



THE OAKS ARROW



Official Publication of the OAKS INDIAN MISSION

P.O. Box 130 * Oaks, Oklahoma 74359

A CHILD CARE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES MINISTRY IN THE HEART OF THE CHEROKEE NATION

Serving God by Serving the Children of Oaks Indian Mission

Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?"

John 11:40 (NIV)

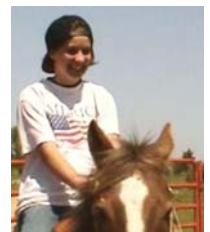
This past year, we have had a couple of girls who have faced some real life challenges that has left them hurt and contemplating some of life's bigger issues. They have both faced adversity and come out on the other side, stronger and even better able to handle what life throws at them. Therefore, I would like to lift them up to you as an example of the work that God is doing on this Mission. We at the Mission know that God is faithful to fulfill our needs and we know that he is ultimately the ONE who is responsible for this Mission moving forward, with strong, healthy and mature children, who will eventually move into their adult lives, able to cope and withstand the hard times that we all eventually have to endure.

I will begin my story with Taylor who is a beautiful 15 year old girl with all the same dreams and wishes that any other girl her age would have. She can be dreamy and silly, thoughtful and loving, or spunky and playful, and of course, at her age, she changes as often as the shards of light that filter through the leaves on a tree in the summertime.



Unfortunately, she can also be sad. We saw just such a time this past year as Taylor realized that she was in the position of choosing to be happy and be with the family that she lives with at the Mission, or be sad about the mother she has almost no contact with that gave her life. At the Mission, she has Travis and Dena, who parent and love her as if she were one of their own children. In addition, there are several girls that she lives with that she can call sister, not to mention the two brothers that are, in fact, Dena and Travis' children. So Taylor, being the Taylor that we all know and love, took the high road and made her family right here at the Mission in the form of all of the people who live in Travis and Dena's cottage. In addition, she accepts the rest of the staff as the extended family that most people have when they are in an actual family dynamic with aunts and uncles and grandparents. This is what makes Taylor the special girl that she is. She has assessed her situation, and with a maturity that many of the adults I know would lack, she accepted her life and has made the best of her situation. How lucky are we, the staff of the Oaks, to be in the presence of such a blessed child.

In addition to Taylor, I would like for you to meet Micki, who is 16, and also beautiful, with dreams and hopes of a future that only she can make happen. Micki, with God's help, and with the support and love of the Mission staff is also moving toward adulthood at the speed of light. She is different than Taylor in that she has always had a strong relationship with her grandmother, in addition, she is able to go to her grandmother's house every other weekend and on holidays, and she is secure in the knowledge that she is loved beyond even her expectations; however, like Taylor, she has experienced gut wrenching pain in the past year, that has tested her strength as nothing else may ever test it. Micki lost, first, an Uncle whom she loved very much, this past year, to cancer. She was there to watch the horror of the entire illness which eventually took her uncle's life, and then, just as she was moving past that, she got the news that her beloved father was also dying of cancer. With her loving grandmother at her side, Micki stoically stood by her father's side to the very painful end, enduring one of the worst nightmares of a child, which is the loss of a parent, especially when it is the only parent you have because the other birth parent did not treat you right and was blessedly taken out of your life as a small child. This would cause a child to cling to the familiar, and maybe even wonder about life and feel a little less secure with who you are. But not Micki, who leaned on her grandmother and on Travis and Dena as her cottage parents and forged ahead. She accepted her life as it was and then accepted her life as it is and moved on. She is a tower of strength that the rest of us can only hope we measure up to.



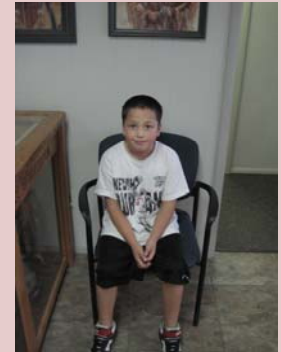
Isn't it amazing? Just last year both girls affirmed their faith and were baptized at Ebenezer Lutheran Church. I, for one, believe that God, as always, was ahead of them, preparing the way for what he knew would be a test of endurance for both girls and, as always, He gave them the means to get through what life threw at them, and be stronger and better for the experience.



Academic Performance is Important at the Oaks!

At the end of the last school year, John participated in the Oklahoma State Math Competition. As you can see in this picture, he did very well. We are proud of you John Mike!

Way to Go
John Mike!!



Congratulations Students!!



