Summer 2023 Edition

My HOME

A Publication of Baptist Homes & Healthcare Ministries

Rewriting the Standard of Christlike Care

Wilma Wilson: A Heart of Praise and Gratitude

Yvonne Swadley: Missing Pieces

Not Just Neighbors They're Family

Do not cast me away when I am old; do not forsake me when my strength is gone. Psalms 71:9 NIV

BAPTIST HOMES HEALTHCARE Ministries

PROVIDING CHRISTLIKE CARE FOR THE AGING SINCE 1913

A MINISTRY OF THE MISSOURI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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From the Presidents

Fulfilling Our Pur

When visitors walk onto the campuses at Arcadia Valley, Chillicothe or Ozark, they often share insights and impressions such as "this is delightfully different than other nursing homes." Having worked in long-term care since the late 1970s, I can attest to the fact that these Baptist Homes campuses are a step above when it comes to the Christlike compassionate care they provide to our residents. These campuses attest to our commitment of "making Christlike ministry the standard of care for the aging."

I recently made an unscheduled visit to our Independence campus. By way of background, Baptist Homes purchased the former Truman Gardens nursing home in June 2021. Previously, the home had been owned by three for-profit corporations during its 42 years of operations. When leaving that afternoon, I excitedly called my wife and said, "I just left the Baptist Homes of Independence campus." Her response was, "So?" This time I said, "I just left THE BAPTIST HOMES of Independence." My excitement was driven by an impression that the campus felt like a Baptist Home – from the front desk to the care provided and the activities offered. The transition took almost two years, and that day I gave thanks to the Lord for His gracious work through the dedicated staff of healthcare professionals. Independence finally felt like a Baptist Homes campus.

In 2013, while a professor at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, I was privileged to research the question, "Why do people leave the church?" The top response among former church members was, "We didn't sense God's presence anymore." While somewhat subjective, I believe that God's presence is important and is likely what sets the Baptist Homes apart from most other senior adult communities. God's presence is demonstrated through the care provided, the prayers that precede most meetings, and the schedule of activities designed to support the physical, emotional, and spiritual health of our residents.

Scripture speaks of the omnipresence of God in passages such as Psalm 139:7-8: *Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!* This

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Desk

pose Through His Presence

understanding is central to understanding the attributes of God. It is also reassuring to know that even when we mess up, we are never beyond His reach.

Scripture also speaks of God's manifest presence in passages such as Jeremiah 29:13: "*You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart,*" and James 4:8 "*Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.*" One of the ways we seek God and find Him is through prayer. I believe prayer daily impacts this ministry. I count it an honor and privilege to pray for our campuses daily, and I take great encouragement from knowing countless others are praying for the Baptist Homes each day.

In Exodus 33:15, Moses boldly says to the LORD, "If Your presence does not go with us, do not lead us up from here." Those words echo my heart for Baptist Homes. If God's presence is not with the Baptist Homes, our communities are practicing futility.

This issue focuses on our vision of making Christlike ministry the standard of care for the aging. Here are seven ways you can help make this dream come true:

1) Pray for our campus administrators. These men and women are at the frontline of service. Ask God to grant our administrators wisdom, understanding, and discernment that honors God.
2) Serve as a volunteer. We are so very thankful for the missional service of volunteers who give of their time and talents to make our campuses a better place for our residents.
3) Write letters of encouragement to our residents and staff. A personal letter expressing your interest in their welfare or appreciation for service makes a difference.
4) Refer others to *MyHome* magazine. We love to share what God is doing through this ministry.
5) Pray about serving on the Baptist Homes board or an advisory committee. For more information about board or committee service, contact desk@bhhm.org. We will be happy to send you information about how the process works.
6) Encourage your church or small group to host a Virtual Dementia Experience workshop.
7) Honor a family member, friend or pastor through a memorial gift at www.thebaptisthome.org/donate.

Making ***Christlike ministry*** *the* ***standard of care*** *for the* ***aging.***

BAPTIST HOMES
HEALTHCARE
Ministries

Rewriting the

We've used the phrase "rewriting the standard of Christlike care" frequently over the past few years. What does that mean? How is that applied in a real-time context in the life of our residents and their families?

First, Baptist Homes & Healthcare Ministries has, from its very earliest days, been a ministry whose goal has been to care for people as Christ would. Be it Dr. Milford & Mary Riggs' dream of caring for pastors who had no means to care for themselves as they aged, or Dr. D.J. Scott's tenacious struggle to keep the ministry alive and find a way to keep it solvent in the future. There has always been a commitment to care for residents and to do so in the name of Christ. When we use the phrase "rewriting the standard of Christlike care", it is not an indictment of the past but rather a challenge to the present to remain focused on our heritage and to live out that calling in today's context. Many "faith-based", not-for-profit, long-term healthcare ministries have long since given up their Christlike commitment and character. Today, for many of these ministries, their name is the only Christlike aspect of their work, as they've drifted farther and farther away from their original calling. We are seeking to hold ourselves accountable to our calling to care as Christ would care.

Second, the call to being the Christlike standard of care for the aging requires a fresh, insightful, and knowledgeable understanding of the present realities in which we seek to apply a rock-solid Christian commitment. Healthcare in general, and long-term care in particular, has changed dramatically in the past decade. The long-term impact of COVID-19 is still to be fully understood, but we are in a very different world than we once were.

One of the best examples of this new reality is the escalating and troublesome issue of temporary nursing agencies. These agencies provide nursing staff at the last minute for difficult-to-fill shifts, largely to ensure that facilities remain in compliance with Federal and State guidelines. While I don't want to denigrate those who serve in this capacity, it has been our experience that such short-term staff have no way to know, understand, and truly minister to our elderly residents. In the world of long-term care, long-tenured, caring staff who are the hands and feet of Jesus are absolutely essential.

Another challenge in the field of nursing is the lack of instruction and training in the field of gerontology - care

Standard of Christlike Care

for the elderly. In some nursing programs, a student can graduate with no instruction on the care of the aging or even experience serving an aging person.

So, with a thankful eye to our past, from which we have been given the challenge to care as Christ would care, and a watchful eye on an ever-shifting future horizon, how do we rewrite the standard of Christlike care for today and the near future?

First, we maintain, improve, and further empower the role of campus pastors at each of our locations. The original Baptist Homes campus pastor was Dr. Milford Riggs, who amidst every other detail was focused on the spiritual well-being of those in his care. Today, Dr. David Sundeen, vice president of organizational culture and care, directly supervises all of our campus pastors. In this role, he leads in developing several soul-care initiatives which involve such things as ensuring that a spiritual activity or event occurs each day on our campuses. He is also leading our campus pastors to continue to learn and hone their craft as pastors. Today, we are working to ensure that each of our campus pastors are endorsed by the North American Mission Board as chaplains. Also, our campus pastors are working on certification for Clinical Pastoral Education. These foci will enable our campus pastors to rewrite the standard of Christlike care on their campuses.

