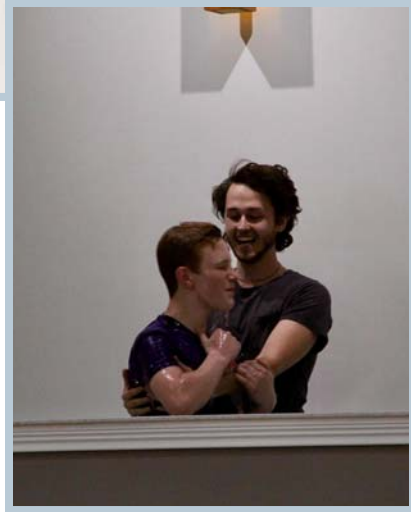


this is the
best news!

NEW LIFE



Owen Was Baptized!

Covid-19 can take away a lot of things, but it cannot take away the work of the Holy Spirit, and we've been seeing Him at work this spring! Owen chose to be baptized after youth group (when mid-week services were still meeting) on February 12. He's been walking with the Lord since then. And, Owen is not alone in this decision. Though we cannot reveal the name for legal reasons, celebrate with us that *another* resident of the Home made that same decision on April 28! These two new believers live in the same home on our Oblong campus. What a celebration for that home and for those on the campus who have worked with these two. Thank you, Jesus. You are always working!!



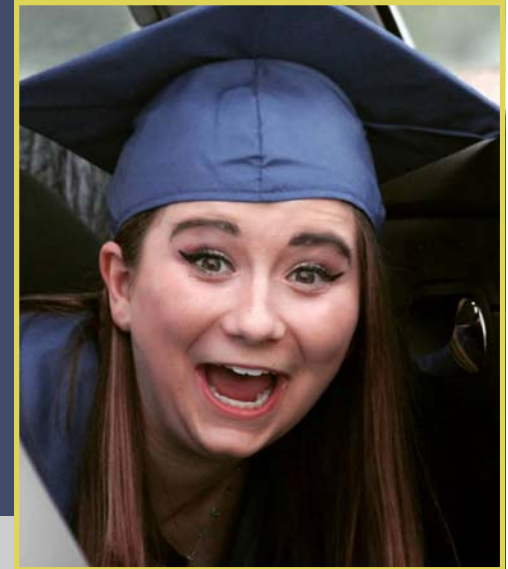
THE BUILDER

NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION OF THE OBLONG CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN HOME



Surely no graduating high school senior wanted to end the 2019-2020 school year

like this, but these two still accomplished so much and made us so proud. On Friday, May 15, L and Kaleigh donned their caps and gowns and took their place in cars surrounding the Oblong High School football field. They stepped out of their cars when their name was called, and they moved their tassels with their classmates, many of whom they had not seen



since March. It was both a special moment and one that had some sadness mixed in; this was just not the exact way they had envisioned the night.

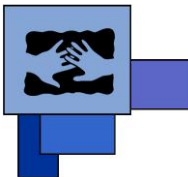
We're especially excited that these two will be the first two graduates to continue their experience at the Oblong Children's Christian Home as residents in the transitional living apartment. (See more on this remodel in this newsletter issue.) Both will be students at Lincoln Trail College in Robinson, and both are gainfully employed. Way to go, girls!



Visit our Facebook page for lots of great pictures.
"Like us" and get daily updates!

A publication of the Oblong Children's Christian Home
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or visit us on Facebook

THE BUILDER



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

Spring/Summer 2020

Such a Caring Community



The Robinson Correctional Facility reached out to us in late May. This facility has been so, so good to us. This past summer, the inmates planted a vegetable garden, and week after week fresh produce rolled up to our front door for the benefit of our families. Now, in this spring season, the efforts of the inmates had been hampered. Annually, there is a plant sale to divest the plants and flowers grown and cared for by the inmates. But with the Covid-19 pandemic,

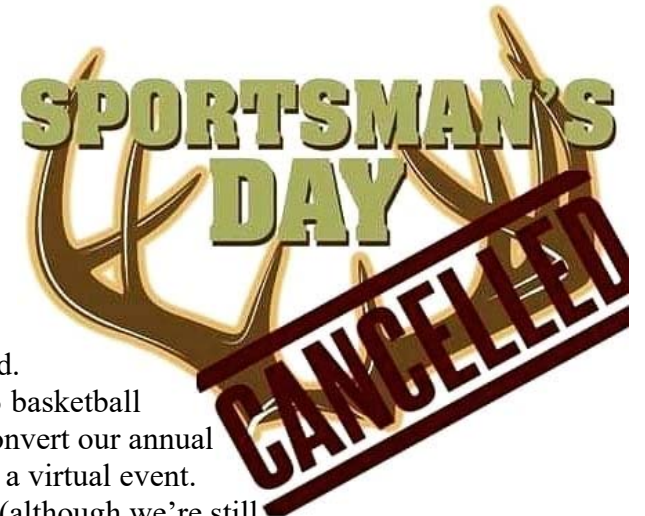


Spring 2020 could not accommodate such a sale. The correctional facility was left with more than 2,000 plants to distribute! Their choice? To bless this community with beautiful plants and flowers. So...up rolled two SUVs packed with beauty. We unloaded and planted! Thank you to our community friends!



