



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 14, 2023

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Congressman Dunn Fights for the Health and Safety of Children in Foster Care

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congressman Neal Dunn, M.D. (Florida-02) recently introduced the [Creating Accountable Respectful Environments \(CARE\) for Children Act](#) (H.R. 3852). This bill addresses the shortage of foster home options for children by allowing cottage homes to be eligible for federal funds that other programs already have access to.

“Going into the foster care system can be difficult for a child and their parents. The transition is even more difficult when there is a shortage of foster care options,” said Congressman Dunn. “The CARE for Children Act seeks to ensure the health and safety of children, as well as expands options by including cottage family homes. We must do everything we can to help the future generation become the best versions of themselves.”

H.R. 3852 adds “cottage family homes” to the options of federally supported housing for foster children. Cottage family homes offer a family-like living environment in a single-family residence with no more than two children per bedroom unless it is in the children’s best interest. The cottage “parents” can supervise and nurture around the clock creating a healthier, stable environment.

“We must always prioritize the well-being of our children and provide them with the best possible care. That is why I am proud to co-introduce the Creating Accountable Respectful Environments (CARE) for Children Act, which amends the Social Security Act to include 'Cottage Family Homes' to make them eligible for federal funds,” said Congressman Darren Soto (FL-09). “This bill will open up stable and nurturing home environments for children including an estimated six locations in Florida alone. These locations will be extremely beneficial to the well-being of every child who needs them as they will increase capacity, keep sibling groups together, and provide children with a

normalized home environment that maintains a strong connection with the child's family."

"The CARE for Children Act aims to create safe, healthy environments for children by promoting capacity-building, keeping sibling groups together, and providing a normalized home and community environment for our youth in Florida," said Rep. Kat Cammack (FL-03). "At a time when foster homes are in short supply, this bill ensures that cottage family homes keep children safe, nurtured, and cared for to help them grow into happy, healthy adults. I'm glad to join Rep. Dunn and my Florida colleagues in supporting the CARE Act."

"The CARE Act will open doors to a better and brighter future for foster youth, providing them with the normalized home environment that they need to thrive," said Congresswoman Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick (FL-20). "I'm proud to join several of my colleagues in the Florida Congressional Delegation in introducing this necessary and bipartisan piece of legislation."

"Protecting children and giving them every opportunity to thrive is essential. The Creating Accountable Respectful Environments (CARE) for Children Act addresses the health, safety, and well-being of children who must face and ensure hardship," said Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz (FL-25). "I am proud to introduce this legislation with my colleagues so we can provide children with a normalized home and community environment when times are most difficult."

"We are grateful that Dr. Dunn and the bill co-sponsors see the value of cottage family homes as a support to struggling families and trauma impacted children. This bill ensures accountability and respectful environments for children during a difficult time in their lives. Children deserve the warmth, care, education and support a cottage family home provides," said Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches President Bill Frye.

"Cottage Family homes are a key component to keeping siblings together. This legislation ensures a quality home life for trauma impacted children. We are grateful for this legislation," said Brad Gregory, CEO of A Kids Place.

"With the growing foster care parent shortage reaching crisis levels, the Florida Coalition for Children appreciate efforts to remove barriers, to have the right placement options and to maintain critical social and emotional standards for children. While Florida leads the way in providing child-welfare services to children and families, we understand the need to keep a vigilant hand in our approach to care and we applaud the efforts by Congressman Dunn and his co-sponsors of The Creating Accountable Respectful Environments (CARE) for Children Act, which will ensure the Nation's child-welfare system has every tool available to the meet the needs of children," said the Florida Coalition for Children.

"This bill defines what out of home placement for children should look like," said Baptist Childrens Village.

“Children from hard places needing out of home placement due to threat of imminent harm win with the provisions of the CARE Act. The Act increases the numbers of residential resources available to keep sibling groups together while ensuring safeguards that protect a child’s right to normalized extracurricular, enrichment, cultural and social activities that offer the same freedoms afforded peers living with their own families. With the provisions of this Act, the continuum of care for children is increased with the creation of accountable, respectful environments. Passage of the Act will help eliminate the horror stories of children left in harm's way and not surviving the experience or being placed with families not licensed to provide their care and being subjected to harm due to a lack of training or safeguards that ensure safety,” said Coalition of Residential Excellence Executive Director Don Forrester.