A second way we are rewriting the standard of Christlike care is in raising up our own staff, especially nursing staff. As you've likely heard by now, the nursing profession is in a state of crisis. Since the advent of COVID-19, 500,000 people have left the nursing profession. Finding, hiring, and keeping staff is a significant issue facing Baptist Homes.

To address this, we are embarking on improving and advancing our effort to raise up our own staff. Many years ago, former Baptist Homes President Ed Goodwin and his wife, Joy, established a scholarship fund with the intent of assisting young, inexperienced staff to grow in their field of service for the Baptist Homes. Today, we have an annual fundraising drive to raise funds specifically for Nursing Professional Development. We are partnering with our MBC-affiliated universities to provide avenues for such training.

The focus of these two opportunities is to "call out the called" who will care for aging humanity. Rather than complaining about nursing shortages and the challenges of dealing with temporary nursing agencies, we are seeking to build up the next generation of caregivers who will rewrite the standard of Christlike care.

So, when you read the phrase "rewriting the standard of Christlike care", please know we make this claim with a humble understanding that we are standing on the shoulders of those who faithfully served before us, and we are seeking to hold ourselves accountable to the task today and into the future.

If you would like to learn more about how you can join us in rewriting the standard of Christlike care for the aging, please reach out to me or Dr. David Sundeen–we would love to have that conversation with you at your convenience.

Dr. Ron Mackey, Vice President, Community Engagement

Our Promise

At Baptist Homes & Healthcare Ministries, we address the challenges of growing older by providing Christlike care that pleases God, minimizes fear, and maximizes peace of mind for you and your loved ones.

A Heart of Praise *and*

Not all dinner rolls are the same. Some rolls are so soft you could fall into them, while others underperform, their flavor as flat as crackers. The store-bought variety, in general, are practically pointless—empty carbs that serve little purpose beyond filling one corner of the stomach—except for the Hawaiian kind, which brings its fair share of sugar to the dinner table.

But now and then, you're blessed enough to bite into the type of roll that must have inspired heavenly manna itself. This roll is different: wholesome and thick, sweet and almost nutty, it reminds us why God gave us bread in the first place. The master roll barely even needs butter. Somehow, it satisfies not just the body but also the soul; a comfort food that still feels clean and worth eating again and again.

Wilma Wilson knows about rolls; they're one of her gifts. She's not the kind of person to spread herself too thin or do a mediocre job at a thousand bland and unfulfilling tasks. Instead, she prefers to be a specialist. She's spent a lifetime perfecting a handful of specific skills until she could perform each with artisan magnificence. Everyone who knows her is better for it, because Wilma loves to share her gifts with others by enhancing their days with the work of her hands.

First, of course, there are those marvelous rolls. As soon as Wilma moved into the Baptist Homes of Ozark in April 2011 as an "Outbacker," the entire campus began to taste her breads as she baked generously for just about everyone. She learned the recipe from her mother. She never knew how her mother got ahold of it - whether she'd simply invented magic or received it as an inheritance slowly chiseled into shape over the course of generations. The only thing Wilma is stingy about sharing is the secret ingredient. She hasn't passed the recipe down, even to her own daughter. For now, they're still simply Wilma's rolls; it's not yet time to let them sneak into anyone else's oven.

Sadly, though, Wilma doesn't have her own oven anymore. She moved into our main facility in September 2017, and while she found both companionship and assistance in her new home, she no longer had a kitchen. Thankfully, the change wasn't a complete tragedy. Strangely enough, Wilma never actually liked cooking—she only enjoyed baking rolls! Since her big move, she's learned to expand her interests a little, as she makes sure to attend every food activity. Now she dabbles in baking other types of sweets and even making candy with fellow residents, and she'd be lying if she said she didn't like it.

Rolls are simply the beginning of Wilma's creativity. She learned to crochet when she was 25. For many years, she focused on making afghans and scarves. Eventually, however, she decided that washcloths and coasters are her true passion.

To this day, she continues to crochet them in matching sets, then lines them up on the shelves outside the activity room at Baptist Homes and sets a price. Staff, residents, and visitors alike all buy Wilma's beautiful washcloths and coasters, and the money from the sales goes into her resident account to spend as she likes. Every time she designs

Gratitude

Wilma Wilson at a ladies bible study.

another beautiful piece, she isn't simply whittling away her hours and days in a meaningless hobby. She's adding spots of color and brightness to someone else's home while maintaining some financial independence—and the dignity that goes with it—for herself.

It's just as important to Wilma to design each of her outfits like a work of art. Her sense of professionalism and respect, not vanity, drives her. She puts on her Sunday best every single day of the week, as if she's going out to the orchestra or a lady's tea. Everything matches: her blouses and skirts, earrings and necklaces, socks and shoes, and even the smile that perfectly complements the loveliness of her clothes.

When Wilma reads in the Scriptures that God is a God of order, something inside her resonates. As the years pass, she refuses to surrender to sloppiness and chaos. For her, spending the whole day in her pajamas would be like wearing a white flag, like giving up on her desire to keep greeting the world with readiness and spirit. Every morning, she's careful to put on her makeup and choose an outfit that makes her feel feminine and put together so she can embrace this new day that God Himself has set before her.

Her experience of God's grace in her life inspires Wilma to keep pursuing Him relentlessly. She's faithful to attend church services twice a week, along with Sunday school and Bible study. Spirituality fills every corner of Wilma's life; she looks for God in the ordinary moments, not just when she's sitting on pews or singing along to a hymnal.

One of her favorite ways to express her faith is by spending time with other residents during activities. The book of 1 John states that one of the definitive proofs of being a Christian is expressing love for others, and Wilma takes the mission of love seriously. To her, it's no small task to talk with her neighbors and show that she cares about their interests and feelings. These are people whom Jesus died for. They matter, and loving them is holy work that makes Wilma feel connected and saturates her life with joy.

Wilma Wilson is a treasure, and everyone at the Baptist Homes knows it. She reminds her community to do each task in front of them with excellence while staying committed to godliness and good works. No one knows which ingredients she puts in her signature rolls, but the recipe for her sweet spirit is no secret. Everything good in her comes straight from Jesus. Wilma knows that she's loved, that she's His, that she's special to God—and for her, that's enough. She could crochet a hundred thousand garments of praise and still have more gratitude inside her.

The Role of the *Campus Pastor*

The Campus Pastor role at each Baptist Homes & Healthcare Ministries (BHHM) campus is a genuine and truly unique expression of service to our vision and purpose: To please God and help others do the same while making Christlike care the new standard in eldercare.

