



the bedroom walls of these young riders. What a sense of pride and accomplishment they have.

As Promised. . . A Crawford County Fair Up- date

Our summer issue left you hanging. . .how would our young ladies perform at the Ob-long County Fair with their horses? I can tell you that they did FANTASTIC! In 14 differ-ent events, we placed 31 times! Blue, red, and white ribbons (among other colors) now adorn



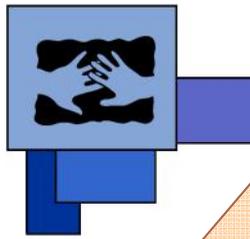
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THE BUILDER

A publication of the Oblong Children's Christian Home
4094 E 1050th Ave., Oblong, IL 62449
(618) 592-3633
www.oblongchristianhome.org
or visit us on Facebook

HELP to children.
HOPE to families.
HEALING through Christ.

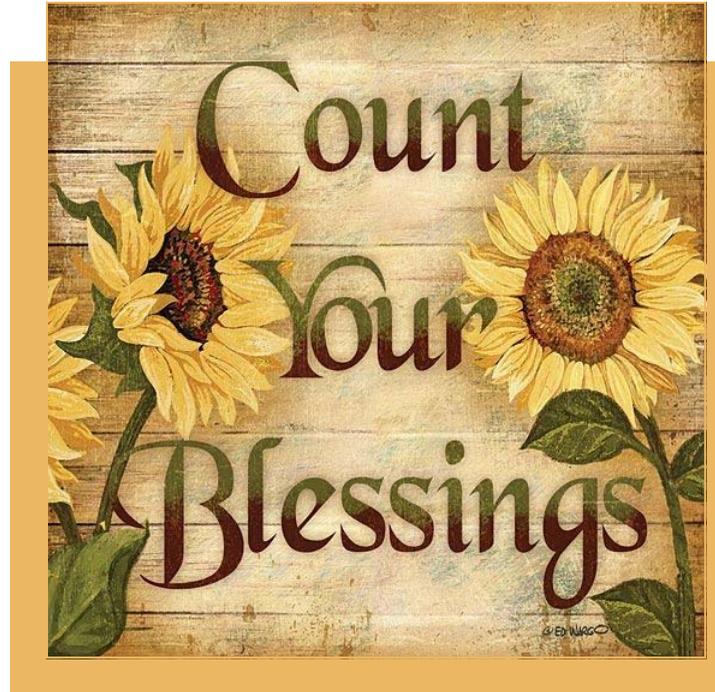
Fall 2017



THE BUILDER

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE OBLONG CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN HOME

Each fall, the Child-
ren's Home likes to
share with all of our read-
ers our thankfulness. The
Lord is so gracious to us.
This issue is an effort to
give you a glimpse into all
of the blessings we see
day in and day
out.



2017 Homecoming

Perhaps some of the fondest high school memories for young ladies are those days they dolled up with beautiful dresses, perfectly accented make-up, and well-manicured nails for the Homecoming dance. Here, Anna and Kaleigh pose for a picture before the big event at Oblong High School. We are thankful to be experiencing these memory-making times with them. Ladies, you are stunning, inside and out.



Family Development

A significant part of the Oblong Children's Christian Home program is the training and guidance we provide to families through Family Development. Monthly, we encourage parents/guardians to visit the campus and receive instruction and encouragement. Sometimes the children are involved; other times only the parents attend. In September, we were blessed with individuals who came to offer their talents and gifts to our families. **Mike Kurtz** brought some fun and silly games that children would engage in WITH their families. The smiles that he brought about were welcomed for these families in crisis. In addition, **Lori Laskowski** came from South Shores Christian Church in Decatur to deliver her testimony to children and families from each of our homes. Then, in October, the theme of the month was connectivity. There's nothing like a little game *complete with duct tape* to help prove the importance of communication and connectivity! They do have fun monthly, but more so, they learn and grow together. What a blessing to minister to the whole family!



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

In early September, a call for applicants for Executive Director-Child Care was made. The position announcement was sent to several Christian colleges and was posted to our own website (www.oblongchristianhome.org), where it remains. We have proceeded to receive resumes over the course of these past several weeks, hoping to conduct interviews after a 30-day window of time. From our last newsletter, you may remember that our board decided to divide the Executive Director role now held by Arvin Moden into two parts—Child Care and Operations. This decision did not involve increasing the number of staff, but rather reassigning responsibilities to best match the giftedness and education of the existing staff. The board voted unanimously to promote Amy Kemp into the Operations position. The target date to fill the Child Care position is May 2018, but there is considerable flexibility depending upon when the Lord sends the right person for the position.

Now Hiring

Quite often in the fall, the Oblong Children's Christian Home launches a



FOOD PANTRY

fall food drive. As we set out to do so this fall, we realized that our greatest needs boiled down to just three items: **laundry detergent, dishwasher detergent, and ground beef**. We've sent out the call to our 200+ food providers, and we've already seen some incredible results. We want to publicly thank Bell Ridge Christian Church in Paris and the Outer West Market Church in Palestine for their gifts specifically for our beef supply! If you would like to join our food providers, please e-mail us at office@oblongchristianhome.org. We generally send two food appeals annually; your gifts (actually products for our shelves or cash donations given for our own shopping needs) are always greatly appreciated!



