



PALMER HOME
FOR CHILDREN



PALMER HOME FOR CHILDREN

IMPACT REPORT 2022

DEAR FRIENDS,

2022 was a record-breaking year for Palmer Home. Overall, we served more than 330 children, from newborns to young adults, across our four service lines. I thank you for your continued support of our mission to care for and share the love of Christ to children and families in need.

I'm writing this letter from the Dr. Hugh Francis, Jr. Wellness Center, the state-of-the-art facility on our campus we were able to open in May completely debt-free. It's difficult to convey the impact a building can have on our ministry; the Wellness Center is much more than walls and a roof.

For the first time, children can meet with their therapists without leaving campus; family members can connect for private, secure visitations; the children and caregivers can gather in a large indoor space for fun and fellowship; and we can host events like our cherished annual Awards Night (photo right). Healing takes place in this building, and where healing happens, hope grows. We know the Wellness Center will be a blessing to children at Palmer Home for generations to come, and we thank you for making it possible.

In this report, you'll learn about even more ways you helped bring hope to children at Palmer Home this year. Your support equipped us to welcome several children - including sets of siblings - out of emergency situations and into our care. We were able to come alongside young men and women and help them enroll in college, enlist in the military, and pursue a trade - forging new paths that will change their trajectory.

Thank you for partnering with us in this great work.

Sincerely,



Drake Bassett
President & CEO



OUR MISSION

Palmer Home provides superior care for children while introducing the love of God through our service to each individual child. Palmer Home ensures restorative environments where children feel safe, connected and supported.

OUR SERVICES



CAMPUS CARE

Children live on campus in a Christ-centered family atmosphere connected to trustworthy adults and supported as they grow and develop.



FAMILY CARE

Infants of mothers in prison receive nurturing care with the goal of reunification. Staff and caregivers also offer support for mothers in prison and after release.



FOSTER CARE

Children receive support and the connection of a family through Palmer Home's certified foster families.



TRANSITIONAL CARE

Young adults receive guidance and coaching designed to build educational, career and life skills needed for independence.

**BECAUSE OF
YOU, THEIR
FUTURE IS
BRIGHT.**



WE ARE
COMMITTED
TO CONSTANT
IMPROVEMENT
AND DELIVERING
SUPERIOR CARE.



Children with a history of trauma have unique physical, emotional, social, educational, and spiritual needs that must be addressed before they can heal, grow, and thrive. Whole Child Initiative, Palmer Home’s proprietary approach to care, is designed to help vulnerable children overcome trauma so they can flourish in home, school, and community life.

Whole Child Initiative does this through our four core principles:



When a child arrives at Palmer Home, we first seek to understand their **Whole Story**. We know that the child has likely experienced trauma and may have acute health and academic needs after years of instability. After a thorough assessment, our dedicated case managers create a plan to serve the **Whole Child** – an individualized plan of care that will serve the child’s unique physical, emotional, social, educational, and spiritual needs. The child’s **Whole Team** – their caregivers, therapists, teachers, coaches, and anyone else they’re in relationship with – are part of the care plan. We know this work can be demanding on our team, which is why Palmer Home supports the **Whole Caregiver** through a variety of benefits and support services.

Part of what makes our approach to care unique is that we seek to maintain relationships with a child’s biological family members when it’s safe and healthy to do so. In addition to regular family communication, family members also receive a “report card” each month detailing a child’s growth while in our care. The report cards help families feel informed and connected, and it’s encouraging to see a child’s progress throughout the year.

palmerhome.org/what-we-do

REACHING NEW HEIGHTS

This past summer, we hosted our first ever Discovery Camp at Palmer Home in the new wellness center. Inspired by collegiate leadership camps, Discovery Camp was a five-day event specially designed for the children at Palmer Home to hear from inspirational speakers, meet with business professionals, learn about new career paths, and sharpen important life skills such as team building (pictured) and business etiquette. A total of 16 children ages 13-17 and more than 30 business leaders participated in Discovery Camp.

Keynote speakers including Tate Woods, founder of Drake Waterfowl, and Darrion Crockrell, former Missouri Teacher of the Year, spoke to the children about leadership, development and work ethic. Students also had the opportunity to go on in-person tours of local businesses including Baptist Health Sciences University, Orion Federal Credit Union and Mississippi Wildlife Rehabilitation, Inc. to see first-hand the important work these organizations do in our community.