"Every hospital has a chaplain, every hospice too; they're required to by law. Sadly, very few nursing homes offer anything close to the shepherding care provided by our BHHM campus pastors. This [position] is not a legal requirement and it IS very expensive, so, for many, soul care is not a high enough priority to merit real investment." – Dr. David Sundeen, VP, organizational culture and care, BHHM.

Holistic (and spiritual) health as an idea is easy to celebrate, but practicing and living up to this level of purposeful care is another thing entirely. Viewed from our human perspective, this care is very costly and these are murky waters with few tangible outcomes. Mental, emotional, and spiritual health is hidden beneath the surface–an intangible with few concrete markers to use as guideposts.

As God said to Samuel, "Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks into the heart." What is evident and of utmost importance to God is mysterious and easy to overlook by men. Investing ministry energy and resources into our campus pastors is our way of seeking to rectify this human shortcoming and truly love the souls under our care.

A summary review of the Campus Pastor expectations and job description highlights the efforts Dr. Sundeen and his team go to in serving this ministry calling. In addition to campus residents, each campus pastor is responsible for ministry to campus staff, resident families, and even the surrounding community. Beyond planning church services and arranging for daily spiritual development opportunities, this pastoral care also includes annual spiritual assessments, campus staff support, counseling, cheerleading, support to local churches and regional associations–and the list goes on. Much effort has been made to make the intangible tangible because Baptist Homes takes our sanctity-of-life calling seriously.

> *"God is* ***never*** *through with us in our spiritual lives, this is why we remain focused on offering discipleship at* ***every waypoint of life."***
>
> - Dr. David Sundeen

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Healthcare Heroes

WOW!

Arcadia Valley Campus

Emily Jarvis, LPN

Emily Jarvis is an LPN that is approaching her 1-year anniversary at the Arcadia Valley campus. She is a delight to work with and always comes in with a smiling attitude. She strives everyday here to bring joy and Christlike care to both the residents and the team members that she touches. Outside of the Home, Emily has a strong love for the rodeo and her equestrian companions. We cannot thank her enough for the time and love she has dedicated to this Home and the people we serve.

Chillicothe Campus

Steven Moseley, Campus Pastor

Steve Moseley has been the Campus Pastor at the Chillicothe campus for over 5 years. He loves the residents and enjoys serving them as their pastor. As the Chillicothe campus goes through a transition of becoming a senior living community focusing on independent and assisted living, Steve is excited about the new opportunities this will bring for his ministry. If your church or groups would like to be a part of this ministry, Steve would love to hear from you!

Independence Campus

Tami Stoudt , CMT

Tami Stoudt has dedicated her work at the Independence Campus for 7 years as a Certified Medical Technician. She always comes in with a smile on her face, listens to the residents, and helps above and beyond everyone's expectations. We would like to thank her for lovable personality, patience, and commitment to our residents.

Ozark Campus

Randy Simmon, CNA

Meet our AMAZING Randy. Randy has been at the Ozark Campus for almost two years. Randy started in our housekeeping department, but found he missed being a Certified Nursing Assistant and transferred to the nursing department. Randy can be found most days when working sitting at the piano in the dining room playing tunes for the residents as they eat their meals. Randy also fills in as the piano player for Wednesday afternoon service when needed. Randy loves his residents and would do anything for them. Randy will often use his meal break to run to the store for residents and buy them special food treats upon request. Randy loves to pray with the residents and cares for them in such a Christlike way. He is a true example of our mission statement. He loves to have fun with the residents and enjoys helping out in the activity department just to spread his "sunshine-like" personality. Randy is a true advocate for the residents at the Ozark Campus. Thank you, Randy, for all you do.

CAMPUS

Follow us on Facebook for weekly campus photos! www.facebook.com/thebaptisthome

Christlike Love for the Aging **Includes Christlike Love for Our Nurses**

The U.S. population is aging. In 2029, the last of the baby boomer generation will reach retirement age. This will result in a 73% increase in Americans 65 years of age and older.[1] There are currently more people aged 65 and older than children under five years old globally.[2] As the U.S. population ages, the need for healthcare services will increase. For Baptist Homes & Healthcare Ministries, this means a bright future of caring for the aging.

The challenge amid this future of American aging is a national shortfall of professional nursing caregivers. Long-term healthcare systems like Baptist Homes are acutely feeling the burden of recruiting and retaining nurses.

Baptist Homes & Healthcare Ministries (BHHM) continues a vision that was born in the hearts of Milford and Mary Riggs when they opened the doors of The Baptist Home in Ironton, MO on May 6, 1913. The vision of caring for the aging with Christlike love continues to be the heart of our mission today. So, how will Baptist Homes continue to attain its mission of making Christlike love the standard of care in these challenging days of professional nursing care shortages?

1. **BHHM celebrates and thanks God for our nurses.** Christlike care for the aging happens through the Christlike care of our nursing staff. BHHM nurses are the heart and hands of our ministry. We are blessed with compassionate, hard-working, professional nurses that care every day for over 300 residents entrusted to BHHM care. We applaud and celebrate this incredible gift of healthcare practitioners.
2. **Recruitment and retention of nurses is one of BHHM's top priorities.** Discovering new nurses and keeping our current workforce of nursing professionals is of the utmost concern. Two of the ways we are staying competitive in this effort include offering above-average industry compensation and encouraging and equipping our nursing staff with paid training, education, and professional development opportunities.
3. **"Heart and Hand Fund"** - BHHM just completed the second annual "Heart and Hand" days of giving. During the National Week of Nurses in May, donors helped us to raise money to provide and build a fund that honors, encourages, and disciples our nursing staff with professional development. The Heart and Hand Fund is used to recruit and train Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs). It assists current CNAs with scholarships that wish to move forward professionally to become Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) and/or Registered Nurses (RNs). It supports RNs getting specialized training and education to further their leadership and caregiving skills. The "Heart and Hand Fund" is a strategy that is helping us to accomplish the goal of recruiting and retaining nurses that reflect Christlike love.

[1]https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK493175/
[2]https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/ageing#:~:text=Trends%20in%20Population%20Ageing&text=In%202018%2C%20for%20the%20first,to%20426%20million%20in%202050.

4. **Thank You!** If you have given to the "Heart and Hand Fund", thank you! If you would like to give to this fund, you may do so electronically at www.thebaptisthome.org/donate. Or, you may send a check to Baptist Homes at PO Box 390, Jefferson City, MO 65102. Please designate your donation as a gift to the "Heart and Hand Fund". If you have questions, please contact me at ndavis@bhhm.org or call me at 573-822-4319.
5. **PRAY.** Please pray for our nurses. Ask the Lord to train, prepare, and use them to be a loving presence in their caregiving. Ask the Lord to raise up a new generation of nurses to care for the aging on our campuses and beyond. If Baptist Homes can be of encouragement to you, your church, or your association in the care for the aging and recruitment of nurses, please do not hesitate to ask.

