks to the Trustees of the MF Hutchinson, Jr. Charitable Trust, five of our kids had the opportunity to attend Seacamp in Big Pine Key, Flordia! What an amazing experience for our kids! *Pictured with Director of Campus Life Sterling Royster and VP of Residential Services Cassandra High.*







Our boys from The Carpenter's Way Ranch enjoyed a Columbus Clingstones baseball game and participated in a Suicide Awareness and Prevention event!



One of our young men in Macon participated in the Labor Day Road Race! We love to see our kids do hard things and succeed!



Our Price Academy students hosted an art show! *Pictured: Price Academy Principal Dr. Anita Mathis presenting an award to a student for a winning artwork!*



Our youth celebrated their first day of school with a Prayer Breakfast! Chaplin Dr. Josh Gale prayed over our students and breakfast was served by our CEO, Alison Evans and Macon Residential Director Chelsea Fingal. *Pictured college students Farah (L) and Gracilynn (R) with CEO Alison Evans (C).*

Our girls in Americus went to the arcade and played laser tag! *Pictured with Assistant Director Elizabeth Moses (back left) and Regional Director Ella Jordan (front right).*





Our kids had the opportunity to lead educators from across Macon on a tour of campus and their cottages at our Open House!



Kid's from our Macon Campus had fun at the Lane Southern Orchard corn maze this fall!





We are so proud of one of our girls in Americus who got her driver's license!







Fair fun! Residents experienced the joy of the Georgia National Fair this fall! Thank you for helping us restore their childhoods!

Thank you for Blessing Our Kids!



Thank you to the **Central GA Association of Motorcyclists** for their faithful donation of school supplies for our kids!



Our friends at **Striplin Terrace UMC** made sure our Carpenter's Way boys had new backpacks for the new school year! *Pictured (L-R): church member Maxine Beall with resident Gary.*



Thank you so much to **The Bits & Pieces Quilting Group** for donating some beautiful quilts for our children and youth! *Pictured (L-R): Beryl and Fred Marshall.*



Thank you to **Danny Harrison and Friends** for making this shopping spree possible and a big shout out to the Kohl's team! *Pictured: The Methodist Home Youth with Macon Kohl's Manager Adonis Hood.*



Thanks to **Vineville UMC** for some fun fall activities and apple cider before leading worship with us!



Thanks to a very special donor, one of our graduated EMBRACE moms, Ingris, was able to purchase her first car!



Generous donors from **Boiling Springs Methodist Church** donated school supplies for our kids!



Thank you to **Martha Bowman Church (A Global Methodist Congregation)** for leading worship and playing games with our kids!



Members of the **Big Henry Board** dropped off a check from their annual Big Henry Golf Classic. We are so grateful for everything you do for our girls and boys!



Thank you to **The Flournoy Cares Foundation** for sponsoring a fishing trip for our youth! *Pictured with Human Service Professional Xavier McGee (C-R).*



Thank you to the **Tifton First Methodist Church Endowment Fund Committee** for blessing our ministry! *Pictured (L-R): President/CEO Alison Evans with Endowment Chairman Freddy Greer*



Thank you to **Harvest Church** for donating bikes for our kids! *Pictured church member Josh Cowart.*



Thank you to the congregation at **Christ UMC** in Bainbridge, Georgia for a generous offering of love! *Pictured (L-R): President/CEO Alison Evans with Rev. Melissa Traver*

2026 FISCAL YEAR

ANNUAL REPORT

"I have never experienced this much joy in my life."

-Resident on her experience at The Methodist Home

156 girls and boys served in residential homes across south Georgia

Supported **14** young adults in college and tech schools

104% Residential Achievement in all Performance Based Contracting standards

15 young people had the opportunity to travel out of state including trips to cities in both North Carolina and Florida

1 of our young men traveled to the Bahamas!

