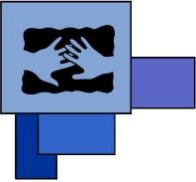


THE BUILDER



Hope for families.
Help to children.
Healing through Christ.

Publication of the Oblong Children's Christian Home
(618) 592-3633
4094 E. 1050th Ave. Oblong, IL 62449
web address- www.oblongchristianhome.org

Fall 2020



Though he is no longer the administrator for the Oblong Children's Christian Home, Arvin Moden is still present across the street from the ministry (in his private home) AND present in the lives of the kids in Oblong. Many of you may know that Arvin is an avid gardener. Tomatoes, zucchini, and peppers are among his plentiful bounty. At each step along the way (planting, picking, weeding, etc.), he employs young people from the Home. Shay is pictured above harvesting tomatoes this summer. While he was away on vacation, much of the responsibility was left for residents here to shoulder, and they did quite well. In addition to paying them a wage, with just a little extra work, these same kiddos benefitted in a pretty *sweet* way, too—by baking loaves and loaves of zucchini bread! Sabrina and Jamie proudly show off their culinary creations. Yes, it is a hobby that requires dedication and hard work, but Arvin still believes in passing those values along to those served by the ministry—even in his retirement!



THE BUILDER

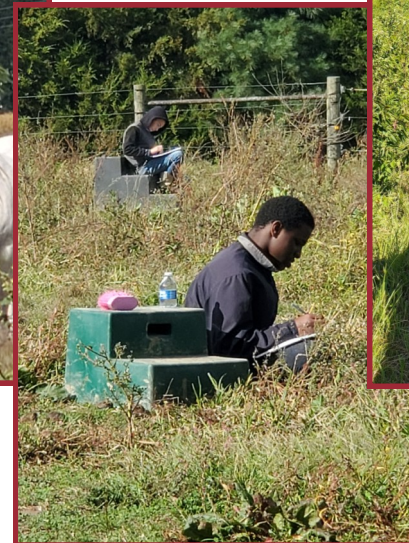
NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION OF THE
OBLONG CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN HOME



*Join Us
in This Season
of Praise and
Thanksgiving*



A backdrop of fall colors and the gentleness of a beautiful horse. . . what a combination! These boys are in states of both joy and excitement as well as contemplation and reflection. We've been utilizing our herd for trail rides and for more therapeutic sessions where we journal. It is a blessing to know that these animals serve great cathartic purposes for our residents. Enjoy the photos and the knowledge that your investment in the Home provides such perfect opportunities for healing and new beginnings.



Journal

TIME TO
Ride

Praise and Thanksgiving Issue

A Whole PAGE of Dyball News. . .

Our girls' home in Fairfield, the Dyball Home, has had a great fall so far. The girls picked buckets and buckets full of apples locally. Alivia has sung two specials at their church, Pleasant Grove Christian Church in Geff (note housedad Mark accompanying her on guitar). Former board member Steve Liston added even more fish to our fishing pond at the Home. This time it was wide-mouth bass. And, overall, the family is just blessed by members of the community who occasionally drop by to donate food or paper products—whatever is needed!

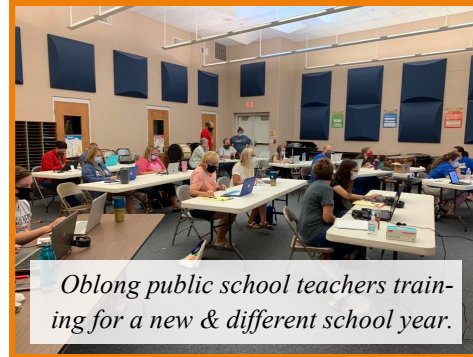
OH, HOW BLESSED WE ARE!!



P.E. and a local service project combined!



Online learning with class pet, Mater.



Oblong public school teachers training for a new & different school year.



SCHOOL'S IN SESSION!

Residents at the Oblong Children's Christian Home go to either private or public schools, and all are currently in session—somehow and someway. We have students at Lincoln Trail College as well! Every day seems to bring with it a host of responsibilities, running students here and there, but we're committed to their academic success!

