

See inside for ways you can support families.

Buckner

The magazine of Buckner International
Winter 2021

Today

Buckner Family Hope Centers

TRANSFORMING LIVES SINCE 2008 | PAGE 20

Buckner

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04

Perspectives on Buckner

In times like these
President/CEO
Albert L. Reyes

06

In other words

Run for hope
Scott Collins

08

3 Reasons we're excited at Buckner!

10



Honoring Buckner Family Hope Center founder, Sylvia Bolling

A virtual celebration for 30 years of hope at Aldine

16



Serving for the long haul

The Buckner Center for Humanitarian Aid serves record tons to those in need

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Hope shines here.®



ner Today

Celebrating over a decade of the **Buckner Family Hope Center**

Bringing hope and transformation to vulnerable families and children since 2008 | **PAGE 20**



People need people

Buckner Retirement Services adapts to serve seniors despite COVID-19 challenges

35 Last Look Buckner receives \$620,000 grant to expand foster care and adoption services

A two-year grant from the Rees-Jones foundation supports growth in DFW area



On the cover: Since 2008, Buckner Family Hope Centers have provided a safe environment for vulnerable families to find hope. Programs have adapted this year to serve families in the midst of COVID-19. Please note this image was taken before the pandemic.

In times like these

It was 1932 and the Great Depression was ravaging the world. Unemployment led families to take desperate measures. Too many mouths to feed meant families turning to orphanages to care for more and more children.

During a time of economic crisis, hundreds of families literally left their children at the front gate of Buckner Orphans Home. During the height of the Depression, more than 750 people lived at Buckner, causing Joe Buckner to tell the board "no one else could be admitted, owing to the full capacity."

Like workers across the country, Buckner staff took dramatic pay cuts. Employees making more than \$50 a week had their pay cut by 20% and those making less than that amount were cut 10%. In 1932, Buckner finished the year with a net deficit of \$17,293, or \$235,000 in today's dollars.

Times were dark. Children needed Buckner more than ever, and Buckner needed people's financial support more than ever. There is a certain truth about need following need.

By 1933, receipts for the Orphans Home were only \$52,000. With 500 children in residence, Buckner had only \$104 per child to care for the boys and girls. And that sum doesn't account for more than 250 other people living at the home.

Turning children away was not Buckner's mission, so Hal Buckner emphasized to donors the doors that remained opened serving children – "dormitory doors, dining room doors, clothes room doors, school room doors and others." And he pled with donors to fund a new building to house 100 preschoolers, a new dormitory for girls, and new grade school building.

In less than 18 months after making that appeal, Buckner received notification that Sam Lucas had left the home \$235,000 for the "specific purpose of building three necessary additions to the campus." In today's dollars, the gift would be worth more than \$4.5 million.

In times like the Great Depression, just when the need was the greatest, God provided for Buckner.

That story from our past is comforting to me. It reminds me that the work Buckner does is kingdom work, and God always provides for his kingdom. It's a reminder we all need right now, during a time like no other.

These times have presented challenges of their own. Much like the Great Depression, we're seeing a repeat of history. During the COVID-19 pandemic and times of global stress, unprecedented

numbers of vulnerable children and families are on the brink, needing the very services we offer. And we've been there on the frontlines serving countless senior adults daily.

Just like past crises, donors have stepped up for the children we serve. Once again, God is bringing likeminded friends alongside us to fulfill our biblical calling.

The history of Buckner International is full of challenges turned into opportunities, not because we have overcome those obstacles, but because God's hand has been on this ministry for 141 years. When people ask me how Buckner has survived and thrived all these years, I resist the temptation to respond that we've had good leadership. The truth is, we have, but the leader we've followed closest is God. No mission drift here. We know why we exist and whose purpose we serve.

Last July, our Board of Trustees approved a new mission statement that is our focus and keeps us centered: **To follow the example of Jesus by serving vulnerable children, families and seniors.**

While that is our organizational mission statement, I believe it's a mission anyone can support and work alongside us. Jesus set the example for what it means to serve.

As we continue through some of history's most tumultuous times, I'd like to invite you to join us in following the example of Jesus by serving vulnerable children, families and seniors. Pray about how God might be calling you to serve through Buckner.

Less than five years after ending 1932 with a \$17,000 deficit, Buckner closed 1936 with a \$33,636 surplus, thanks to the extraordinary generosity of donors who knew what it meant to follow the example of Jesus. During the greatest economic crisis in history, God provided.

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and test me now in this," says the Lord of Hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heavens, and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows." –Malachi 3:10 **BT**



Albert Reyes

Albert Reyes, President and CEO
Buckner International

Visit my blog at www.AlbertLReyes.com

“Turning children away was not Buckner’s mission, so Hal Buckner emphasized to donors the doors that remained opened serving children – ‘dormitory doors, dining room doors, clothes room doors, school room doors and others.’ And he pled with donors to fund a new building to house 100 preschoolers, a new dormitory for girls, and new grade school building.”

–CEO Albert Reyes on Buckner’s response to the Great Depression’s negative financial effects on Buckner Orphans Home.



Run for Hope

I started running nearly 50 years ago. I started because I had to, but today, running is my pleasure. It's my escape. No iPhone strapped to my arm. No earbuds. I never even tried a Walkman. Remember those?

And while I eschew electronic devices when I run, I do have a running partner. Mattie, my 5-year-old Border Collie is my running mate. Or as people in my neighborhood have observed, she takes me for runs.



For my birthday on Nov. 12, I ran for hope, or as we say in marketing, #BucknerRunForHope. With the pandemic decimating our fundraising events at Buckner, our Events Team came up with the idea of a virtual run, although, I've never found running to be virtual.