We also hosted a Career Fair at the wellness center, during which students were able to meet with several different professionals 'round robin' style. The careers and professions represented spanned a wide range of industries, including law enforcement, coding, architecture,

physical therapy, hospitality, engineering, education, and construction - even the Mayor of Hernando participated! There were presentations by local colleges including the University of Memphis, Mississippi State University and Northwest Mississippi Community College - Senatobia so students could learn more about higher education opportunities.

"I really liked the career fair-meeting the Mayor of Hernando was cool! He told me all about how he became mayor and what his job is like."

In all, the children had a blast and learned so much during Discovery Camp. Preparations are already underway for this summer's camp. This year, we plan to open registration to children from the greater Hernando community: it's an opportunity for members of the community to experience Palmer Home and a chance for the children in our care to meet new peers.

If you or your business might be interested in being part of this summer's Discovery Camp, please reach out to Andre Crafford at acrafford@palmerhome.org. As Cal Overman, Business Development Officer at Simmons Bank said after participating in Discovery Camp, "Investing in children is just amazing, and what Palmer Home is doing is just such a blessing!"



**I LEARNED
SO MUCH
DURING THE
WEEK AND
IT WAS SO
MUCH FUN!**

2022 AT A GLANCE

332 
CHILDREN SERVED

 **4**
BAPTISMS

 **3**
HIGH SCHOOL
GRADUATIONS

 **5**
ADOPTIONS

14 
REUNIFICATIONS

525 
TUTORING HOURS

 **20**
CAREGIVERS

 **19**
SIBLING GROUPS

 **11**
BABIES BORN

54 
MOMS SERVED

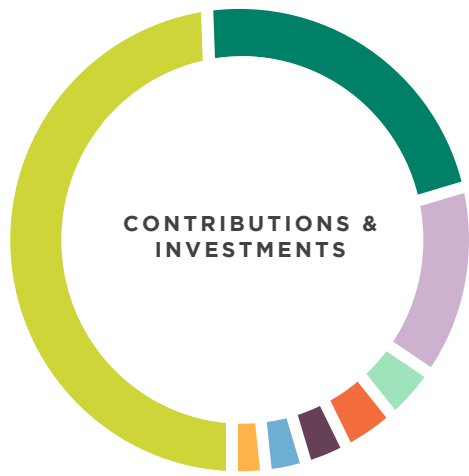
54,000 
MEALS PREPARED ON CAMPUS

**PALMER HOME
HAS IMPACTED
MY LIFE BY
STEERING ME
IN THE RIGHT
DIRECTION AND
HELPING ME STAY
THE COURSE.**

STEPHEN
TRANSITIONAL CARE STUDENT



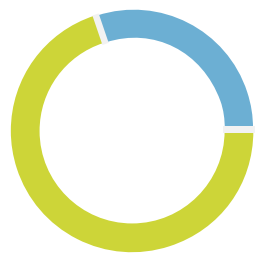
FUNDING FOR THEIR FUTURE



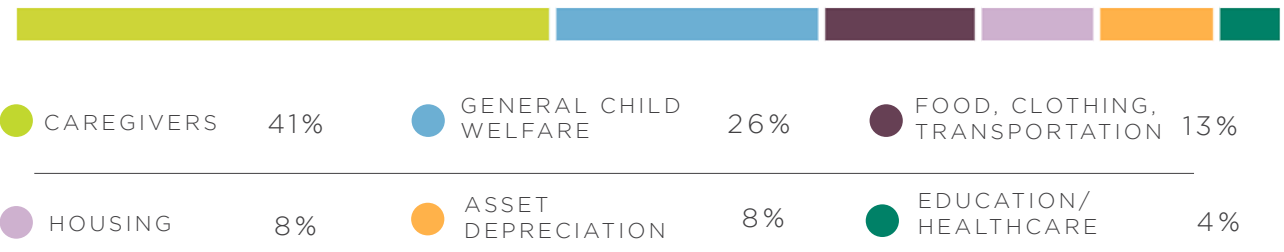
INDIVIDUALS	46%
BUSINESSES	20%
INVESTMENTS/OTHER	10%
THRIFT STORE	6%
FOUNDATIONS	6%
CHURCHES	5%
EVENTS	4%
ESTATES	3%

SUPPORT SERVICES

CHILDREN'S SERVICES	64%
SUPPORT	36%



CHILDREN'S SERVICES EXPENSES



**MAKING
LIVES
WHOLE,
ONE CHILD
AT A TIME**





GOD TOOK MY MESS AND MADE IT INTO A MIRACLE.



