



Sharing Christ's healing love with children, youth and families in crisis.



Your support gives youth the opportunity for success

Around the age of 15, Austin's world was turned upside down. His mother passed away and with no other family to care for him, he was put into foster care. He bounced around attending 12 different schools. "I grew up faster than most," Austin said. He was alone and trying to find a place to belong.

At the age of 17, Austin was placed in Vera Lloyd's transitional program, where he stayed until he graduated high school.

He credits staff members with teaching him the things he needed to know for everyday life. "I learned how to

communicate with others, manage money and how to live in a household with others," Austin said. "Now I just have to figure out how to do my taxes!"

Austin graduated from Monticello High School in 2015 and enrolled at the University of Arkansas at Monticello. He's currently studying nursing and is involved in many activities on campus.

"Being at Vera Lloyd gave me the guidelines and basics I needed," Austin explained. "It gave me the foundation and now the rest is up to me. But I'm glad that the people at Vera Lloyd are just a phone call away."

Thank you for your support of Austin and other youth like him. Your support enables our youth to realize a more positive future.

Senior girls get a first-hand look at college

In January, Tiara Miller, transition services coordinator, chaperoned three senior girls from Vera Lloyd on tours of the University of Central Arkansas in Conway and the University of Arkansas in Little Rock.

"Normally, they would only have the opportunity to visit the University of Arkansas at Monticello," Tiara explained. "This is great exposure to other opportunities and it's something that will be incorporated into the transitional program."

At UALR, the girls were able to look at dorm rooms, talk to an admissions counselor and visit with department chairmen in their areas of interest. Two girls want to pursue degrees in education and one is interested in social work.

"When we visited the dorm room at UALR, the girls were already discussing where they would put all their things in the room," Tiara said. "They were very excited about the visit and it helped them realize that it's time to start making decisions about the future."

You can engage youth in summer fun

Your gifts will enable boys and girls to learn to read better, discover new talents and find new hobbies during the summer. Donations designated for summer will be invested in:

- A one-week artist residency with Arkansas artist Zinse Agginie, funded in part by the Arkansas Arts Council.
- An eight-week Summer School to help youth improve math and English skills.
- Memberships to the City of Monticello pool.
- Books, prizes and reading events for a summer book club on campus.
- The experience of a week at Ferncliff Camp.
- Healthy Body, Healthy Mind, Happy Soul Day Camp at Vera Lloyd children's home.

"We've already learned mosaic and other ways to create art in school this year," Derek said. "I can't wait to learn more art and go to camp for the first time."

If you want to help Derek and other boys and girls this summer, please make a gift to Vera Lloyd and designate it to summer activities.



Youth at Vera Lloyd learned about gardening during their week at Ferncliff Camp in 2015.

Please remember Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Family Services in your estate plan.



LOVE is ever present

LOVE – yes, we heard that word often during the month of February with the celebration and commercialization of Valentine’s Day.

As you know, Vera Lloyd’s mission is to “share Christ’s healing love with children, youth and families in crisis.” In preparation for our new strategic plan, the word **LOVE** is ever present. For example, in a recent staff retreat we discussed the core values of Vera Lloyd and at the top of that list was **LOVE**.



Our staff and volunteers show **LOVE** to our youth in so many ways, whether it is taking them on an outing, teaching them a new skill, making sure they have school supplies, listening to their concerns or saying “I **LOVE** you,” before they go to bed at night.

Have you ever thought of food as **LOVE**? I haven’t, since I’ve been blessed to have never known food insecurity. However, our Program Director Betsy Anderson recently wrote about our children and youth who have emotional issues attached to food. This comes from the fact that some of our children have literally starved, some have lived in homes where food was used as a form of manipulation and control and some have had food provided inconsistently - ate like kings when money came in, then starved or had to steal the rest of the month. Because food nourishes our body and helps us maintain stability in so many ways, having a twisted relationship with food can lead to twisted behaviors. These behaviors may require an extra dose of healing **LOVE** on the part of our staff. It is sometimes not enough to just provide them with consistent meals and healthy “anytime” snacks, we must also help them modify their behavior and develop a healthy relationship with food.

Thank you for the many ways you show Christ’s healing **LOVE** to our youth by supporting us with your time, talents and treasures. We **LOVE** you for it!

Volunteers demonstrate love by adopting homes

For almost 10 years, women at Second Presbyterian Church in Little Rock have cared for girls in residential care who live at the Barton Home.

As Sharlie Rigby, church member, said, **“We may never know the impact these activities, our involvement and our gifts have made on the lives of girls who have called Barton House their home. Yet, we continue to demonstrate to these girls that they are special and that someone—even strangers—value them enough to reach out to them and put Christ’s healing love into action.”**

Presbyterian Women at Second Presbyterian purchase items for a monthly donation box. From pizza pans to nail polish, from brownie mixes to books, these women have given something special and unexpected to girls who rarely receive gifts from family.

They created a reading room with books, provided backpacks with school supplies, replaced bed and bath linens, assisted with camping supplies for a week at Ferncliff and recognized girls who earned their high school diploma.

“We thank them and other churches, community organizations and individuals who dedicate their volunteer time to boys and girls in our care,” Donna Mahurin, CEO, said.

Barton Home - Adopted by Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock

Lewis Home - Adopted by Trinity Presbyterian Church, Little Rock

Pettus Home - Adopted by PW Circle, Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village

Trimble Home - Adopted by Westover Hills Presbyterian Church, Little Rock

Walton Home - Adopted by Graceminster Presbyterian Church, Monroe, La.

Your gifts provide a home for boys like Roger

Roger was removed from his home because of parental conflicts. He’s been at Vera Lloyd for eight months. When he first arrived on campus, he was angry. He has been working through his emotions with his counselor and is advancing in responsibilities and privileges.

Roger is a well-spoken and thoughtful 17-year old. He looks forward to a time when he can go home to see his dad, but he’s glad there are people at Vera Lloyd to talk to and who care about him.

Roger wants to stay at Vera Lloyd after he graduates and go to the University of Arkansas at Monticello or University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. He’s interested in graphic design and social work. Roger is still finding his way. **Thanks to your gifts, he has a safe home, the opportunity to plan for his future and the support to make his dreams a reality.**



Vera Lloyd works hard to protect the privacy of the children we help. Thank you for understanding.



You were Santa this year

Because of you, the holidays were full of cheer for boys and girls at Vera Lloyd. Youth celebrated by opening gifts, trying new toys, wearing new clothes and going shopping to use their gift cards.

“They were in awe as they came downstairs,” house parent Stephanie Allen said. “They were so grateful. One boy had been asking for a phone. He finally got one and was so excited. The little ones, as soon as they could, opened their remote control cars and raced one another.”

One boy said, **“I am happy to be at Vera Lloyd. Some people don’t have the opportunities we have at Vera Lloyd. We’re lucky to celebrate Christmas.”**



Mrs. Bettye Balmaz, from FPC Conway, delivers gifts for the children.

Thank you for the monetary donations (*included in donor honor roll*) and the stocking stuffers and gifts. You made Christmas happen for these youth!

<i>Allison Memorial Presbyterian Church</i>	<i>First Presbyterian Church, Monticello</i>	<i>Park Hill Presbyterian Church, North Little Rock</i>
<i>Mr. and Mrs. Charles Barnett</i>	<i>First Presbyterian Church, Prairie Grove</i>	<i>Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista</i>
<i>Mr. and Mrs. JH Burnside</i>	<i>First Presbyterian Church, Rogers</i>	<i>Project Zero, Little Rock</i>
<i>Mr. and Mrs. Chris Douglas</i>	<i>The Gift of Love, LaGrange, Il.</i>	<i>Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock</i>
<i>Faith Presbyterian Women, Horseshoe Bend</i>	<i>Graceminster Presbyterian Church, Monroe, La.</i>	<i>Trinity Presbyterian Church, Little Rock</i>
<i>First Presbyterian Church, Conway</i>	<i>Holiday Island Presbyterian, Holiday Island</i>	<i>United Campus Ministry, Fayetteville</i>
<i>First Presbyterian Church, El Dorado</i>	<i>Holmes Chapel Presbyterian, Monticello</i>	<i>Westover Hills Presbyterian Church, Little Rock</i>
<i>First Presbyterian Church, Eureka Springs</i>	<i>Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village</i>	<i>Mr. and Mrs. Tom White</i>
<i>First United Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville</i>	<i>Dr. and Mrs. Jack Lassiter</i>	<i>White Hall Motor Sports, White Hall</i>
<i>First Presbyterian Church, North Little Rock</i>	<i>Mr. and Mrs. Bryan McDuffie</i>	

Make a difference at our children’s home this year by helping with our wish list

- Financial gifts to close the gap between state funding and costs of caring for youth
- Books, movies, board games, recreation supplies and other activities for youth, ages 8-17
- Beginner drum set
- Funds for a guitar instructor
- A set of beginner handbells
- Art supplies, construction paper, posterboard, markers and crayons
- Funds for nurture group supplies
- Funds for mentor program
- Defibrillator

To learn how to help today, contact Melissa Hendricks at (501) 666-8195 or info@veralloyd.org.

Yes, I will give to improve the lives of children in need!

I will give: \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 \$25 Other _____

Donor Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please mail to: Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Family Services, Inc. 1501 N. University, Suite 345, Little Rock, AR 72207
Or make a gift online at www.veralloyd.org.





Board of Directors

Anne Allen, Little Rock
Marie Bishop, Hot Springs
Tasha Blackburn, Fort Smith
Alford Branch, Monticello
Thomas Brown, Pine Bluff
Gary Clark, Hot Springs Village
Dee Davenport, Little Rock
Mike Farris, Little Rock
Wanda Hartnuss, Little Rock
Vernita Humphrey, Little Rock
Geoffrey Kearney, Pine Bluff
Sabra Martin, Fayetteville
Sue Martin, Warren
Tommy Maxwell, Monticello
Steve Moss, North Little Rock
Tip Pugh, Portland
Julie Robbins, Little Rock
Luevonda Ross, Monticello
Angela Smiley, Little Rock
Larry Stanley, Hot Springs
Jeffrey Stephens, Hot Springs
Julie Trimble, El Dorado
Janis Walmsley, Batesville
Alicia Whitaker, Monticello
Carol Sue Wooten, Fayetteville

Ex-officio members:

The Rev. Joe Hill, Ruston, La.,
 Presbytery of the Pines
The Rev. Dr. Robert Lowry,
 Irving, Texas, Synod of the Sun
The Rev. Stewart Smith, Little Rock,
 Presbytery of Arkansas

Director's Council members

Bettye Balmaz, Conway
Lynda Bowman, Jonesboro
Ted Carmical, Monticello
Jerrie Finch, Little Rock
Charlie Frith, Little Rock
Emily Hall, Little Rock
Jim Hyden, Little Rock
Marion Humphrey, Little Rock
Alan and Julie Lewis, Helena
Jane Lucky, McGehee
Mark Maxwell, Pine Bluff
Jim McDonald, Camden
Thomas McGill, Camden
Joe McKinstry, Little Rock
Betty Millwee, Monroe, La.
Betty Murphy, Hot Springs
Sharlie Rigby, Little Rock
Twig Satterfield, Jr., Conway
Doris Simmons, Hot Springs Village
Ann Smith, Fort Smith
Ken & Kelle Wolf, Hot Springs Village



Outdoor basketball court project complete

Construction on the outdoor basketball/tennis court is complete thanks to grants from **Blue & You Foundation for a Healthier Arkansas and D. Thomason Fund**. The grants were awarded in 2015 to improve physical fitness and nutrition for up to 150 youth in foster care at the children's home.

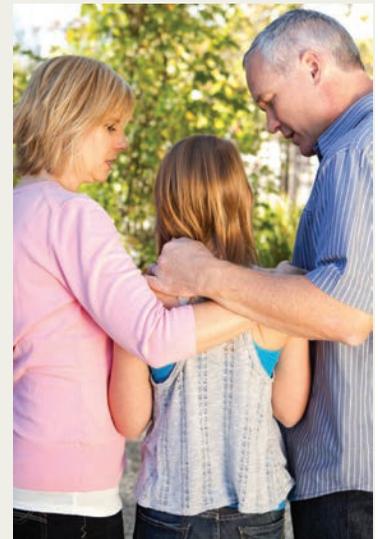


Laurence E. Schmidt Counseling Center welcomes new director

Cynthia Polk, LCSW, is the new clinical director of the Schmidt Center. Cynthia has 12 years of experience in the human services/social work field and completed a Master of Social Work from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Cynthia has worked with all ages in individual, family, group and couples therapy. She specializes in cognitive behavioral therapy, solutions focused therapy and motivational interviewing.

Counseling services are now offered to individuals, children and families in the Monticello area. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (870) 367-9035 or visit www.veralloyd.org.



Save the dates!

ArkansasGives one-day on-line giving event, **Thursday, April 7, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.** Help us raise \$10,000 in one day - matched with a \$10,000 gift from Maxwell Hardwood Flooring. Your gift will help us receive bonus dollars! Visit www.ArkansasGives.org to donate.



Donor Appreciation and Pink Hat Day, Monticello, **Saturday, April 30, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

After Hours with Vera Lloyd, The Inn at Carnall Hall, Fayetteville, **Monday, June 6, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.** Individual tickets, \$35 and patron tickets, \$75.

5th Annual Turkey Trot 5K and One Mile Fun Run, Monticello, **Saturday, November 19, 9 a.m.** Registration open at www.veralloyd.org this August!



Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Family Services is in compliance with Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act and is operated, managed and delivers services without regard to age, religion, disability, political affiliation, veteran status, gender, race, color or national origin.