

# The Cook family answers God's call.



Less than five years ago, Roger and Shanell Cook along with biological son, Jackson, were a family of three. Their household, and their lives, completely changed in 2018 when the Cooks became a trained and licensed foster family through Baptist Children's Homes (BCH).

"Fostering is about doing God's work," Roger shares. "This may be the only chance a child gets to see a Christian family."

*The boys and girls placed with the Cook family are among the approximately 17,000 children in the custody of the NC foster care system.* Many of them have been removed from their homes for their well-being and safety.

A BCH case manager provides continuous support to the Cooks and works with them when there is a child in need of a foster family. One of those children was seven-year-old Makala.

"We met her the week of Valentine's Day and fell in love with her immediately," Shanell says.

A little more than a year after they began fostering her, the Cooks adopted Makala making her a permanent member of their family. *And on August 1, 2019, Makala became a member of God's family when she asked Jesus into her heart.*

One day while Roger was at work, Shanell received a call from BCH asking if they would foster a seven-month old named Harmony. It had been years since they cared for a baby. Shanell texted Roger to share her concerns and ask for his feedback. His response: *"God is calling, are you going to answer or let it go to voice mail?"*

The Cooks have answered the call time after time. Like Makala, Harmony was fostered and then adopted by the family in July 2020. Just three months later, the Cooks fostered and adopted a teenage girl — 17-year-old Ashley. After three adoptions, they continue to foster.

"The blessings far outweigh the challenges," Shanell says. "Whether it's one hour, one day, one week, one month, one year — every child will know what love is and know who Jesus is. That is what it is all about."





# ANSWERING *the Call*

Everyday, Christian men and women answer God's call to care for "the least of these" (Mat. 25:40).

Cottage parents at Baptist Children's Homes (BCH) welcome a child into their cottage who experienced horrific neglect — what little belongings he has are stuffed into a small trash bag. A couple who have become foster parents through the **EVERY CHILD Ministry**, a partnership between BCH and NC Baptists, shows a child who has been removed from her home what a caring, Christian family looks like. An unwed, expectant mother chooses adoption for her baby because a compassionate staffer with BCH's Christian Adoption Services is there to walk alongside her.

NC Baptist churches, like yours, answer the call in many ways including being a part of BCH's **Annual Offering**. Your offering gift impacts the lives of children, families and individuals served through BCH ministries across NC, SC and Guatemala. Most importantly, your gift empowers the gospel to be shared as **more than 80% of those we serve come to BCH unchurched and unreached for Jesus**. Needs are met, Christ's love is shared and lives are forever changed when we all answer God's call together!

## WEEK OF PRAYER |

Please pray for the BCH ministry and the lives of children and families we serve together.

**Sunday.** Pray for children and families in your community and across North Carolina.

**Monday.** Pray for the thousands of lives BCH serves each year through its 35 locations.

**Tuesday.** Pray for BCH's cottage parents, staff, care givers, foster parents and adoptive parents who care for children around the clock.

**Wednesday.** Pray God leads couples to foster and/or adopt through the **EVERY CHILD** ministry.

**Thursday.** Pray for the men and women who live at BCH's nine statewide homes serving intellectually/developmentally disabled adults.

**Friday.** Pray for orphans at Good Shepherd Ministries in Quetzaltenango (Xela), Guatemala.

**Saturday.** Pray for BCH president/CEO Dr. Michael C. Blackwell as he leads the ministry.

**Sunday.** Pray children and families BCH ministers to will come to know Jesus as their Savior.

Through your offering, **156,508 lives** were impacted in 2021.  
In the past five years, there were **691 decisions for Christ**.



SHARING HOPE...CHANGING LIVES

**Baptist Children's Homes**  
of NORTH CAROLINA

ANNUAL OFFERING GOAL: \$1.5 MILLION | [BCHOFFERING.ORG](https://bchoffering.org)



#EVERYCHILD

#ONMISSIONTOGETHER

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