As you can see in the above pictures, Micki did quite well in FFA last year.

Good Job Micki!!



Oak's kids give back!

The kids who live here at the Mission are so grateful for the generosity of our donors. They realize every day that if not for the donors, their lives would be so different, and probably not in a good way. Therefore, knowing how much it means to them to receive gifts from our donors, they decided to give a gift to a charitable cause too. Our kid's chose to help children who face medical difficulties, and they raised \$70 to help the kids at St. Jude.

In addition to helping children with medical challenges, they chose to give another \$70 to children who need to be fed. Some of our children know what it means to go hungry, and they want to help keep others from having that experience.

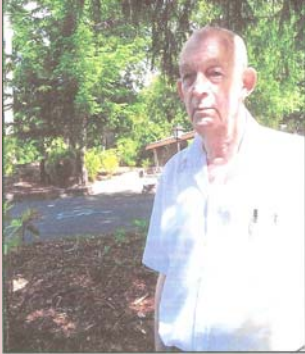
The Oaks Staff is so proud of our kids for their contributions to the lives of others.



Oaks Indian Mission Student Council
(Front) Alissa & Rachel (Middle) Hayley & Derick (Back) Kelsey



Alumni



Billy Creek
June 26, 1928—December 17, 2010
*"May all who seek You
rejoice and be glad in You."
Psalm 90:10*

The Oaks Indian Mission is so very proud of the alumni that leave our campus and go on to lead productive lives. Just recently I met the family of one man that passed on and we had just a great visit. His name was Bill Creek and he and his brother Lee were brought to the Mission to live somewhere around 1935 when Bill was around 7 years old and Lee was around 3 years old.

Bill turned 18 in 1946 and joined the army. He wrote in his diary, "...1946 I turned 18 in June – Mr. Vammen took me to Oklahoma City to the recruiting office in October of that year. He took me there & dropped me off. I never saw him again. I was sent to Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio Texas and ended up in Germany..."

From all accounts from the wonderful family that he left behind, Bill did well for himself. He was an upstanding, Christian citizen and he loved and cared for his family very well. In addition to that, he was a faithful donor to the Oaks. I only wish I could have met him before he passed away on December 17, 2010.

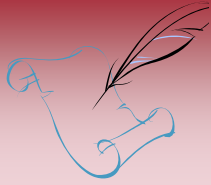


In addition to telling you about Bill Creek, I want to tell you about another important alum of the Oaks Indian Mission. Jimmy Wayne Marrujo, born August 27, 1943 in Claremore, Oklahoma lived a portion of his life at the Oaks Indian Mission before going on to play baseball for the Yankees. Jim is a good friend of the Oaks, and we were happy to see him when he recently attended the Oaks Mission Public School Reunion in Oaks, Ok.

Accordingly, we will be happy to see him again at the Oaks Indian Mission Golf Scramble that is sponsored by the Cherokee Casino in Catoosa, OK on September 30.



The Oaks Indian Mission buildings in the 1920's.
(From left to right) Mission Home, Church, and School.



Notes from the Executive Director...

“answered prayers”

I know I normally tell stories about things that happen on campus or about our children’s achievements, but God has led me to write about a personal experience. I am sure each and every one of our readers has experienced messages or little signs from God occasionally. For me, I don’t always understand, but I always notice.

My story begins on July 18th, 2008. In the afternoon I received a frantic phone call telling me that one of my grandchildren was involved in an accident and was in transport to the hospital. As most of our readers know that is the day my grandson was shaken. Two days later, July 20th, he was pronounced dead. This incident occurred 18 days after I began my job as Executive Director at Oaks Indian Mission. While this really brought to light the importance of my new job (after all, most of our children come to us from some type of abusive situation) it also created a lot of questions about God. Why my family? How could God let this happen to my grandchild? I thought God was a loving God. God and I had some very serious talks.

After the initial shock, frustration, and anger, even with all of these questions and emotions, it was my belief and trust in God that helped me and my wife get through the horrific incident.

My daughter (the mother of our grandson) did not have the same experience. She experienced the exact opposite feelings. She lost all faith in God and in many instances almost became a non-believer. My wife and I tried to console her, but it is difficult when a mother has her baby murdered. She was not very receptive to the explanations we provided. There are never the right words to make it OK. We began to pray for her and our other grandchildren, who were also having a very difficult time with the loss of their baby brother. Our prayers have continued through July 17th, 2011. I will explain the significance of that date later.