“The children we serve have experienced unthinkable trauma and they deserve the very best care we have to offer. The CARE Act does exactly that as it encourages siblings to remain together while providing more options for a family setting in a Cottage Home,” said St. Augustine Youth Services Executive Director Schuyler Siefker.

[Read more information about this bill here.](#)

The bill currently has eleven cosponsors:

Cosponsor	Date Cosponsored
Rep. Steube, W. Gregory [R-FL-17]*	06/06/2023
Rep. Soto, Darren [D-FL-9]*	06/06/2023
Rep. Wasserman Schultz, Debbie [D-FL-25]*	06/06/2023
Rep. Cherfilus-McCormick, Sheila [D-FL-20]*	06/06/2023
Rep. Bean, Aaron [R-FL-4]*	06/06/2023
Rep. Rutherford, John H. [R-FL-5]*	06/06/2023
Rep. Waltz, Michael [R-FL-6]*	06/06/2023

Rep. Cammack, Kat [R-FL-3]*	06/06/2023
Rep. Bilirakis, Gus M. [R-FL-12]*	06/06/2023
Rep. Franklin, C. Scott [R-FL-18]*	06/06/2023
Rep. Moskowitz, Jared [D-FL-23]*	06/06/2023

Next Steps - Filing of H.R. 3852 serves as a call to action for CORE member agencies to reach out to their legislative representatives with the request that they support and cosponsor this legislation.

A Teams Call or Zoom Call will be set very soon to provide CORE members an opportunity to hear from CORE’s Legislative Committee the next steps needed in order to accomplish our purpose and support this legislation.

CORE extends appreciation and thanks to Dr. Dunn and other Legislative members of the Florida delegation that cosponsored this legislation. In addition, Beatrice Valenti, Legislative Assist for Dr. Dunn was very helpful. Special thanks also to Maria Knapp and Bill Frye, Florida Sheriff’s Youth Ranches for their tireless efforts in support for this legislation.

Other Newly Filed Legislation Of Interest

Representatives Moore, Davis, Steel, and Pappas Introduce Legislation to Encourage Charitable Giving and Support Local Communities

May 17, 2023

[Press Release](#)

WASHINGTON – Today, Representatives Blake Moore (UT-01), Danny K. Davis (IL-07), Michelle Steel (CA-45), and Chris Pappas (NH-01) introduced the *Charitable Act* to empower Americans to contribute to charitable causes and support local communities. In addition to a broad, nationwide coalition that touches nearly every sector of our economy, the bill is **endorsed** by more than 100 nonprofits in Utah.

The *Charitable Act* extends and expands the expired charitable deduction for those who do not itemize on their tax returns, ensuring that every American who donates or tithes is able to benefit from both the standard deduction and the charitable deduction. Specifically, this legislation would raise the previous \$300/\$600 cap on the non-itemizer deduction to 1/3 of the standard deduction, equal to roughly \$4,500 for individuals, \$9,000 for joint filers.

“Today, I am honored to introduce the *Charitable Act* in the House. This important bipartisan and bicameral bill bolsters the power of American generosity by enabling more people to support the causes they hold dear,” **said Congressman Blake Moore.** “Every American, regardless of their income, can contribute by helping charities, nonprofits, and religious organizations provide vital services that go far beyond the government’s reach. Generosity and service are defining characteristics of Utahns across the Beehive State, and I am honored to introduce legislation that will help more people contribute to the causes closest to their hearts.”

“Supporting charitable giving is an example of good citizenship,” **said Rep. Davis.** “Charitable contributions from individuals are vital to the ability of our churches, food banks, and other nonprofits to meet local needs. Research is clear that this charitable deduction generates the giving that helps our communities thrive. I am proud to co-lead this important bill that encourages all taxpayers regardless of income to give.”

