

Missouri Baptist Children's
Home

Mission Project Booklet

"Whoever welcomes one of these little
children in my name welcomes me,
and whoever welcomes me does not
welcome me but the one who sent me."

Mark 9:37



Missouri Baptist Children's Home Mission Projects Booklet

Our Mission:

Missouri Baptist Children's Home is committed to serving God by responding to the needs of children, youth and families to make a lasting difference in their lives.

Caring Christians across the state want to get involved when hurting children are concerned. This booklet is designed to give individuals, groups, or church congregations ideas that others have used to help the children of Missouri Baptist Children's Home.

A mission project is twice blessed . . . it blesses those who participate in the project as well as those for whom the work is done. It is our prayer that some of the suggested projects in this booklet will be workable for you or your group.

Mission projects are not limited to any one type of group. Projects have been completed by clubs such as Kiwanis, Lions and Rotary; by church groups such as W.M.U., Baptist Men, R.A.'s and G.A.'s, and Sunday School classes. College sports teams, clubs, and groups have also completed mission projects to benefit the Children's Home.

Please keep us informed of your mission project. We would like to recognize some of the groups in our monthly newsletter, the *Messenger*, which is an insert of the **Word and Way** and *The Pathway* publications. Call us with your comments or questions at 1-800-264-6224.

Prayer Support

The Children's Home has a trained professional staff composed of caring Christians. However, a family cannot be put back together without God's help.

Pray for the children and families, and our staff at your weekly Wednesday night prayer meeting at your church, or at the prayer request times when your group meets.

Of all the projects in this booklet, this is the most important. Please "pray without ceasing" for the children, youth, families, and staff of Missouri Baptist Children's Home.

Volunteer Support

Information Resource

Help keep your church informed about the services available through Missouri Baptist Children's Home. Distribute literature explaining each of the programs offered. Direct those needing services to the Children's Home. Help find Christian families who would be willing to serve as foster parents, adoptive parents, or as a Visiting Resource.

Volunteers Opportunities

Volunteers are an important part of the work of Missouri Baptist Children's Home. The aim of the Volunteer Program is to provide a quality experience for the volunteer, with numerous opportunities for service and personal growth. The Volunteer Program provides a Christian with the opportunity for definite hands on mission work.

The volunteer works under the supervision of the Children's Home staff. The staff works with the volunteer to determine a schedule and work program which is acceptable both to the volunteer and the agency.

Just about every ability and talent a person has can be used to advantage at Missouri Baptist Children's Home.

The following are some of the ongoing needs available for volunteers:

- tutors
- career counselors
- special activities coordinators
- grounds and maintenance crew
- barbers/beauticians
- piano/guitar teachers
- clothes closet organizers

Volunteers are also needed for work projects and annual festivals. These are listed separately in this booklet.

Mission Tours

Tours of the campuses are arranged upon request and by appointment. Groups or individuals should call for information. Tours are not conducted on Sundays.

Baby Showers

The Crisis Pregnancy Program and Mothers With Children Program have benefitted greatly from baby showers held at various churches across the state. The baby items are used to help young mothers get a head start on the road to parenthood. Other items are sent to infant boarding homes to provide for the baby before adoptions are completed.

Bible Drive

Several churches across the state have held Bible drives to collect new Bibles for the children at the Children's Home. The New International Version is preferred.

Youth Choir/Drama Tour

Every year there are youth choirs and youth drama teams from Missouri churches and churches across the country who perform for the children on the various campuses. It's a good experience for the youth group and is an exciting activity for the MBCH residents as well. Performances of this type would need to be scheduled with Children's Home staff well in advance.

Cottage Sponsorship

Cottage Sponsors are needed for each of the houses across the state. A sponsor can be any group or individual willing to commit to one full year of sponsorship. The level of sponsorship is decided by the individual sponsor. Some will commit to regular financial support, or providing funds for birthday or Christmas gifts. Others will pledge continued prayer support, and a commitment to meet the special needs of the cottage itself.