The first incidence that made me think that God was sending a message came during the week of May 2nd. Let me back up to September 27th, 2008. This date is important because it was the first Board of Directors meeting after the death of my grandson. On that day a memorial service was held and a weeping cherry tree was planted in remembrance of his short life. The tree was situated right outside my window allowing me to view it daily. The tree seemed to flourish over the next two and a half years. During that time the girl responsible for my grandson’s death was charged with first degree homicide. After many frustrating postponements in the trial process, a jury was finally seated on March 21st. The trial lasted one week and after a short deliberation the jury found her guilty. On April 27th 2011 during the sentencing hearing the judge upheld the jury’s decision and sentenced her to life in prison. The following week of May 2nd, the leaves on the tree began to wilt and within a week the tree had died. This year was a rainy spring so it didn’t happen during the drought. I don’t understand why, but from the weeping cherries point of view, I think God felt the weeping could stop. Justice, in a sense, had been served.

Remember, my wife and I had been praying for our daughter since 2008. She was very skeptical when considering if God truly existed.



Notes from the Executive Director...

On Sunday, July 17th, 2011, the date I mentioned earlier, my daughter got up, dressed her children and decided to take them to church. She had picked a large contemporary church several miles away but, as she drove out of her housing addition, there set a church adjacent to the road she was traveling on.

Something, I think I know, drew her to that church in place of the one she had intended on going to. After all, it was closer, she could get home quicker, it was a shorter drive; it would be less of a hassle to just stop there. She entered the church and found out they had a traditional service and a contemporary service. The traditional was in the actual church and the contemporary was in the fellowship hall. She chose the contemporary, that way she didn't actually have to go into the actual church. As the activities progressed it was time for the actual sermon. The same pastor delivered the sermon at both services, in person in the traditional, and on a large screen in the contemporary. The screen came down and the image of the pastor appeared. To her amazement she recognized the pastor as one of the jurors.

As the church services concluded, she made her way into the church and found the pastor. She asked if she could visit with him and he invited her into his office. As they entered his office, he told her that she didn't need to introduce herself. He told her that his wife and he had been praying for her and her family since the trial was over. He also shared that they had cried a lot about the loss of her baby; they had children and grandchildren of their own. He told my daughter that it would be three years ago tomorrow when her baby was shook. He also said he would have been four years old if he was still alive. My daughter spent the majority of their visit crying and he told her what he could legally share about the trial and the deliberations. She left the church and immediately called my wife. More tears were shed and she said she thought she had found a church to attend.

She had driven past this church many times but for some reason the draw was very strong that day to turn into the parking lot. With 100,000 people living in Broken Arrow, almost 800 churches, well over 1000 pastors, what are the odds of that pastor being in that church and my daughter choosing that church to attend that day? A coincidence? I think not. Sometimes God certainly does work in mysterious ways. My wife and I pray for a lot of things, and I can honestly say that one of our prayers was answered on July 17th, 2011.

David Schachle
Executive Director
Oaks Indian Mission



*In Memory of
Davis Ryan Brafford
April 26, 2007 ~ July 20, 2008*





It was in the first week of August when Pastor Dennis Haney and people from his congregation, St John Lutheran in Somonauk, IL and a neighboring church, the Salem Lutheran church, showed up at the Mission to work on what had previously been the Development Offices at the Oaks Indian Mission. Unfortunately the back wall had received some serious water damage last year, and they had replaced the wall and here they were again, ready to put in the windows and finish the job. They came during a serious drought that had fallen across Oklahoma, and they worked diligently in temperatures that were as high as 109 degrees. They did not complain, but instead, they found joy in everything they did. They were going about the business of "God's work", and nothing, not heat, rain, or anything would deter these wonderful men and women.

It is people like this that stand out to God's children. We see their generosity, and their goodness, and we want to be just like them. That is how good Christians raise up more good Christians. The Oaks has many children who are watching while people such as these show kindness and love. Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts. You have filled our cups to the top.

Love,

The Oaks Children and Staff



Recently, it was our pleasure to host another group from the Good Goers Mission Based Adventure Travels. As always, they came in and went straight to work. This time their project was to begin a nature trail over by the original Springplace, OK settlement. They braved scorching heat and of course, being in the woods, they had no breeze. They came during a time when Oaks well went dry and we had rationed water. Still, they came to do a job and that is what they did. I cannot describe the effect these groups have on our children. They teach by doing daily tasks. They love unconditionally. They become a part of our very lives in such a quiet way, but in a way that speaks volumes. Our children watch them and work with them and by doing so, they learn about Grace, and Jesus, and work ethic, and the list goes on.