“Churches, faith-based organizations, and charities provide vital services and support in Orange County and across the country,” **said Congresswoman Michelle Steel.** “Our legislation will empower more constituents to give to their local charities by ensuring our tax code rewards generosity. These groups are irreplaceably rooted on the front lines of their neighborhoods, protecting and assisting those most in need. I am proud to work with my colleagues to help these vital charities and our communities thrive.”

"Nonprofits in New Hampshire and across the country have stepped up, again and again, to help those who are most in need," **said Congressman Chris Pappas.** "It's critical we also do our part to support their work, and through them, our communities and our neighbors. That is why I am proud to work alongside Congressman Moore to reintroduce this bipartisan legislation to expand the charitable giving deduction, support the work of our nonprofits, and highlight the charitable spirit of our nation."

Background

Of the \$484.85 billion donated to charities in 2021, 67% of donations came from individuals. While charitable contributions from foundations and corporations have grown in recent years, the share of dollars donated by individuals has fallen for the fourth consecutive year. This alarming trend has serious implications for the churches, museums, food banks, and other nonprofits that serve our communities and unite us as Americans.

When Congress created the temporary universal charitable deduction in 2021 and 2022, the result was the generation of \$10.9 billion for charities, with 25% of that coming from Americans making less than \$30,000. Given the impact of the smaller deduction, the provisions in the Charitable Act will help supercharge charitable giving.

A letter of support from the Utah Nonprofits Association can be found [here](#), and letters of support from the National Council of Nonprofits and the Charitable Giving Coalition are linked [here](#) and [here](#), respectively.

Statements of Support

“According to data compiled by AFP’s Fundraising Effectiveness Project, the number of small donations went up in 2020 and 2021 after Congress enacted a universal charitable deduction but then small-gift donors collapsed in 2022 after the temporary universal charitable deduction was not renewed,” **noted Mike Geiger, President and CEO of the Association of Fundraising Professionals.** “On behalf of our more than 27,000 fundraising professional members that raise more than \$100 billion annually for charities, we thank Representatives Blake Moore, Danny Davis, Michelle Steel, and Chris Pappas for their leadership in championing the Charitable Act to restore this proven giving incentive.”

“Our country is stronger when everyone can support the charitable organizations that work tirelessly to improve and enrich our communities. The renewal and expansion of the universal charitable deduction for non-itemizing taxpayers through the Charitable Act would encourage philanthropic minded individuals nationwide, regardless of income, to give to charity. The American Heart Association greatly appreciates Reps. Moore, Rep. Davis, Rep. Steel, and Rep. Pappas' leadership and commitment to America’s charitable community and urges Congress to move the bill forward quickly,” **said Mark Schoeberl, Executive Vice President, Advocacy, American Heart Association.**

“United Philanthropy Forum applauds Reps. Blake Moore, Danny Davis, Michelle Steel, and Chris Pappas for supporting America’s charitable organizations and the communities they serve,” **said David Biemesderfer, President & CEO of United Philanthropy Forum.** “United Philanthropy Forum believes that a universal charitable deduction is a fair and efficient way to encourage Americans to contribute more to charities, help strengthen a longstanding culture of giving in our country, and incentivize younger taxpayers to make charitable investments in the communities and causes they care about.”

“Goodwill Industries International supports the bipartisan introduction of The Charitable Act. At a time when the nonprofit sector is seeing an increased need for programs while funds are tightening, Congress should do everything in its power to incentivize giving,” **said Steven C. Preston, president and CEO of Goodwill Industries International.** “Donors are vital to our ability to fulfill our mission of providing workforce development and job training services.”

