

Sharing Christ's healing love with children, youth and families in crisis.

Your gifts help youth heal

Patricia Martinez grew up in Hermitage, Arkansas, with her parents.

Patricia endured physical abuse at the hands of her parents. After a particularly bad beating, she went to her older brother for help. He took her to the local hospital. When her nurses realized Patricia was bruised because her mother hit her, they called the Arkansas Department of Human Services. Patricia was placed in foster care.

Patricia entered emergency shelter at a children's home in Warren. When her short-term stay was finished, her parents did not want her to return home. She was placed at Vera Lloyd, where she stayed for five months at age 16.

"Vera Lloyd taught me to respect myself, to be myself and to be happy. My house parents were so sweet," she said. "I had never met so many people who were kind to me. They helped me with school and made sure I did better in school."

She was particularly grateful that Vera Lloyd staff taught her to do laundry, keep a clean home and prepare healthy meals, important skills that she did not learn from her parents.

"Saturdays were the best. The girls at my home listened to music, deep-cleaned and made it fun to spend the day together," Patricia said. "They taught me what a real family was—I didn't know how that felt," she said. "They taught me to have a voice and to overcome my shyness and anxiety."

After five months, her caseworker recommended to the juvenile judge that Patricia return to her parents. She went home, but nothing was better.

She moved out of her parent's house and, with a roommate, moved into an apartment. She graduated from Warren High School in 2013—earning a high school diploma, an achievement only about 50% of youth in foster care realize.

Shortly after graduation, she and her boyfriend, Luis, had their first son, Rodrigo, who is two years old. They are also proud parents of a one-year-old boy named Henry. Luis works as a farmhand in Warren and Patricia stays home with her boys during the week. On weekends, she helps her sister with her chicken houses. She plans to enter college and hopes to be a teacher one day.

Patricia stays in touch with the other girls she lived with at the Barton Home. They talk frequently and bring their kids together for play dates.

Patricia has a close relationship with her father, who delights in being a grandfather to Rodrigo and Henry.

"I appreciate everything Vera Lloyd did for me," Patricia said.



Nominate a young professional today!

Are you or someone you know interested in joining Vera Lloyd's young professionals group? Contact us today!



Vera Lloyd's young professionals group will kick off in late summer with a social happy hour and service project.

You will be part of a group of professionals living in Central Arkansas ages 22-40(ish) who have a heart for helping youth in Arkansas.

You and others will make a difference in the lives of youth. This group will learn more about the mission of Vera Lloyd, participate in a small service project and host a fundraising event each year.

Contact Natalie at natalieclark@veralloyd.org to nominate yourself or someone you know.



**See how you make a difference
in the lives of youth!**

Watch Krystal's story today.

VISIT [YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=4JJTBMOLJNC](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4JJTBMOLJNC)
OR WATCH THE VIDEO ON OUR HOMEPAGE AT
VERALLOYD.ORG



Vera Lloyd values respect

Respect is one of Vera Lloyd's core values – recognizing the worth of self and others and the value of discipline and structure.



At Vera Lloyd, we strive to teach our youth to Respect and value themselves and others.

In Vera Lloyd's recent Employee Satisfaction Survey we had three statements regarding Respect, "My Supervisor Treats Me With Respect," for which all employees answered Strongly Agree or Agree; "I Respect My Direct Supervisor," for which all answered Strongly Agree or Agree and I Respect My Coworkers," for which again all answered Strongly Agree or Agree. I am proud to report that our staff respects each other, because their mutual respect for each other certainly sets a good example for our youth.

I recently came across an excerpt from an article emphasizing the importance of Respect: "Respecting others is a silent way to express our feeling for them ... When a person shows respect for someone, then it means that the person has some value for him. His advice and suggestions are important for him. It is very important to respect one another in any relationship." I will leave you with a four point description of Respect:

- Treating others the way you want to be treated
 - Showing kindness and consideration
 - Liking yourself enough to be yourself
 - Accepting others for who they are
- I am grateful for our campus staff who are modeling Respect for our youth and teaching them the importance of respecting themselves and others every day!
- Respectfully,
Donna Mahurin
Donna Mahurin

Youth benefit from nutrition program

With help from Blue and Youth for a Healthier Arkansas, youth are learning about the importance of nutrition this summer. Connelly Weeks, registered dietitian, is updating meal plans and leading hands-on cooking education.

"We are showing youth how to maintain healthy eating practices," said Connelly.

The cooking classes are being held in University of Arkansas Pulaski Technical College's Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management Institute's state-of-the art kitchens.



In their first class, youth prepared summer fruit salsa, guacamole, chicken quesadillas and their own version of peanut butter cups.

One youth said this was the first time she had ever eaten guacamole—let alone an avocado.

"It is so wonderful that we are getting the kids in the kitchens and providing them the opportunity to work with real foods as we find them in nature," said Connelly.

Youth are learning skills in this Culinary Nutrition program that will help them combat future health risks, such as obesity, heart disease and stroke.

Your gifts provide a stable home

Claire grew up in Alma with her mother and father. They moved around from home to home.

"It just depended on where they could do drugs with their friends," she said. Claire had school as something consistent in her life, but her home life was anything but solid.

At the age of 10, Claire was mainly living at a friend's house. Her parents left her to fend for herself. Claire tried to stay with her grandmother, but her grandmother told her she was too busy taking care of her grandfather to care for Claire. She moved in with her aunt and uncle.