Once again, we want to extend our thanks and love to the generous people who have come to the Mission for no other reason than to spread God's love through work and companionship.

Love,

The Oaks Children and Staff



If you desire to become an 1801 member in 2011, please fill out the form below and mail it to Ashley Cooper at Oaks Indian Mission, PO Box 130, Oaks, OK 74359 before December 31, 2011. This will guarantee you an invitation to the 1801 Gala to be held on April 21, 2011.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

In support of Oaks Indian Mission and its ministry and service to Indian children and Indian people, I/we are pleased to accept the invitation to become a member of The 1801 Society at the following membership level:

Gold Arrow Circle (\$1,000 or more annually*) **Silver Arrow Circle** (\$500 or more annually*) **Bronze Arrow Circle** (\$300 or more annually*)

* As long as circumstances allow Total gift amount \$ _____

Enclosed is \$ _____ with the balance to be paid as follows, but no later than December 31 of this year.
 Monthly _____; Quarterly _____; Other _____

I/we wish to use a credit card to make this gift.
 ___ Visa ___ Mastercard Card number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Matching Funds may be available from _____

Another question asked most often by donors:

Many of you ask if the Tribes support our children. Yes, to some extent. The Cherokee Nation underwrites our Annual Golf Scramble each year that we hold in Tulsa at the Cherokee Hills Golf Club, they support our annual 1801 Gala, they have given seed money for different projects and they sponsor several programs each year, such as the summer work program for our children, and in addition to that, they give us clothing vouchers each year and pay for our children's health care.

We at the OIM are thankful for the support the Cherokee tribe gives to the children who live here.

Don't forget to sign up for the golf scramble. Deadline to sign up is SEPTEMBER 16, 2011

GOLF SCRAMBLE

Date: Friday, Sept. 30, 2011

Registration: 11:00 am

Putting Contest Start: 11:30 am

Lunch & Dinner included

Scramble Start: 1:30 pm Shotgun

Location: Cherokee Hills Golf Club
 777 West Cherokee St.
 Catoosa, OK 74015

Format: 4-Person Scramble

Awards Dinner Following the Scramble

TOURNAMENT CONTESTS

Hole-in-One Prizes

1st & 2nd Place Team Prizes

Additional Contests:

- Putting Contest
- Closest to the Hole
- Longest Drive
- Hit in the Circle

ENTRY OPPORTUNITIES

The Oaks Indian Mission has developed a variety of ways for you to become involved in our event. Remember: Your contributions are tax deductible

GOLD SPONSOR \$1,500

Special recognition at the tournament dinner, tee box sign & flag, cart designation, media coverage, and includes 4 players.

SILVER SPONSOR \$1,000

Special recognition at the tournament dinner, tee box sign, cart designation and includes 2 players.

BRONZE SPONSOR \$300

Recognition at the tournament dinner and tee box sign.

FLAG SPONSOR (limited supply) \$150

* Players must check in by 1:00 or forfeit their spot.

* Appropriate Golfing Attire Required. Shirt tucked in with collar—no denim.

For your convenience, please use our website to sign up for the scramble.

Web: www.oaksindianmission.org

ENTRY FEE for Scramble
\$100 Single or \$300 Foursome
 Entry fee includes lunch and dinner.
 Singles will be placed on teams.
 MULLIGANS will be for sale on the day of the Scramble @ \$10 each.
 Limit 2 per player

Billing Information
 Company Name: (Please Print Legibly) _____

Address _____

Name _____

City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Day Phone _____

Player #1 _____

Player #2 _____

Player #3 _____

Player #4 _____

Entries must be received by Sept. 16, 2011
 _____ Payment Enclosed _____ Please Bill Me

By signing this entry form I hereby agree to waive and release all participants, hosts, sponsors, tournament officials and Cherokee Hills Golf Club from all claims and damages incurred in connection with this tournament.

Signature _____

COMMENTS FROM PEOPLE IN THE OAK'S PAST



Mathesha House

Oaks and the staff was my home and family. W/out the care and love from these loving people who knows what may have become of me. As an adult now some of my most precious memories come from my life in oaks. I am thankful. As a young girl wanted so much to grow up and leave home (oaks mission) as all young adults rush to grow up. I find myself now wishing I could turn back time. So many memories. Hi Don! I would love to help in anyway I don't have \$ to offer but I have a hubby who has carpentry skills and we have a heart to love.

Memoirs of past resident Billy Creek

Billy was brought to the Oaks Indian Mission in 1935.