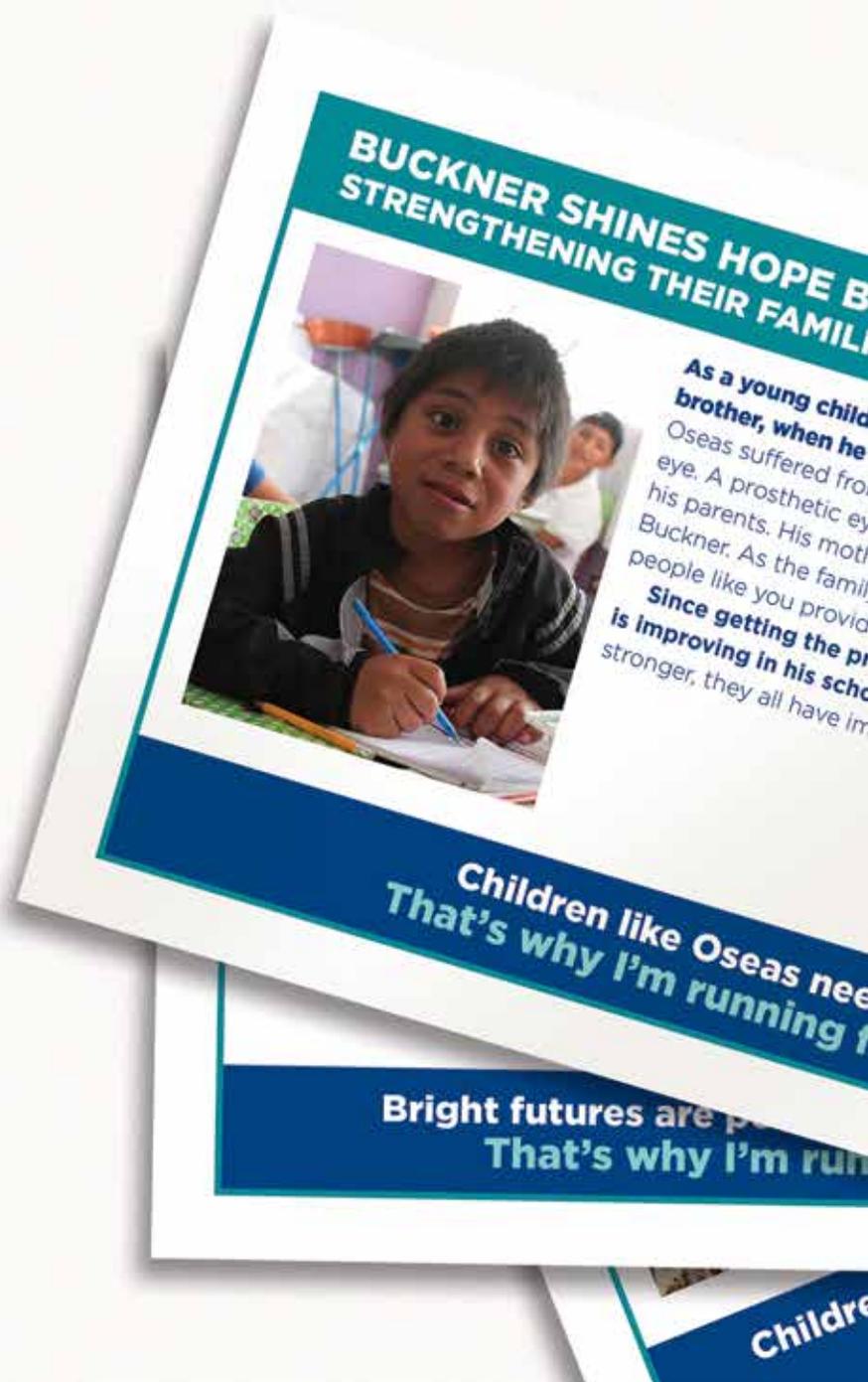
Nearly 600 people from across the country joined in to Run for Hope (or walk). Each participant received a cool t-shirt, a runner's bib, and most importantly, an "impact card" showing a picture and telling the story of a child served by Buckner who we were running for.

I read the story of Oseas, a young boy who lost an eye in an accident and as a result, suffered from the physical and emotional effects of the tragedy. But one day, Oseas' mom started attending sewing classes at the nearby Buckner Family

Hope Center. As the family participated in other Buckner programs, donors stepped up to cover the cost of a prosthetic eye for Oseas.

Today, he is a happy boy, doing better in school and his family has become stronger.

I read my impact card several times and memorized Oseas' face from the photo on the card. As I ran my 3.1 miles (5K), I saw