In John 13:34-35, Jesus encourages and commissions the disciples before his arrest and crucifixion with these words. *"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."* Christlike love for the aging includes Christlike love for our nurses.

Nick Davis, Director of Advancement

Upcoming Events

Join Us!

Ashland Golf Tournament

August 25, 2023
Tanglewood Golf Course
Fulton, MO

(Four-Person scramble)
Church Team - $300
Corporate Team - $400
Register by: Aug. 18

Ozark Golf Tournament

September 22, 2023
Rivercut Golf Course
Springfield, MO

(Four-Person scramble)
Church Team - $300
Corporate Team - $400
Register by: Sept. 15

Trap Shoot Tournament

September 9, 2023
Kansas City Trap Association
Smithville, MO

Sporting Clay Tournament

October 14, 2023
Ozark Shooters
Walnut Shade, MO

For more information:

BHHM Community Engagement
desk@bhhm.org
866.454.2709

OR

Nick Davis
ndavis@bhhm.org
573.822.4319

Not Just Neighbors... *They're Family*

Debbie Boswell

If you see someone scurrying around Baptist Home's Arcadia Valley campus, don't worry. It's just Debbie.

"They're all used to me being bubbly, excited, and running 90 miles an hour," said the aforementioned Debbie. "'There goes Debbie!' they say."

Debbie is Debbie Boswell, the activities director at Arcadia Valley. As someone who is in contact with neighbors every single day, it's her job to create and provide activities based on the residents' needs to help ensure everyone has a chance to have a little bit of fun injected into their day.

It's a role Boswell had to grow into, but one she loves and feels God prepared her for. She was working at an area restaurant 15 years ago, when she began to feel like God had different plans for her.

"I think God decided I'd been there way too long and He wanted me somewhere else," she said.

She began searching for a new opportunity and soon submitted an application at The Baptist Home. She began in housekeeping in 2008, moved to the social services department after a few years, and later was asked to take on the activities director role she now holds – and loves.

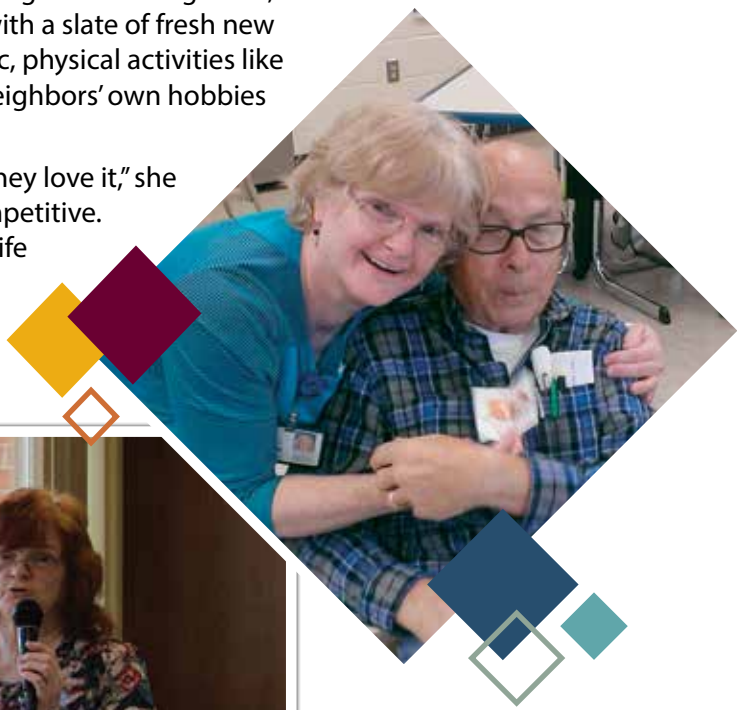
"The neighbors are my favorite part," she said. "They're all so different, and all so special. They try to give much more than I can give them. I don't mean gifts; I mean encouragement, hugs, and kind words."

While Boswell may not be able to give as much as she gets from neighbors, it's not for lack of effort. She's constantly working to come up with a slate of fresh new ideas, whether it's making valentines, painting, music, physical activities like adapting Winter Olympic games, or incorporating neighbors' own hobbies and interests.

"They'll come out and tell you they can't paint, but they love it," she said. "We love games and they never stop being competitive. We're all different and come from different walks of life and have different things we like to do. So I would say that's the challenge: just making sure I have a pretty good variety of things."

Another challenge can be making sure each activity is accessible and doable for all neighbors, so Boswell adapts them and tailors them to each resident, even if they feel like they might have limitations.

"Sometimes it's maybe something that they really don't feel they can do,



Top: Debbie with resident, Harold in 2016.
Bottom: Debbie explaining the rules to a scavenger hunt in 2018.

Resident Mary and Debbie "herd cattle" during an activity in 2020.

but then they get out there and they find out that it's kind of been adjusted to meet their needs. It doesn't even have to be something that we're good at; just something we enjoy and improves our quality of life."

Boswell said it's a rewarding role, especially when she gets to see neighbors thrive and begins to see them as her own family.

"I look forward to every day because it's always exciting," she said. "I have one neighbor who waits for me to come to my office just about every morning. We sit, sometimes read the Bible or do devotions, and share. I love each and every one of them. They're not just neighbors to me, they're all family."

Boswell Leads Activities at Baptist Homes of Arcadia Valley with Energy, Love

Baptist Homes
& HEALTHCARE MINISTRIES

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Yvonne Swadley:

Yvonne Swadley

There's nothing more satisfying than finally pushing a puzzle piece in place after a long, long search. And there's nothing more frustrating than finishing a puzzle you've worked on for quite some time, only to realize a few of the pieces are missing. An almost-masterpiece that still holds a few dark spots of absence; a mystery you can never wrap your mind around.

Yvonne Swadley loves puzzles. She loves them so much, in fact, that they don't all fit on the shelf she bought to store them. Ten are stacked in the corner, and several others are wedged under the bed. A long search followed by satisfaction; a question that comes with a perfectly crafted answer at the end.

Yvonne knows a lot about questions. For many Christians, the truth can only be black and white: everything is perfect; everything is wonderful. For Yvonne, however, it's okay to acknowledge both the highs and the lows, while still proclaiming that God is good.

The missing pieces in her own life puzzle still bring an ache she can't always ignore. So she clicks together gorgeous landscapes, piece by piece, building beauty on her coffee table like a shaft of light into the darkness.

From Belief to Complete Surrender

Yvonne grew up in Clever, Missouri, about 20 miles west of Baptist Homes of Ozark. Her family raised her in the Baptist church, and she was saved at the age of 13.