We're on the brink of moving in. . .



Wow! After breaking ground last August, there were some days where we thought time stood still on this building project. However, the Lord is always faithful. With the help of volunteer hands, we can save nearly 50% on construction costs. Yes, that may mean that our progress is slower because we *patiently* wait for volunteers and work groups, but there are many who love this

ministry. . .many who have helped. And, now, we are planning the relocation. We cannot wait to throw open the doors to our guests. And, in our continual effort to expand our services to more children and families, Phase 2 (renovation of the red, brick building) will begin soon. You'll find us over here at 4094 E 1050th Ave. praising God for our blessings!



In Loving Memory



In Memory

Joan McCarty in memory of Gerald McCarty ♥ Mike & Judy Henry in memory of Shirley Allison and Arthur Good ♥ Carol Myers and Charles Roger Henry in memory of Arthur and Gracie Good ♥ Allison Family, Sharon Frost, Tom Sparks, Louise Black, Michael & Gretchen Bryant, Marcella Gray, George & Madonna Ormsby, Glenda Mann, Ray & Gayle Roth, Karen Ellis, Steve & Diana Woodland, Tom & Brenda Booth, Larry & Charlotte Sackrider, Mike & Sue Wassell, Bernadine Westall, William Thomas, P.D. Highsmith, Louise Newbold, RHS Class of 1955, Mark Ford, Glen & Donna Rosborough, Dianna Guyer, Sharon Frost, Richard & Sharon Pound, and John & Paula Thorlton in memory of Shirley Allison ♥ Carol Wong, Joel & Mickie Owens, Tom & Jean Blakney, Karen Lachenmayr, Jay Dee & Judy White, Sue Robinson, Steve & Diana Woodland, EH Baare Corporation, Kevin & Tammy Morrison, and Philip & Marilyn Koenig in memory of Betty Cravens ♥ Carol Murray in memory of Mike Murray ♥ EH Baare Corporation in memory of Norma Pittenger ♥ Jane Benton in memory of Sara Benton ♥ Charlotte Bennett in memory of Arthur Good ♥ Tom & Ginny Price, Dr. Roger & Cheryl Bumgarner, Lela McCullough, Karen Levi, LaVerne Whitt, Ron Whitt, Steve Whitt, Lou Bonnell, Helen Brackett, Karen Judd, Jean Rains, Linda Wheeler, Dave & Jan Riker, David Bumgarner and James & Terri Farley in memory of Mary Elizabeth "Bette" Schmidt ♥ Jess Newton in memory of Roy & Pauline Hill ♥ Beverly Kilburn, Dick & Coanne Love, Ryan & Tawnya Love, Jim & Liz Rogers, Tonja Sheets, Douglas & Dana Sprague, and the Weaver Family in memory of Harold Sexton ♥ Oblong Community Christian Food Pantry in memory of Norma Kell ♥ Kay Cramer in memory of Fran Cramer ♥ Karen Charlton in memory of Mikell Charlton Telford ♥ Doris Gosnell in memory of Gerald Green



In Honor

Rodney & Constance Reid and Gene Alexander in honor of Amy Kemp ♥ Rick & Sharon Kirk in honor of the good works of Oblong Children's Christian Home

Fundraising SUCCESS!

In September and October, the Oblong Children's Christian Home hosted TWO successful fundraisers. It is a joy for us to serve the community and to also welcome folks on

to our campus. These two events allowed us to do both. On Labor Day weekend, we served up plates of chicken and noodles to parade watchers at the Palestine Pioneer Rodeo Days. And, on October 17, we hosted would-be painters on our campus for a fun painting party in our school building. Each time we ask for community support, you all respond! Thank you for meeting us at these events and also meeting our needs. We are blessed. We pray we are a blessing to you as well.



Giving Back

Our students at New Life Academy spend time recently at the Refuge House in Vincennes, Indiana. The home is a shelter for battered and abused women and their children. School teacher, Keith Kemp, befriended the director there some time ago and offered to bring a crew to help with home renovations. The students put their hands to work cleaning, sweeping, and moving furniture. Acts 4:34-35 says, "For there was not a needy person among them because all those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the proceeds of what was sold, and laid them at the apostles' feet. This was then distributed to each person as any had need." We see ourselves as individuals who are capable of giving - giving of our time and the work of our hands. We put those words into action for others who had need, too.

Yet another way that we have been able to give back recently was via a trip to Hurst, Illinois. Linda Wyatt is a wonderful friend to the Children's Home. She and her late husband, Jerry, have supported the Home for years and have even paid visits to our campus multiple times. Linda had asked for some help around her home, particularly as Jerry's passing last summer left her with a lot of property that needed attention. The Caldwell family came to Linda's rescue! Here are a few pictures of their time in Hurst. Linda surely kept them busy, but she fed them well, too. And, they were even able to attend church with her the next day, where Daddy Rich (Rich Caldwell) gave the morning message about the ministry. The boys from the Caldwell home worked hard on Saturday, and their reward was a trip to SkyZone the next day as well as a final meal for the weekend at Five Guys. Give and it will come back to you!