JOHNNA SPEAKS AT CAFO SUMMIT

Christian Alliance for Orphans (CAFO) hosts an annual summit for thousands of leaders from around the world who serve orphans and vulnerable children. Attendees include pastors, church staff, leaders of nonprofit organizations, adoptive/foster parents and child welfare professionals. Recently, one of the moms we serve through our Family Care Ministry was invited to speak at the Summit and share her experience with Palmer Home. Johnna shared her testimony and the story of her pregnancy with her baby Journey Faith while incarcerated, and how Palmer Home Family Care served her before, during and after her sentence. Here is her story:

“My name is Johnna and I wanted to share that I did not have an easy childhood. As a young adult, I abused drugs and got in trouble with the law. I found God and prayed to Him to help me turn my life around, and by His grace, He did. I became clean, stayed out of trouble and started down a new path.

But my past choices came back to haunt me, and I was arrested and sentenced to prison soon after I found out I was pregnant. I was devastated.

Being pregnant in prison is terrible. There’s no pink or blue, no baby showers, no celebrations. The larger my belly grew, the more panicked I became. Who was going to take care of my baby while I finished my sentence? What was going to happen to us? I continually cried out to God for help.

One day when I was at my lowest point,

another inmate overheard my fears and told me about Palmer Home for Children. She said they provided families for babies born to mothers in prison until the mom was able to care for her child. God was answering my prayers.

As the weeks passed, I got to know Susan, the Palmer Home Family Care director, and the Fields, the family that would care for my baby. They were all so kind and understanding, I knew God hand-picked them for my baby.

By the grace of God, I delivered a healthy girl named Journey Faith. Having to return to my prison cell after 24 hours was heartbreaking, but knowing my baby girl was in the care of a loving family gave me strength. They brought her to see me every week, mailed me pictures and let us ‘talk’ over the phone. They made sure our bond was growing. Every encounter gave me hope for the day we’d be together again.

Fast forward to today: I’ve been released from prison and reunited with Journey for five years. Susan and the Fields are still part of our lives; we consider them an amazing extended family. Words can’t describe how grateful I am.”

“I tell everyone that when they support Palmer Home, they’re helping change lives like mine and Journey’s. Through Palmer Home, God took my mess and made it into a miracle! I can’t thank Him enough for answering my prayers.”





DR. HUGH FRANCIS, JR. WELLNESS CENTER

The Dr. Hugh Francis, Jr. Wellness Center is a 25,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility that welcomes all to Palmer Home.

With classrooms, counseling suites, therapy rooms and recreational areas, the wellness center provides a space for hope and healing in accordance with our Whole Child Initiative. It also serves as a space for community gatherings and events that engage the public without compromising the privacy or security of the children in our care.

“

Palmer Home for Children not only wants to offer highly effective tutoring sessions for all subject areas, but we also want to build and foster good work and study habits that will continue throughout the child's academic journey.

ANDRE CRAFTORD, ED.D.
EDUCATIONAL SPECIALIST

For the first time, children can meet with their therapists for counseling appointments without having to leave campus. Private visitation rooms allow families to strengthen biological bonds, and state-of-the-art classrooms are equipped for tutoring sessions and remote learning alike.

The children are most excited to finally have an indoor, full-court



gym and an outdoor pool on campus. There's also a large, multipurpose indoor gathering space, outdoor patios, a commercial kitchen, a board room and administrative offices for Palmer Home staff.

If you're interested in touring the wellness center or would like to inquire about hosting an event in the space, please contact marketing@palmerhome.org.

palmerhome.org/wellness-center

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Karen Carlisle - *MEMPHIS, TN*
- Robert H. Clark - *STARKVILLE, MS*
- Trip Hairston - *COLUMBUS, MS*
- Alan Walters - *JACKSON, MS*
- Dolph Bryan - *STARKVILLE, MS*
- Harold Clark - *STARKVILLE, MS*
- Larry Edwards - *JACKSON, MS*
- Gray Flora, III - *OXFORD, MS*
- Melinda George - *MEMPHIS, TN*
- Charles Guest - *STARKVILLE, MS*
- Dr. Daryl Guest - *STARKVILLE, MS*
- Dr. Andrew Martin - *STARKVILLE, MS*
- Tom McCann - *PEACHTREE CITY, GA*
- Rick L. Powell - *MEMPHIS, TN*
- Dr. Russ Russell - *COLUMBUS, MS*



MEET KAREN CARLISLE, OUR BOARD CHAIR

WHAT MOTIVATED YOU TO BE ON THE PALMER HOME BOARD, AND ULTIMATELY BECOME BOARD CHAIR?

