

# HOME

A young girl with blonde hair and freckles is smiling and holding a yellow object. The background is a warm, slightly blurred indoor setting.

THE CHILDREN'S HOME OF LUBBOCK

## Inside Home

Overcoming Trauma  
in the Lives of  
Children - page 2

Feed the Kids -  
pages 4-5

Give us a call -  
pages 6-7

A job you will love -  
pages 8-9

All the Milk I could  
drink - page 11

Home for Christmas  
- page 12



## Day to Day with Children

### *...far too many children have experienced trauma*

*Trauma is a word we generally associate with emergency rooms, violence on the street, car accidents or even war. Trauma can manifest in physical forms such as bodily injury, broken bones, black eyes or cuts; or it can manifest as unseen injury to the emotions or the very depths of the soul of a person.*

*The reality of life at The Children's Home of Lubbock is that far too many children have experienced trauma, both physically and emotionally; and the impact trauma plays on daily life is a big issue. It affects how a child relates to peers, relates to staff, and functions academically, and how a child behaves generally or, more especially, under stress. Trauma essentially becomes a part of the child. It plays a major role in who they are and how people learn to respond to them as individuals.*

*Earlier this year the staff of The Children's Home took on the challenge to recognize the trauma every child has experienced and to create ways of helping the child cope and even overcome the trauma he or she has been exposed to. We have integrated a program called **START** (Systematic Training to Assist in the Recovery from Trauma).*

***START** is a nationally recognized trauma focused program that recognizes the fact that children have been traumatized through physical and sexual abuse, abandonment, rejection, neglect and separation from family and home. All employees working with children have received intensive and ongoing training to implement the core elements of **START** in the cottage, at the gym, in*

*counseling — virtually anywhere the child is participating in activities or events. The bottom line is, **START** will help us create an environment where compassion and understanding are evident, and where staff consistently facilitates the child's own ability to cope with or overcome the role trauma plays in his or her life.*

*It might seem odd to talk about trauma and how we are addressing it in a newsletter devoted to the subject of "Feeding the Children." It does not seem odd to me at all. Good nutrition and physical food are absolute essentials to developing healthy children. Feeding the soul and the spirit of a child are equally essential. The hallmark of The Children's Home of Lubbock is that we address the whole child, physical, spiritual and emotional. In II Corinthians 5 the Apostle Paul talks about being given a "ministry of reconciliation". Our ministry of reconciliation for children and families must address the physical, emotional, educational and spiritual. If we can address the trauma issues in each child's life, we can have greater success at addressing the issues of the whole child, and the child becomes much more open to hearing about a God who loves them and wishes to spend eternity with each one of them.*

*Thank you for being a major part of our trauma treatment team. Your generous gifts and prayers make it possible for our staff to implement the **START** program and make the positive impact on the children's lives that is so important.*

*Lynn R. Harms*

# The Christmas Bike

## by Debra Rogers

We'd opened the gifts on Christmas morning –  
 so many things I like,  
 Then I turned and saw my staff walk in with a  
 shiny, new red bike.  
 I've never had a bike of my own.  
 You can't imagine how I felt,  
 But they wouldn't let me try it  
 'till the snow and ice could melt.

My first time on –  
 I was a little scared, as I sat astride the seat.  
 I tried to balance, but it was hard  
 when I lifted up my feet.  
 My staff was there to steady me,  
 as I slowly got the feel,  
 I pushed the pedals and felt  
 the power of the movement of the wheels.

It took some practice,  
 but I didn't give up and soon I had the knack  
 I started riding down the street  
 and never did look back.  
 With each push, I gained some speed  
 and felt the rushing air.  
 And then I saw a speed bump ahead -  
 Oh my.... Do I dare?

Of course I'd take the challenge,  
 I'd soar, I'd fly so free.  
 But my bike came down without me  
 and I really skinned my knee.  
 It hurt, for sure, but not enough  
 to dim the sheer delight  
 Of hitting the bump and experiencing the thrill  
 of my first flight!

A few scraped knees and elbows aren't so bad  
 – and they will mend  
 'cause it's worth the world to ride my bike  
 around with all my friends.

*Our most heart-felt thank you to all who made  
 Christmas merry for our boys and girls.*



# Nine boys and only three plates



In the long-running cartoon series, Family Circus, there are a couple of ubiquitous characters who often take the blame for unpopular occurrences: Nobody and Not Me. We are sorry to report that these folks have been hanging out at The Children's Home of Lubbock.

Recently our cottages were asked to inventory their kitchens, with shocking results!

One cottage which serves as home to nine boys let us know that their dinnerware has somehow diminished to three dinner plates, no luncheon plates, 11 cereal bowls, three small glasses and six large glasses. Other cottages were in equally dire straits. We need to buy a total of 72 dinner plates, 144 luncheon plates, 96 cereal bowls, 144 juice glasses, and 120 large glasses.