We Are So DISAPPOINTED

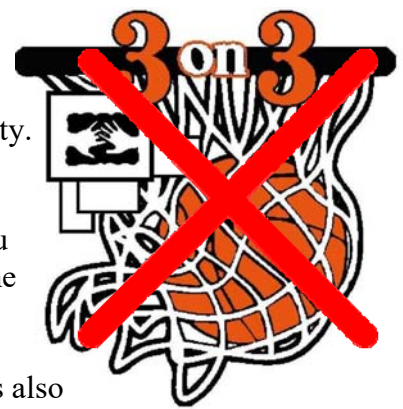
We'd love to use these newsletter pages to tell you about the plans we have for terrific fundraisers that would involve the whole community. However, our hands are tied. We've had to cancel our very first 3-on-3 basketball tournament in Fairfield. We've had to convert our annual Race for the Kids event in Hutsonville to a virtual event. We've cancelled our June painting party (although we're still hoping to reschedule one for the summer months). And, we've had to cancel our beloved Sportsman's Day, which is *always* a community favorite.



These cancellations are disappointments, but truthfully they hurt a little, too. Fundraisers not only add to the operational funds here, they help us to express our thanks to the community that has always welcomed and accepted us. We enjoy these opportunities to interact with athletes, hunters, and artists in our community.

Don't give up on We hope to later this summer of you at the

these fundraisers yet in 2020! paint with a few of you and even run with some fall Spooktacular 5K.



Let these pages also boast of those businesses that have continued to donate generously to events that just won't happen now. I've said it before, and I'll continue to say, "We have such a caring community!"



In Loving Memory



In Memory

Judith Duncan in memory of Charles Husted ♥ Jess Newton in memory of Jason Newton and Roy & Pauline Hill ♥ David & Joyce Litherland in memory of Dennis Couch ♥ Michael Robison in memory of Opal Robison ♥ Michael & Judy Henry in memory of Don Lindsey and Helen Griffith ♥ Doris Weaver in memory of Jane Heien ♥ Lowry Cousins—Mary, John, Patricia, Fred and Bill, Bert & Dorothy Borden, Donald & Vicki O'Rourke, Beverly Welsh, Brian & Lori Harmon, Roger & Rebecca Rayhel, Linda Stephen, Kenneth & Gertrude Wilson, Scott & Victoria Sutton, and Littlejohn Grain Inc. in memory of Joyce Sutton ♥ Walter & Joyce Allen and Henry N. Davis III in memory of Carol (Gholson) Jones ♥ Peggy Schiller in memory of Margaret J. Groves ♥ Jess Newton in memory of Roy & Pauline Hill and Jason Newton ♥ Anonymous (cash donations), Joseph & Karen Shrode, Evelyn Doty, Barry & Angela Baker, Neal & Marlena Maloy, Steven & Connie Mitchell, Max Dee & Ruby Green, David & Pat Kenshalo, Martha Garner, Paul & Charmaine Darbutt, Edward & Brenda Trapp, Right Now Ministries, Deloris Atteberry Yon Deweese and Matthew & Sarah Rush in memory of Kathryn Bunting - designated for Dyball Home ♥ Michael Robison in memory of Debbie Robison ♥ First Christian Church of Effingham in memory of Gene Moeller ♥ Rick & Sharon Kirk in memory of Velda Eubank ♥ Helen Wesley & Paul, Ellen, Jenny and Blaine in memory of Barbara Wesley ♥ Steve & Geri Ezell, Cathy McKinney, Westlake Corporation, E.H. Baare Corporation, and Highland Avenue Baptist Church in memory of Shirley Merrick ♥ Mike & Anita Cait and Knitting Group in memory of Barbara Wesley ♥ Joyce Bogard in memory of Doris Phillips on Mother's Day and Harry D. Phillips on Father's Day ♥ Fairview Christian Church in memory of Ronald McFarland ♥ Zel, Jeannie and Johnathan Adams in memory of Dale Ryan ♥ Tracy Ushela in memory of Lela McCullough ♥ Jess Newton in memory of Roy & Pauline Hill and Jason Newton ♥ Leona Jean King in memory of Ken & Jean Schrey

