



The Baptist Children's Village

Annual Report

2024

Sean A. Milner, Executive Director

The Baptist Children's Village (BCV) is proud and most fortunate to be an official agency of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. The BCV is one of the ministries of every Mississippi Baptist church. The BCV is Mississippi Baptists' answer to God's call to take the gospel of Christ to at-risk children and families in Mississippi.

The BCV currently has four (4) programs to share the gospel around the entire state: 1) Residential Child Caring Program; 2) In-Home Family Support Program; 3) Residential Family Program; and 4) Youth Detention Intervention Program.

Baptists provide homes for boys and girls on five campuses around the state through the Residential Child Caring Program. The campuses are in Senatobia, Water Valley, Star, Brookhaven, and Wiggins. Every campus has at least two (2) homes, one for boys and one for girls. The children you receive live in these homes, they go to the local public school, and they attend a local Baptist church. The care of the children is provided by Houseparents. Houseparents are Christian couples and single individuals called by God to live with and care for the children. The Houseparents demonstrate how a Christian family lives. The Houseparents are the true missionaries of this ministry and your BCV is working with the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and pastors to have them designated as Mississippi Baptist Missionaries.

One hundred percent (100%) of the children in your care were exposed to the gospel of Christ, and forty-six (46) made professions of faith in Christ in 2023. In addition to providing food, shelter, community, and education, you provided 396 medical appointments, 64 eye exams, and 183 dental appointments. The case managers you employ had 1,275 interactions with the children and 1,293 contacts and interactions with the parents/guardians of the children. Remember, to minister to the children you must minister to the children's families. You do so through BCV Case Managers.

The In-Home Family Support Program works to strengthen families in our state through the work of our Interventionists. Our Interventionists are full of good works and perform many acts of charity. They go into the homes and strengthen the families so that the families can stay together and not be disrupted. They teach parenting and home-making skills. They diagnose and address harmful patterns and inadequate abilities. This past year, your Interventionists ministered to 111 families. Those homes represent 307 children.

The Residential Family Program is a new addition to the BCV ministries, opening in June 2024. We have repurposed one of the former residential child caring campuses into a home for single mothers and their children. Through this program, families are able to stay together as they get back on their feet. The mothers attend financial literacy classes and receive cooking lessons.

Program staff seek to encourage the women to visualize a better future, set goals, and create a stable family environment for generational success.

The Youth Detention Intervention Program (YDIP) ministers to incarcerated young men and women across the state of Mississippi. Last year, your YDIP staff made 164 visits to incarceration facilities. During those visits, 85 one-on-one meetings and 56 small group meetings were held. The young people are encouraged to pursue forgiveness in Christ, to live peacefully with those around them, and to deepen their faith through the study of the Bible. We are excited to see our YDI Program grow and deepen in the years to come.

The service and ministries of the BCV are paid for by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Mississippi Baptist Churches, and people who give generously so that the gospel of Christ can be taken to at-risk children and families. The BCV does not receive any money from the state of Mississippi or the federal government in exchange for the service and ministries we provide. The BCV is licensed by the state of Mississippi so that it can minister to children in the state's custody, but the BCV does not accept any money from the state for children they place in our care.

The BCV is an evangelical arm of every Baptist church in Mississippi. Baptist churches have been sharing the gospel of Christ with children and families through the BCV for 127 years. The BCV continues to look for ways to reach at-risk children and families. The BCV is currently looking throughout Mississippi and asking, "Who are we missing?" and, "How can we reach them?" Do you know where they are? Can you introduce us to them? Homeless moms and homeless dads are struggling. Children are being released from the state system with no skills, education, or place to go. Please pray for your BCV as we seek what more God would call us to do for His glory and His Kingdom.