9 youth graduated from high school or obtained their GED

&

2 young adults graduated from college

17 sibling groups served through Residential and HOPE Foster Care

4 youth made a profession of faith through baptism

HOPE Foster Care
A ministry of The Methodist Home

106% achievement in Performance Based Contracting standards

3 children adopted from foster placements

Established **9** new foster homes

Eagle's Nest Children's Center – A Ministry of The Methodist Home

69 kids served at Eagle's Nest which maintained a **3-Star Quality Rating** (highest score)

A Ministry of The Methodist Home – SOAR: Shifting Overall Adversity into Readiness – Strengthening Young Families

Provided **1,272** hours of Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation

83% of employees feel spiritually engaged

68 church speaking engagements

17 community speaking engagements

10,500 hours of staff training

400 internal & external events hosted in the Rumford Center

LIGHTHOUSE for FAMILIES
A Ministry of The Methodist Home for Children and Youth

97% of Macon clients and ***100%*** of Columbus clients reported ***"I would come back if I needed help again."***

100% achievement of the Key Performance Indicators

644 clients served through Lighthouse for Families Community Counseling

92 clients served through our Intensive Family Visitation program

100% of clients in the Visitation Program reported that they, ***"gained knowledge and skills through participating in the program."***

CERTIFIED AND ACCREDITED

EAGLE

Platinum Transparency 2026 Candid.

Serving the Children and Families of Georgia

Nearly 1,000 children, families, and individuals have received various services across all locations over the last year

RESIDENTIAL CAMPUSES

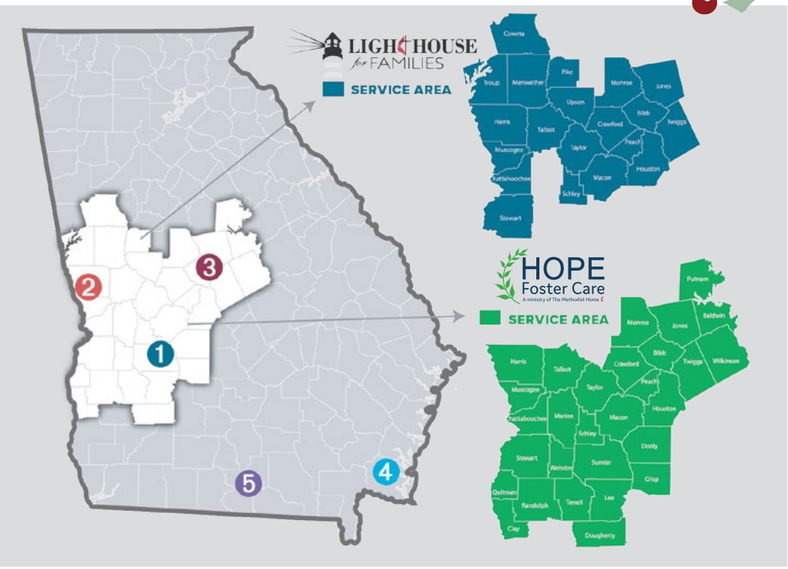
The Methodist Home in **AMERICUS** can serve 10 girls.
100 Mill Creek Rd, Americus, GA 31709
(229) 924-9550

The Carpenter's Way Ranch in **COLUMBUS** can serve 19 boys.
1645 Hunter Rd, Cataula, GA 31804
(706) 322-5406

The Methodist Home in **MACON** is the original campus and is available to serve up to 75 girls and boys.
304 Pierce Ave, Macon, GA 31204
(478) 751-2800

The Methodist Home in **ST. MARYS** can serve 10 boys.
3296 Winding Rd, St. Marys, GA 31558
(912) 882-7770

The Methodist Home in **VALDOSTA** can serve 10 girls.
2545 East Park Ave, Valdosta, GA 31605
(229) 247-5100



LIGHTHOUSE for FAMILIES – A Ministry of The Methodist Home for Children and Youth

HOPE Foster Care – A ministry of The Methodist Home

Eagle's Nest Children's Center – A Ministry of The Methodist Home

SOAR – A Ministry of The Methodist Home – Shifting Overall Adversity into Readiness – Strengthening Young Families

Tags of Hope Thrift Shoppe

FINANCIAL STATISTICS

THE METHODIST HOME OF THE SOUTH GEORGIA CONFERENCE, INC

FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2026

REVENUES	AMOUNT	PERCENT
Fees for Services	$ 7,853,484	46%
Contributions & Grants	$6,177,549	36%
Other Revenue	$944,814	5%
Endowment & Trust Revenue	$2,255,787	13%
TOTAL REVENUE	**$17,231,634**	

EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT	PERCENT
Program Services	$12,060,908	78%
Administrative Support	$2,751,216	18%
Fundraising	$690,177	4%
TOTAL EXPENSES	**$15,502,301**	
NET OPERATING SURPLUS	**$1,729,333***	

Fiscal Year 2026 Capital Purchases were $969,002

*Based on Unaudited Financial Statements at the time of publication.
**Excludes Depreciation Expense estimated to be $726,692.