As she matured into adulthood, Yvonne grew restless for a deeper encounter with Jesus, realizing that she was only going through the motions of religious observance. She knew that mere belief in God was only the beginning of the full, abundant life Jesus offered, so she made it right and devoted herself completely to Him.

It's no wonder, then, that she married the son of the minister, who went on to spend his entire adult life serving as a Baptist minister himself. Over the years, they moved from church to church, everywhere from Conway and Fordham to Mountain Grove. They had two sons and were married for 39 years. For a while, anyway, the picture was complete.

Meanwhile, Jesus took Yvonne's full surrender and turned it into a calling to invest in kids. She worked for Head Start for over 35 years, mostly as a teacher, and eventually as a director. After retiring, she served as a foster grandparent, even as her kids gave her five wonderful grandchildren of her own.

God blessed her and cared for her at every step, and she had much to be grateful for. But life had a certain heaviness to it, too. Yvonne was aging—and she was alone.

Coming Home—All Alone

Yvonne's husband was no longer with her, so she'd had to learn to manage on her own. Back when Baptist Homes of Ozark first opened in 1996, she thought it would be a great place to go whenever she needed it. Now she was beginning to wonder if that time was close. In 2016, she went through cancer, and in 2017 she had a knee replaced. Knowing it might take a few years to get in, Yvonne put in her application.

She's been a resident at Baptist Homes for two years now. She likes it here; the staff is kind, and the only problem she can think of is that she doesn't care for boiled shrimp. But otherwise, the food is great, and the staff gives her seconds of the cornbread when she asks so she can enjoy it with milk as an evening treat.

As fantastic as the food is, eating isn't much to live for. Yvonne doesn't get many visitors. It isn't safe for her sister to drive anymore, since she's been in two near-wrecks, so Yvonne tells her not to come. They make do by talking on the phone all the time. The resident across the hall was recently joined by her husband, and they obviously care about each other very much.

As for Yvonne's husband, he has simply become one more missing piece.

Pine Cones, Beauty, and the Goodness of God

Yvonne sees beauty even in incomplete pictures. Before becoming a preacher, her husband sang in revivals. Both of her boys grew up singing, too. The younger one also played the piano, and his kids became singers just like him. She's proud of their talent and thankful for a life filled with melody.

They aren't the only creative ones in the family. When Yvonne isn't reading or participating in group activities, she sews and makes crafts. She and her son planted a row of pine trees beside his house when he first moved in. That was 31 years ago. Now she cuts up pine cones collected from his yard to make Christmas wreaths. She uses nail polish to paint them, since the brush is small, and it gives them a metallic look perfect for December magic.

There's nowhere Yvonne would rather be—except possibly for the new assisted living apartments they'll be constructing soon on the Ozark campus. She already has her name on the list to get in, since she thinks it would be fun to get back into cooking.

Even if she stays at the main facility, Yvonne knows she made the right choice moving to Baptist Homes. She advises anyone beginning the aging process to start thinking about what you're going to do early, before you desperately need to make a decision. It's important to prepare and at least get a conversation going with a facility. Filling out an application doesn't mean you have to move right away, as you can always say you're not ready yet. Many places, like Baptist Homes of Ozark, have a waiting list. The sooner you get your name on the list, the better.

Faith in the Waiting

Yvonne has watched some Christians grow bitter at God over the years. Despite her own loneliness and loss, all she can say is, "God's been good to me. I've been really blessed; everything's gone well."

Pain is hard to interpret, hard to come to grips with. Yvonne doesn't always know what purpose God has planned for this season in her life. But even with her missing pieces, she radiates a deep, true beauty that doesn't need any explanation. Yvonne Swadley is God's work of art, her heart faithful through suffering, her whole life still devoted to Christ.

Maybe she'll get more visitors soon, or maybe angels themselves will one day come calling. Either way, she'll be here, ready with love and a pine cone wreath for anyone who walks in. She's seen too much glory in this fractured life to ever give up on beauty, hope, and love.

Missing Pieces

Campus Updates

ADRIAN CAMPUS

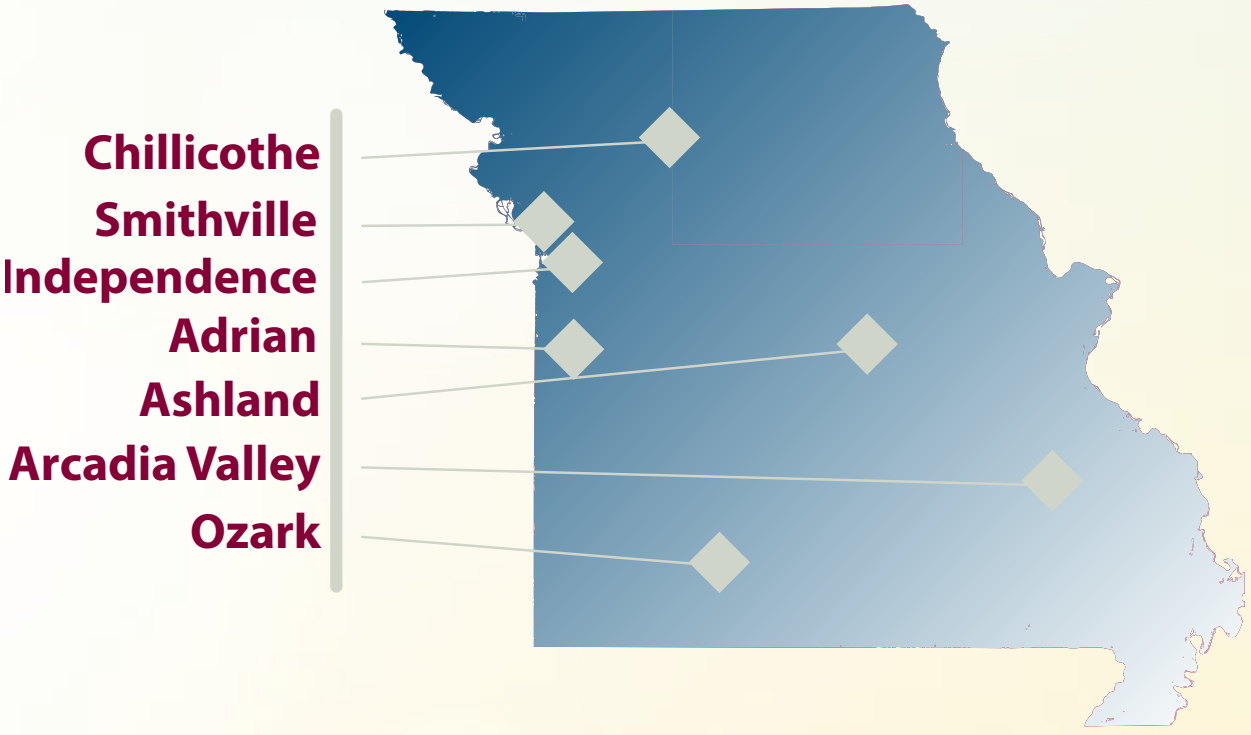
Skilled Nursing Building: Kitchen and generator installation are our last big projects! Hallelujah!!! The generator arrived earlier this month and electricians have been hired to install it. We continue to wait on parts that were ordered in October. They have started trenching electrical to connect the generator to the building so we can have a concrete pad poured for the generator's permanent home. We also have a long list of smaller projects to complete: refinishing doors, installing door hardware, deep cleaning, unpacking boxes, some furniture assembly, resident room/office setups, touch-up painting, unpacking the storage container, landscaping, and power washing sidewalks/patios. Volunteers are welcome!

