

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

## Sparked to Life

At Vera Lloyd, many of our children have been burned by life and are simply trying to survive in the ashes.

Lucy came from a long line of substance abusers. At a young age, she herself became a user, involved in the world of drugs, violence and gang activity. She was eventually arrested on multiple charges and sent to a Juvenile Detention Center. By the time she arrived at Vera Lloyd in August of 2018, Lucy was in a dark place, but she was thankful to be one of the first girls to live in the Trimble Therapeutic Group Home Program.

When Lucy arrived, she had no plans and little hope for her future. It took her time to adjust to a new environment, but she soon realized that she was at Vera Lloyd for treatment and support. She felt like she had been given a second chance. Lucy became committed to reaching her goals and then exceeding them.



The Vera Lloyd staff watched her spark to life. The Transition Services Program fueled her fire by helping her complete her GED, go on multiple college campus tours, complete college applications and take the ASVAB military assessment. She embraced her therapy and substance abuse counseling, developed a relapse prevention plan and began making changes in her life.

These experiences empowered her with true self-esteem and confidence. Lucy realized she could plan a future full of hope and happiness and without drugs. She was accepted into SouthArk College in Pine Bluff and plans to attend in the fall of 2019. She recently said, "I always thought college was just for rich kids, and now I'm actually going to go!"

Lucy is an inspiring example of what youth at Vera Lloyd can achieve with love, patience and a supporting staff to keep their fire burning. This is all possible thanks to generous donors like you!

## Christmas Thank You

**Thank you to the generous individuals, churches and organizations who made a very Merry Christmas for our youth!**

- Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dungan
- Dr. and Mrs. Jack Lassiter
- Rev. and Mrs. Joseph L. Tropansky
- Cornerville Missionary Baptist Church, Star City
- Faith Presbyterian Women, Horseshoe Bend
- First Presbyterian Church, Conway
- First Presbyterian Church, Magnolia
- First Presbyterian Women, Hot Springs
- First United Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville
- Graceminster Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Monroe, LA
- Holmes Chapel Presbyterian Church, Monticello
- Kirk in the Pines Presbyterian Women, Hot Springs Village
- Kirk in the Pines Presbyterian Church, Hot Springs Village
- Park Hill Presbyterian Church, North Little Rock
- Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista
- Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock
- Trinity Presbyterian Church, Little Rock
- Westover Hills Presbyterian Church, Little Rock

## Save the Date



**Garden Party:** Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 3:30 pm - 6:00 pm,  
The Peel Mansion, Bentonville

**Campus Carnival:** Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 11:30 am - 3:00 pm,  
Vera Lloyd Campus - 745 Old Warren Road, Monticello

**Back to School Drive:** Begins Friday, June 14<sup>th</sup>



## Future of Vera Lloyd **By: Donna Mahurin, CEO**

Vera Lloyd has been sharing Christ’s healing love with children, youth and families in crisis for over 100 years. Over the years, we have evolved to meet the changing needs of those we serve. Beginning in July 2019, the Family First Act will be changing the child welfare system. But, Vera Lloyd will continue to fulfill our mission, as we find new ways to meet the needs of children, youth and families.

Specifically for youth, we are planning to expand the services we provide to adjudicated youth and dedicate one home to sibling groups, which will include children as young as 2 years old. We are also exploring a state contract to offer a home for foster youth who have more specialized needs through a Qualified Residential Treatment Program.



Over the course of the past four months, we have started two new programs: Resource Parent Training and Families in Transition (FIT). Resource Parent Training provides trauma-informed training and support for foster and adoptive parents. Our staff work with these parents to help them to connect, empower and correct their foster and adoptive children. We serve 18 counties with this program. Since December, we have conducted

training sessions in El Dorado and DeWitt with additional sessions scheduled in April and May. Our staff is pleased to equip and support these parents and share their knowledge and experience working with children and youth from “hard places”.

After months of planning, training and benchmarking with other agencies in Arkansas and Texas, Families in Transition (FIT) became a reality in January. FIT provides transitional housing for families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, specifically single mothers. The program utilizes a client-centered, strength-based and goal-driven approach to empower parents to increase self-sufficiency. We have opened the smaller, two-bedroom homes, Gray and Davis, for the families in this program.