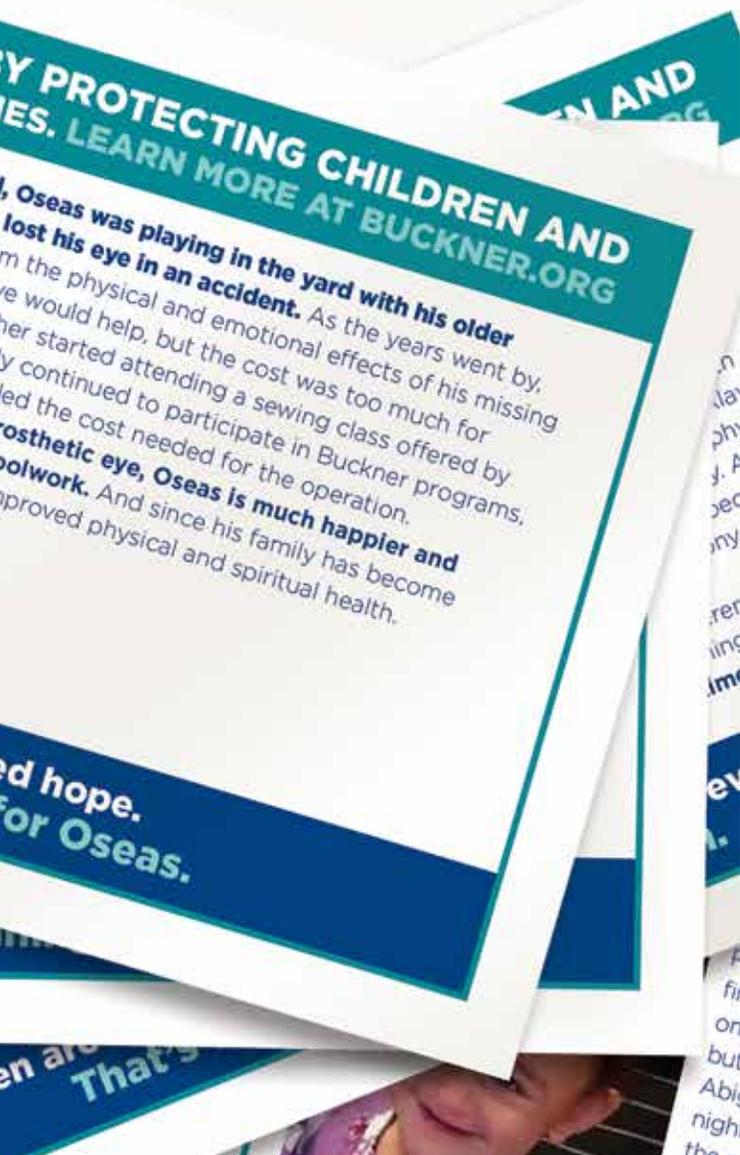


his face looking back at me from the card and prayed for Oseas as I ran.

As the impact card says at the bottom, "Children like Oseas need hope. That's why I'm running for Oseas." **BT**



Scott Collins is Vice President of Communications at Buckner International.



buckner.org

FEATURED VIDEO



Twin brothers, Christian and Christopher Young, find hope and direction at Buckner Family Hope Center at Wynnewood. **Learn more at buckner.org/BucknerToday.**

Visit buckner.org/volunteer to find volunteer opportunities in the United States and around the world. Help organize fun activities for foster children, prepare boxes of aid or deliver shoes to vulnerable children around the world!



Letters to the Editor

If you have any questions or comments about the articles you've read in *Buckner Today*, email us at bucknercommunications@buckner.org.

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Reasons we're excited at Buckner!

Reyes elected as North American Vice President of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA)



Buckner International President and CEO Albert Reyes was installed in 2020 as the North American Vice President of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) during the organization's first-ever virtual General Council. Reyes was installed during a special Officer Installation and Commissioning Service July 23, 2020, to a five-year term, also known as a quinquennium.

BWA, founded in 1905, is a fellowship of 240 conventions and unions in 125 countries and territories comprising of 47 million baptized believers in 169,000 churches. The organization



networks the global Baptist family to impact the world for Christ with a commitment to strengthen worship, fellowship and unity; lead in mission and

evangelism; respond to people in need through aid, relief and community development; defend religious freedom, human rights and justice; and advance theological reflection and leadership development.

Also elected as officers for the 2020-2025 quinquennium were Tomás Mackey of Argentina as president; Karl Johnson of Jamaica as first vice president; and Carolyn Fossen from the U.S. as treasurer.

Reyes is among 12 vice presidents representing BWA's global geographical divisions.

He is excited for the opportunity to serve through BWA, calling the organization, "a global network of faithful Baptists linking both missions and ministry as two sides of the same coin through local congregations, associations, conventions and fellowships to bring the kingdom near."

Reyes added that being elected to this position will be a strategic development for Buckner as an international ministry. Buckner currently serves in the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras, Kenya, Mexico and Peru.

"This will help further connect us to serving the least of these and encouraging the best we have to offer through our Baptist family around the world. I am honored to represent Buckner, an affiliated ministry of Texas Baptists, and the larger Baptist family in North America to BWA around the world," Reyes shared.

COVID-19 vaccination clinics held at all six Buckner senior living communities



In December 2020, Parkway Place and Buckner Villas were the first Buckner senior living communities to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Since then, all six Buckner senior living communities have hosted at least one vaccination clinic for residents and associates. Working with partnering pharmacies such as Walgreens and CVS, the vaccination clinics are offered to eligible participants free of charge.

Facing challenges such as shortages and distribution inconsistencies with a new vaccine is not uncommon.



Buckner staff continues to work with pharmacies to schedule additional clinics so every eligible resident and associate has the opportunity to receive the first dose.

The second dose

of the COVID-19 vaccine must be administered within 21 to 28 days. Buckner communities are also scheduling clinics for those who have received the first dose of the vaccine to receive their second dose.

Buckner continues its vaccination education campaign through the distribution of weekly informational letters and memos, posters and a series of videos with Dr. Neeta Nayak, medical director for Ventana by Buckner. Information and resources are available to residents and health care associates, allowing them to make an educated decision.

Not every eligible resident and associate opted to receive the vaccine when first available but many are now expressing interest in receiving it at the next available opportunity.

Regardless whether a person has been vaccinated, Buckner continues to require all associates to adhere to CDC guidelines regarding the use of PPE, masks, hygiene and encouraging social distancing for the good of their community.

For more information about the COVID-19 vaccine, visit the CDC website and consult your physician.

For more information on Buckner senior living communities, please visit [bucknerretirement.org](https://www.bucknerretirement.org).

