



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

Your gifts make dreams come true

Madison was born to parents who divorced when she was a toddler. Her father was awarded custody. Her mother was no longer involved in her life.

Her father, an alcoholic, couldn't keep a job or a home. They lived in shelters or with friends, or spent nights at different hotels when he had the money. Madison was placed in state custody when she was 13. She stayed in foster care for three years.

As Madison celebrated birthdays while she was in foster care, she knew a permanent family through adoption was unlikely for her. After all, the average age of children in foster care adopted in Arkansas is close to six years old, with only about 10% of youth in foster care ages 15 and older being adopted.

Madison came to Vera Lloyd when she was 15. She only spent six weeks at our children's home. Her story was destined to end differently.

Martha and David Kralicek of Russellville found Madison's photo on Project Zero's Heart Gallery. They traveled to Monticello to visit Madison and welcomed her to their home last July. Her adoption was final on January 5.

"We all learned a lot," Martha said. "We had not had a child living at home ever during our 11-year marriage. It was an adjustment, but we came together as a family." Madison is earning her allowance, keeping her room clean, helping with laundry and learning to cook. She finished her last semester with a 3.08 GPA—the best grades she has ever earned. She is active in band, choir and church.

Madison is thrilled to have a new family and a permanent home. With one dream fulfilled, she told her new parents of her other dreams. Top on the list? A trip to New York City. For her 16th birthday in December, Martha and David gave her a snow globe with the Statue of Liberty. She was absolutely giddy over her next present: round-trip tickets to the Big Apple.

The family visited New York the week before Christmas, seeing the Statue of Liberty, the Empire State Building, Grand Central Station, Tiffany's, Central Park and the National September 11 Memorial and Museum. They stayed near Times Square and, best of all, they saw a production of *Wicked* on Broadway.

It was another dream come true for Madison.

Women's Foundation grant creates healing library

Grant funds from the **Women's Foundation of Arkansas** are helping youth and staff at Vera Lloyd through a new Healing Library on campus.

The library includes books that address challenges for youth, such as eating disorders, addiction, healthy relationships, anxiety, anger, and fiction books with main characters who overcame obstacles to success. Other books focus on the Trust-Based Relational Intervention model of care, mindfulness, parenting, post-traumatic stress disorder and journaling.



Madison's new family (from left): Martha's son Bryan, Madison, David and Martha and David's daughter Amanda, who was born with cerebral palsy.



Campus work program prepares youth for future

Vera Lloyd's campus work program, funded through the **Walton Family Foundation**, is making a lasting impact on youth.

Former resident Jessie said the work program helped her in her new job doing database entry for the University of Arkansas at Monticello. Jessie's jobs in the work program varied, ranging from fixing

door handles to answering phone calls—but the experience prepared her for her future.



Jessie said her interview for the work program was similar

to what she expected in a real-world situation. "They asked me what I was hoping to gain from the campus work program and how I would contribute. It helped me to not be as nervous for my next interview," she said.

Jessie's next interview was with UAM and she was offered the job.

Jessie started her job in December and began taking classes at the college in January.

"I use the skills I learned in the campus work program—communication, patience, organization and responsibility—every day," Jessie said. She is enjoying her new job and her new coworkers who she said, "**feel like another support system.**"

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



We are family!



Family is one of Vera Lloyd's core values. The definition of Family has certainly evolved over the years. A modern description is two or more people who share goals and values and have long term commitments to one another.

At Vera Lloyd, we use the word Family often. Our youth live in Family-style homes with house parents and their children. We hear time and time again

from Vera Lloyd current and former residents that we are their Family. We've had former residents marry on our campus, host their children's birthday parties on our campus and visit regularly to tell our staff about their lives—the peaks and the valleys.

In addition to Vera Lloyd's youth living in Family-style homes and viewing our staff as Family, our staff often refer to each other as Family. You've heard, "It takes a village to raise a child," and our staff often come together as a Family to determine how best to meet the needs of our youth. Our staff Family works diligently to provide healing to our youth who have experienced trauma in their biological families.

You may remember the 1979 Sister Sledge song "We Are Family." My favorite line from that song is: "High hopes we have for the future and our goals in sight."

At Vera Lloyd, we definitely have high hopes and goals for the future of the youth we serve. We are Family.

Blessings to you and your Family,

Donna Mahurin

Donna Mahurin

You're invited!

VERA LLOYD'S

DONOR APPRECIATION & PINK HAT DAY

Saturday, May 6	11 a.m. to 1 p.m.	745 Old Warren Road Monticello, AR
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VERA LLOYD

PRESBYTERIAN FAMILY SERVICES

You gave Caitlyn a home



Caitlyn feels like Vera Lloyd is the only real home she has experienced. She's been at the children's home for almost two years, coming to our campus after she and her younger siblings were removed from their home.

Her parents prioritized their drug addiction over their children. They neglected their children and were abusive. They are now in prison and have lost their parental rights.

When Caitlyn came to Vera Lloyd, she was frightened, angry and anxious. She has made so much progress.

She moved from emergency shelter to long-term residential care and has since celebrated her 15th and 16th birthdays at the Barton Home. She plans to stay at Vera Lloyd until she graduates from high school.

Her counselor helped her overcome emotional challenges. Her medication for anxiety helps her and she is no longer on medication for ADHD.

Her grades are better than ever and she's found a group of friends at her high school. She's most excited about her boyfriend, Robert. They haven't yet gone on a "real date," but they see each other at school every day. She's made friends with some of the other girls in her home and she is especially close to her house parents.