Each sponsor will be assigned a specified house and will receive quarterly updates including the current residents, their first names, ages and birthdates; and the current needs of that particular house.

A Cottage Sponsor may want to plan a trip to visit their sponsored cottage, or take the residents of the cottage on a off-campus trip to the zoo, a ball game, or a picnic. All activities need to be scheduled through the Children's Home staff.

Work Projects

Many groups have contributed to the Children's Home by doing work projects. A few examples are:

1. Concord Baptist Church in St. Louis renovated staff apartments on the Bridgeton Campus. This included wall patching, removing old carpeting, repairing cabinets, hanging closet doors and painting.
2. Kirkwood Baptist Church in St. Louis painted two staff homes on the Bridgeton Campus.
3. The youth group from First Baptist Church in Springfield did yard work on the Hutchens Campus.
4. First Baptist Church of Ferguson organized and inventoried recreational equipment and the gift room on the Bridgeton Campus.

All five of the campuses occasionally need help in the area of maintenance and yard work. Some of the projects needed now are painting and caulking, panel repair, roofing replacement and repair and concrete work.

Collect Needed Supplies

In December, 1993, the Barton Dade Association had a "Pack-A-Barrel" Day for the Greg Dalton Campus in Lamar. The Pack-A-Barrel concept goes way back in MBCH history to the days when churches all across the state would pack barrels with nonperishable food and dry goods, and ship them to the Children's Home. This might be a good activity to combine with an "Old Fashioned Day" at your church.

Due to state health regulations, the Children's Home cannot accept home canned or home baked goods. Fresh fruits or vegetables are accepted.

Countless churches, mission groups and organizations have collected needed items to benefit Missouri Baptist Children's Home. Below is a general needs list of items that would be greatly appreciated. A list of currently needed items is listed on our web-site at www.mbch.org.

NEEDS LIST

Baby Items:	Receiving blankets	Shampoo	Bottles
	Heavier blankets	Powder	Diaper bags
	Diapers	Wipes	Car seats & pumpkin seats
	Undershirts	Lotion	Sleepers (sm., med., lg.)
	Pampers (sm., med., lg.)	Socks (0-24 mo.)	"Onesies"
	Clothes (0-12 mo.)	Crib sets	Bibs
	Nail clippers	Q-tips	Cribs and mattresses
	Bouncers	Strollers	Swings
	Mobiles	Educational toys	Exersaucers
	School Items:	Spiral notebooks	Backpacks
Pens (black, blue, red)		Rulers	Construction paper
Scissors		Combination locks	Three ring binders
Colored pencils		Index cards	Folders w/pockets & prongs
Hygiene Items:	Toothpaste	Lotion	Toothbrushes
	Conditioner	Combs	Bar soap
	Brushes	Hair spray	Shampoo
	Chapstick	Acne cream	Deodorant (roll-on)
	Feminine products	Styling gel	Lg. hair combs and picks
	Petroleum jelly		
Cottage Items:	Paper towels	Laundry soap	Napkins
	Dryer sheets	Kleenex	Bath linens
	Toilet paper	Bed linens	Trash bags (13 gal.)
	Kitchen linens	Cleaning supplies	Ziplock bags

The Children's Home cannot accept any products in aerosol cans.

Special Offering Support

Celebration Offerings

Mr. & Mrs. James Rook of Raytown celebrated their golden wedding anniversary recently. The invitations suggested the guests bring groceries for the Children's Home in lieu of anniversary gifts for the couple. The result was eight large grocery bags full of food, paper and cleaning supplies for the Byrne Campus. This idea could be used in connection with any celebration or social gathering. Groceries, hygiene items, paper products, or cash could be requested to benefit the Children's Home.

Birthday Offering

The Birthday Offering has been a part of Missouri Baptist Children's Home since 1890. Birthday cards, pencils, envelopes and brochures are available upon request to help your church promote the offering within your congregation.

A possible mission project could be sending out birthday cards to the church congregation, or using the other materials to get the Birthday Offering started.