*Friends from **Thomaston First Methodist Church** on a tour of The Carpenter's Way Ranch. They have taken two tours of our Macon Campus as well!*

We love welcoming members of the community onto our campuses for tours! If you would like to visit one of our campuses, please email us at Information@TheMethodistHome.org

CELEBRATIONS & TRIBUTES

ANNIVERSARIES (6/1/2026-9/30/2026)

SUSAN & TIM BAGWELL'S 50TH
David Blosser
Alan Fordham

GEORGE & DEBBIE LEE'S 52ND
George & Debbie Lee

CHARLES & JEANETTE MCADAMS'S 59TH
Charles & Jeanette McAdams

RETIREMENTS (6/1/2026-9/30/2026)

JIM COLE
Alison Evans

FRED MAYS
Joan & Vernon Keenan

BIRTHDAYS (6/1/2026-9/30/2026)

CAT BRYANT'S 100TH
Dr. & Mrs. Rick Lanford

CHRISTINE M. CLARK'S 90TH
Mr. & Mrs. William R. Clark

LYNDA HARBUCK'S 92ND
Ann Lanter

GRACE HENDLEY
George & Debbie Lee

JEANETTE MCADAMS
Charles McAdams

KELLY MCADAMS
Charles & Jeanette McAdams

SHANA MCADAMS
Charles & Jeanette McAdams

HAZEL MORRIS
George & Debbie Lee

GLEN NICKEL'S 90TH
David Blosser
Alan Fordham

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FOLLOW THE METHODIST HOME ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

@TMHSOUTHGA @THEMETHODISTHOME

HONOR GIFTS (6/1/2026-9/30/2026)

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Judge Leslie & Mr. Jimmie Gardner

REV. JIMMY ASBELL
Mr. & Mrs. Terry Henderson

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Morning Glories

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ANNA CATHERINE BRITT
Joy Circle
Morning Glories

BEN BROWN
Joy Circle
Morning Glories

PAYTON LEE CHADWICK
Joy Circle
Morning Glories

DR. EDWIN CHASE
Sherida Brannan

SHARI CLIFTON
Will Clifton
Jane Heying

BEVERLY ROSE CROSBY
John D. Crosby

FATHER'S DAY
Smithville Methodist Church

CAROL FOSTER
Sherie Moses

HADLEY FREEMAN
Joy Circle
Morning Glories

MINDY GANTT
Wes Kicklighter

LYMAN GORDY
Wadley First Methodist Women

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Margaret Gosden

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HOSANNA HANSON
Joy Circle
Morning Glories

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Leolene M. Tate

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Joyce Tucker

JOHNNY & LINDA HOLLAND
Peggy J. Gresham

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Sherida Brannan

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Robert Clyde Bowman

JACK PEARMAN LANE
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Morning Glories

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Sherida Brannan

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Sherida Brannan
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Terri Steele

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Tags of Hope THRIFT SHOPPE

Visit Tags of Hope Thrift Shoppe!

All of the proceeds directly support the kids in our care at The Methodist Home!

@TagsOfHopeThriftShoppe

3342 Vineville Ave, Macon, GA

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Sandra Mathis

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Jacalyn Wilson

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GIVE THE GIFT OF GIVING BACK!

When you donate to The Methodist Home, tell us who your gift is honoring, and they will receive a special card notifying them of your kind gift!