In Loving Memory

Walter & Joyce Allen in memory of **Erland Lingafelter** ♥ Michael Robison in memory of **Debbie Robison** ♥ Doris Weaver in memory of **Charlie Weaver** ♥ Charles Moses in memory of **Linda Parrott** ♥ Jess Newton in memory of **Roy & Pauline Hill and Jason Newton** ♥ Marilyn King in memory of **Hal King** ♥ Anonymous donor in memory of **Mrs. Lola Belle White** ♥ Jason Sutton in memory of **Nina Sutton** ♥ Joan McCarty in memory of **Gerald McCarty** ♥ Michael Robison in memory of **Mike & Debbie Robison** ♥ Jess Newton in memory of **Roy & Pauline Hill and Jason Newton** ♥ Sally Murphy, Danielle Merkel, Ralph & Sally Hiatt, Charlotte Boldrey, Thomas & Dorothy Dashiell, Patty Higginbotham, Randall Shafer, Greg & Carol Tucker, Otto & Penny Veach, Wayne & Sharon Dyck, Donald Guinnip, Harold & Donna Smith and Mark Schroeder in memory of **John Hendrix** ♥ Wabash Valley Service Company, Cisne office, Rod & Connie Reid, Debbie Pope in memory of **Darlene Murphy** ♥ Joan McCarty in memory of **Jack Hutchinson** ♥ Phyllis Irvin, Larry & Charlotte Sackrider, Michael & Karen Dart, Daniel & Alicia Haberlin, Sandra Ross, Mackie & Karen Woods, First Christian Church of Oblong, Melanie Dart, Sharon Frost, Diana York, Joan Dart, Mr. & Mrs. Ed Barrett, Mr. & Mrs. Larry Bluebnaum, Stan Batman, Pamalee Batman, Scotty & Jeannie Chidix, Carolyn Davison, Keith & Diann Bomer, Lola & George Piersall, Valarie & Don Dunlap, Nena & Dave Boswick, Corbin & Lisa Musgrave, Susan Carver, Bill & Barbara Eberly, Jim & Shirley Marshall, Doyle & Barbara Purcell, Marjory Dart, Steve & Jeanie Smitley, Dogwood Creek Farm, Donna Dart, Judith Britton, Carrie Osborne, Brenda & Brian Lingafelter, Bill & Pamela Rosborough, Wabash Valley FS, George & Sue Harrison, Leslie Dart and Marty & Gena Elliott in memory of **Mary Jane Dart** ♥ Michael Robison in memory of **Mike & Judy Robison** ♥ Shannon Klier in memory of **David French**



In Honor

First Christian Church of Noble in honor of **all dads on Father's Day** ♥ First Christian Church of Christopher in honor of **all dads on Father's Day** ♥ Larry & Donna Miller in honor of **Chris & Amy Martin** ♥ Earl & Valinda Deckard in honor of **Doyle Purcell** ♥ Sandra Ross in honor of **Jack Jenkins on his birthday** ♥ Rod & Tammy Williams in honor of **Tony Williams on his birthday** ♥ Emily Gomez in honor of **Addison Laumer's 16th birthday** ♥ Deanne Wimsatt in honor of **Myra Bilyew on her birthday**





ON AUGUST 17, 2020, Gene Whitten began his tenure at the Oblong Children’s Christian Home as the Executive Director-Child Care. Gene follows Jeff Robinson, who submitted his resignation in July 2020, moving from Oblong to Corpus Christi, Texas in late August to begin a chaplain residency there. Gene hails from Indianapolis, Indiana. We sought him out from Gateway Christian Counseling, asking him to fill the vacant role. Gene’s experiences and education uniquely match the prerequisites of the position as outlined by both the Children’s Home Board of Directors and the Department of Child and Family Services. Gene and his wife Dana have made their home in the red, brick building (westernmost side) on the Oblong campus and are adjusting to rural life from their former urban setting. Gene and Dana have four children. Corey (19) went home early to be with Jesus. Cameron (CJ) (26) is married to Mariah Whitten; CJ is a worship/youth pastor in Peoria, Illinois. Carrissa (24) is married to Jared Swank. Carrissa is an RN in Indianapolis. Isaac (23) is married to Sierra Whitten. Isaac is in medical school in the St. Louis, Missouri area. It’s an exciting time here to see Gene’s vision begin to shape the future of the ministry. **WE ARE BLESSED, AND WE ARE THANKFUL.**