Independent Living: Installation of the sprinkler system and new firewall is nearing completion which will leave just a few remaining tasks. We are excited to introduce a new full-time employee Rachel Ratje, CNA. We are so excited to be nearing the end of our major construction - there's a light at the end of the tunnel towards getting our skilled nursing facility and assisted living facility licensed. Please pray for us as we search for a Director of Nursing and Certified Dietary Manager as well as the wisdom and guidance to bring us to the point of getting our home completed and ready for occupancy.

INDEPENDENCE CAMPUS

We would like to welcome the following new staff members to our team: Ty Page, Administrator; Gabriel Arroyo, Business Office; Ronda Greene, Director of Nursing; Tyson Branizor, Campus Pastor; Sharon Gray, LPN; Jewell Davis, Yolanda Robinson, and Canada Turner, CNAs. We would also like to welcome aboard to the team, Hope Goodwin, Director of Environmental Services Engineer, and congratulate Carol Johnson on transferring to her new position in Activities. We appreciate everyone's commitment to the residents and Baptist Homes of Independence.

We are seeking donations for Bingo and other games. Please contact Activities Director, Crystal Marron, if you would like to make a donation.



ARCADIA VALLEY CAMPUS

Our neighbors and team members enjoyed lots of activities and fun times in the spring. We had trips to look at the dogwoods and red buds blooming in our area, to visit the Battle of Pilot Knob State Historic Site Museum and Fort Davidson, and to shop. The highlight was a visit from the BSU at Missouri University of Science and Technology at Rolla.

As the weather warmed up, we were able to do more outside - taking walks, planting seeds for flowers, and vegetables to be transplanted to our flower beds and elevated beds. In May, we had a week of fun celebrating national "National Long-Term Care Week." Every day had a different theme, special activities and we culminated with a big picnic outside in our parking lot for all the neighbors and team members.

We are always looking for groups or individuals that want to come and volunteer on our campus, either helping with special projects, spending time with the neighbors, helping with crafts, or leading our neighbors in worship and song.

ASHLAND CAMPUS

The residents decided to host their own Super Bowl party. It was a big success. They were able to use one of the empty rooms in the congregant building as they enjoyed the game and the fellowship.

Residents are finding ways to connect with one another by organizing activities themselves. For instance, on February 14th, nearly all of the residents went out for brunch at Big Mama's in Columbia.

Staff continue to provide activities as well. Ken & Dale booked some local musicians for Thursday, 02/16, at 11:00 am. When they came in to set up, they played from 9:30 am to Noon. The residents absolutely loved them. Soup and sandwiches were served afterward.

CHILLICOTHE CAMPUS

As of June 1, 2023, we will be an assisted living and independent living facility.

On April 6, the Baptist Homes & Healthcare Ministries Board of Trustees approved a change that will transition the Baptist Homes of Chillicothe campus from a continuum of care community to a senior living community.

We will be converting all rooms to suites, resulting in having a living area, bedroom, and private bathroom in each room.

OZARK CAMPUS

Census is booming, as we continue to run with only one empty bed. As census and interest continues to be strong, we are doing our best to patiently wait for our Certificate of Need approval.

We are looking forward to starting Certified Nursing Assistant classes soon. This will help us train employees interested in entering the medical field and help with staffing shortages.

We were excited to welcome Chris Cagle as our new Director of Nursing and Tammy Pino will return to our dietary department to be the director!

SMITHVILLE CAMPUS

It's an exciting and long list of projects that are moving this campus closer and closer to a home! We started the installation process for new overhead water lines, new HVAC, new duct work, and new wiring throughout the whole building as well as outside projects on the landscaping. We still have some major projects ongoing inside the building: sewage line trench work on the east side of the building, mudding and taping drywall, concrete work on the back of the building and the installation of the sprinkler heads in resident closets. It is exciting to announce that we have completed the framing work in the building and painting of the outside bricks. This building continues to be a labor of love and restoration for our future residents that will call this home. We are drawing closer to being a home and appreciate your continued financial support and prayers.

BAPTIST HOMES OF ARCADIA VALLEY

1st Annual FALL festival AND CRAFT FAIR

SATURDAY OCTOBER 28, 2023
9:00AM TO 5:00PM
No Admission Charge

Craft Booths • Food Trucks • Bounce Houses
Rummage Sale • Free Fishing
Live Music Featuring the Lester Family and Punches Family
Tours of the remodeled Riggs-Scott Building

Fall Festival to Mark Arcadia Valley's Riggs-Scott Building's 100th Year

A lot has changed in the past 100 years, but the ministry of The Baptist Home in Arcadia Valley has remained the same. As the campus's Riggs-Scott Building marks its 100th anniversary this year, it's time to celebrate. "We are hoping to have 400 to 500 visitors that day and showcase this awesome place that we all get to work at and that our neighbors call home," said Campus Administrator, Dan Stiles. "I am hoping that many of our board members come and Baptists and friends from all over the state come to our first annual Fall Festival and Craft Fair."

The fair, slated for October 28, will include food trucks as well as a book fair and entertainment by the Lester Family and Punches Family. The main pond will be open for fishing and there will be inflatable games for children.

There will be a yard sale stocked with donated furniture and other items, and staff will host historical tours of the grounds, with a special focus on the Riggs-Scott Building - highlighting the renovations to the second and third floors, as well as the basement.

The Riggs-Scott Building officially opened on October 31, 1923 for the first "inmates," as they were called back then. Stiles said he hopes to preserve and display books with the names and dates of residency for every neighbor that has lived on the Arcadia Valley campus since then, along with other historical records and items. Some of those include items given to The Baptist Home by the Riggs and Scott families, letters from President Truman to his friends, a set of 1903 World's Fair Dishes, our first barber chair, old wooden wheelchairs, and other items from years gone by.