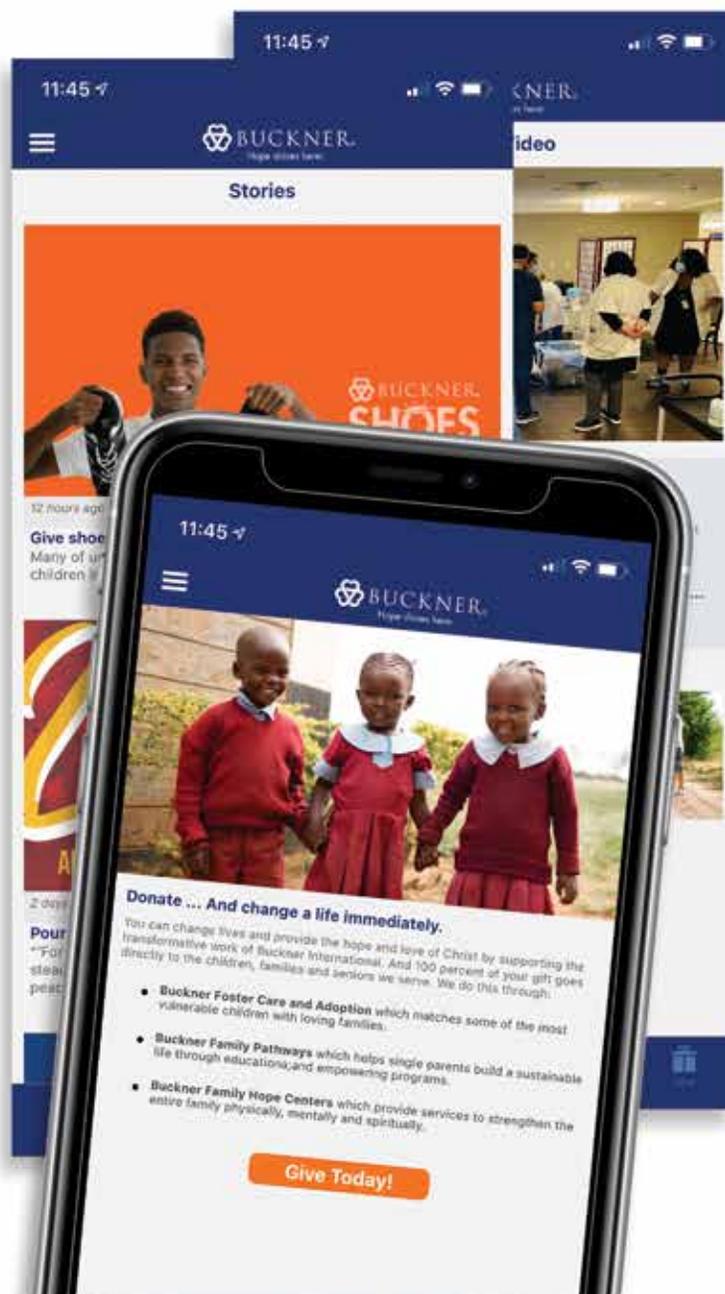
A new way to connect with Buckner



Now it's easier than ever before to stay connected with Buckner International with the new Buckner app. Designed to be your one-stop place for all your Buckner news, the app features easy access to Buckner videos, events and inspirational stories of hope.

In addition, you can set your preferences to receive push notifications from your favorite ministries, so you never miss out on the news that's important to you. The free Buckner app is available now for iPhone, iPad and Android devices. Download the app today in the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.

No matter where you are – at home or on the move – you can have quick access to what matters most to you at Buckner International. **BT**



Buckner Family Hope Center Founder **Sylvia Bolling** honored during Houston Aldine 30th anniversary celebration

Story by Russ Dilday

Supporters, friends and family joined Buckner President and CEO Albert Reyes Nov. 5 as he headlined a 30th anniversary celebration of the Buckner Family Hope Center at Aldine and a tribute to the ministry's founder, Sylvia Bolling. The event was hosted virtually on Zoom due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Reyes called the event, "important (because it reminds us) that we walk arm-in-arm with so many friends who have the same mind as we do – to serve, and no person represents that like-mindedness more than Sylvia Bolling."

He also noted the ministry's contribution to Buckner and the Aldine community in Houston, as well as Bolling's part in its founding.





BT

Celebrating decades of love and service

Sylvia Bolling has dedicated her life to serving those around her, even by giving to those in need out of the trunk of her car.

"Sylvia started the Aldine YOUTH program in 1990 and moved into its permanent location in 1995," Reyes shared. "When Buckner was searching for how to grow in the Houston market, we found that we aligned with what Sylvia was doing at Aldine YOUTH, so in 2012 we took over operations of the organization. Sylvia, I want to extend my own appreciation to you for all you have done for the Aldine community."

Event host Sandy Biggers called Bolling's impact on Aldine amazing.

"Few individuals in our community have literally given their life to serving others the way Sylvia has. She started serving children and families out of the trunk of her car – literally," Biggers said. *[continued on page 15]*



ABOVE: Sylvia with Buckner International's previous president, Ken Hall. **BELOW:** Sylvia's impact was felt across the Family Hope Center. Each and every child and family who entered those doors and interacted with Sylvia felt her love. Notes of gratitude and heartfelt thanks were left by many children and families she served.









“Few individuals in our community have literally given their life to serving others the way Sylvia has. She started serving children and families out of the trunk of her car – literally.”

–Event host Sandy Biggers

The celebration also featured video tributes from long-time supporters of the Family Hope Center, including U.S. Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia, Texas House Representative Armando Walle, and Ken Fisher, executive vice president and CFO of Noble Energy.

Reyes presented Bolling - through her daughter and former Buckner Houston Executive Director Shawna Roy - with recognitions that included a Buckner award recognizing her 30 years of contributions, a proclamation from the City of Houston signed by Mayor Sylvester Turner, and a personal Congressional Certificate from Representative Garcia, who also sent a Congressional Certificate recognizing the 30 years of ministry at the Buckner Family Hope Center at Aldine.