Of course these kitchens have not always

been so depleted. At one time each cottage has had all the dinnerware and serving dishes they could use. But possibly you have had a similar phenomenon occur in your own household, when you put 10 socks in the washing machine but only 9 come out of the dryer. It would be hard to pinpoint more likely culprits than Nobody and Not Me.

Sadly, no one has found a good repellent for the presence of these pesky folks. We are sure they will come back in years to come and abscond with plates, silverware, glasses – and yes, even socks.

But in the meantime, will you help us replenish our kitchen cupboards?

# /S

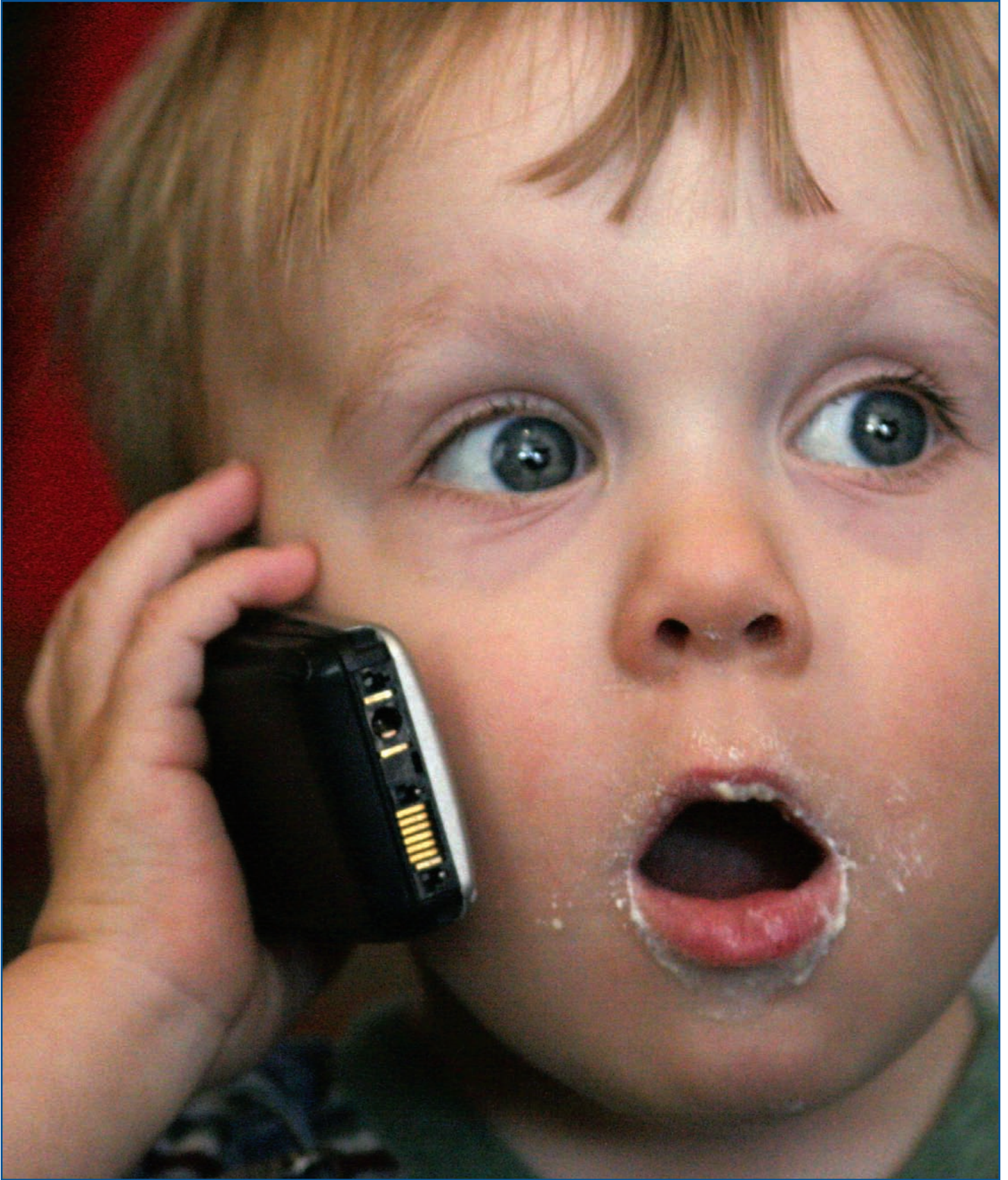
Your gift of \$49.80 will purchase 12 dinner plates, or \$30.60 will buy 12 luncheon plates. A gift of \$25.80 will fund 12 cereal bowls. And for \$21.00, you can purchase 12 large glasses and 12 juice glasses for our kids. Or \$148.20, will purchase a whole service for 12 – dinner plates, luncheon plates, cereal bowls, and glasses.