For more information, to volunteer, or to reserve a booth, contact Dan Stiles at 573-546-7429 or dstiles@bhhm.org.

BAPTIST HOMES ARCADIA VALLEY

How to Become a Resident

What you need to know

STEP 1: Complete an Application

The first step in applying for residency at one of the Baptist Homes is to complete and submit a short application. Upon receipt, your administrator will review the application, request additional information, if necessary, and contact you confirming that your application is being processed. Apply for residency at www.thebaptisthome.org/application-for-residency.

STEP 2: Meet with a campus administrator

Your application will be reviewed by the campus administrator. A short interview will be required to assess if the Baptist Homes are able to provide for the applicant's welfare and medical needs. A review of finances will also be required if the applicant needs financial assistance. Very few applicants are ever denied admission to the Homes for inability to provide care or because of limited financial resources. Applications that fall outside of normal admission guidelines must be reviewed by the Executive Committee of the Baptist Homes.

STEP 3: Begin your lifecare journey

Once your application has been reviewed and approved, we will assist you with the move-in process. We understand this move may be difficult. It is our greatest desire to provide assistance every step of the way and make the process as stress-free as possible.

Final Prep: Necessary Documents

When entering one of our Homes, you will need to sign a resident agreement and complete an Advance Health Care Directive. We also encourage you to have a legal estate aging plan in place. A legal estate and aging plan defines contact persons and responsible parties and may be comprised of a Durable Power of Attorney for financial health decisions, a will and/or a trust. You can develop these documents with your own advisors, or the Baptist Homes' staff can assist you.

Learn More: Understanding Costs

Each level of care (dependent upon the campus) has an established rate which provides stability for the resident, family and budget. The Baptist Homes understand that being able to forecast and budget the costs of care is vital to financial stability for the resident and/or family.

Making the Right Choice for You

The Baptist Homes want you to make the right choice when choosing a facility and level of care.

For assistance, contact the Baptist Homes at (866) 454-2709 or visit www.thebaptisthome.org/MakingTheRightChoice for a form to guide you through the process.

Stay **Connected**

Facebook: www.facebook.com/thebaptisthome

YouTube: www.youtube.com/thebaptisthome1

Newsletter: www.thebaptisthome.org/contactus

Email: desk@bhhm.org

Website: www.bhhm.org

Phone: (800) 736-6227

How can I give?

You can send us a check or money order made payable to **"The Baptist Home."** Please let us know if you want your gift used for a specific purpose by indicating that purpose either in the memo line or in a letter to us. Visit www.thebaptisthome.org/donate to give online.

What is the benevolent program?

The Homes provide nearly $2 million each year in financial assistance to residents in licensed long-term care who can no longer pay the full cost of their care. Licensed long term care includes Residential Care and Intermediate Care. Conservative stewardship and planning enable the Baptist homes to provide continuing support for financially-assisted residents. Our benevolent support is a part of an overall effort to assist our residents in attaining all financial support for which they are qualified. Your undesignated gifts help the Homes continue its long heritage of financially supplementing care to residents regardless of their financial situation. In accordance with Baptist Homes policy, there is no distinction between the care and attention provided to private pay residents and to those receiving financial assistance.

Is my donation tax deductible?

All gifts are tax deductible. Please make checks payable to The Baptist Home. The Baptist Home is a 501 (c)3, not-for-profit organization.

How can I learn more about making a donation?

Phone: 866.454.2709
Email: desk@bhhm.org
Web: www.thebaptisthome.org/donate

It is through all gifts, both large and small, that we are able to continue our ministry to the aging. Thank you for your ongoing gifts of time, talents, and resources which are so vital to the continued success of this dynamic and authentic ministry.

Honorariums & Memorials

IN HONOR OF:

John & Susan Burney by Jeanette Ashley, St. James.
Barbara Fraze by Ethel King, Independence.
Emma Gardner by Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth Chatlos, Liberty.
Eloise Jennings by Mrs. Glenda Dillon, Farmington; Rev. and Mrs. James Dunn, Poplar Bluff.
Henrietta Newbold by Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Sconce, Holt's Summit.
Brandy Parker by Dr. and Mrs. Rodney Harrison, Lawson.
Kathleen Ricard by Mark and Sandy Ricard, Centennial, CO.
Phyllis Roberts by Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth Chatlos, Liberty.
Wandalea Sconce by Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth Chatlos, Liberty.

IN MEMORY OF:

Carolyn Best by Mrs. Cara Harris, Higginsville.
Henrietta Cargal by Mrs. Alta Towne, Eureka.
Taylor Cargal by Mrs. Alta Towne, Eureka.
Barbara Cross by Mrs. Ruth Ann Short, Ironton.
Mrs. Crowley by Mr. and Mrs. Paul Warren, Ashland.
James Davis by Mrs. Ruth Ann Short, Ironton.
Marjorie Dillow by Mr. Myron Dillow, Ozark.
Mary Kathryn Faulkner by Ms. Jennifer Kitrel, Round Hill, VA.
Cecil Fisher by H.R. Decker, Mike Greenwell, Lena Fisher, Steven Gerrish, Shelbina; Berna Kotsenburg, Paris; Lavonne Magruder, Donald Maddex, Lentner; Ivan Carroll, Clarence; Beverly Cook, Palmyra; Virginia Douglas, Shelbyville; Janet Klocke, John Shumate, Ewing; Willa Reid, Macon.
Naomi Jewell Funk by Mr. and Mrs. Paul Warren, Ashland.
Loraine Kay Gannon by Anonymous; Mrs. Lana Boswell, Chillicothe; Cathy Bowyer, Meadville; Debbie Allen, Michelle Johnson, Trenton.
George Gouker, Sr. by Dr. and Mrs. Rodney Harrison, Lawson.
Bessie Gross by Mr. and Mrs. Randy Adolph, St. Louis.
Charles Hensley by Jim and Glenna Rhodes, St. Louis.
Nina Hensley by Jim and Glenna Rhodes, St. Louis.
Gladys How by Mr. and Mrs. Randy Adolph, St. Louis.
Geneva Arlene Jackson by Kurt and Julie Bauche, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Stanfield, Mr. and Mrs. Patrick King, John Robinson, Ms. Barbara Ward, Farmington; Mrs. Ruth Ann Short, Ironton; Dorene McCrackin, Wright City; Dr. and Mrs. William Miller, Fayetteville, AR; Scott Snyder, Washington.
Helen Jackson by Miss Diana Jackson, Overland Park, KS.
Hal Johnson by Mr. and Mrs. Roger Williams, Alton, MO.
Rev. Larry Johnson by Mrs. Jane Johnson, Ironton.
Mary Ann Knight by Bridget King, Midlothian, VA.
Niva Lancaster by Baptist Home Ozark Auxiliary, Ozark.
John Mackey by Dr. and Mrs. Ron Mackey, Arcadia.
Oma Mackey by Dr. and Mrs. Ron Mackey, Arcadia.
Henry McBride by Mrs. LeAnn McBride, Ozark.
Mary Myers by Dr. and Mrs. Wade Paris, Bolivar.
Pat Myers by Baptist Home Ozark Auxiliary, Ozark.
Wilma Payne by Philip and LeAnna Payne, Raytown.
Nina Ray by Mr. and Mrs. Donald Clerc, Affton.
Maxine Reitzel by Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Chronister, West Plains.
Jim Schudy by Mrs. Patsy Schudy, Ozark.
Margaret Stroder by Jim and Glenna Rhodes, St. Louis.
Alta Thomas by Sharon Graham, Ozark.
Barbara Thomas by Mr. and Mrs. Roger Baker, Holt's Summit.
George Thomas by Mr. and Mrs. Roger Baker, Holt's Summit.
Helen Thomas by Mr. and Mrs. Roger Baker, Holt's Summit.
Mark Yount by Mr. and Mrs. Michael Yount, Fredericktown.

