



## **The Baptist Children's Village 2023 Annual Report Sean A. Milner, Executive Director**

In 2022, The Baptist Children's Village (BCV) celebrated 125 years of service to Mississippi's at-risk children and families. God continues to minister to children and families through His servants at the BCV. To glorify and honor God, the Village ministers with the highest standard of compassion, professionalism and expertise. Constant and honest self-examination helps ensure that The Village will continue to provide the highest standard of care to the ones who need it the most and can afford it the least. For those whom God is pursuing, we dare not do less. This report informs about the BCV's efforts and results in the year 2022.

The US Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, 142 S.Ct. 2228, 2023, inspired and challenged all of us to support human life, all human life. As reported last year, your BCV had already "... embarked on developing a strategic mindset to be able to timely respond to the opportunities . . ." that the lord may reveal. Your BCV worked with the legislature to pass human life affirming legislation and legislation that is financially beneficial to the BCV's supporters as well as the BCV. We thank God and give him all glory for this opportunity and the blessings he bestowed therein.

As part of the Mississippi Southern Baptist Church, the BCV created new ways to "take the good news of Jesus Christ to at-risk children and families." In December of 2022, we began the Youth Detention Intervention Program (YDIP) wherein you are sending people into youth detention facilities to share the gospel of Jesus Christ. Please look forward to a fantastic report in 2024. We began ministering in Youth Courts and schools by providing trauma informed training to those tasked to deal with Mississippi's out of home youth. This is done through the Consulting & Training Ministry of the BCV.

There are those of us who argue that our passion for life does not extend to the passion for the child once born. This is simply not true. In your residential ministry you have supported children and families for over 125 years. In 2022, you provided children with 295 medical appointments, 63 psychiatric appointments, 7 psychiatric hospitalizations, 70 eye doctor visits, 145 dental appointments, 14 emergency room visits, and 3 hospitalizations. The percentage of children exposed to the gospel in 2022, is 100%. You provided 14 homes across the state of Mississippi. You provided case managers, campus directors and house parents to love and care for every need of living children. You provided college education for three children.

You also support the family unit. In 2022, your Dorcas ministry served 111 families throughout the state of Mississippi. That number includes 167 parents or parent figures. The total number of children served in your residential and non-residential ministry in 2022 is approximately 316. Do not let anyone tell you that you do not care for the living.

It is an exciting time to be a part of the effort to take the good news of Jesus to at-risk children and families. I am extremely grateful that you are a part of this effort known as The Baptist Children's Village.