Todd Decker, pastor of First Baptist Church in Neosho developed the idea of having a birthday party to raise money for the Children's Home. Every year in January, they set up 12 tables in their fellowship area, one for each month of the year. As people come in, they sit at the table of the month of their birthday. The table's are decorated according to the month of the year. Usually some games are played, then they serve cake and ice cream. The cakes are different for each table. After refreshments, a representative from the Children's Home gives a short explanation of the needs of the Home, and then the Birthday Offering is taken.

Special Offering Promotion

Find ways to promote and publicize special Children's Home offerings like the Birthday Offering and State Missions Offering. Consider a poster contest, poem, or "newspaper ad" contest. Or how about writing a skit to perform for worship service, Sunday School class, or other special occasion.

The Muggers Club

Several churches have organized "Mugger's Clubs" to support the Birthday Offering. This idea began as a joke by Dr. Bob Springate, vice president of public relations and development. Dr. Springate told the congregation "I'm going to mug your pastor." After arousing their curiosity he presented the pastor with a birthday offering mug, and the Mugger's Club was formed.

Birthday mugs are intended for those donors giving a dollar for each year of their life on their birthdays. Some churches have an annual, monthly or weekly presentation of mugs to those who have given their designated offering amount. Others have a continuing club. Each person giving a dollar a year has his or her name displayed in a prominent place. And still others hang the mugs on hooks in the church dining room with the person's name printed above or below. Those individuals use their own mug at church socials.

A new mug is offered each year to encourage individuals to send their special birthday offering annually.

Memorials and Honorariums

Memorial gifts provide an excellent way to express your love and concern for someone who has gone on to be with the Lord, or as a comfort for the family of the deceased.

Honorarium gifts serve as a wonderful display of admiration, love and respect in honor of a birthday, anniversary, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Valentine's Day, or other special occasion.

When a memorial or honorarium gift is received a thank you letter is sent to the individual sending the gift. If requested, an acknowledgment card is also sent to the family, in the case of a memorial gift, and directly to the individual honored with an honorarium gift. The name of the individual being recognized as well as the donor will be printed in the *Messenger* pages of the *Word and Way* and *The Pathway*. Memorial and Honorarium packets are available upon request.

Fund Raising Support

Bike-A-Thon

Youth of all ages are becoming involved in bike-a-thons to raise money for different charities. Some of our Missouri Baptist Churches through their mission groups have held bike-a-thons and sent the money to the Children's Home. In a bike-a-thon participant obtains pledges from his neighbors, friends, and family members for the distance he/she rides in the bike-a-thon.

Several worthwhile activities could be planned in connection with the bike ride. Prayer and/or mission study could be held before the ride takes place. It could be used as a social event for the mission groups involved. Adults not wanting to ride could be used as sponsors or judges.

Walk-A-Thon

The walk-a-thon is very much like the bike-a-thon. It is for all ages. Cedar City Baptist Church, with about 30 in Sunday School each Sunday, planned a walk-a-thon and raised \$1,000 for the Children's Home.

The plan is simple. A day is set for the walk-a-thon. Each person walking obtains pledges from their sponsors in advance, for each mile walked. Sponsors are friends, family, neighbors, or colleagues from work. Most people are willing to donate to a worthwhile ministry for children.

Tournaments

Several churches across the state have sponsored either volleyball or golf tournaments, with the proceeds to benefit the Children's Home.

Honoring Mothers

Southside Baptist Church in Fulton honors their mothers in a special way on Mother's Day. Like many churches they honor the oldest mother, the mother with the youngest baby, the mother with the most children present, etc. . . . Instead of presenting flowers to these mothers, a contribution is made by the church in these mothers' names to Missouri Baptist Children's Home.

Baby-sitting

A good idea was sent to us by the members of Harrisburg Baptist Church. A group at this church did baby-sitting and sent the money they received to the Children's Home. This would be an excellent project for Acteens or Baptist Young Women.

Christmas Money Tree

Emmanuel Baptist Church in Webb City has a money tree at Christmas time to substitute for a gift exchange. Instead of giving a gift at Christmas time, they put money on the Christmas tree. Everyone enjoys watching the tree grow week by week. There is great satisfaction in knowing that hurting children and youth are being helped. What better way to celebrate our Lord's birthday than sharing with children who have no one else to go to for help.