“The recognitions were a wonderful show of love for a lifetime of service,” Roy shared. **BT**

Serving for the long haul

By Emily Ahrens

The Buckner Center for Humanitarian Aid adapted to socially distanced measures quickly in March 2020 to continue serving the vulnerable despite the pandemic. The team has provided distributions for nearly a year without any sign of slowing down.

"I realized we are now moving into our fourth season of distributing food in this way. We moved through spring, summer, fall and throughout winter," shared Phil Brinkmeyer, Buckner senior director of international operations. "We have provided over 100 tons of food domestically and another 248 tons of product internationally."



The adjustment to safer precautions included reconfiguring the Dallas warehouse processing room to prioritize food packing, updating operating procedures and revisiting volunteer options.

"We typically rely on around 7,000 to 8,000 volunteers a year to assist in preparing inventory for shipping. We had to shift to relying on a handful of Buckner staff to pack and distribute a massive amount of inventory to serve those in need around the world,"

he said.

The creativity and ability to adapt has allowed the Buckner missions, aid and volunteer ministries to continue providing needed resources throughout the pandemic.

"In the beginning, our team started preparing for a long haul, but it's amazing to realize we are still continuing our food distribution and don't see an end date in the future," Phil said.

Adapting each day with the pandemic, the Center for Humanitarian Aid is looking forward to bringing volunteers back in a limited capacity in February. **BT**

Highlights of current numbers:

65 families have received assistance from Buckner adopt-a-family program totaling \$17,265

Total of 1,360,800 meals distributed to international countries

Over 700 estimated food boxes have been distributed



BT

The days are long, but worth it

The staff at the Buckner Center for Humanitarian Aid work tirelessly to serve those in need, no matter if the sun is shining or if it's cold and rainy. Their dedication has impacted many lives.



2021: A critical moment.



The number of children and families in need has hit unprecedented levels. The numbers in need are soaring.

The impact of last year's pandemic left so many children and families at a crisis point. Pressures from all sides — financial hardship, health concerns, relational strife and disrupted education — have taken their toll on both parents and children.

Your response today matters.





Let's give as many hurting children and families as possible the very best quality care, giving them a true hope and future through the love of Jesus.

Generous friends have stepped forward to offer a \$100,000 Challenge Grant — which means **whatever you give today will bring twice as much hope to children in 2021.**

To give, use the envelope at left.



BUCKNER®

Hope shines here.®

Give online at
buckner.org/2021



Celebrating the transformative programs of **Buckner Family** **Hope** **Centers**



The Buckner Family Hope Center brings independence to a widow. It brings

dreams to life for a single dad. It brings smiles and fun to a small child.

It brings hope to the vulnerable.



BT

Hope for a child, transformation for families

The Buckner Family Hope Center provides programs and support for entire families. Children find hope and community. Parents receive encouragement and support through programs to help their families financially, spiritually and mentally.



ABOVE: Families have the opportunity to participate in vocational classes available at the Family Hope Center to empower their financial future. This image was taken before the pandemic. **BELOW:** The Family Hope Center also gives educational opportunities to support strong family relationships.



Buckner Family Hope Centers are sources of hope in desperate communities, strengthening families so children can stay where they belong – in their families.

What was developed as a Community Transformation Center in Guatemala in 2008 has become one of Buckner International's biggest contributions in the past decade. Seeking to create a safe space for vulnerable families and children to find hope, the Family Hope Center is a staple of hope for communities across seven countries with over 20 ministry sites.

While most programs are reactive, looking to solve a problem that has already significantly impacted a family, the Family Hope Center model creates intervention before a family reaches the point of crisis. Through creative initiatives designed to fit their communities, Family Hope Centers cultivate loving, nurturing families, creating the ideal environment for every child to flourish. *(Continued on page 29)*



“When families discover hope, whole neighborhoods - whole communities - change for the better. We’re transforming communities, one family at a time.” *-Albert Reyes*

Coaching



BUCKNER FAMILY HOPE CENTERS

Vulnerable children live in vulnerable families. It's why children are taken out of their homes and put in foster care. But what if we could protect those children by strengthening their families?

By creating, cultivating and sustaining strong families, Buckner Family Hope Centers engage, equip and elevate families to rise above their circumstances, making sure every child is safe and thriving. Family Hope Centers enable and empower children to stay where they belong – in their families.

Family Hope Centers are sources of hope in desperate communities, strengthening families so children can reach their God-given potential. Through creative initiatives designed to fit their communities, Family Hope Centers cultivate and empower loving, nurturing families, creating an ideal environment for every child to flourish.



10 CORE SERVICES

THAT ENGAGE, EQUIP AND ELEVATE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FOR A BETTER FUTURE.