Claire lived with her aunt and uncle for a few years, but eventually they were no longer able to take care of her. At that point, she lived with a foster family. Claire was with her foster family for five months before coming to live at Vera Lloyd.

"At Vera Lloyd, I like having a schedule," Claire said. "My house parents are more like real parents; they're there to help me work through my problems and figure out a solution."

Claire's favorite subjects in school are English and science. She particularly enjoys experiments in the science lab. Claire will take Spanish classes online this summer. She will be a senior in the fall and is on track to graduate high school as an honor graduate in May 2018.

After high school, Claire plans to enroll in college and then nursing school. She hopes to become a nurse to combine her love of science and helping others.

Claire loves to write and paint in her new bedroom at Vera Lloyd. She has enjoyed getting to know all of the staff better. **"I think the best part about being at Vera Lloyd is that I am finally in a stable place," she said.**



Vera Lloyd works hard to protect the privacy of the children we help. Thank you for understanding.

You can make sure boys and girls are ready for the first day of school!

You, your church or community organization are invited to host a school supply drive to benefit youth at Vera Lloyd. We are in need of school supplies for the first day of school and all year long.

We will pick up school supplies by Monday, August 7, in time for the first day of school on August 14.

Call Melissa Hendricks, 501-666-8195 or email info@veralloyd.org

- 3-ring binders - 1/2 inch and 1 inch
- Art supplies, including colored pencils, crayons, markers, glitter, paint, stickers, cardstock colored paper and construction paper
- Composition notebooks, no wire-bound spiral notebooks
- Fabric backpacks, unisex, no rollers
- Facial tissues
- Folders with brads and pockets
- Hand-held or electric pencil sharpeners
- Highlighters
- Pens and #2 pencils
- Poster board
- Small pencil/supply boxes or zippered pouch type that fits in binders
- Staples and staplers
- Walmart gift cards for school clothes and shoes



Make a difference at our children's home!

Wish List

- Financial gifts to close the gap between state funding and costs of caring for youth
- Books, movies, board games, recreation supplies
- Living room furniture
- Funds for textbooks for youth going to college
- Funds for a guitar and piano instructor
- A 15-passenger van, used truck for maintenance program
- Art supplies
- Sponsor a boy or girl for Ferncliff/summer activities (average \$450 per child for summer activities)

To help, contact Melissa Hendricks at 501- 666-8195 or info@veralloyd.org.

Yes, I will give to improve the lives of children in need!

I will give: \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 \$25 Other _____

Donor Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please mail to: Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Family Services, Inc. 1501 N. University, Suite 345, Little Rock, AR 72207
Or make a gift online at www.veralloyd.org.



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You gave children a new place to play

The Elsie Nolan Playground, a new addition to the Vera Lloyd children's home in Monticello, opened in May with a special dedication ceremony. The event included remarks by Donna Mahurin, Vera Lloyd CEO and Nikkia Davidson, program manager.

A portion of an estate gift from Elsie Nolan, grant funds from Blue and You Foundation for a Healthier Arkansas and support from generous individuals provided for the addition of the playground.

Mahurin described Elsie Nolan, a long-time member of Second Presbyterian Church in Little Rock who passed away in 2016, as a committed supporter of Vera Lloyd and, as a former teacher, someone who was passionate about helping children.

Davidson described how the playground elements were selected, with a goal of helping youth improve strength, balance and social skills. And, as she pointed out, to have FUN!!!

Nathaniel Burton, site director, said, "Our staff and youth enjoy the playground every day, gathering and visiting together around the playground. It is a much-appreciated addition to our home."



Vera Lloyd board members (from left) Rev. Alford Branch, Bill Daniels, Vickey Jacobs and Tommy Maxwell participated in the dedication.

Garden party makes a splash!

Vera Lloyd Garden Party at the Fayetteville home of Leslie and Ted Belden was a fun afternoon for guests. The host committee raised \$20,000 to help care for youth at Vera Lloyd.

"One of the highlights of the party was when Rev. Stewart Smith jumped into the pool to raise an additional \$1,000 for boys and girls at Vera Lloyd," Melissa Hendricks, director of development, said.

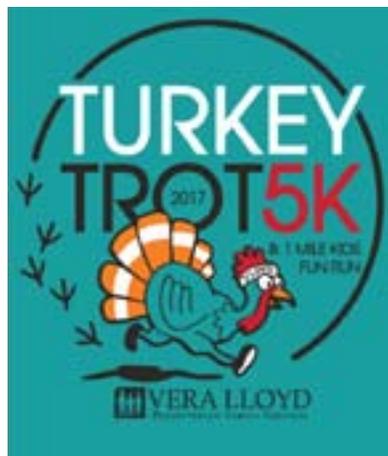
Thank you to our sponsors: Old Buildings, LLC; Romance Diamond Co.; Elkins Federated Presbyterian Church; Rita and Dwain Manske; Sabra and William Martin; Margaret and Richard Rutherford; Rita Kathy and Rob Merry-Ship and Liquor World who made the party a success.



Save the dates!

Wednesday, July 5, Kick-off date for back-to-school drive for Vera Lloyd! Email info@veralloyd.org if you, your church or community organization can provide school supplies for boys and girls.

Saturday, November 18, 9 a.m., Turkey Trot 5K and one mile fun run for kids presented by Maxwell Hardwood Flooring, 745 Old Warren Road, Monticello. Registration is \$25 and opens August 1 at RunSignUp.com.



Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Family Services is in compliance with Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act and is operated, managed and delivers services without regard to age, religion, disability, political affiliation, veteran status, gender, race, color or national origin.