

Passing The Baton

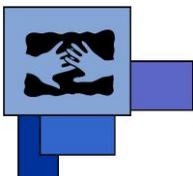


You may remember that some time ago, Arvin Moden, Executive Director of the Home, announced his decision to retire in 2018. Our leadership has been considering how to effectively “pass the baton” during this change. After careful deliberation, the board has decided to divide the Executive Director role into two parts—Child Care and Operations. This will not involve increasing the number of staff, but rather reassigning responsibilities to best match the giftedness and education of staff. The board voted unanimously to promote one of our own staff, Amy Kemp, into the Operations position. We are currently working on the details of the job descriptions. When this is completed, the Home will begin to search for an Executive Director for Child Care. The target date to fill this position is next May, but there is considerable flexibility depending upon when the Lord sends the right person for the position.



Visit our Facebook page for lots of great pictures.

THE BUILDER



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

A publication of the Oblong Children's Christian Home
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Summer 2017



THE BUILDER

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE OBLONG CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN HOME



I HOPE YOU VIVIDLY REMEMBER SUMMERS AS A CHILD! WHAT A GREAT TIME OF YEAR. . .TRIPS, SUNSHINE, OUTDOORS, AND GREAT FUN.

Our families have been busy enjoying this foundational family time. The boys have been to Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry. The girls have served together in the kitchen at Oil Belt Christian Service Camp, and you'll find more details inside about the work young people have put into preparing for the Western Junior Open Horse Show at the Crawford County Fair! Thank you, God, for **Summer Fun!**





One Day We'll Say,
"I Knew Him When. . ."

Denver "wows" us all of the time. But, given the chance to wow judges, he proves just how talented he really is. In early June, Denver competed with the Illinois Gymnastics Club of Olney (where he trains) in what competitors simply refer to as "Nationals." This is a BIG DEAL, folks. This year's competition was held in Madison, Wisconsin. You are seeing it right. Denver placed 1st. . .FIRST! The "1" he is holding here is for his efforts in advanced double mini. However, that's not all. Denver also placed first in advance floor. AND (I know, you are thinking, "There's more?"), he also placed 4th in elite floor and 6th in elite double mini! So much talent!!

When we travel, we often tell folks that God makes each of us unique, with special abilities and special skills. Denver knows his. We just empower him to shine as God has gifted him to do

Congratulations, Denver!



In The Swing of Things



As new children are placed at the Home in the summertime (which is a common time for placement), we make sure that they immediately feel a part of the action! Here, Jamie and Owen enjoy a summer fundraiser (Sportsman's Day) by trying their hand at clay pigeons! You can't see their smiles from this angle, but we did that day. They had fun!



In Loving Memory



In Memory

Ruth Smith and Ruth Ann Fleenor in memory of Virginia K. Marshall ♥ EH Baare Corporation in memory of Virginia Livingston ♥ Michael Robison in memory of Debbie Robison ♥ David & Sandra Paddock in memory of Selvin & Olga Paddock ♥ Ruth Barron in memory of Lucretia Barron and Nedra Barron ♥ Ruth Fleenor in memory of Chuck Higgins ♥ Karl & Sue Szabo in memory of Lois Curts for Mother's Day ♥ Doris Weaver in memory of Pearl H. Robinson ♥ Joyce Bogard in memory of Doris Phillips on Mother's Day and Harry D. Phillips on Father's Day ♥ Keith & Martha Waldrop in memory of Maxine Kirk, Ora Kirk, and Ruby Waldrop on Mother's Day ♥ Stan Pool in memory of Glenda Pool ♥ Anonymous, Gary & Brenda Jones, William & Cheryl Venatta, Thelma Bishop, Mt Zion Sunday School, Doris McKinney, Susie Brown, and Max & Donna Woolever in memory of Leona Gabel ♥ Mike & Judy Henry in memory of Norma (Shipman) Higgins ♥ Karl and Sue Szabo in memory of Paul Curts for