Family Assistance

Community Events

Health Fairs and Clinics

Parent Education

Adult Education

Financial Empowerment

Child and Youth Development

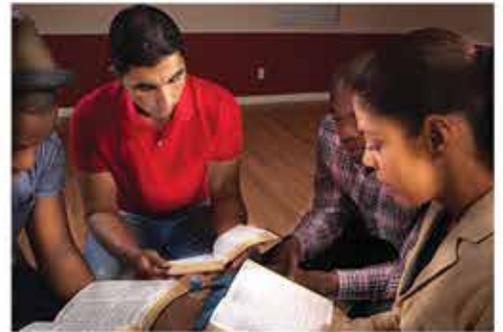
Family Coaching

Counseling

Spiritual Enrichment



100K+ LIVES IMPACTED YEARLY



24 MINISTRY SITES



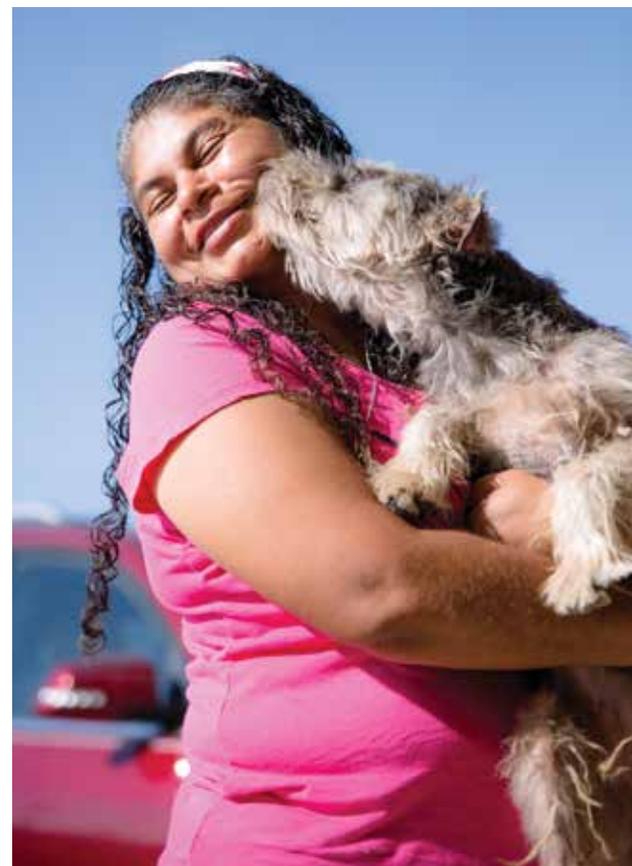
7 COUNTRIES

UNITED STATES	HONDURAS
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	KENYA
GUATEMALA	MEXICO
	PERU





One of the keys to the success of the Buckner Family Hope Centers is their flexibility in answering local needs including: (top) strengthening families in Chiapas, Mexico, giving a widow an opportunity to start a bakery in the Rio Grande Valley (bottom right), and sponsoring community educational events like this one near the Oak Cliff area of Dallas (bottom left).





Humanitarian aid



Entrepreneurship



How a Houston child is thriving with support found at the Family Hope Center

Everyone at the Buckner Family Hope Center at Reed Road in Houston knows Lloyd. He loves to make people laugh and smile. He makes each day better.

The young man quickly captured the heart of the South Houston Family Hope Center. He and his mother moved to the Star of Hope community after their home tragically burned down, killing Lloyd's father and the family dog. They came to the Family Hope Center on the Star of Hope campus looking for healing, help and hope.

When he first arrived, the 12-year-old was significantly behind in school. He couldn't read and needed help in multiple subjects. He struggled to communicate.



A family can find empowerment through parenting classes, adult education courses, financial resources, community events and even spiritual opportunities. One element that has made all the difference is family coaching.

Buckner case workers meet with their family regularly to create a relationship of accountability, knowledge and development. Families are able to visualize their own goals and work with the family coach to make them a reality.

"It costs \$2,000 for one coach to serve one family for one year," Albert Reyes, president and CEO of Buckner International, explained.

"The cost of doing nothing is estimated at \$54,000 per year, based on data from Child Protective Services – a ratio of \$1 spent on prevention compared to \$27 spent on protection. This is about getting to the root of the issue before it becomes an issue." **BT**

Buckner helped Lloyd get into Yellowstone Academy, a private school that could help him. His teacher took a special interest in him and a mentor took him under his wing. Both spent extensive time with him during and after school to improve his academic scores. Combined with help from Buckner, Lloyd has grown by leaps and bounds.

"God just orchestrated everything so beautifully," said Carlana, his mom. "He brought everything together. I didn't have a plan. I didn't know, but Jeremiah 29:11 says God knows the plans. We might not, but he does."

Lloyd is now reading at a third-grade level and growing in his abilities. He's made significant progress in other subjects as well, particularly math.

"Lloyd is an amazing little boy," Carlana shared. "He's full of wisdom and knowledge. You can hold a really good conversation with Lloyd when he's ready and comfortable. He amazes me. I'm very proud of him."

Lloyd's transformation extends beyond the classroom. His family is more stable. He and his his mom are closer than ever before. Lloyd is unearthing his gifts and abilities each day. His future is bright. **BT**



“People need people”

How Buckner Retirement Services continues adapting to serve seniors in our communities

The coronavirus has deeply affected many families, but it has especially hit hard for residents and staff living and working in senior living communities.

Last March, Buckner Retirement Services closed all communities to visitors in order to protect residents from COVID-19. While that was the right decision at the time, said Charlie Wilson, senior vice president of Buckner Retirement Services, there is what many are calling a second wave of the pandemic sweeping through the communities and increased isolation is showing to have a dramatic adverse effect on seniors.

LeadingAge Texas reported that studies from the Journal of Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine highlighted “the health risks of prolonged isolation and loneliness in long-term care including higher rates of depression, cardiovascular

disease, worsening dementia and Alzheimer’s, and shorter lives.”

As the pandemic continues to sweep through the country, short-term solutions such as virtual and closed window visits with loved ones will do little to combat the loneliness and depression seniors are developing as a result of the isolation.

**By
Aimee Freston**

“People need people,” said Buckner President and CEO Albert Reyes in a Dallas Morning News op-ed. “There is a healing science associated with touch, from reducing stress hormones to increasing levels of melatonin and serotonin ... I believe in the healing power of science and medicine. I also believe in the healing power of love and faith. They are not diametrically opposed when caring for those sick and most at-risk.”

As staff learns more about COVID-19 and evaluates the needs of those living in Buckner senior living communities, Buckner

believes there is way to protect seniors, one of the most at-risk populations of the virus, and allow the healing powers of family visits while strictly adhering to CDC guidelines to prevent transmission of the coronavirus.