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APRIL 24, 2027

Featuring the music of
ON THE BORDER
THE ULTIMATE EAGLES TRIBUTE

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MEMORIAL GIFTS (6/1/2026-9/30/2026)

13TH ANNUAL

GOLF CLASSIC

BENEFITING OUR
St. Marys Campus

APRIL 11, 2027
THE CLUB AT OSPREY COVE

Contact Brian Yarbrough to learn more:
(478) 256-7122
Brian.Yarbrough@TheMethodistHome.org

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Matt, Shannon & Cali Trice
Mavis Trice
JAMES "JIM" T. TRICE
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Mavis Trice
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Billy & Teeny Lawless
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TOM WRIGHT
Billy & Teeny Lawless
LEROY YOUNG
Ellen Ratliff

CAPITAL NEEDS LIST

MACON CAMPUS:

Landscaping (Shrubs and Trees)	$25,000
Young Cottage Laundry Room Renovation	$10,000
Rumford Center Carpet Admin. Suites	$12,000
Peyton Anderson Cottage Roof Replacement	$45,000
Peyton Anderson Cottage Kitchen Renovation	$60,000
Collum Cottage Kitchen Renovation	$45,000
Sullivan Cottage Bedroom Furniture	$15,000
Smith Cottage Bedroom Furniture	$15,000
MACON TOTAL	**$227,000**

COLUMBUS CAMPUS:

Conference Room Table and Chairs	$7,500
COLUMBUS TOTAL	**$7,500**

ST. MARYS CAMPUS:

New Picnic Tables 4 each at $1,000	$4,000
ST. MARYS TOTAL	**$4,000**

VALDOSTA CAMPUS:

Furniture for Regional Office Foyer	$3,000
Concrete Driveway Replacement	$15,000
VALDOSTA TOTAL	**$18,000**

AMERICUS CAMPUS:

New Gutters for Cottage	$8,000
AMERICUS TOTAL	**$8,000**

LIGHTHOUSE FOR FAMILIES:

Stripe Parking Lot (Columbus)	$3,000
Waiting Room Furniture (Columbus)	$10,000
Renovate Downstairs Client Bathroom (Macon)	$10,000
New Upstairs Flooring (Macon)	$30,000
LIGHTHOUSE FOR FAMILIES TOTAL	**$53,000**

HOPE FOSTER CARE:

Transportation Vehicle	$42,000
HOPE FOSTER CARE TOTAL	**$42,000**
ORGANIZATION TOTAL	**$359,500**



Thank you to **MerServe**, a Mercer University service club, for coming out and helping us organize items for our thrift store, Tags of Hope!

VOLUNTEER WITH US!

If your school, organization, office, club, or church needs community service opportunities, consider volunteering with The Methodist Home!

For more information about volunteer opportunities, contact Diane Gilliam at 475-751-2879 or Diane.Gilliam@TheMethodistHome.org



Thank you to **team members from Blue Bird** who volunteered their time to paint in one of our administrative buildings!

A LIFE CHANGED FOR CHRIST

BUBBA GREEN
Executive Vice President
The Foundation of The Methodist Home



Recently, I had the opportunity to witness a young student make a profession of faith in Jesus Christ and be baptized. As I have reflected on this moment, my heart is full of gratitude for a life changed and an organization whose focus is on restoring childhoods as a response to Christ and the Church. In Acts 20:35, the Apostle Paul addressed the church of Ephesus and stated, "In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

The Foundation of The Methodist Home is supported in multiple ways by a community of donors. Some gifts, such as online donations or gifts of appreciated assets like stocks or real estate, have an immediate impact on those we serve. Other gifts, like charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, or other planned giving methods, help us prepare to meet future needs of The Home. The Joseph Company initiative was established years ago as a strategic effort to help us meet tomorrow's needs. This legacy-giving option stems from the story of Joseph in the book of Genesis. Joseph was given wisdom to interpret Pharaoh's dreams of seven years of plenty to be followed by seven years of famine. By participating in this giving program, donors commit to an annual gift of $1,200 for seven years. These donations enable The Foundation to build resources for those boys, girls, and families we will serve in the decades to come. Every gift toward this initiative strengthens The Foundation to fulfill the ministry of The Home.

If you would like to learn more about becoming a supporter of The Foundation of The Methodist Home, please contact Bubba Green, Executive Vice President, at (706) 536-1070 or Bubba@foundationmch.org.