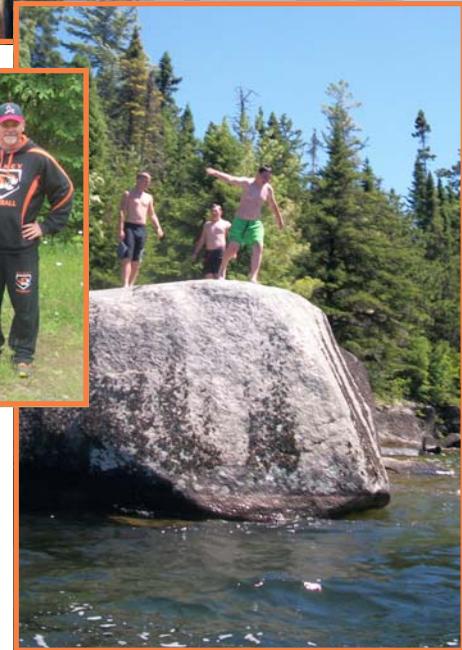
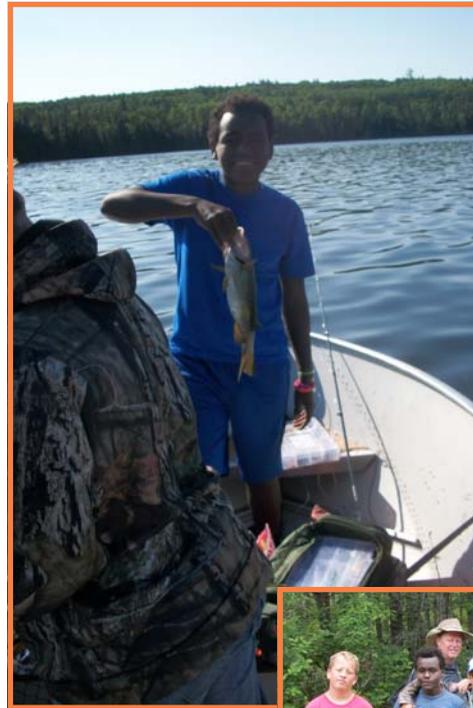
Father's Day ♥ Ruth Barron in memory of William Barron and Louis Barron ♥ Michael Robison in memory of Debbie Robison ♥ Edna Whitehurst in memory of Homer Whitehurst and Neil Whitehurst on Father's Day ♥ Linda Wyatt in memory of Jerry Wyatt ♥ Ken & Sylvia Rhodes in memory of Lila Andrews ♥ Kay Cramer in memory of Pearl Louise Urfer ♥ Randy & Barb Martin in memory of Jim & Phyllis Martin and Don & Velma Moden ♥ Ralph & Marge Dart in memory of John Wamper ♥ Tim & Vicki Ferguson in memory of Mikael Swisher ♥ Kathy Yarrow in memory of Velma Moden ♥ Terry & Pat Walker in memory of George Duffillo ♥ Jess Newton in memory of Roy & Pauline Hill ♥ Kay Cramer in memory of Jean Huddleston

In Honor

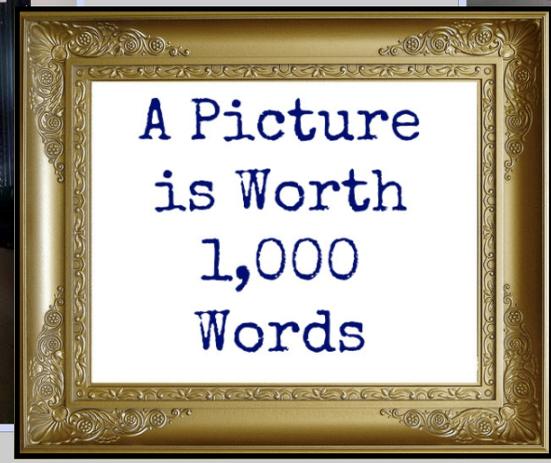
Martinsville First Christian Church in honor of Mother's and Father's Day ♥ Bethlehem New Light Church in honor of Mother's Day



Look for a fall update about how our girls placed at the Crawford County Fair this summer. They have been working hard with the horses, bearing with the hot sun, the horseflies, and the dust. They are excited to enter the horse show, though, and we are excited for them!



Because of the generosity of a wonderful local gentleman, boys from the Ob-long Children's Christian Home are afforded the privilege of a fishing trip in Canadian boundary waters once every two years. No operational funds are used to underwrite the trip, and the boys work on fundraisers to earn the privilege of going. This year's trip was a GREAT one. Everyone caught something, and the vulnerability and sharing among the chaperones and the boys was spiritually deep and rich! Thank you, Lord, for safety and spiritual growth through this excursion!!



Take a look at the progress we are making on our new Welcome Center! We are excited just dreaming about moving into this facility one day soon. As we push to the end, would YOU consider donating some time to help complete the last several projects? We'd love to have you join us in this work. Grab a buddy or two and plan a day. We'll feed you lunch and labor alongside you. Call Chris Martin at 618-553-3315 to put your names on the calendar.



GRADUATES!



In total, this campus saw eight 8th grade graduates smile as they accepted diplomas this spring. One 8th grader, who was not a resident on the campus, but a classmate to our boys nonetheless, completed his 8th grade year at New Life Academy, our campus school. Seven 8th graders, who do live with us, accepted diplomas from New Hebron Christian School. Oh how proud of them we are! Take a look at the joy on their faces. Hard work pays off, and these young people can attest to that!