Music Night/Sing-a-long

Every church and community has music groups and people who love to sing. Your church could have a special music night. Invite musicians from other churches or denominations to share their talents with your congregation. A love offering could be taken during the performance for the child care ministry.

Mile of Pennies

Cave Springs Baptist Church in Neosho created the idea of collecting a mile of pennies to be donated to the Children's Home. They discovered that sixteen pennies, placed side by side, equal one foot, and 5,280 feet equals one mile which totals \$844.80. A penny basket was placed at the entrance of the church for people to deposit their pennies each Sunday.

One Sunday a month the group would have a penny march during the morning worship service. The membership would march to the front of the church to deposit their pennies. A chart was visible showing the growth of the penny collection. Initially this was a youth group project, but it soon spread to the entire church. In three years, the church collected over \$3,000 in pennies.

First Baptist Church in Diamond kicks off Vacation Bible School each year with a penny march. Pennies are collected each day, with the boys and girls competing against each other to see which group can collect the most. The VBS enthusiasm has grown each year, as the pennies continue to come in. During their 1995 Vacation Bible School, they raised \$1,845 for the Children's Home.

Similar to the group from First Baptist Church in Diamond, Sulpher Springs Baptist Church in Eldorado Springs collects pennies for their Vacation Bible School Offering. They too have a competition between the boys and girls. However, they constructed a balance scale with a bucket on each side to weigh the pennies on a daily basis. Each day the group with the most pennies in the bucket were the winners. But the big winners were the children at the Children's Home as the recipients of this special offering.

Cookbook Collection

Beverly Hills Baptist Church in Independence recently published a cookbook for sale. The proceeds are being sent to the Children's Home.

Festival Support

The Festivals

Strawberry Festival - First Saturday in June

Apple Festival - Second Saturday in September

Ozarks Berry Festival - **Third Saturday in July**

The festivals provide an abundance of opportunities for missions. Each year we are in need of hundreds of handmade quilts and crafts for sale and auction. A group could have a weekly meeting day to work on crafts or quilts for the upcoming festival.

Festival as a Mission Trip

Many churches and church groups make the festivals a time for an annual trip. Friends and supporters come in busses, vans and cars from all over Missouri to spend the day at one of the three annual festivals.

It gives them an opportunity to see the work of the Home and to have a good time of fellowship for the entire family. Tours of the cottages are available, and the staff of the Children's Home is available to answer questions.

Festival Volunteers

Many of the volunteer opportunities at the Children's Home are limited to those who live near one of the campuses.

The festivals provide an opportunity for church groups living further away to provide a needed service to the Children's Home. Some examples are:

South Haven Baptist Church in Springfield has provided Ozarks Barbecue since the first year of the Ozarks Berry Festival in 1983.

First Baptist Church in Wright City is responsible for the hamburger stand at the Strawberry Festival in Bridgeton, and has trained the hamburger stand crews at the other two festivals.

Orchard owner Leroy Knox, has involved his church, Enon Baptist in Holden, in providing apples, apple cider and cider slushies for the Apple Festival in Peculiar.

For anyone interested, there is a job for you and your group at the festivals.

Festival Entertainment

Music groups, puppet groups, clowns, soloists, duets, and other entertainers with various talents perform at the three festivals.

Their performance serves as a mission project for the group, and entertainment for the festival attendees. It is a critical part of the festival activities.



Main Campus
11300 St. Charles Rock Rd.
Bridgeton, MO 63044
314-739-6811
1-800-264-6224

Byrne Campus
P.O. Box 447
Peculiar, MO 64078
816-779-5173

Dalton Campus
141 West DD Hwy.
Lamar, MO 64579
417-682-5538

Hutchens Campus
P.O. Box 568
Mt. Vernon, MO 65712
417-466-7844

McMikle Campus
604 Washington
East Prairie, MO 63845
573-649-2800