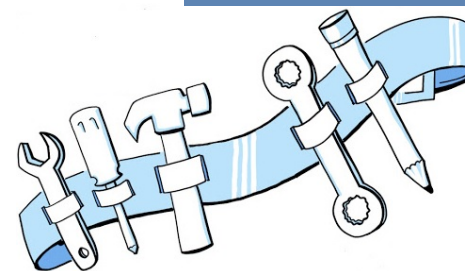
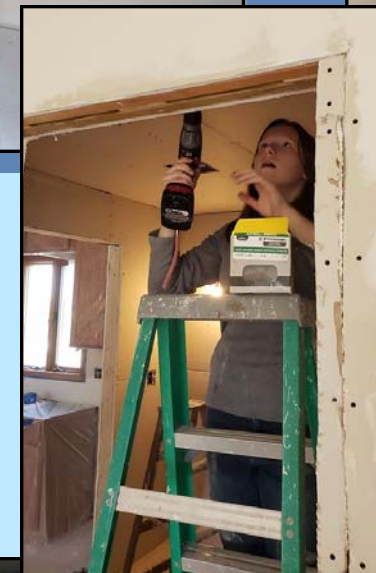
In Honor

First Christian Church of Noble in honor of their mothers on Mother's Day ♥ Bruce Meade in honor of Arvin Moden ♥ Catherine Walberg in honor of Mark Grossi ♥ First Christian Church of Christopher in honor of our mothers on Mother's Day ♥ Martinsville First Christian Church in honor of mother's on Mother's Day

SUMMER
BREAK

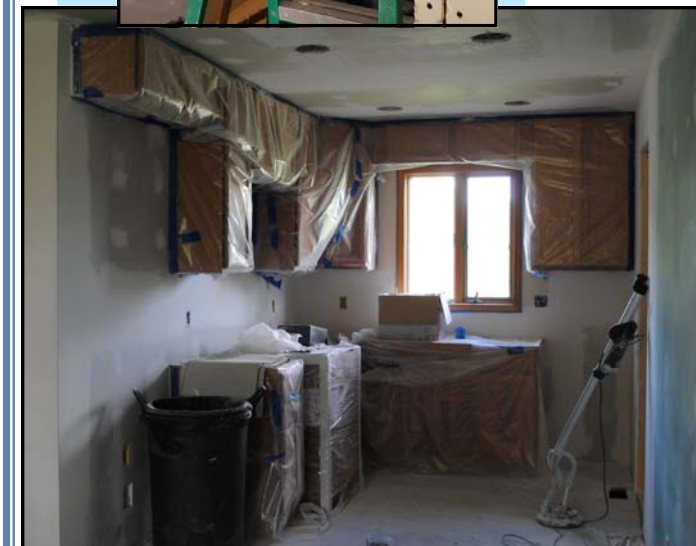



School is officially out for summer, yes, but those final few weeks definitely felt different. Correspondence with teachers and aides was conducted electronically, and work was done mostly at the kitchen table with headphones and on a laptop. Kudos to our houseparents and teachers for barreling through. You did a great job under stressful circumstances! At New Life Academy (our campus school), four students ended the last half of the year on the honor roll!



The target date is the third week of August!

We are hoping that with the help of the future residents themselves, some of our hired workers (pictured here), and perhaps some volunteers, we'll have the *transitional living facility* ready for Kaleigh and L to move in. . . just before they begin classes at Lincoln Trail College. The repurposing of this space in the red, brick building on the Oblong campus is exciting to us and a long time in coming! With the opening of a new home in Fairfield, this apartment took a back seat, but we're ready to expand our programming, and two girls are ready for their new place!





Pandemic or Not... We Stay Busy!



With a little help from friends, a new culvert went in the ground, just in time for the rainy spring season!



Josh looks pretty proud that he has mastered the John Deere on campus and can help out around the yard!



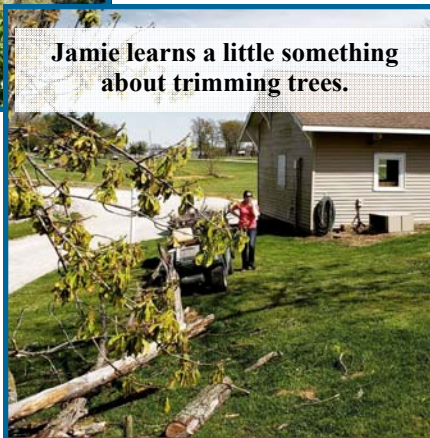
Kyrail has EVERY reason to smile over that catch! What a fisherman!!



Sweet girls picking sweet strawberries. Must be spring!



Jamie learns a little something about trimming trees.



The asphalt drive at the Dyball home is perfect for bike riding!



Alivia and others from the Dyball home in Fairfield get to come up periodically and work with the horses, too!