We are also excited about the future of the Laurence E. Schmidt Family Resource Center. Our Center was recently accredited by the Council on Accreditation, and we are working towards becoming a Medicaid Outpatient Behavioral Health Services provider. The Center is also enhancing our substance abuse services with a new grant-funded B-100 Program. After staff are trained in the Seven Challenges Curriculum in April, the program will touch every youth at Vera Lloyd and provide them with substance specific support and AA/NA-style accountability groups. Each youth will have a therapeutic treatment and aftercare plan.

As we look to the future, Vera Lloyd will continue to meet the needs of children, youth and families by offering new and expanded programs and services.



*From Left:* Malinda Kirchner, Rev. Lindy Vogado, Melissa Fontaine, Rev. Steve Hancock, Emily Hall, Rev. Alisa Secrest

## Second Presbyterian Honored at National Philanthropy Day

Vera Lloyd and Presbyterian Village honored Second Presbyterian Church of Little Rock at the 2018 National Philanthropy Day celebration. Thank you for your continued generosity and willingness to support the Barton Home and other Presbyterian ministries.



## The Style of Emily Hall By: Kathy French

“Every minute of every hour of every day you are making the world, just as you are making yourself, and you might as well do it with generosity and kindness and style.”  
*Rebecca Solnit*

I was only three months into my tenure with Vera Lloyd, and I stopped by to wish one of our donors a happy day and thank them for their support. I had heard about this woman: Emily Hall. A two-term former Board member, member of the Directors’ Council and the Lulu Williamson Society, and current President of Second Presbyterian’s PW Group. The words “dynamo” and “powerhouse” were common adjectives. As I rang the doorbell, would I find Mother Teresa? Julie Andrews? Barbara Bush?



The door opened to a polished woman who might just be a bit of each.

Emily Hall first came to know Vera Lloyd as a girl when her parents hosted Vera Lloyd youth for summer visits. Emily grew up and moved away, but when she returned to Little Rock in 1965, she joined Second Presbyterian Church and reacquainted herself with Vera Lloyd’s mission and youth.

One of many significant accomplishments came when she coordinated a major update to the Barton home. She worked with friends and the Second Presbyterian Church to redecorate and provide critical improvements. Today, a plaque in the living room still bears her name, but the true gift of her work is the sense of comfort and home she created for hundreds of girls who live and laugh and cry and heal within Barton’s walls.

Recently, during a Directors’ Council update on the Families in Transition (FIT) program, Emily sat and listened to plans for a Monticello fundraising event, then, with ultimate conviction and aplomb, she said, “Well, we need to do that in Little Rock, too.” And she did. Two FIT Showers, one in Monticello and one in Little Rock, were held on December 6th, raising over \$2,700 in supplies and funds.

Rev. Steve Hancock of Second Presbyterian praises Emily for her ability to assess, analyze and activate. He writes, “[Emily] does not rest until the job is complete. I always want Emily on my team. She is a treasure.” Vera Lloyd is blessed by the amazing love and support of Emily and donors like you who share her generosity, kindness and style with us every day.

## FIT Update

The first FIT family has moved into the Gray home! A young woman and her 1-year-old son are the first residents of the Families in Transition Program on the Monticello campus.

Thank you to everyone who has donated to turn these 2-bedroom houses into homes!



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

Please make this a monthly gift     Please make this a one-time gift

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

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVC Code: \_\_\_\_\_

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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](http://www.veralloyd.org)





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Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Family Services'

# Garden Party

Saturday, May 4

The Peel Mansion | 400 S. Walton Blvd.  
Bentonville, AR 72712

3:30 PM - 6:00 PM

Tickets - \$35 each    Tables of 6 - \$200 each

For more information on sponsorships or to purchase tickets, contact:  
Cathy Rogers at (479) 640-0866 OR Kathy French at (501) 666-8195



CELEBRATING OUR DONORS

## CAMPUS CARNIVAL

Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup> | 11:30 am - 3:00 pm

Vera Lloyd Monticello Campus  
745 Old Warren Road

FOOD   HOUSE TOURS   AWARDS   FUN

**Celebrating Our Donors**

Every year, over 2000 individual donors, churches, businesses and volunteers come together to empower the children, youth and families at Vera Lloyd. Our staff cannot provide the excellent care we do without each and every one of you!

The Campus Carnival is Vera Lloyd's opportunity to thank you, your family and your business for your support.

Please bring your family and join us from 11:30 am - 3:00 pm on Saturday, June 1st for lunch, awards, home tours and fun.

We are celebrating YOU!