Honorariums and memorials received January 28, 2023 - April 30, 2023.

HAPPY *Anniversary* TO OUR RESIDENTS

ADRIAN CAMPUS

JULY
NONE

ARCADIA VALLEY CAMPUS

JULY
TOTAL: 0

AUGUST
TOTAL: 0

SEPTEMBER
Terry ** & Martha
Don & Deanna (IL)
TOTAL: 2

ASHLAND CAMPUS

JULY
TOTAL: 0

AUGUST
Paul & Glenda (IL)
TOTAL: 1

SEPTEMBER
TOTAL: 0

CHILLICOTHE CAMPUS

NONE

INDEPENDENCE CAMPUS

NONE

OZARK CAMPUS

JULY
William & Janet
David & Verla
Robert & Barbara (IL)
TOTAL: 3

AUGUST
Jerry & Sharon (IL)
*TOTAL: 2**

SEPTEMBER
TOTAL: 0

*KEY: (IL) INDEPENDENT LIVING | **NOT A BAPTIST HOMES RESIDENT*
**SOME RESIDENTS HAVE ASKED TO NOT HAVE THEIR NAME LISTED*

Happy Birthday!

TO OUR RESIDENTS

ADRIAN CAMPUS

JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
TOTAL: 0	Karen (IL)	Ruth (IL)
	TOTAL: 1	Virginia (IL)
		TOTAL: 2

ASHLAND CAMPUS

JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
Vicki (IL)	Larry (IL)	*TOTAL: 0*
*TOTAL: 2**	*TOTAL: 2**	

ARCADIA VALLEY CAMPUS

JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
Martha	Robert	Virgie
Sue	Fred	Bill
Mary	Raymond	Betty
Donald (IL)	Neoma	Frances
Melva (IL)	Johney (IL)	Lola (IL)
Joyce (IL)	*TOTAL: 6**	*TOTAL: 6**
*TOTAL: 7**		

CHILLICOTHE CAMPUS

JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
Elaine (IL)	Lydia (IL)	Janet
TOTAL: 1	Sue (IL)	Phyllis
	TOTAL: 2	Skyla
		Tracy
		Jerry (IL)
		*TOTAL: 6**

INDEPENDENCE CAMPUS

JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
Dorothy	Mary	Gail
Paul	James	Barbara
Wilbur	Martha	Jane (RC)
*TOTAL: 6**	Bonnie	*TOTAL: 4**
	James	
	Jimmy (RC)	
	*TOTAL: 7**	

OZARK CAMPUS

JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
Anne	Bessie	Sharon (IL)
Mabel	Glenna	Beatrice (IL)
Janet	Marilyn	Sally (IL)
Betty	Betty (IL)	Barbara (IL)
Bob	Bill (IL)	Nancy (IL)
Yvonne	Myron (IL)	*TOTAL: 8**
Tommy (IL)	Gerry (IL)	
Emily (IL)	Doris (IL)	
David (IL)	Robert (IL)	
*TOTAL: 13**	*TOTAL: 12**	

KEY: (IL) INDEPENDENT LIVING | (RC) RESIDENTIAL CARE
**SOME RESIDENTS HAVE ASKED TO NOT HAVE THEIR NAME LISTED*

Summer 2023 || Volume 3, No. 2

Baptist Homes & Healthcare Ministries
PO Box 390
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Change Service Requested

Baptist Homes Contact Information

Corporate Office
400 E. High St., Suite 600
PO Box 390
Jefferson City, MO 65102
(573) 556-0338

Independence Campus
17451 Medical Center Pkwy
Independence, MO 64057
(816) 373-7795

Adrian Campus
402 W. 1st St.
Adrian, MO 64720
(816) 260-3033

Ozark Campus
1625 W. Garton Rd.
PO Box 1040
Ozark, MO 65721
(417) 581-2101

Arcadia Valley Campus
101 Riggs-Scott Ln.
PO Box 87
Ironton, MO 63650
(573) 546-7429

Smithville Campus
Coming in 2023
106 Hospital Dr.
Smithville, MO 64089
(816) 648-3629

Ashland Campus
5751 Baptist Home Ave.
Ashland, MO 65010
(573) 657-0506

Tri County Campus
601 N. Galloway Rd.
Vandalia, MO 63382
(573) 594-6467

Chillicothe Campus
500 Baptist Home Ln.
Chillicothe, MO 64601
(660) 646-6219

Community Engagement
102 N. Main St.
Ironton, MO 63650
(866) 454-2709

WWW.BHHM.ORG

21 Volunteer Ideas

Becoming a volunteer at one of the resident campuses is simple. Contact the campus pastor at the campus you wish to volunteer. The campus pastor will know the needs of the campus and help you use your time and talents to bless Baptist Homes residents.

1. Become a Prayer Partner
2. Write encouraging letters or cards to residents
3. Share a unique hobby with residents (sewing, crochet, whittling, painting, sculpture, pottery)
4. Hairdresser, Barber, Beard, Ear trimmer
5. Volunteer to shop for residents
6. Assist in shopping trips and walk with them around the store
7. Provide nail care
8. Bingo Caller/Game leader
9. Exercise leader
10. Entertainment - comedy, juggling, clown, ventriloquist
11. Read books or short stories
12. Start a choir
13. Share music
14. Worship Service
15. Lunch/breakfast/Snack buddies- One-on-one opportunity to share life stories or common interests
16. A women's group/A men's group
17. Small-Group leader - share a devotion and prayer
18. Deliver water for residents, spend a little time talking
19. Assist residents in the dining room during mealtimes
20. Share your pet (puppies, kittens)
21. Historian - Share this day in history fact or interesting story