

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

## A Blessed Christmas

It's incredibly painful to see children show up at Vera Lloyd's door in need of shelter just days before Christmas. Again this year, on the Friday before Christmas, five young children arrived at Vera Lloyd- afraid and unsure. Two of these children were siblings Mark, age 12, and Elizabeth, age 10.

Mark and Elizabeth had a rough start to the holiday season. Their mother was found unresponsive and taken to the hospital. DHS was then sent to her home and found the two children alone with their mother's boyfriend, who was also unresponsive due to an overdose.



With only five days left until Christmas and nowhere to call home, the last thing Mark and Elizabeth were expecting to be asked was, "What do you want for Christmas?" Still traumatized from their experience, they both sat nervous and silent. It was clear they wanted to answer, but were too scared to ask for anything- and perhaps, afraid to hope.

Finally, the youngest spoke up, "I want something pretty!" as a smile broke across her face. Mark's face began to light up, too, "I want some cool tennis shoes... and maybe some sweat pants... I don't like candy, but I do like hot chips!" Both kids woke up on Christmas morning to find what they had asked for.

Christmas is a time when generosity and good will are most evident. At Vera Lloyd, our doors are always open. And, because of our many generous donors; safety, security and, even wishes, do come true.

## Christmas on Campus

Thank you so much to everyone who helped give Vera Lloyd's youth an abundantly blessed Christmas season. Thanks to every incredible individual, organization and church. The youth experienced a giant blast of Christmas cheer.

**You** gave each child on campus:

- Christmas gifts, specifically picked out just for them
- Gift cards, so they can shop in town like their friends do
- Traditional Christmas dinner with their Vera Lloyd family
- Gifts for the entire Home to enjoy for years to come



## Save the Date



**Lent Devo:** 40 Days of Heart, now through Easter, sign up on our website

**Garden Party:** Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3:30 pm - 6:00 pm

The Peel Mansion, Bentonville, AR

**Open House:** Saturday, July 25<sup>th</sup> on the Monticello Campus

**Lulu's Love in Action Day:** August 13, 2020



### A Day in the Life of a House Parent *By: Donna Mahurin, CEO*

Every year we publish our Annual Gratitude Report, highlighting the donors and supporters that enable Vera Lloyd to provide critical services for children and families. One group of individuals not specifically mentioned in the Gratitude Report are Vera Lloyd's dedicated care staff – the House Moms and Dads that take care of our children and youth every day.

Have you ever wondered what a typical day looks like for a House Mom and Dad? Well, first of all, when you are caring for up to nine youth (often ages 11 - 18), as you can imagine there is no typical day! Here is a description from our care staff of what a day in their life might look like:

<b>6:15 am</b>	Wake up youth for school
<b>6:30 - 7:00 am</b>	Prepare and serve breakfast; pray with youth
<b>7:00 - 7:20 am</b>	Ensure youth are ready for school and have chores completed; dispense and log medication
<b>7:20 - 7:50 am</b>	Drop off youth at school
<b>8:15 - 8:30 am</b>	Attend Huddle Up (all campus staff meeting)
<b>8:30 - 9:00 am</b>	USDA paperwork, make sure food is on hand for dinner, if not, go purchase it
<b>9:00 am - 2:45 pm</b>	Paperwork for youth; take youth to appointments or make appointments for youth (doctor, counseling, etc.); refill medications; meet with parents or supervisors regarding youths' progress or issues
<b>2:45 - 3:15 pm</b>	Pick up youth from school
<b>3:15 pm</b>	Prepare and serve snack
<b>3:30 - 4:00 pm</b>	Assist youth with homework as needed
<b>4:00 - 5:15 pm</b>	Prepare dinner; supervise youth who have "wash day"; pick up youth from extracurricular activities; send youth to Williamson who are part of campus work program
<b>5:15 - 6:00 pm</b>	Eat dinner with youth and discuss their day
<b>6:00 - 7:00 pm</b>	Do group activity with youth
<b>7:00 - 8:00 pm</b>	Dispense and log medication, ensure youth have completed their chores and homework
<b>8:00 - 9:30 pm</b>	Check on youth to make sure showers are taken and they are preparing for bed; set Home security alarm

Whew! I am tired just reading this. Of course, this day doesn't include the meltdown that one child had before school or the fight that two youth got into over the last helping of food. This year, I am using a Gratitude Journal to record four things I am grateful for, both large and small. I can tell you I am extremely grateful for our dedicated care staff who go above and beyond to make our youth feel like they are part of a family and have all their needs met. Vera Lloyd staff are so grateful for all the prayers and support we receive, as we continue to meet the ever-changing needs of children, youth and families in Arkansas.

# Open House

*Campus Tours - Youth Art Show - Music Recitals - Donor Appreciation*

Summer is a time of fun and freedom for most kids. But, for kids at Vera Lloyd it is not only a time to play but also a time to play "catch up". Every time a child moves or experiences family upheaval, statistics tell us that they lose four to six month of academic progress, which puts most of Vera Lloyd's youth behind their peers. This year's summer school camp will give every youth on campus access to fun, educational enrichment, art and music education, and special events. The culmination of these six weeks of activity will be a Campus Open House on Saturday, July 25. We hope you'll join us for an array of activities, including youth art exhibitions, piano and guitar recitals, campus tours and much more.

You help our children grow and learn! Please come see the difference you make:



**Saturday, July 25**

**2:00 - 4:00 pm**

**745 Old Warren Rd., Monticello**

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

Please make this a monthly gift    Please make this a one-time gift

I will give:  \$500    \$250    \$100    \$50    \$25    Surprise Us! \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVC Code: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Make a Gift Online:** [www.veralloyd.org](http://www.veralloyd.org) or **By Phone:** (501) 666-8195

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# Open House

Campus Tours - Youth Art Show - Music Recitals - Donor Appreciation



Saturday, July 25<sup>th</sup>  
2:00 - 4:00 pm

Vera Lloyd Campus  
745 Old Warren Rd.  
Monticello, AR



# GARDEN PARTY PARADISE

Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>

The Peel Mansion } 400 S. Walton Blvd.  
Bentonville, AR 72712

3:30 pm - 6:00 pm