Or you could send a gift to help fill those plates and the tummies they serve. Your gift of \$30 will furnish three meals for an entire cottage for one day. We have ten cottages whose occupants eat three meals a day, seven days a week, so you can see that your help is urgently needed to keep those meals coming!

# ates



...and girls need plates too!



PHONE

If you've called The Children's Home lately, you may have noticed our big switch. Your phone call is answered by an automated system.

It's not ideal, we know. Everyone would rather talk to a real person when they call the Home or anywhere else.

But it has proven itself as the most economical, most time-efficient way to answer our phones.

It would be very expensive for us to hire one full-time person with no other job but to answer the phones. So it has fallen to several people to help answer the phones, and their other tasks, many of which require some uninterrupted concentrated time, have suffered.

As you can imagine, in a place as busy as the Home, the phones ring constantly, and for many of our callers, it is quicker and easier to use the automated system so they can dial right through to the specific person with whom they wish to speak.

Of course, to do that, you would have to know the extension number of the person you want to talk to. To help, you will find a list of commonly called extensions so that you can dial right through.

And of course you can always just dial 0 and a real person will answer your call.

However you choose to call us, please call. Your calls really are important to us, and your friendship keeps us going. Thanks!

## You can use the phone extension numbers below to reach these people directly and quickly.

### Accounting

Brooks (Controller) . . . . .	220
Julia . . . . .	218
Ramona (Medicaid, Payroll) . . . . .	223
Emmanuel (Accounts Payable) . . . . .	221

### Administration

Lynn (President) . . . . .	212
Cindy (Job inquiries) . . . . .	211
Vickie (Vice President) . . . . .	234
Mandy (Administrative Assistant) . . . . .	209
Dezni (Volunteers, Social Services) . . . . .	238

### Admissions/Child Placement

Donna . . . . .	204
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### Assessment Center

Danny . . . . .	222
Ben . . . . .	228
Dawn . . . . .	226

### Commissary (Groceries, clothing, etc.)

Mary . . . . .	242
Katya . . . . .	251

### Development

Tom (Vice President) . . . . .	217
Jill (Key Club, Public Relations, Pecans) . . . . .	213
Darla (Address changes) . . . . .	227
Traci C (Fall Festival, Golf Tournament) . . . . .	215

Traci S (Memorials, gifts) . . . . .	225
Eric (Church Relations) . . . . .	543-1309

### Education - Recreation

Debra . . . . .	224
Trey (volunteer groups) . . . . .	254
Faye (education coordinator) . . . . .	246

### Farm

Alvin . . . . .	229
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### Foster Care and Adoption

Stacy . . . . .	202
Janet (getting started) . . . . .	205
Elizabeth (post adoption) . . . . .	201
Amelia . . . . .	232
Danis . . . . .	233
Margaret . . . . .	214

### Maintenance

Jimmy . . . . .	250
Fred, Andrew, or Kerry . . . . .	241

### Social Work - Basic Care

Nathan . . . . .	252
Melissa . . . . .	208
Richard . . . . .	247
Melanie . . . . .	248
Mercy . . . . .	210
Will (Family Care, Teen Moms) . . . . .	230

### Social Work - Therapeutic Group Care

Barbara . . . . .	206
Chris . . . . .	207

### Technology

Paul . . . . .	216
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**It's the hard**



# Best job you'll ever love.

## Manifesting Christ. It's what we are all called to do...

But God has gifted some to do it in a specific, hands-on way — by parenting children who have not had the blessing of a loving family. He calls some to be houseparents at The Children's Home of Lubbock.

It requires parenting skills — love, patience, empathy. Teaching, disciplining, realism.

It requires some special skills — understanding the ravages that neglect and abuse leave on a child's body and soul. Overlooking the manifestations of that child's previous life while teaching him how to live better. Loving wholly — and then letting go when it's time for the child to move on.

It requires a heart that loves God and is committed to practicing pure and undefiled religion: caring for the fatherless.

But it's a job. And jobs come with salaries and benefits, as well as responsibilities and rewards. If you become a houseparent at The Children's Home of Lubbock, you can expect:

- Starting salary range is \$20,000 to \$23,000, per individual.
- Being a houseparent is parenting children. No other job roles on or off campus are required.
- You'll get 14 paid vacation days and 12 paid sick days, annually, available as they accrue each month. Add 9 paid holidays per year, besides weekly time off.
- Your cottage has its own van. No commuting costs.
- BCBS insurance premiums fully paid for full-time employees.
- Great 401K, matching up to 5%.
- Housing, groceries, utilities provided. A private apartment, attached to the home you parent, will be your family's home.