"I do believe that sometimes the most complicated issues can have the most obvious solutions. People need medicine and people need love," Reyes said.

Other states have started opening up the health care areas of their senior homes in innovative ways. Texas was one of the last states to move away from the firm blanket restrictions but has recently adopted a similar model to the one in Minnesota that allows senior residents to designate one or two approved visitors,

But rapid testing could be the key.

In response, Buckner Retirement Services has launched a grassroots initiative to encourage safe family visits to residents in senior living communities.

"For that to happen, it was important that the state and federal officials prioritize COVID-19 testing for senior living communities and provide us with the same access to tests and financial support as hospitals and physicians," Wilson said. "As a result of our efforts, we are now seeing increased collaboration to ensure limited in-person health care visits that are uniting families while warding off the coronavirus."

There are still a lot of unknowns swirling around the COVID-19



Staff at Buckner senior living communities have adapted quickly to safely provide services and offer community to residents with outdoor events and other socially-distanced options.

called essential caregivers, who may enter the communities with the same PPE as health care providers and visit with their loved ones, provided they have a recent negative COVID-19 test.

Restrictions and the cost to implement means that most senior communities are feeling a financial drain, as well as a lack of access to vital tests and PPE. To safely welcome back guests, strategic collaboration between the state and senior living providers will be necessary.

State regulations, such as the amount of positive and persons under investigation on-site dictate whether visitors may enter among other regulations, change almost weekly. Opening communities to visitors is not as straightforward as simply opening the doors.

pandemic, but Buckner Retirement Services continues to step up to care and protect those they serve in senior living communities. Every day, Buckner Retirement Services associates genuinely care for residents with a smile and servant attitude.

"It has been amazing to see the dedication of these frontline heroes who show up to serve," Wilson said. "These unusual times have called all of us to unite in ways we've never dreamed would be needed. Together associates, residents and family members have battled the threat of COVID-19 and formed a unique bond."

To find the most up-to-date information regarding the grassroots initiative for safe family visits in senior living communities, visit [bucknerretirement.org](https://www.bucknerretirement.org). BT

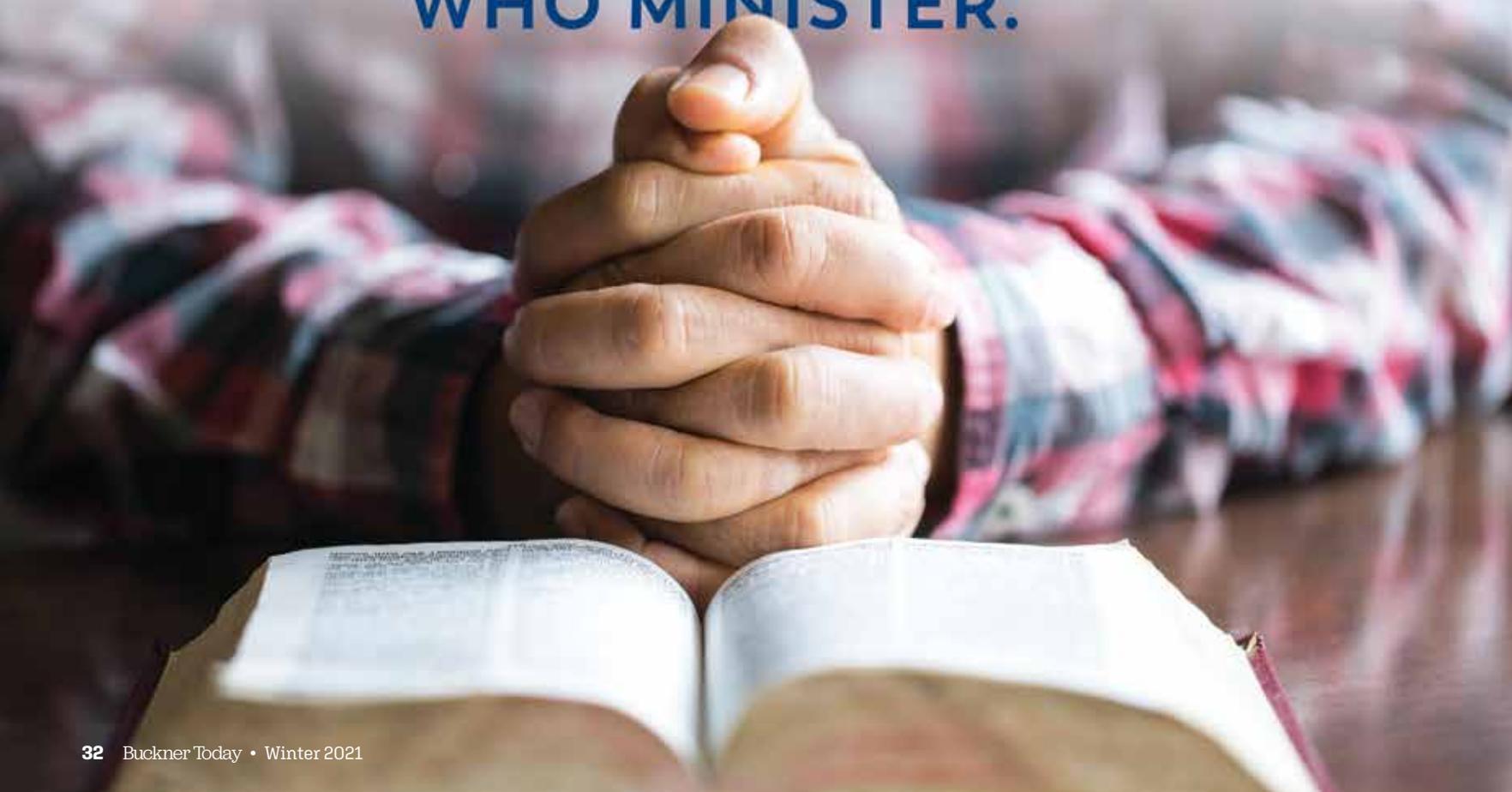


BUCKNER[®]
RETIREMENT SERVICES

Inspiring happiness.[®]

Because We Care.

