

# Mostly for the fun of it...

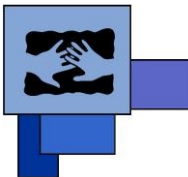
In early December, many of the girls from the girls home on the Oblong campus put their hands to work in an all-day baking session that blessed the ministry financially. The smiles here indicated that maybe they truly enjoyed the warm kitchen and the fun of making fudge, rock candy, Oreo balls, and cut-out sugar cookies. Thanks to **EVERY-ONE** who



helped to make the goodies and to those who purchased as well. It was quite a successful bake sale!!

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

# THE BUILDER



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

A publication of the Oblong Children's Christian Home  
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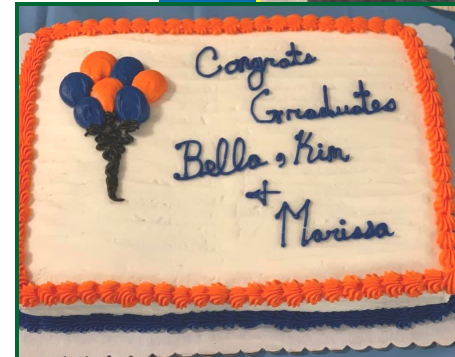
## Winter 2021



# THE BUILDER

## Three Special Graduates

On the Saturday before Christmas, New Life Academy graduated three special young ladies: Bella, Kimberly, and Marissa. Each completed her senior year at the mid-term! In January, they would all three begin full-time college life at the local junior college, Lincoln Trail. Each young woman is also holding a job in the community. The ceremony was sparsely attended only because of COVID mandates, but in spirit, many cheerleaders for these three and many who had touched their lives during their stay with us were attending. What an accomplishment!



*Take pride in how far you've come and have faith in how far you can go!*





Cross-country skiing, sleds behind the tractor, and rubber boots on icy patches—these are our winter activities and more. We haven't had abundant snow in Oblong this winter, but on our few "snow days" (when school is canceled and play time is not only condoned but enjoyed by all), we make the most of the time we have outside. Bundling up and enjoying God's gift of the seasons is our pleasure!



### Just A Little Different

Every once in a while, it is good to draw attention to our school, New Life Academy. Not every student who is high school-aged is enrolled in our school, as some are quite capable of both peer interaction and academic instruction at the public school. However, it is a program point of emphasis that at least the first semester of a child's stay with us be under a Christian mantle. For high school-aged children, that means New Life Academy, where the curriculum is self-paced, and we teach and test in Bible daily. Pleasingly, we even have some students in our school who are not residents on our campus. Currently, between our two campuses, we have eight students enrolled.



*Captions (clockwise from upper right-hand corner). 1) New Life Academy at the Dyball location needs a little energy boost in their day, so why not a little Just Dance? Even our counselor, Shana, joins in on the fun. 2) Scout is the classroom dog in Fairfield. Not only does he have the softest fur imaginable, he takes his job of monitoring the surroundings seriously. Nothing in that backyard is going to get by him! 3) Girls at the Dyball Home enjoy opportunities for community service. Here, they sort through cans of Mountain Dew at the Midwest Food Bank. 4) On the Oblong campus, all I had asked for was one serious photo of the students and the classroom dog, Mater. . . just one serious photo. Lead by their teacher, this was their best effort! Sigh.*



# Christmas

Is For BIG Kids Too

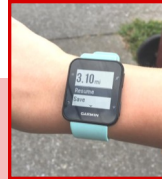


Annually, our staff from both campuses convenes for some holiday fun. There were a few non-embarrassing games, a light-hearted and spirited gift exchange, and of course, good food. Mostly, walking away with laughter and smiles is the objective, and we met it!

## Ready For A Winter Challenge?

Why not use the cold months of winter to work up to a 5K or even a more challenging duathlon? Start small—end BIG! We've set the date for the 14th Annual Race for the Kids: June 5. You are welcome to join us in person or compete virtually and submit a photo just for fun! Details are on our website ([www.oblongchristianhome.org](http://www.oblongchristianhome.org)); just look for Events. Fundraisers have been difficult during COVID, but this outdoor event can be socially distanced and fun. Join us!

Event photos from recent races look a little different, but we LOVE that people all over the country are able to participate in virtual races to help the Home!



