

*Our mission is to heal, prepare and empower children, youth and families in need.*

## Sharing Christ's Healing Love

What happens if you mix together a bowl of flour, sugar, butter, salt and flavorings? I honestly don't know, but I'm pretty sure it's a rock hard mess. You might be trying to bake a cake, but without leavening agents (be it baking powder or eggs) – it won't rise. You'll end up with something tough and hard.

For all of Vera Lloyd's history, faith has been part of the active ingredient list. The children, youth and families served have experienced deeply troubling times and many have struggled with not just years, but generations of poverty, abuse and neglect. They need more than the fundamental basics of a roof and a plate of food. They need spiritual nourishment, an opportunity to process their pain, find forgiveness for others (and often themselves), and, most importantly, they need hope.

From its earliest days, Vera Lloyd has formed ties with Arkansas church congregations. Many reading this article will

remember a grandmother who made jam and brought them along to deliver to Vera Lloyd. Others hosted children for summer visits or made friends with Vera Lloyd youth at summer camp.

Today, the youth and their challenges have only gotten harder, but our staff continue to find ways to pour love and kindness into their broken lives. Vera Lloyd's calling is to share Christ's healing love with children, youth and families. This happens in practical ways like providing a Youth Study Bible to each child when they arrive, visiting local Sunday services and through congregations who come to share food and fellowship during special events. But, perhaps the most powerful moments occur moment by moment as the Vera Lloyd Team listen, encourage, wipe tears and remind the youth that, like Christ's word to us, they are not alone.

This is the ingredient that truly helps youth rise.

## Event Updates



**August 13, 2020**  
**\$24,900 Raised!**



**October 7, 2021**  
**\$17,500 Raised!**

## Ways to Help



Designate Vera Lloyd as your Amazon Smile charity and start shopping using [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

## Save the Date



**Christmas Wish List:** Amazon wish list opens November 11th

[www.amazon.com/wedding/share/VIChristmas2021](https://www.amazon.com/wedding/share/VIChristmas2021)

**Turket Trot 5k:** Saturday, November 20, 8am

Run from home or at our campus in Monticello

**Giving Tuesday:** Tuesday, November 30



Like us on Facebook & Instagram @VeraLloydPFS



## The Enduring Spirit of Lulu in Today's World

Almost 100 years ago, Lulu Williamson established Vera Lloyd as a place for children struggling with issues of poverty and neglect. It wasn't enough for her to build an institution, her goal was a home...a loving place of healing, security and hope.

In the century since its establishment, Vera Lloyd has continued to evolve with societal and governmental changes, while retaining Lulu's spirit of caring. Even as options to care for children have changed, the need for a home has remained a constant.

Today in the United States, there is a spectrum of placement options for a child in state custody. Each child's placement is based on many factors. For example, is there an aunt or cousin who might be a good care option? Medical, mental health, substance abuse and developmental challenges are also significant considerations.

There was a time when Vera Lloyd's services were more akin to what would today be offered in a private foster home placement. The youth served had, most certainly, experienced pain and hardship. Today Vera Lloyd's place on the spectrum of care has shifted. A vast majority of the children served have multiple medical health diagnoses that preclude their placement in a traditional family setting. They are children that are struggling to come to grips with deep levels of trauma that require more intensive and highly structured environments.

The youth who call Vera Lloyd home have complex concerns that require similarly sophisticated responses. But, with trauma-informed techniques and a heart that sees beyond the behavior to the root issues, change is possible. In the end, Lulu's vision for creating a place of healing, security and hope endures.

### **Did you know that the CARES\* Act may still benefit you while helping others with your charitable giving in 2021?**

- If you itemize your deductions the adjusted gross income (AGI) limit for cash contributions to qualifying public charities is 100% of AGI (up from 60% pre- CARES Act).
- Businesses can deduct up to 25% of taxable income (up from 10% pre-CARES act).
- For those not itemizing their personal taxes, the CARES Act provision has extended its provisions into 2021 and allows for an additional "above the line" deduction for charitable gifts made in cash of up to \$300. (New in 2021, a \$600 deduction is allowed for those married filing jointly.)

Vera Lloyd thanks you for your incredible generosity, and encourages you to always speak with your financial advisor to best understand your tax liability.

\*Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act





**VERA LLOYD**  
PRESBYTERIAN FAMILY SERVICES

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Little Rock, AR 72207

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**TURKEY TROT 2021 VIRTUAL & 5K**

**Register Today!**  
VeraLloyd.org

<b>In-Person Race:</b>	<b>Virtual Race:</b>
November 20, 2021	November 19 - 21, 2021
8:00 am	Anytime
Monticello, AR	Anywhere

**Registration:**

- \$30, includes t-shirt
- \$10 per dog, includes bandana

(must register by November 5th to guarantee shirt and bandana)

**Save the Date**

**Amazon Gift Registry opens on November 11, 2021**

Every year, generous donors and churches help us create an unforgettable Christmas for the vulnerable, traumatized youth who call Vera Lloyd home. For many, this is the first time they have ever been asked, "What do you want for Christmas?"

Partner with us to bring some Christmas magic into the lives of our youth!  
More information will be released soon!

Find gifts for VL youth & Homes on the Amazon Registry:

[www.amazon.com/wedding/share/VLChristmas2021](http://www.amazon.com/wedding/share/VLChristmas2021)