So much of what we wanted to do in 2020 has been canceled because of COVID. Just like you, we have barreled through disappointments. We were still able to conduct two painting parties on our Oblong campus (in July and September). In fact, a third party (to paint the Indian feather to the right) is scheduled for **November 12 at 6:00 p.m.** [Sign up now on our website (www.oblongchristianhome.org); click on “Events.”] We are grateful to Karla Ries of Art is Relative, who is an excellent teacher and always makes the night a hoot with her humor.

2020 Spooktacular 5K
October 31, 8:00 a.m.



And, we will still conduct the Spooktacular 5K on **October 31** at Oblong City Park. LOTS of logistical changes have been made, including the fact that **NO ONSITE REGISTRATIONS** will be allowed, so if you are interested, head over to our website to sign-up. (Again see “Events.”) If you’d rather **NOT** participate in person, just let us know you’ll walk/run virtually! Regardless, we would love for you to join us and help us to finish 2020 strong!

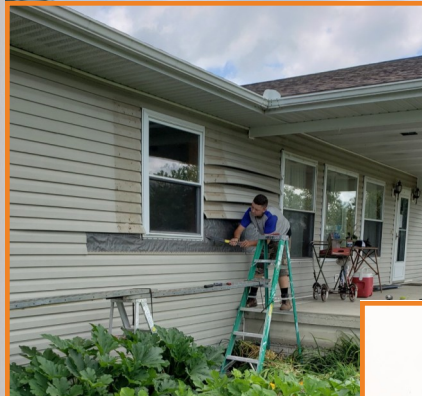
Windows Update



Blessed!



Humbled!



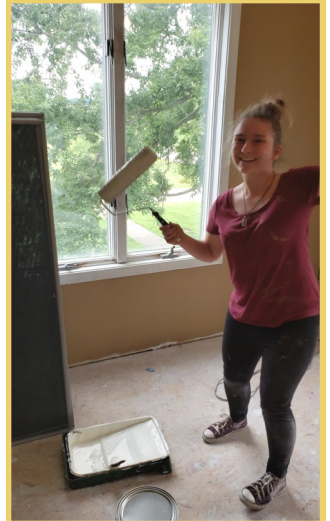
Highly Favored!



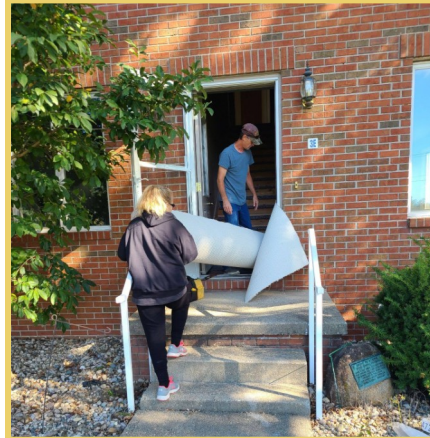
Grateful Beyond Measure!

The wind was knocked right out of us when the fire marshal confirmed that windows on our Ob-long campus homes would need replaced and a fire suppression system installed. But here we are in 2020, WITH ALL VIOLATIONS RESOLVED!

God is so good to us!



ALMOST THERE



Oh that we could tell you, "We're done!" But, we are not. The transitional living apartment has seen delay, after delay, after delay. But, God is faithful. Even in these last several weeks as summer winds into fall, we've had more servant hands on deck to finish what we started so many months ago. Kaleigh and L are excited to move in, and we're praying for a move-in date right around the corner.

Just look—how blessed are we??

Transitional Living