2021 Race for the Kids



## In Loving Memory



### In Memory

James & Millie Stewart in memory of Montie Fay Adams ♥ Donna & Kay Young in memory of Phil Young ♥ Ruth Ann Fleenor in memory of William Kurt Beanblossom ♥ Freda Neal in memory of Edgar Gosnell ♥ Doug & Julie Benson in memory of Mae Engel ♥ Carolyn Davison , David & Betty Clark, anonymous donors, Paul & Sara Boyer, James & Mary Knicley, and Joyce Bogard in memory of David French ♥ Fairview Church in memory of Carol McFarland's mother ♥ Larry Gabel in memory of Marilyn Gabel ♥ Ron & Shirley Payne in memory of Dean Brant ♥ Jess Newton in memory of Jason Newton and Roy & Pauline Hill ♥ Jennifer Jones in memory of Pat Jones ♥ Joan Lambert in memory of Leon Harris ♥ Catherine Kraft, Shirley Bennett, and Mr. & Mrs. Glenn in memory of Lois Benjamin McCarter ♥ Robin & Jan Tracy in memory of M. Wayne Tracy ♥ Lyle & Linda Bailey in memory of Willoughby Steckley ♥ Marilyn King in memory of Hal King ♥ Joyce Bogard in memory of Harry D. & Doris Phillips ♥ Sam & Emaleen Collins in memory of Arthur & Clara Marie Harris and Leon Harris ♥ Donna Dart in memory of Helen Blanton ♥ Michael Robison in memory of Debbie Robison ♥ Roger & Evelyn Bare in memory of Erika ♥ Gerald Jones in memory of Sara Benton ♥ Frank & Wanda Weber and anonymous donor in memory of Helen Blanton ♥ Abate of Illinois, Inc.—Crawford County Chapter and Carolyn Davison in memory of David French ♥ Curt & Angie Carter in memory of Frank & Luella Carter and Lenore Shaffer ♥ Ruth Smith in memory of Dean Smith ♥ Elmer & Sharon Hale, James & Kathy Michels, Seed Chapel Church, Gene & Randy King, Brent & Penny Powell, Marcella Brannon, Mr. & Mrs. Bradley Branson, Mitzi Johnson, Marvin Howard, Tamala Mugrage, Karlette Morgan, and OHS Class of 1954 in memory of Marion Leggitt ♥ Michelle Gauchot in memory of Mildred Ilene Blake ♥ Danny & Kristi Schaffner in memory of Judy Henry ♥ Scott & Victoria Sutton in memory of Phyllis Strohm ♥ Michael Robison in memory of Debbie Robison ♥ Tony & Lisa Lockhart in memory of Helen Blanton ♥ David Green and Central Christian Church of Sumner in memory of Dee & Mary Havill ♥ Mike & Joni Elliott in memory of Lola Elliott ♥ Mary Hatcher, anonymous donors, Don & Jolene Harms, Connie Shafer, Maria Totten, Judy Birge, Sallie York, Shirley, Jeff, & Leann Gumbel, Neita Lencar, Russell & Rita Kman, Bill & Joan Flowers, and Dan & Robin Mullen in memory of Doris Weaver ♥ Ocie & Diana Smith, Michael & Judy Henry, Aldrich Realty, Robert & Deanna Duncan, Janet & Thomas Newton, Jeff & Tracy Mehler, Biggs & Company Real Estate, Inc., Jeff Simms, Joe & Betty Griffith, Mark & Angela Mouton, Skyler and Jennifer Epperson and Lloyd & Luann Wesley in memory of Tom Pearce ♥ Kenny & Nancy Hoke, and Donna Wampler in memory of Nina Rich ♥ Michael Robison in memory of Opal Robison ♥ Lane Christian Church in memory of Kevin Lane ♥ Harmon Parrott in memory of Joe A. Smith ♥ Jennie Gray in memory of Gene Harris ♥ CIPS retirees, Jerry Alexander, Roberta Charles, and David Lindstrom in memory of Peg Butler