**MINISTERING TO THOSE
WHO MINISTER.**



BUCKNER SENIOR CARE AND ASSISTANCE

The roots of Buckner International are grounded in James 1:27, which defines “pure religion in the sight of our God” as “visiting orphans and widows in their distress.”

Seniors adults today face daunting hurdles as they move into retirement.

The Buckner Senior Care and Assistance Fund provides full or partial assistance to qualifying seniors. Chaplains at each of our six communities are available to talk with you about options and availability. Living options are provided in all areas of care:

Independent Living: For seniors who live independently, but who want the safety and security of a community and the opportunity to age in place.

Assisted Living: If you can live on your own but need help with your medications or limited assistance in your home.

Nursing: For when you need health care.

Memory Care: We offer full services for seniors needing special assistance.

At Buckner Retirement Services, we're fully committed to Inspiring happiness® for seniors during the prime of their life. Our six communities are each unique in their own way and offer a family environment.

Buckner is a place to live in an atmosphere of warmth. It's a place to socialize with close friends, rest your head, put your heart at ease and grow in faith. But most of all, it's a place you can genuinely call home.



BUCKNER
RETIREMENT SERVICES

Inspiring happiness:

BucknerRetirement.org

LOCATIONS

Buckner Villas
11110 Tom Adams Dr.
Austin, TX 78753
512.836.1515

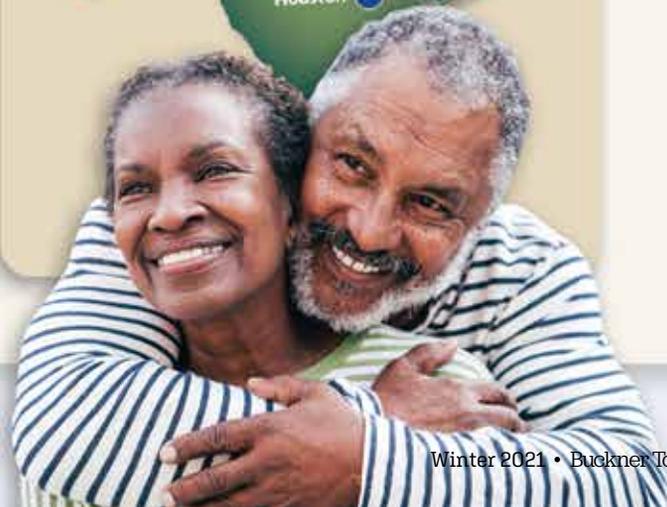
**Baptist Retirement
Community**
902-903 Main Street
San Angelo, TX 76903
800.608.8820

Calder Woods
7080 Calder Avenue
Beaumont, TX 77706
409.861.1123

Parkway Place
1321 Park Bayou Drive
Houston, TX 77077
281.556.9200

Ventana by Buckner
8301 N. Central Expy.
Dallas, TX 75225
214.234.1035

Westminster Place
2201 Horseshoe Lane
Longview, TX 5605
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Buckner receives \$620,000 grant to expand foster care and adoption services

By Kayla Salzman

The two-year grant from The Rees-Jones Foundation will allow Buckner to renovate offices and training space inside University Baptist Church in Fort Worth and fund local foster care and adoption case workers and staff to better serve Fort Worth, Tarrant County and surrounding areas.

The grant gives Buckner the opportunity to meet the significant need for kinship homes and therapeutic services to children in North Texas.

"Buckner facilitated 38 adoptions and impacted more than 200 lives through foster care placements in the Dallas area in 2018 and 2019 combined," said Andi Harrison, Buckner regional director of foster care and adoption in North Texas.

"The generosity of The Rees-Jones Foundation and University Baptist Church allows Buckner to increase these numbers by providing necessary services to Fort Worth and the surrounding Tarrant County community in an even larger capacity."

Established in 2006, The Rees-Jones Foundation provides funding to organizations in North Texas and around the world that serve vulnerable children and work to end the cycle of abuse and neglect, among many other areas of giving. Buckner has been a recipient of funding from The Rees-Jones Foundation since 2015, helping Buckner serve vulnerable children and families worldwide.

"The Rees-Jones Foundation admires and recognizes the often-challenging work Buckner does in securing placements for children and youth who so desperately need a higher level of care than typically available to them," said Thornton Hardie, president of The Rees-Jones Foundation. "We applaud Buckner's expansion into serving the children of Tarrant County and the surrounding areas."

In Tarrant County, Buckner will work directly with Our Community Our Kids. In March 2020, OCOK contracted with the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services to expand Community-Based Care in the region, assuming case

management responsibilities from Child Protective Services.

"We are seeing that more and more of our kids need specific therapeutic support – more than they have in the past," said Kris Naylor, MFT, chief operating officer for OCOK. "It is exciting that Buckner has expanded their physical presence into Tarrant County with a particular focus on therapeutic services for the kids who need it the most."

OCOK's expanded responsibilities in Tarrant County and six additional Texas counties include establishing permanency goals and coordinating care for the families of the children in DFPS conservatorship. Buckner foster care case workers will collaborate with OCOK to achieve these goals.

Foster care and adoption are profound ways to change a child's life forever. The goal of Buckner is to help every child find hope and healing through family foster care or permanency through reunification with kin or through the blessing of adoption.

To learn more about Buckner Foster Care and Adoption go to Buckner.org/Foster-Care-Adoption. BT



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