- Great training classes at no cost to you, and classroom hours are paid duty hours.
- The Children's Home uses an innovative program for working with children called S.T.A.R.T. — Systematic Training to Assist in the Recovery from Trauma. The program is based on relationship building and offers specific strategies for helping children deal with the scars of their past.
- The first month, you enjoy supportive training in the cottage, plus 24-7 on-call help.
- Some flexibility in work hours allows for higher education opportunities. Lubbock Christian University, Texas Tech University, South Plains College, Wayland University, and Sunset International Bible Institute all are located in Lubbock.
- Lubbock offers lots of fun activities and advantages for you and your family, and your cottage kids — museums, sports, church life, restaurants, the arts. Additional activities are available on our campus.
- Couples enjoy much time together working as a team, compared to separate 40 hour weekly jobs.
- Joy of providing a great ministry, demonstrating the love of God to children who have had no experience of a caring Father.
- The Children's Home of Lubbock is one of a proud few child-caring agencies accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Services to Children and Families. Excellence is a continual goal and manifests itself in the long-term employment of many of our staff.

It's the hardest job you'll ever love — and if you feel led by God to give it a try, please get in touch with us.

The Children's Home of Lubbock

PO Box 2824

Lubbock, Texas 79408

806.762.0481, extension 247

E-mail Richard Fentiman at [rfentiman@childshome.org](mailto:rfentiman@childshome.org). Or visit our website at [www.childshome.org](http://www.childshome.org).

# Children's Home Staff

## Recognized by Children's Protective Services



The following email was received by Vickie Russell, Vice President for Children's Services, last October. We want to share the accolades with you, because you are on our team! Thanks!

From: RODRIGUEZ, SARAH G  
Sent: Thursday, October 01, 2009 1:04 PM  
To: Vickie Russell  
Cc: LEWIS, LAURA; POINTER, ALICIA  
Subject: Smith children

Vickie, we are in the process of starting extended visitation with the 7 Smith children and their parents in an effort to evaluate and effect a possible reunification of these children. Your staff, Misty, houseparent, and Melissa, case manager, have done an awesome job not only taking care of these children – but their partnership with our staff has been outstanding.

We will be asking for input and assistance from your staff and therapists as we move forward with this endeavor. We need everyone's information due to the diverse needs of the children.

Many times, we don't give enough credit where credit is due and felt you needed to be aware of how appreciative we are for all your staff have done for the Smith children. Thank you.

# YOUR LEGACY

*will bless the children*

Floyd I. Stumbo, President Emeritus, The Children's Home Foundation

## **"I could get all the cold milk I wanted!"**

I never went to bed hungry. I've never known what it is like to go hungry at all. But I visited with a friend of mine, an ex-student of The Children's Home of Lubbock, a few weeks ago, and he told me about his first impressions on coming to the Home as a child.

"We had a roof over our heads, a bed to sleep in, and food to eat," was the way he remembered his first days at the Home.

"I couldn't believe I could go to the milk dispenser and have a big glass of cold milk. Then I could go back to have another glass, and even a third one if I was still thirsty."

His mother was a single mom with seven kids, doing the best she could — until cancer began to take its toll. Thankfully, a kind preacher in her West Texas community knew about The

Children's Home of Lubbock and worked to get the children admitted.

As I listened to his story, I had to admit that I really did not know what it was like to go to bed hungry — and then to know that it wouldn't be any better when I woke up the next morning. But it's a sad reality that we've seen with many youngsters who have come to care at the Home.

The emphasis for this issue of HOME is feeding kids. Feeding children has always been a priority, ever since the first child came to care more than 55 years ago. No child in the world should go to bed hungry. And we want to make sure that each of the 150 children in care at the Home are well fed, each and every day.

Here are some ways YOU can help feed the children.

First, make a gift to The Children's Home to help feed the children in care today. It will be of great help and very much appreciated by a child who has experienced hunger firsthand.

Second, you can make a gift to the Home's endowment and ensure that good food will be available for children who come for care in years to come. You know, a gift to the Home's endowment is a little like being able to sit down and dine with a child who will be at the Home sometime in the future. You would make a very good companion for those future meals.

If the Foundation can be of help, please be in touch with us at The Children's Home Foundation, PO Box 2449, Lubbock, Texas 79408. Or you can call us at 806-744-1500. Visit our website at [www.chfinc.org](http://www.chfinc.org).





The Children's Home of Lubbock  
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# They were home this Christmas!

You first met Ricky and Monique in the first issue of the 2008 newsletter. They were looking for a forever family...  
...and now they (along with 30 other children in 2009) have one! In direct answer to prayer, God sent a wonderful family for Ricky and

Monique. Enjoy these pictures of their adoption celebration party at The Children's Home last December.

And thank God for His loving provision. We do, every day.