“The Nonprofit Alliance would like to commend the strong bipartisan leadership of Congressmen Moore and Pappas on the Charitable Act. This legislation, which will

broaden the base of charitable donors, is vital toward achieving a vibrant charitable sector beneficial to the entire nation,” **said Shannon McCracken, Chief Executive Officer of The Nonprofit Alliance.**

“We welcome The Charitable Act because it would expand tax incentives for Americans to donate to charities and all nonprofits. This legislation would help strengthen our nation’s communities and increase the number of donors,” **said Dr. Akilah Watkins, president and CEO of Independent Sector.** “Research we’ve released shows that such a proposal could generate over \$17 billion in additional charitable contributions each year, if made permanent. Expanded giving incentives for all Americans, regardless of income, would create a fairer system, better enabling charities and all nonprofits to make the communities we serve, stronger, healthier, and more equitable.”

“The charitable deduction is a proven and effective tool to leverage private investment in charitable organizations, and raising private support has become crucial for colleges and universities. It helps our 1,700 member institutions to deliver on their educational, research, and public service missions,” **said Liz Clark, vice president for policy and research at the National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO).** “On behalf of business officers at colleges and universities across the country, NACUBO applauds the introduction of the Charitable Act and Reps. Chris Pappas and Blake Moore for their leadership. Donations of all sizes are vital to colleges and universities, and incentives for charitable giving should be available to everyone, including individuals who don’t itemize their taxes.”

“Generosity and charitable giving are fundamental parts of the American identity,” **said Angela F. Williams, President and CEO of United Way Worldwide.** “United Way Worldwide is proud to support the bipartisan Charitable Act, which will make it easier for Americans to give to the charitable causes they support in a time of historic need.”

"We applaud Representatives Moore and Pappas for introducing the bipartisan Charitable Act," **said Faith & Giving executive director Brian Walsh.** "By extending a robust charitable deduction to generous lower-income givers, the Charitable Act will help ensure multiple thousands of religious congregations and faith-based charities thrive and continue providing care for our needy and hurting neighbors."

"Nonprofits need tools like the nonitemizer deduction proposed by the Charitable Act to meet growing and changing community needs," **said YMCA of the USA President and CEO Suzanne McCormick.** "As expected, the universal charitable deduction enacted temporarily during the height of the pandemic unlocked more giving. Making the deduction permanent will provide an ongoing incentive to increase giving and also will counteract inflation. Representatives Moore, Steel, Davis and Pappas recognize that charitable giving is essential in helping nonprofits like the Y make their communities stronger. We are grateful for their leadership and support."

"Everyone who gives charitably deserves to receive a charitable deduction," **said Council on Foundations President and CEO Kathleen P. Enright.** "As communities continue to struggle with inflation and the lingering effects of the pandemic, expanding the charitable deduction will encourage more households to give and those that already give to increase their philanthropy."

"Communities and the nonprofits that serve them rely on the generosity of all Americans to provide vital services to their beneficiaries," **said Brian Flahaven, Chair, Charitable Giving Coalition.** "The Charitable Act's restoration of the universal charitable deduction for non-itemizers acknowledges that all givers to charity, no matter their income or the size of their gifts, are deserving of a tax incentive to give more. The Charitable Giving Coalition thanks Representatives Moore, Davis, Steel, and Pappas for their leadership in the House on this issue, and we look forward to working with the champions of the Charitable Act to advance the bill and renew the charitable giving incentive for all American taxpayers."

"We applaud Representatives Blake Moore, Danny Davis, Michelle Steel, and Chris Pappas for their leadership in introducing the bipartisan Charitable Act, legislation that will encourage all taxpayers, regardless of income, to make charitable donations to schools, colleges, and universities across the country," **said Sue Cunningham, President and CEO, Council for Advancement and Support Education.** "When donors give more, educational institutions can offer greater opportunity and access to students who will be our future leaders; conduct life transforming and saving research that benefits us all; and enhance society through public service programs and community engagement. We strongly support the Charitable Act and will urge Congress to support its swift passage."

