

2018 SEASON COMING SOON



The Oblong Children's Christian Home finished the 2017 calendar year with two fun painting parties, all in an effort to raise money for our interest group activities. Novice painters enjoyed the fall scene, complete with scarecrow and harvest moon, as well as the nativity, and our house-moms and kids did a great job serving up refreshments to all in attendance.



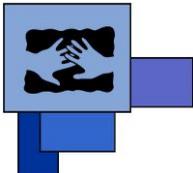
We hope that these painting parties will spark more and more interest. We'd love to fill our school with those who enjoy the activity as well as the fellowship, all for the good of the Home. See our website and Facebook pages for updates about days and times in 2018.

In addition, mark your calendars for these fundraisers in 2018:

Race for the Kids duathlon (Hutsonville, IL) . . . June 2
Sportsman's Day (Newton, IL) . . . July 21
Chicken and Noodle Dinner (Palestine, IL) . . . September 3
Spooktacular 5K (Oblong, IL) . . . October 27

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
4094 E 1050th Ave., Oblong, IL 62449
(618) 592-3633
www.oblongchristianhome.org
or visit us on Facebook

Winter 2018



THE BUILDER

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE OBLONG CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN HOME

New Life

"...when a sinner makes the Lord his choice, That's when the angels rejoice."

Back in the 1980s the Gaither Vocal Band released a song called, "That's When the Angels Rejoice." Maybe you remember it. Part of the lyrics included this phrase, "...when a sinner makes the Lord his choice, that's when the angels rejoice." At the Oblong Children's Christian Home there have been some angels rejoicing! Why? Kim gave her life to Christ! Back in October, Kim was moved by a conference she attended along with all of the girls in her house. Kim continued to press harder until she was ready to be immersed and accept Jesus as her Savior. Along with the angels, **WE REJOICE!** Since 1998, when we began keeping an accurate tally, 57 young people have given their life to Christ through baptism while living at the Oblong Children's Christian Home! It's not only a new year, this is a new life for Kim, and we couldn't be happier for her!





Extraordinary Friends

James 1:27a reads, *“The Christian who is pure and without fault, from God the Father’s point of view, is the one who takes care of orphans and widows, and who remains true to the Lord. . .”* At the Oblong Children’s Christian Home, you know our heart because you follow our ministry. We care for families in crises, particularly children in need of direction, security, and love. But, it is a special ministry as well in that some of those who love on us (pray for us, give financially to us, and entertain us) are also the very individuals whom God calls us to care for. Doris and Loretta are two such saints. A few short years ago, they knew nothing of each other, but their life stories were similar, as were their hearts. Through their connection to the Oblong Children’s Christian Home, they were able to

Doris and Loretta (left to right) met in person in October 2016. They were destined to be “sisters” upon their first meeting, as they both wore the same shirt! God has facilitated a strong friendship between two saints who were simply acting in obedience to bless the Oblong Children’s Christian Home, but they found each other in the process.



meet and grow a relationship with one another. Now, they are pen pals and lunch buddies. Loretta was helped through her husband’s passing by the phone calls and prayers raised from Doris’s prayer closet. And, Doris has recently celebrated re-birth in Christ through baptism, Loretta celebrating right along with her. Why highlight just two saints when there are so many who love this ministry? ***Because good begets good.*** Just the

story of how God has worked in and through this ministry to bless these two ought to inspire and encourage. Luke says, “Give and it will come back to you.” Doris and Loretta have given richly, and the Lord has given back to them plentifully. We are thankful for Loretta and Doris—their friendship with one another and their commitment to this ministry.

Now, find someone to bless, connect with your neighbor, and see God do miraculous things through His people!



In December, Loretta hosted a Christmas luncheon. Doris came, as well as two girls from the Home, Kim and Bella! Smiles abounded.

Feeling @home

We moved into the new Welcome Center in November, and it feels like *HOME!* All of the additional space is such a pleasure. There is still a “new construction” scent, too. Just last week our licensing agent came for a visit. Guess what? We didn’t have to set her up at a make-shift desk by the front door! We’ve had some meetings in our family room already, and the storeroom is immaculate! What a blessing to have shelving that holds all of our provisions. Come visit us to see this wonderful new campus addition!!



In Loving Memory



In Memory

Beth Rice in memory of Marilyn Musgrave and Elizabeth Schmidt ♥ E.H. Baare Corporation in memory of Rita Van Winkle ♥ Jess Newton in memory of Roy & Pauline Hill ♥ David & Sandra Paddock in memory of Selvin & Olga Paddock ♥ Billye Ray Family in memory of Alice (Alkie) Mugrage ♥ Michael Robison in memory of Debbie Robison ♥ Carol Myers in memory of Louise Parcell ♥ Ruth Ann Fleenor in memory of John Burner ♥ Thomas & Cristine Anders in memory of Tom & Lorraine Anders ♥ Robin & Jan Tracy in memory of M. Wayne Tracy at Christmas ♥ Joan McCarty in memory of Maurice Barrett ♥ Judy Rice & children in memory of Lowell Rice and Everett & Millie Rice ♥ Kay Cramer in memory of Ben Orrell ♥ Joyce Bogard in memory of Harry D. & Doris Phillips ♥ Gene & Jane Dart in memory of Carl & Ethel Dart ♥ John & Carmen Smoak in memory of Shirley Ann Allison ♥ Terry & Pat Walker in memory of Beverly Bower ♥ Bill & Kathi Farley, Matthew & Samantha Farley

and Josh & Kari Farley Rich in memory of Dr. William and Elizabeth B. Schmidt ♥ Chris Heindselman in memory of Sara Benton ♥ Leon & Elaine Harris in memory of Arthur & Clara Harris ♥ Gerald Jones in memory of Sara Benton ♥ George & Nieta Fewkes in memory of Colette Spencer ♥ Marilyn King, Harry & Suzanne Melton in memory of Hal King ♥ Michael Robison in memory of Mike & Judy Robison and Debbie Robison ♥ Pete & Gloria Belew in memory of Anna Laura Wesley ♥ Jess Newton in memory of Jimmy Hill and Jason Newton ♥