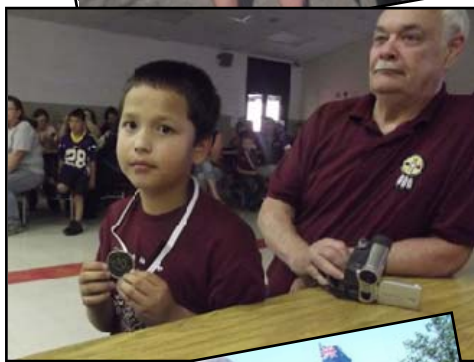
First thing – I remember being on the farm just west of Crescent Oklahoma in a 3-room shack. The kitchen was bigger than the other two rooms put together. There was an old wood stove on top towards the back of the water reservoir. No running water, no indoor toilet. We had to go out back of the barn to use the bathroom. We paid no money for rent because we were sharecroppers, but I do not know the name of the owner of the property.

My mom and dad split up and because my dad had sold everything we owned to go to work in Texas, but then came back because there was no work when he got there, we had nowhere to live or nothing to eat. Apparently he could not find work so he sent his kids where they would be fed. First we were sent to Ozark School, but it closed after a couple of years because of lack of funding so they put my little brother Lee, my baby sister Ellen and me in Oaks, the Cherokee Indian Mission. Our baby sister Phyllis was adopted out to a neighbor of my grandparents, and my older brother Bob got to stay with Grandma Creek. One year later Bob was sent to Oaks. Bob did not like it there so he ran off to California to find mom. Ellen, our sister got diphtheria, which is a lung problem, and had to go to Oklahoma City to the Respiratory Disease Hospital. Mom found out she was there and came and got her and took her to California.

So, after Ozark closed, I was sent to the Oaks Indian Mission around the year 1935. It was run by the Lutheran Church. They were not mean, they gave us a place to sleep, food, clothes and we went to school and church on Sunday. There was no love, just a job for those who worked there. About 40-45 boys and girls were there at the time. They milked 2 cows twice a day, 7 days a week, did spring plowing with horses and planted a huge garden, they grew corn and hay for animals. We run around the hills, about 6 or 8 of us boys, playing games, hunting rabbits and squirrels. We had one gun, which was owned by the neighbor boy, and 2 single shot rifles and sling shots to hunt with. We invented our own games of cowboy & Indians. But, the Indian kids just wanted to be cowboys. We were just a bunch of kids having fun – No discrimination with the Indians.

Lastly, I remember that when I was old enough to work and could have independence and freedom and security, the Mission had to turn me out. I turned 18 in June of 1946 and in October of that year, since I had nobody to feed me or give me a place to live or a way to get started, Mr. Vammen took me to Oklahoma City to the recruiting office. He took me and dropped me off and I never saw him again. I was sent to Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio Texas. I was inducted to the Army on the train to Fort Lewis going to Tacoma for Basic training, and then sent on a train to Camp Kilmer, NJ. We then loaded ships to the town of Bremerhaven, Germany. From Port Bremen I went to Karlsruhe then Wartburg.

Good Times at Oaks Indian Mission!!





Thank you for your ongoing support!!!



OAKS INDIAN MISSION
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NEEDS OF THE OAKS INDIAN MISSION

Necessities

Laundry Detergent
Dish Soap
Tampons
Pads
Disinfectant Wipes
Trash bags (15 & 40 gallon)
Carpet Cleaner
Lysol
Mr. Clean (All Purpose)
Bleach
Lysol Neutra Air (Refills)

Hair Brushes
Make-Up

Medical Supplies

First Aid Kits
Tylenol & Motrin (Liquid & Capsule)
Benadryl and/or Allergy Medication

Recreational Equipment

Board Games
Bicycles
Wii Games
Arts & Crafts Sets

Clothes (All Sizes - Age 5 to 18)

Short Sleeve Shirts (Colored & Printed)
Socks/Underwear (Age 10 & up)
Shorts
Jeans

Large Items

Living Room Furniture
Good Used Low Mileage Vehicles

Food Items

Roast Beef & Ground Beef
Pork

Home Sweet Home

Pillows
Multiple Toothbrush Holders
Storage Containers
Laundry Baskets
Clothes Hampers
Area Rugs
Alarm Clocks
Home Décor Items
Pot Holders
Brita Water Filters for Faucets
Towels

Wash Cloths
12 Piece Dinnerware Sets
Pots & Pans

Cooking Utensils

**PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING A
BUTCHERED CALF OR PIG. IT WOULD BE
APPRECIATED**