She's proud of how well she takes care of her chores. She's learned how to do her own laundry and has helped with cooking. She enjoys drawing and is taking her first art class this year. Her favorite subjects are art and history.

When she gets home from school, she's ready to play video games after she finishes her homework. You might call it research, though. Caitlyn wants to graduate from college and be a game designer.

With your help, Caitlyn's dream of designing video games can become a reality.

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

We look forward to seeing you!

Make plans to attend Donor Appreciation and Pink Hat Day Saturday, May 6, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The unique and fun celebration of your support includes lunch, tours of the children's home, visits with youth, a parade of women (and men) showing off their embellished pink hats and recognition of outstanding service by individuals, churches and organizations.

Call 501-666-8195 or go to VeraLloyd.org to RSVP.



You made Christmas memories

Boys and girls at Vera Lloyd experienced the gift of your generosity and love at Christmas. They woke up to celebrations of presents, food, church and time together.



"The boys had a great time and were thrilled to receive gifts they really wanted and needed," Wendy Williams, house parent, said. The boys said their favorite gifts included clothes, tablet computers and shoes.

Some of the boys and girls at Vera Lloyd went home to visit family members or family traveled to Monticello to see them, making the holiday unforgettable for them.

House parents celebrated the holidays by involving youth in decorating the homes, cooking special meals, watching Christmas movies and, of course, opening gifts. Some of the youth traveled to Little Rock with their house parents for an excursion of spending gift cards and going to their favorite restaurants.

Thank you for making the holidays special!

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Barnett
CASA of the Tri Peaks
First Presbyterian Church, Bentonville
First Presbyterian Church, Conway
First Presbyterian Church, El Dorado
First Presbyterian Church, Hot Springs
First Presbyterian Church, North Little Rock
First Presbyterian Church, Prairie Grove
First United Presbyterian Church,

Fayetteville
Graceminster Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Monroe, La.
Holmes Chapel Presbyterian Church, Monticello
Kirk in the Pines Presbyterian Church, Hot Springs Village
Dr. and Mrs. Jack Lassiter
Park Hill Presbyterian Church, North Little Rock

Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista
Raymond James and Associates
Second Presbyterian Church and Presbyterian Women, Little Rock
Trinity Presbyterian Church, Little Rock
Westover Hills Presbyterian Church, Little Rock
Shep's Farmhouse
Ms. Roxanne Royster

Make a difference at our children's home!

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 15-passenger van
- Art supplies
- Karaoke machine
- Truck for maintenance program
- Sponsor a boy or girl for Ferncliff/summer activities (average \$300 per child for summer activities)

To help, contact Melissa Hendricks at 501- 666-8195 or info@veralloyd.org.



Our Trees Grow Kids

Give a forever gift of timber to change the lives of children in crisis

For more information, visit 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.



Follow and like us on Facebook! Visit our page at www.facebook.com/VLPHFS

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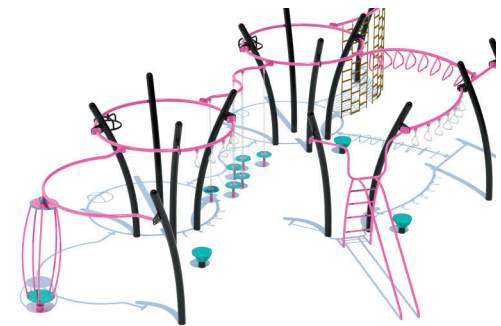
You can give kids a playground

This year, with help from you, a playground with fitness stations will be installed at Vera Lloyd.

"We are thrilled to add this amenity with help from the **Blue & You Foundation for a Healthier Arkansas** and gifts from individuals," Donna Mahurin, CEO, said.

Efficient Amenities of Carrollton, Ga., a large distributor of recreational equipment, will install the playground. Youth will experience the benefits of therapy without realizing they are "in therapy." Instead, they will be having fun doing fun things kids do—something many youth in foster care haven't experienced.

"We are only a few thousand dollars away from reaching our fundraising goal for the playground project," Melissa Hendricks, Director of Development, said.



Please contact Melissa at 501-666-8195 if you would like to join other supporters in giving a gift toward the playground. Your generosity will be recognized through permanent signage at the children's home.

Your help is needed for a great summer!

You can help raise \$20,000 in one day during the Arkansas Community Foundation ArkansasGives event on Thursday, April 6, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

On that day, you can easily make a gift to Vera Lloyd and other charities through the ArkansasGives.org web site. Your gift will qualify Vera Lloyd for bonus dollars from Arkansas Community Foundation and a match of \$12,500 from Maxwell Hardwood Flooring.

"Your gift will give boys and girls the experience of summer camp, of learning to play music or spark an interest in art or cooking or other hobbies—or even future careers," Donna Mahurin, CEO, said.



Save the dates!

Thursday, April 6, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Arkansas Community Foundation ArkansasGives on-line giving day.

Saturday, May 6, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Donor Appreciation and Pink Hat Day, 745 Old Warren Road, Monticello.

June and July, school supplies collection. Call Melissa Hendricks at 501-666-8195 to help.

Tuesday, July 11, 5:30 p.m., Vino with Vera reception, Little Rock

Saturday, November 18, 9 a.m., Turkey Trot 5K and one mile fun for kids, 745 Old Warren Road, Monticello.

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.

Check out our web site or make a gift at VeraLloyd.org!