

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**



Children from Gaffard Cottage at Bartlett participated in Ebenezer Baptist's Children's Choir production.



Boys from the Ranch pose in front of the Piper Cottage Christmas tree.



Children doing the "Hokey Pokey" at the Brentwood Campus annual Christmas Party.



Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes

HOME WITH A HEART  
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**TBCH**  
<online>

TBCH4kids.org is relaunching with a completely updated, easier to navigate website! Look for it at the beginning of next year!

**A Letter From the President**

DR. BRYANT MILLSAPS



Dear Friends,  
From of all us at your Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, we want to wish you and your family a very happy New Year! We hope your Christmas season was full of the wonderful hope and joy that is offered to all of us through our Lord, Jesus Christ.

As we start this New Year we want to express our deepest gratitude for all your prayers, giving, and support throughout 2009. This was not an easy year for TBCH, but the Lord has remained faithful and continues to answer our prayers and provide wonderful partners like you to serve along side this ministry and offer hope to the children and families He places in our care. We can not say "Thank you!" enough for all that you do in partnering with us.

In this issue of "Home with a Heart" you will read about various activities and events from our campuses all across the state. We are thankful to so many of you who help donate toys, host Christmas parties, and make sure our residents have a merry Christmas. We have included pictures from some of these parties as well as highlighted MAPCO for delivering more than 10,000 gifts and toys to our Chattanooga campus.

Also, we have highlighted two special young men in this issue. One is a former resident from our Brentwood Campus who brought us back a special gift after serving in Iraq for the past year. The other is a graduating senior on our Chattanooga campus who has received a scholarship to play college basketball. You will want to read both stories about these young men. We are so proud of them.

We have stories from other campuses as well as information regarding our new website coming soon! At TBCH, we try our best to stay connected to our partners in ministry. We continue to try and improve our communications efforts with each of you and do our best to keep you in informed with all that is happening here. If you have not taken the time to sign up for our e-newsletter I would encourage you to do so today at [www.tbch4kids.org](http://www.tbch4kids.org).

We hope you enjoy this newsletter. We are grateful for each of your prayers and faithful support. May God bless you throughout this new year!

In Christ Alone,

*Bryant Millsaps*



**GET OUR E-NEWSLETTER!**

We need your email address!!! If you would like to be a part of TBCH's new e-newsletter please sign up on our website. This is an easy way to receive prayer updates, find out about volunteer needs, make a donation, and other TBCH statewide information.

Sign up today at [www.TBCH4Kids.org](http://www.TBCH4Kids.org)

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## FIRST TROPHIES!

Two of our little girls, Molly and Serenity, got to play soccer for our church team with other girls their age. They had a great Christian lady for a coach and she taught them many things about the game. They played almost every Saturday through September and October. They didn't have a winning season but you would never know from the excitement and fun they had every week. At the end of the season, the team had a pizza party. It is custom in our church that the prize for playing every week is a trophy. It's amazing how little things like trophies get taken for granted by us as adults. These two little girls were in awe that they were presented with trophies. They held onto them as if they were precious heirlooms. They were smiling from ear to ear and said they had "never gotten a trophy before." Thank you to Ellendale Baptist Church and Kelli Ferrell for making this a wonderful experience for two little girls.



- Ashley McCollough, Bartlett House Mom

## Thanks MAPCO Employees!

Christmas came early to our Chattanooga Campus when MAPCO employees delivered 10,681 toys and gifts. MAPCO stores from Jasper to Knoxville held a toy drive that began in November to collect toys for TBCH. On December 3rd, 5 MAPCO employees brought the truck full of toys to the campus. Needless to say, our children were over-joyed and we feel blessed to pass many of these gifts along to other ministries and families in need. Thank you MAPCO and all those who donated to their toy drive!



"Boys on Target" is a ministry that was started several years ago at First Baptist Grand Junction. Young men from the TBCH Boys Ranch earn the right to accompany leaders from the ranch to Ames Plantation each year for a deer hunt. The trip is always as much fun for the big guys as it is for the boys and this year was no exception. I was paired with Brock, a great guy to have as a hunting buddy for the weekend. Any dad would be proud to have a son like Brock to share a tree stand with. He reminded me of my own son whom I took on these hunts many years ago.

While sitting very quietly on Saturday morning, Brock turned to me and said, "Mr. Jim, are you a Christian?" I responded, "Yes I am Brock. I love Jesus very much and I probably wouldn't be here with you if it wasn't for Him." Brock went on to tell me that he too was a Christian and gave God credit for him being there with me that morning. This is why I love the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes. Here is a boy who has faced so much adversity as a child and is taking the time to witness to me about Jesus.

-Jim Cook, Boys On Target, FBC Grand Junction



## A SOLDIER'S HOMECOMING



Specialist Bradley Ward is a former resident of our Brentwood Campus. He had visited the campus a year prior to his coming with his church youth group. "When things went south at home," he said, "I asked if I could come stay at the Children's Homes." Brad lived with the Dyers (house parents in Stewart Cottage) for more than 2 years before going to live with his mom in 2006. This past year he was stationed in Iraq from January - October. Brad came back and presented TBCH with an American flag that was hung on his base in Iraq for September 11, 2009. We are always blessed to stay in touch with former residents and we are thankful Brad wanted to honor us in this way.

## TBCH MVP

Michael, a resident on the Chattanooga Campus for 4 years, recently signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball at the University of Connecticut (UConn). He is a senior at Tyner Academy in Chattanooga, has a 3.5 GPA and scored a 25 on his ACT.



Presenting Michael, his mother, Jackie Phinney, and Carl Willis, East TN RVP

He was highly recruited by dozens of schools but chose UConn because of their reputation as a national competitor each year in basketball and because of their pharmacy program. Michael plans to major in Pharmacy and will enter the UConn program in his third year. He also has NBA aspirations and knew that UConn would be a great place to improve his game to reach that level.

Bank of America



We want to express our sincere appreciation at the receipt of Bank of America's generous check for \$5,000! These funds will be used to assist our operating expenses in caring for the children on our Middle Tennessee campus. At a time when some foundations are delaying their financial charitable support, we are indeed grateful that Bank of America has chosen to help us provide a 24/7 home, an outstanding education, medical and mental health treatment, and life-changing experiences for its Middle Tennessee youth neighbors here at TBCH.

