



# 2024 Valentine's Day Newsletter

*Dear Friends,*

I am writing to you on the 2nd day of 2024. If you are like me, you set goals and entrust them to God. It's so good to look forward to a year full of hope and promise. While looking forward, however, it is also good to look back. Today I am reflecting on the Christmas celebrations that all our children in care experienced.

I have hundreds of pictures and videos of children who have such joy on their faces as they celebrate our Lord's birth with a birthday cake, special Christmas dinner, and gifts of clothing and toys. This year some of our children got to select their own gifts at the toy store. I am told that the store owners enjoyed the noise and excitement of the children as they selected dolls, toy guitars, and games.

I am so thankful to each of you who made these joyful Christmas celebrations possible. It would be great if we could meet for coffee and I could show you the pictures and videos of children as they celebrated. Without your gift, I do not know what their Christmas would have been

like for them. You helped enrich their celebrations of our Savior's birth.

*Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.*

Luke 2: 10, 11

As we turn our focus to February, this season of love, grab a cup of coffee or tea with me, and enjoy the Christmas celebration pictures and stories.

God bless you.

*Linda Brooks*  
CEO

## Love for CARES

Excitement is all around us as BCH is ready to launch our CARES and LEADS Trauma Training. CARES and LEADS have been in the research and development stages for the past year and are now ready to make a difference in so many lives! From bullying and divorce to abuse and neglect, trauma for a child can be life-altering. Our CARES Trauma Training provides parents, teachers, caregivers, pastors, etc. practical techniques, and insights with a biblical perspective on being more trauma aware. LEADS is our community training. They both give simple tips for dealing with trauma for both children and adults.

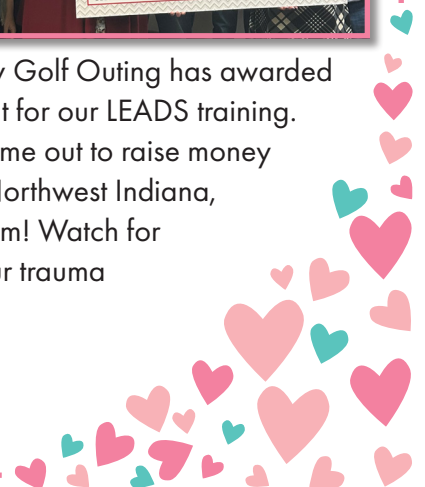
*The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart and saves such as have a contrite spirit.*

- Ps. 34:18

We offer our training both in-person or virtually or we can come in

person to your church or organization for an interactive presentation.

The work that the BCH team has dedicated to this program is truly a blessing and the NWIBRT Hard Hat Charity Golf Outing has awarded BCH with a \$10,000 grant for our LEADS training. More than 300 people came out to raise money for four local charities in Northwest Indiana, with BCH being one of them! Watch for more information about our trauma training coming soon!



# Christmas Around the World

Celebrating the birth of Christ our Savior comes in many variations. Through your generosity, we would like to share with you how you bring joy to so many around the world.

## CELEBRATING ZAMBIAN STYLE

"On Christmas Day, twenty-one children with their families gathered to celebrate. We spent the entire day together eating, laughing, praying, and opening presents.

We prepared enough food for families to have leftovers to take home. What really made it special this year is that we let each child pick out what they wanted for Christmas. Clothes topped the list, followed by a few toys and even a young girl choosing to get her hair done.

Thank you so much for your loving support" – Vincent, Zambia Coordinator



## EXCITEMENT IN MYANMAR

From our New Hope Home – "Our traditional celebration begins on the evening of the 24th with chicken rice porridge. On Christmas day we enjoy our traditional Christmas meal, and the children open their presents. This year, I had all 25 children write down their wishes for Christmas. On Christmas morning the children opened the gifts that they hoped for, making this one of the most memorable Christmases yet.

On the 31st the children enjoyed snacks and we had a midnight prayer welcoming in the new year. Thank you for making them feel so special and happy through your kindness."

– Junia, Director of New Hope in Myanmar

From our Agape Home – "It was a blessed Christmas for all our children and houseparents.

The children bought clothing, toys, slippers (shoes) and even items for sports. Thank you so much for bringing such happiness to our children!" Ying Zung, Agape Home, Myanmar.



## CHRISTMAS IN HAITI AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

"Earlier in December, we took all our children shopping for their own presents. This was a first-time experience for many, and what fun they had!

The store was filled with noise and excitement from our children and others in the store. Even the head of police came out to help.

We had many people ask about BCH and the mission. They didn't even know such an organization existed. What a great way to spread our ministry!" Pastor Predestin



## INDIA CELEBRATES

"The children anticipate Christmas with great joy and prayer. They look forward to our annual Christmas feast. This year our menu was plentiful!

### Menu

Chicken Biryani

Salad

Apples, Oranges & Bananas

Christmas Cake

Fish Fry

Boiled Eggs



The generosity from all of you allowed us to buy new clothing for all the children and even a few toys for the little ones. The excitement lasted for days."

God Bless – Philadelphia Family







## Going Beyond

Homes of Compassion (HoC) had a wonderful reunion last month with a family we helped a few months ago. HoC helps families in our communities by providing temporary loving care with one of BCH's Care Families. When the family is ready, the child returns home at no cost to the family. This ministry creates a wonderful bond with families in our communities.

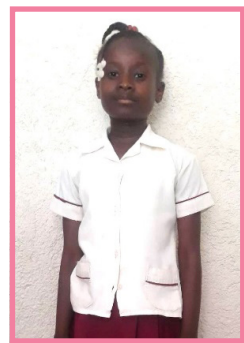
BCH's Craig Freyenberger recently visited one of the families that we have helped. A single mom with four children, one who has special needs, recently moved, and needed some additional help during this time. Craig

and the Homes of Compassion team visited this family and brought boxes of food to fill their pantry. The children all helped to unpack boxes with smiles on their faces. Craig said it reminded him of Christmas morning, seeing the joy in their eyes and the smiles on their faces.

Our commitment to keeping families together strengthens our communities. This is only made possible through the support that you provide us throughout the year. If you are interested in learning more about how you can become a Care Family or support this ministry with a donation, please visit [www.homesofcompassion.com](http://www.homesofcompassion.com)

## Making a Difference in Haiti

Recently, BCH added two new countries to our Hearts of Compassion ministry - Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Both Haiti and the Dominican Republic face difficult if not desperate challenges for many families, including poverty, starvation, safety, and abuse. But, with your help, our Hearts program is changing lives for so many.



Meet Florise. At 11 years old, Florise's parents could no longer take care of her and her siblings. We worked closely with Florise's parents and our Haitian foster parents to welcome Florise and her three foster brothers and sister to one of our homes in Haiti. Although it was hard to leave her home,

Florise is starting to flourish. She has come to love to study and understand the Bible. "Florise is intelligent and does well at school. She has a promising life because she really loves God" say her foster parents.

In December 2023, we started a new aspect of ministry. We are having monthly dinners so that the children in our

foster homes who do have parents get to share a meal with their parents and their foster parents. We want this to be a time of bonding, spiritual encouragement, and fun.

Especially during this month of celebrating love, we are blessed to see our children thrive while growing in their love for the Lord. We pray for Florise, her siblings, and for her foster parents as they encourage the children and pour biblical truth into their lives.

*"But the greatest of these is love."*

- Corinthians 1:13:13

Your faithful prayer and sponsorship of a child show incredible love and care. You can learn more about children needing sponsorship in:

- Haiti
- India
- Zambia
- Dominican Republic
- Nepal
- Myanmar

by visiting our website [www.bch-inc.org](http://www.bch-inc.org)