Pictured (L-R): Residential Director Kerry Glenn, Young Life Leader Nick Bruner, Resident Gary, Volunteer & Mentor Allen Levi, Rev. Lynn Meadows-White.



The Methodist Home
for Children & Youth
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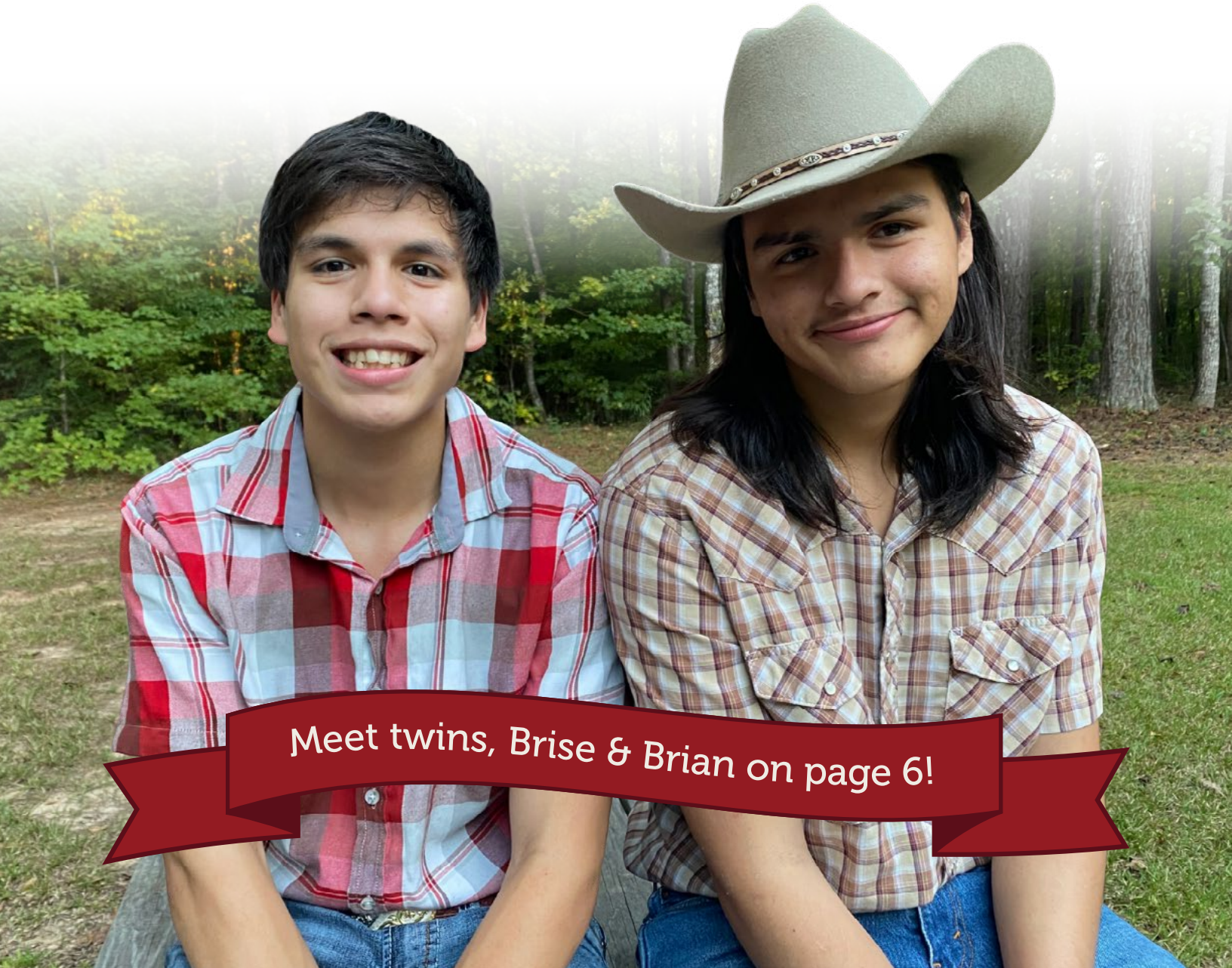
Once you have finished reading, share our ministry with your neighbors, friends, & family!



Meet twins, Brise & Brian on page 6!