"Charitable giving has not kept up with inflation, let alone met increasing community needs. The Charitable Act proposes sound tax policy that would incentivize millions more taxpayers to give to their local community-based organizations, enabling people to feel more invested in, engaged with, and supportive of the collective success of their neighbors and community. The networks of the National Council of Nonprofits enthusiastically endorse this vital legislation," **said Tim Delaney, President & CEO, National Council of Nonprofits.**

OTHER LEGISLATION OF INTEREST

- The **Stop Institutional Child Abuse Act** (S. 1351) was filed by Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR) on April 27, 2023. There were 5 cosponsors at the time. During the month of May, two additional senators signed-on as cosponsors on May 10. They include: Sen. Susan M. Collins (R-ME) and Sen. Tina Smith (D-MN)

Other cosponsors include: Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX), Sen. Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM),

Sen. Tommy Tuberville (R-AL), Sen. Christopher Murphy (D-CT), and Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME).

No additional action has been taken on the legislation

■ The **Protecting Sibling Relationships in Foster Care Act** (H.R.755) was filed by Rep. Don Bacon (R-NE) February 2, 2023. Three additional cosponsors were added in May: Rep. Sydney Kamlager-Dove (D-CA-37)) 05-05-23, Rep. Chris Pappas (D-NH-1) 5-17-23, and Rep Hillary Scholten (D-MI-3) 05-30-2023.

Three original cosigners included Rep. Gwen Moore (D-WI-4), Rep. Zachary Nunn (R-IA-3), and Rep. Mary Gay (D-PA-5).

No additional action has been taken.

■ The **Foster Care Stabilization Act of 2023 (S. 102)** was filed by Sen, Deb Fischer (R-NE) and one cosponsor, Sen. John Hickenlooper D-CO)

No additional action has been taken.

■ **Save Children's Coverage Act** (H.R.1316) to allow states to provide for extended periods continuous coverage under the Medicaid and CHIP program for children, to provide continuous eligibility under the Medicaid program or certain adults, and for other purposes. The bill was filed by Rep. Joe Neguse (D-CO) on March 1, 2023,

No Additional Action has been taken

2023 CORE National Conference September 18-20, 2023

Conference Host - St. Joseph's Indian School - Chamberlain, SD

[The CORE conference will be held @ Arrowwood Conference Center, approximately 3.8 miles from the campus of St. Joseph's Indian School.]

Registration for the 2023 CORE National Conference will begin in July, 2023. I will send an email notification when we are ready for registration. In addition to the conference, attendees are invited to attend St. Joseph's Indian School's 47th Annual Children's Pow Wow (attendance optional) on Saturday, September 16th.

There is also an optional tour (RSVPs required, \$30 per attendee) on Sunday, September 17th. The tour includes:

- Mount Rushmore <https://www.nps.gov/moru/index.htm>
- Crazy Horse Memorial <https://crazyhorsememorial.org/>

- Badlands National Park <https://www.nps.gov/badl/index.htm>

Monday & Tuesday, September 18th & 19th will include tours of: Dignity: Of Earth & Sky <https://www.travelsouthdakota.com/trip-ideas/story/dignity-earth-sky> Alta Lakota Museum & Cultural Center <https://aktalakota.stjo.org/>

[Please Note: Chamberlain is in a remote location. Due to capacity limitations, the conference will be held at Arrowwood at Cedar Shore Resort & Conference Center, which is approximately 3.8 miles from the campus of St. Joseph's Indian School. Rental cars are encouraged.]

Airport Locations:

- Pierre Regional Airport - Pierre, SD <https://www.cityofpierre.org/>Very limited schedule, 82 miles from Chamberlain, SD
- Sioux Falls Regional Airport - Sioux Falls, SD <https://www.sfairport.com/> 140 miles from Chamberlain, SD
- Rapid City Regional Airport – Rapid City, SD <https://rapairport.com/> 209 miles from Chamberlain, SD

Hotels Information:

Arrowwood at Cedar Shore Resort & Conference Center
1500 Shoreline Drive
Oacoma, SD 57365
605-234-6376 <https://arrowwoodcedarshore.com/>

Magnificent view of the Missouri River!

\$109 per night, ask for the St. Joseph's Indian School/CORE block. Released to the public if not booked by August 16th. Availability from Friday, September 15th – Wednesday, September 20th.