In Honor

Les & Debbie Chamberlain in honor of the employees of the Lourdes Cardiovascular Institute ♥ Chris & Audra Spray in honor of George & Nieta Fewkes at Christmas ♥ Sproat Insurance in honor of Dan, Dave and Doug ♥ Heather Spray in honor of George & Nieta Fewkes at Christmas ♥



State of the Home



Growth of Kids and Their Families. 2017 was a year of excellent growth for kids and their families. As mentioned in the lead article, we rejoiced in the baptism of two of our young people. Four young people completed our program in 2017 and were able to return home. There were not any children that had to be dismissed from our program because of lack of progress. Daily we see glimpses of growth in areas that are more difficult to quantify. Sunday, as I rode with one of our young men who was gaining driving experience, I asked him, “What was the best thing about your Christmas?” He replied that his dad gave him presents this year. He did not share what the presents were. He did share what the presents meant to him. He said, “Dad is involved in my life again.” Yesterday, as a young man rode with me to help move a washer, he said he was looking forward to being at the home for a full year. I asked him how he had changed. He said, “I am doing better at controlling my temper.” We credit the success of the ministry to God and to the 1000+ prayer partners who regularly pray for the ministry.

Financial. When the cost of new construction was taken out of the expense column of our budget, income was very slightly below expenses at the end of our financial year. Because God blessed the Home with estate money in previous years, we were able to complete the construction of the new Welcome Center and maintain our commitment to not incur any debt. We are very thankful to our fantastic donors who consistently support the ministry. It is a testimony to the many donors and to God’s provision that a ministry can thrive almost exclusively on donations.

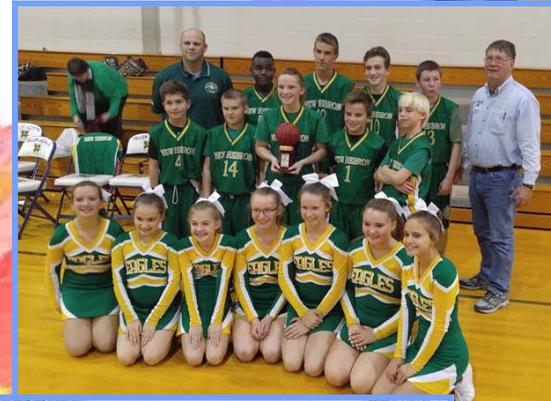
Facilities. In previous years, God has provided the Home with great facilities including three group homes, a relief home, indoor riding arena, high school, and an administrative residence. This year, God blessed the home with a new Welcome Center, with room for staff offices and our food storage. We now have private counseling rooms, a family counseling room, and adequate office space to grow.

Board Growth. After operating for several years with just a skeleton board, there has been a renewed interest in serving on the Oblong Children’s Christian Home Board of Directors. We presently have 11 board members with just one vacancy. Under Bruce Meade’s leadership as board president, committees are again functioning.

Staff. The Home is providing stability for kids; all of our houseparents have been with the Home for at least 15 years. The board has divided future administrative responsibilities between an Executive Director -Operations and an Executive Director-Child Care. During 2018, Amy Kemp will assume the position of Executive Director-Operations in addition to her current duties. A nationwide search is currently underway for an Executive Director-Child Care.

2018 Plans. The old office area will be renovated into an apartment in 2018. We will need many volunteers to complete this project. As soon as the renovation is completed, we will be ready to begin either building a new girls’ home or renovating an offsite building into a girls’ home. Another girls’ home is greatly needed. We currently have only one girls’ home, and we have had to turn away girls in desperate need of a stable, loving, structured home where the principles of Jesus Christ are taught. The greatest challenge of 2018 will be the finances to support another girls’ home.

-Arvin Moden, Executive Director



Whether they attend New Life Academy, New Hebron Christian School, or Oblong High School, if you were to ask students on campus about now, they’ll tell you that they’re happy one semester is already down, meaning there is just one to go. These students are engaged in both studies and extra-curricular activities. Pictured above is Denver, Oblong High School’s most talented tumbler on the cheer squad; cheerleaders and ball players from New Hebron Christian School; James, who is delivering a speech on integrity at New Life Academy, and Noah and Mickey in Bible class (along with Bible teacher Rich Caldwell), as they act out the story of Jesus approaching the disciples’ boat and Peter’s response from Mark 6. [Note the canoe and the brooms for oars. . .extra credit for creativity!!]



It was a wonderful Christmas holiday at the Oblong Children's Christian Home. What could be better than gingerbread houses, Christmas carolers, cookie-decorating, and school programs? Holiday blessings like these are the best. To all of you who went to an extended effort this season to give a little extra, send a card, buy a present, or bless us with a special food provision, THANK YOU! Our holiday season was merry and bright.