### In Honor

Larry & Donna Miller in honor of Chris & Amy Martin ♥ Ryan Pemberton Family, Andrew Spray Family, Chris Spray Family, Montana Thomason Family, John & Audrey Spray, and Steve, Bonita & Grace Thomason in honor of George & Nieta Fewkes ♥ Jennifer Jones in honor/memory of her siblings ♥ John & Audra Spray in honor of the Fewkes & Spray Families at Christmas ♥ Lloyd & Melanie Moden in honor of Arvin Moden ♥ Doug & Katina Roth in honor of Gail Roth ♥ David & Jala Morris and families, Greg & Cindy Irwin and families, Ronnie & Amy Wright and families, and Matt & Carolyn Tyler and families in honor of their parents J.B. & Ollie Tyler at Christmas time ♥ Cathy Daugherty in honor of a friend's birthday

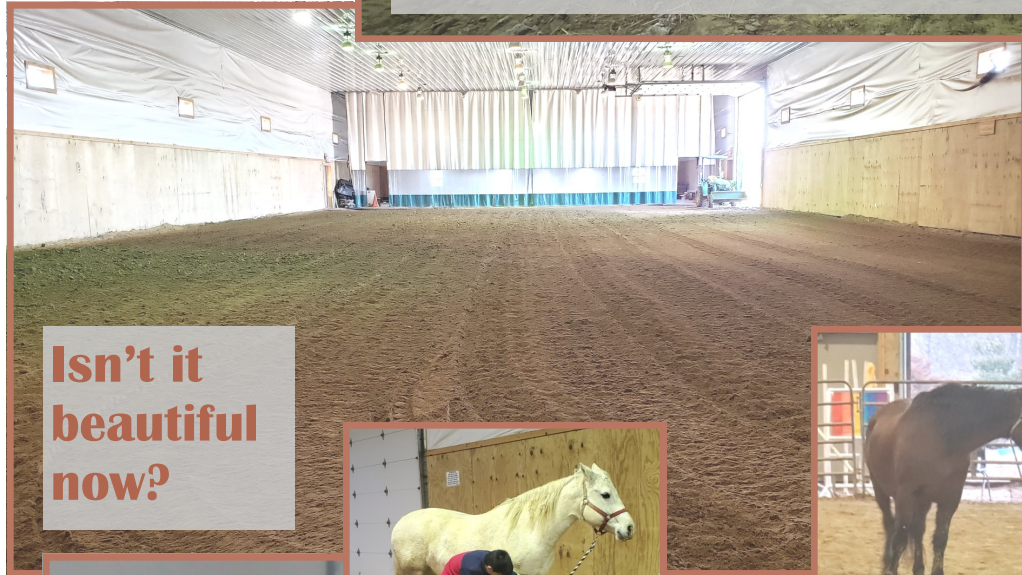


# Hard Work. Beautiful Reward.

There is nothing wrong with giving credit where credit is due. The arena had a drainage problem, and we knew it. Scads of jobs had stacked up in importance ahead of



**THIS NEEDED FIXED!**



**Isn't it beautiful now?**



of the arena issue, but a HUGE thanks goes out to Chris Martin (pictured below) who addressed the issue before the coldest of winter weather hit and made

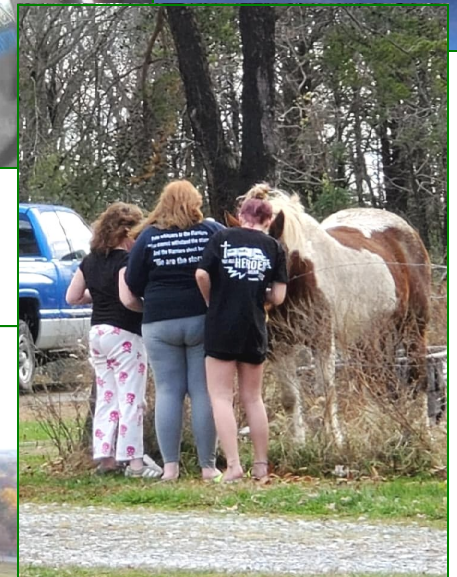
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# What's Going On at the Dyball Home?

Every issue of THE BUILDER is a good issue to highlight some goings-on at the Dyball Home in Fairfield. Can you believe that this home has been open now for two years? Time flies. Here are some photos to share our joys in that location.

Alivia is building her confidence in her strength area: gymnastics. Steve and Alice Bruce (our relief houseparents) pose for a selfie with Lyndsey. Several girls enjoy the companionship of a four-legged friend while their photo is captured from afar. And, thanks to a neighbor with a drone, we have this really neat aerial view!



**FAIRFIELD, IL**



**CAMPUS #2**