In addition, Arrowwood offers RV and campsites, sleeping cabins, and River Ranch Bunkhouses.

Best Western Lee's Motor Inn
220 W King Avenue
Chamberlain, SD 57325

605-234-5575 https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotel-rooms.42003.html?groupId=8W1PK6G4

Walking distance from the Missouri River!

\$100 per night, ask for the Coalition of Residential Excellence/St. Joseph's Indian School block. Released to the public if not booked by August 16th. Availability from Friday, September 15th – Wednesday, September 20th. Located approximately 1.5 miles from the campus of St. Joseph's Indian School.

Multiple beautiful Airbnb possibilities within the Chamberlain and Oacoma, SD area.

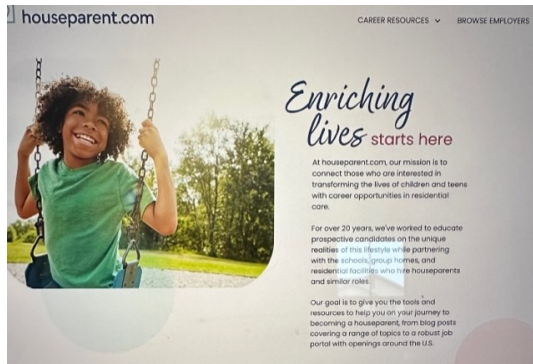
Additional Links:

Chamberlain-Oacoma Chamber of Commerce ~ Experience Our Charm

<https://chamberlainsd.com/>

Pow Wow Etiquette: <https://www.stjo.org/native-american-culture/powwow/powwow-etiquette/>

Making the Most of Your Pow Wow Experience: https://give.stjo.org/site/SPageNavigator/wp_powwow_booklet.html?s_src=Attend-Our-Powwow-Page



houseparent.com

Some time ago, the H.R. Department of Milton Hershey School reached out to indeed.com to advertise for a houseparent couple. Though MHS has historically used that site to advertise for houseparents, they were told they could no longer advertise for a married couple because it was discriminatory.

In response, MHS turned to houseparent.com as a site that would be sensitive to residential schools and

children's homes that prefer to employ married houseparent couples. They advocated not only for their agency, but for others with similar values.

We are in receipt of the following communication:

Dear CORE,

Houseparent.com is more than just a job board. For over twenty years, we have connected couples and individuals who are interested in transforming the lives of young people with careers in residential care.

Now under new ownership, we are on a mission to elevate the field of residential care and are proud to offer multiple ways for you to find qualified talent for your roles. Our unique membership-based model allows employers to create a rich and engaging presence on our site, including Employer Profiles, multiple jobs listings, custom blog posts, and social media features.

Monthly Plan

\$100 per month includes:

- Enhanced employer profile with images & video
- Up to 3 unique job listings linked to your profile

- Facility & active jobs featured on houseparent.com social media accounts
- Custom blog posts

[CORE Member Organizations receive 40% off first month. Email our team to get started!

hello@houseparent.com]

Support from the World New’s Group

Kim Henderson, Senior writer for World New’s Group, recently wrote two articles that support the kind of residential care provided by our member agencies.

- **OUT OF FAVOR - Group homes struggle in a foster care system that’s forgotten their worth.**

<https://wng.org/articles/out-of-favor-1681794787>

- **Effective Compassion: Better together - S4.E8**

<https://wng.org/podcasts/effective-compassion-better-together-s4-e8-1686355150>

Davilla named MCH vice president for organizational effectiveness

WACO, Texas — Longtime social work practitioner and administrator Brooke Davilla has been named vice president for organizational effectiveness at Methodist Children’s Home (MCH), a 133-year-old non-profit based in Waco serving children, youth and families across Texas and New Mexico. Davilla has served at MCH since 2010, most recently as assistant vice president for programs.



In her new role, Davilla will provide leadership and support in the areas of human resources, quality improvement, and employee communication and engagement, said MCH President and CEO Trey Oakley.

