

ANSWERING *the Call*

In 2018, the lives of Roger and Shanell Cook, along with biological son Jackson, completely changed when they became a trained and licensed foster family with 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 NC foster care.

A BCH case manager supports the Cooks and works with them when a child needs a foster family. One of those children was seven-year-old Makala.

A little more than a year after fostering her, the Cook family adopted Makala. *On August 1, 2019, Makala became a member of God's family when she accepted Christ.*

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 get 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, they fostered then adopted Harmony in July 2020. Just three months later, the Cooks fostered and adopted 17-year-old Ashley.

"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."



Ashley



Makala



Harmony

THE ANNUAL OFFERING is one of many ways NC Baptists answer the call to care for "the least of these" at Baptist Children's Homes (BCH). Your offering impacts the lives of children, families and individuals served through BCH ministries across NC, SC and Guatemala. Through your offering, the gospel is shared as more than 80% of those we serve come to BCH unchurched and unreached for Jesus. *Because of NC Baptists, BCH impacted 156,508 lives in 2021. In the past five years there have been 691 professions of faith.*



SHARING HOPE...CHANGING LIVES

Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina