

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

Your gifts heal families



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

Greg is a youth that carried burdens far beyond his years. Growing up, Greg was a normal kid raised by his dad and step-mother. Until, at age 9, he was abducted by his biological mother who suffered from mental illness and drug addiction. Greg was homeless and living on the streets with his mother. By the age of 10, he was using drugs to cope with the trauma and uncertainty of daily life.

After four years, Greg's father learned of his whereabouts, but a 'happy reunion' is not the end of Greg's story. Once back in his father's home, Greg struggled with the trauma and hardship of his former life. He continued to use drugs daily in his room. His parents didn't

realize what was going on until he was arrested for a theft he committed to support his drug habit. His coping mechanism had become an out of control addiction.

Greg came to Vera Lloyd still in deep denial and with an inability to trust. After years of fear, instability, neglect, and abuse, allowing the caring staff at Vera Lloyd 'in' was dangerous. Relationships were a dangerous threat to the protective shell that his early life had taught him was crucial to survival.

Greg truly wanted to change and have a healthy life. But, he was simply too afraid to release control and believe that he could survive and thrive without drugs. After months of patient listening and consistent care, the tide started to turn. Greg finally opened his heart and mind to trust the Vera Lloyd team, and things started to change. His dad and step-mom were very active in family therapy and worked hard to reconnect with their son. Greg acknowledged his addiction issues, reached all his treatment goals, and learned healthy coping skills for life back at home.

"Vera Lloyd taught me that I could see a different future than what I had experienced in the past and that I could trust myself and others to make the changes I needed to make."

Today, Greg enjoys fishing and fixing anything with a motor. He and his step-mom can sometimes be found out at the lake together. He is currently working on his GED and is applying to a trade school to become a diesel mechanic. He also keeps in touch with his 'family' at Vera Lloyd. For Greg, time couldn't heal his wounds, but consistent treatment in a compassionate place did.

You made Christmas merry!

Thank you to the generous individuals, churches, and organizations who made Christmas merry and bright for our youth this year. One of the boys in the Trimble Home said this was his first "real Christmas."

First Presbyterian Church, Hot Springs

Mr. and Mrs. Chris T. Rogers

Mr. and Mrs. Ryan Collins

Bella Vista Presbyterian Church, Bella Vista

Graceminster Evangelical Presbyterian

Church, Monroe, LA

Kirk in the Pines Presbyterian Church,

Hot Springs Village

Mr. and Mrs. John Bullock

First Presbyterian Church, Bentonville

First Presbyterian Church, McGehee

First Presbyterian Church, El Dorado

First Presbyterian Church, Conway

First Presbyterian Church, North Little Rock

Ms. Deann Watson

Westover Hills Presbyterian Church, Little Rock

Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock

First United Presbyterian Church,

Fayetteville

Trinity Presbyterian Church, Little Rock

Park Hill Presbyterian Church, North Little Rock

First Presbyterian Church, Hot Springs

Dr. and Mrs. Jack Lassiter

Faith Presbyterian Church, Horseshoe Bend

First Presbyterian Church, Magnolia

Save the dates!

Tuesday, May 15, 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm, The "House" House Party, Little Rock

Sunday, June 3, 3:30 pm to 6 pm, Garden Party, The Peel Mansion, Bentonville

June 8-10, Vera Lloyd Alumni Reunion

Saturday, June 9, 11:30 am to 3 pm, Campus Carnival, 745 Old Warren Road, Monticello. Join us for the "revamped" Pink Hat and Donor Appreciation Day!

Every Tuesday in July, BBQ for a Cause, Proceeds benefit Vera Lloyd, Wallis's BBQ Blues Shack, Monticello

Wednesday, July 11, School Supplies Drive Kick-off



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

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How to help your child through a tragedy

*Tracey Bratton, Laurence E.
 Schmidt Center Clinical Director*

Tragic headlines are hard to bear....and even worse when we have to explain suffering and loss to our children and grandchildren. The school shooting in Florida escalated anxiety for many children and youth across the nation, so it's important that we help them process what they see and hear in the media.

First and foremost, it's important to keep the lines of communication open with your child to help them to feel safe and secure when tragedy strikes. They naturally look to you for this felt safety, and it becomes even more important in times of uncertainty.

Here are a few tips to help:

- Open, honest, age-appropriate communication
- Watch your child for changes in mood and/or behaviors
- Limit exposure to news reports, internet searches, etc.
- Model self-care for your child by taking good care of yourself

These are just a few ideas for helping your child through a traumatic event. If you or your child feel stuck, reach out to your support system and talk to a close friend, relative, or pastor. If you're overwhelmed and your daily routine is disrupted, it may be a good idea to consult with a mental health professional.

Annie B. Wells Giving Society

Annie B. Wells was one of the three incredible women who founded Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Family Services over 100 years ago. So, it's fitting that during March, National Women's History Month, we remember her legacy and introduce a new giving club, the Annie B. Wells Society. Our team decided to use her name to honor the circle of generous people who give \$1,000 or more each year. These individuals are dedicated to improving the lives of vulnerable children, and we couldn't do the incredible work we do without them.

Every year, our staff do practical things like serve thousands of home-cooked meals, and make countless runs to school and doctors appointments, but they also dry countless tears of fear and sorrow, weather the storms of adolescence, and share love and build hope for children who've often had little. It's incredibly difficult and critical work that couldn't be done without our supporters.

You are the reason that we have built compassionate homes, have on-site counseling, music lessons, tutoring, college visits, summer programs, and so much more. If you've already been giving at the Annie B. Wells level for years, thank you and welcome to the club! If this is the year you've decided to invest more in our work, we're excited to partner with you...we are changing the world one child at a time....together.

If you'd like more information, about the Annie B. Wells Society, please contact Kathy French at 501-666-8195.



Pink Hat Day gets a new 'do'



For many years at Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Family Services, "Pink Hat Day" has been synonymous with donor appreciation. But this year, in an attempt to grow our event and appeal to a broader range of our supporters...**the Pink Hat is getting an update!**

Our new donor appreciation day, the "Campus Carnival," will bring together entertainment for all ages. Like an old fashioned county fair, we'll have games, prizes, food, and fun. Bingo, cornhole, and a cake walk are just a few of the highlights. There will also be a BBQ lunch and program. We hope you'll come join the fun, and let us thank you personally for all you do for our boys and girls.

The Carnival is also scheduled for our Alumni Reunion Weekend so everyone can get in on the fun. Please save the date!

Make a difference at our children's home!

Wish List:

- Graduating senior year activities (average cost of \$200 per youth)
- Books, movies, board games, recreation supplies
- Funds for textbooks for youth going to college
- Funds for guitar and piano lessons
- A 15-passenger van
- A used truck for maintenance program
- Art supplies
- Sponsor a youth for summer camp at Ferncliff (average cost of \$450 per youth)
- Financial gifts to close the gap between state funding and costs of caring for youth

To help, contact Kathy French 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.



VERA LLOYD
PRESBYTERIAN FAMILY SERVICES



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Staff Spotlight-Deverick Franklin



The youth at Vera Lloyd come from hard places; places of abuse, neglect, and suffering. And we are blessed to have an incredible team of people who are committed to bringing these boys and girls back from the edge to places of health and hope. In this newsletter, we'd like to you to meet one of these amazing people. "Mr. D," as the kids call him, is a terrific example of the people who make our work so successful. He's committed to helping youth and changing their stories for the future.

Tell us about your family.

My wife, Clare, and I have been married for 22 years. We have three children: Gloria, a wife and mom of 3, DJ (Deverick Junior) who attends Henderson State University, and Kiara who studies at

North Arkansas University.

How long have you been employed at Vera Lloyd?

12 years. I've worked in a number of roles including: Floater, House Parent, and Transitional Living Program Supervisor. Currently, I'm a House Supervisor and work with Trimble, Walton, and Lewis Homes.

As a supervisor, what do you enjoy most when interacting with youth?

I love the conversations. I really enjoy finding ways to help our kids better themselves and to have a positive outlook on life.

What one word describes how you feel about your work.

Humble. I get calls all the time from youth that I've cared for over the years. It's a humbling experience to know that they still want to be in relationship and look to me for advice and encouragement. One young man, Austin calls one to two times per week. He calls me "Pops." After leaving Vera Lloyd, he was adopted at the age of 18, and moved with his family to Tennessee. He's doing great and working full time as an Electrical Apprentice.

What's one thing we need to know about you?

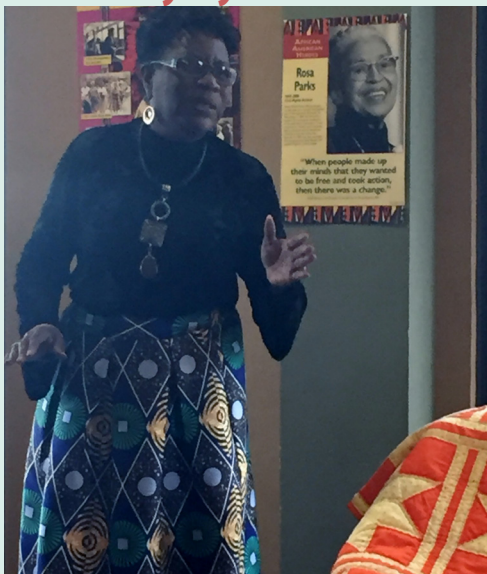
I love basketball... I eat, sleep and drink basketball! In my free time, I train kids from 2nd to 12th grade to help them improve their skills. (My two younger children are both attending school on basketball scholarships, as well.)

What's your favorite campus activity?

Staff versus youth volleyball is my favorite event. It's like March Madness and the kids are really competitive. I am too!

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.

Vera Lloyd youth celebrate Black History Month



In February, Vera Lloyd youth had a celebration of black history. Leaders from the Monticello community came together to celebrate people that they had admired from history. Some of them were history makers themselves.

One speaker, Ms. Lou Lambert, was the first African American female basketball player at University of Arkansas in Monticello. She spoke of the adversity she had faced and how it shaped her and ultimately made her stronger. She recalled how her basketball team rallied behind her in support.

Ms. Lambert told the youth about one of her heroes, Harriet Tubman. She said she admired her because, "she risked her own freedom to save so many others."