The care of children in need of stability has always been a cause dear to my heart. When I joined the board in 2002, I was also serving on boards in Mississippi that focused on adoption and a member of the LeBonheur Club. Coming alongside Palmer Home as a member of the board opened my eyes and allowed me to learn more about foster care, trauma competency and family preservation. I've become passionate about these issues, and the entire mission of Palmer Home, in the years since.



KAREN CARLISLE
BOARD CHAIR

WHAT GROWTH HAVE YOU SEEN AT PALMER?

Palmer Home's 127-year history has seen many changes, but in the last five years, we have made tremendous strides towards caring for more children through our four dedicated service lines. Additionally, opening the Dr. Hugh Francis, Jr. Wellness Center, which serves as the heart of our mission, was a huge accomplishment that has been in the works since I joined the board. This state-of-the-art facility give us the ability to expand our mission to children and families across the Mid-South.

“

Karen has faithfully served on Palmer Home's board for 20 years, and we are thrilled that she is now serving in an even greater capacity as our Board Chair.

”

DRAKE BASSETT
CEO & PRESIDENT

DEVELOPING YOUNG LEADERS

Did you know there's a herd of cattle on the Palmer Home campus? And that these cattle are fed, nurtured and cared for by a handful of dedicated children?

The Palmer Home cattle program, part of our campus work program, is about so much more than raising livestock. Many of the children in our care have never had a pet before, much less several cows! The cattle program gives a child the opportunity to develop important life skills while earning money for their hard work.

Led by John Goudy, our Director of Operations/Facilities, the children learn how to successfully care for the cows and their environment, from checking fences to refilling water stations to monitoring each cow's health. In exchange for their hard work, the children earn money - part of which they can spend how they'd like, and part of which goes into a savings account they can access when they're a bit older (most use it to buy a vehicle).

We believe that by giving children important responsibilities like caring for an animal, they're not only learning important life skills like personal responsibility, time management and budgeting, they're growing their self-confidence, learning empathy and boosting their self-esteem.

John has seen marked changes in children who've participated in the program.

"Once they get into it, they really take pride in what they're doing," he says, "Their work ethic improves as well as their discipline - both at home and in school."

One former student who exemplifies positive change through the work program is Brad*, now a young adult in our Transitional Care program. Brad previously struggled in school, but realized through the work program that he enjoyed working with his hands. He ended up graduating high school early to attain his GED and is now pursuing a career in the military.

"We're proud that our campus allows children this opportunity," says Goudy. "While we enjoy raising cattle, the work program is really about developing young leaders."

There are a variety of ways you or your company can serve the campus cattle program. To learn more, please email volunteer@palmerhome.org.



2022 HIGHLIGHTS



HOSTED FIRST DISCOVERY CAMP



HOPE GROWS GARDEN DEDICATION



GRAND OPENING OF THE DR. HUGH FRANCIS, JR. WELLNESS CENTER



2022 DESOTO'S BEST CHARITY EVENT - MUDBUG BASH



2-TIME VOX WINNER PRSA MEMPHIS (WRITING & PRINT TACTICS)



100%
DONATION
BASED.



HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

We are grateful every time we are asked this question by friends in the community. Here are a few ways you can get involved. Please visit palmerhome.org/get-involved or contact development@palmerhome.org for more information.

CONNECT

Help us share our mission by having a member of our team speak to your church, civic group, or business.

MENTOR

Impact the life of a child through relationship. Mentors commit to spending time monthly with a child at Palmer Home.

VOLUNTEER

There are many ways to support through events, campus work programs, food drives, and more.

WAYS TO GIVE:

A pledge card and envelope are enclosed. Please complete the card and send your gift today.



For those who use a QR Reader on their smart phone - simply scan the QR code to give.

[PALMERHOME.ORG/DONATE](https://palmerhome.org/donate)



**PALMER HOME FOR CHILDREN
800 BALDWIN RD SOUTH
LAKE CORMORANT, MS 38641**



MAKING LIVES WHOLE.



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