After receiving a bachelor’s and master’s degree in social work from Baylor University with a concentration in community practice, Davilla began her career at MCH as a foster care case manager at MCH Family Outreach in Waco. She transitioned to director in 2013. She was promoted to the role of program administrator in 2020 before being named assistant vice president for programs in 2021.

“During her tenure at MCH, Brooke has provided leadership to all areas of our continuum of care including residential, transition services, foster care, family preservation, aftercare, and educational services,” Oakley said. “Brooke’s knowledge of MCH, leadership skills and community engagement will serve her well in this new role.”

In addition to her program experience, Davilla serves as an adjunct professor for the Diana R. Garland School of Social Work at Baylor. In this role she educates emerging leaders about organizational assessments and strategic development methodologies through the lens of social welfare.

“I have known Brooke since she was a student with us and I always knew her leadership would make a profound impact on our community,” said Jon Singletary, dean of the Diana R. Garland School of Social Work. “It is no surprise she is being named to this role and yet it is still so exciting to celebrate the accomplishments of an alumna. She is kind and empathetic, passionate and dedicated, and her passion for the children, the community and the organizational health of Methodist Children’s Home is clear in all that she does.”

Oakley noted Davilla’s wealth of leadership experience at MCH, such as leading staff development opportunities, evaluating programs and systems needing improvement, participating in strategic planning, and providing leadership during the organization’s reaccreditation process with Council on Accreditation (COA).

“In her role as vice president for organizational effectiveness, Brooke and I will work together to develop strategies that support the agency’s strategic vision and culture of excellence in all areas under her supervision,” Oakley said. “I am excited to see how God will utilize Brooke’s knowledge, experience and personal gifts to help shape the future of organizational effectiveness at MCH.”

Davilla holds certification as a Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW) and a Licensed Child Placing Agency Administrator (LCPAA). She and her husband, Marcus, live in Waco and are parents to 3-year-old daughters Brooklyn and Katelyn; Jacob, 21; and Marcus, 26, and his wife Alli, who have a 1-year-old daughter, Lennon.

About Methodist Children’s Home: Established in 1890 in Waco, Texas, Methodist Children’s Home (MCH) is a nationally accredited nonprofit social service ministry serving children, youth and families through residential programs on its Waco campus and MCH Boys Ranch, transition living programs for alumni ages 17-26, and foster care and in-home services through 14 MCH Family Outreach offices across Texas and New Mexico. MCH programs are evidence-based, trauma-informed and mission focused.

[Information provided by Russell Rankin, Director of Public Relations]



My Father’s Arrows has been approved as a Continuum of Care Partner in the Coalition of Residential Excellence. Sarah Ellis, Executive Director and her husband Jason, co-founded the program. Sarah and Jason are both registered nurses.

Sarah is a Trust Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) trainer.

Located in Jay, Florida, the residential school has been operational since 2014. They are a type II residential childcare facility in Florida. In addition, My Father's Arrows is a member of the Florida Association of Christian Child Caring Agencies (FACCCA).

The school exclusively serves children from hard places whose needs for safety and support are well beyond those routinely found in residential schools or children's home settings. On the date of my onsite visit, the history of all of the students included an adoption disruption.

According to Sarah, My Father's Arrows' is a faith based residential program dedicated to providing structure, consistency and unconditional love. The clear communication provided residents is: "We will keep you safe and we will consistently meet your needs."

Because of the agency's commitment to fully implementing Trust Based Relational Intervention, every staff person regardless of their role is trained in TBRI. Folks who work in the kitchen, teach in the classroom or serve in any other capacity are familiar with the principles of empowering, connecting and correcting.

All of the children have a diagnosis of reactive attachment disorder, and their needs are beyond those found in a basic childcare environment.

Both Sarah Ellis and her husband, Jason are Registered Nurses. The Medical Director for the facility is a pediatrician that specializes in autism and autistic-like behaviors. The pediatrician is present at the facility one day a week.

When asked why My Father's Arrow's is seeking CORE membership, I was told they want to be a part of something larger than themselves. An opportunity to interact with and learn from other child welfare professionals is part of their motivation.