

# Bike for Change grows new generation of friends – Children riding to help BCH boys and girls

Just more than a decade ago, children from First Baptist Church in Charlotte mounted their bicycles for the very first **Bike for Change**. The church-sponsored bike-a-thon, where children ride in support of Baptist Children's Homes (BCH), has grown every year. The initiative has not only garnered financial support, but it has raised up a new generation of friends for BCH's boys and girls.

"Because of **Bike for Change**, we now have our youth attending BCH's Friends of Children workday at Mills Home in Thomasville," said **Bike for Change** coordinator and FBC Charlotte member Jay Westmoreland. "And now, two of our church's life groups are in the process of adopting cottages."



First-time participants from First Baptist Church in Matthews joined FBC Charlotte on October 19 for this year's ride. Led by Sandra Montague, the Minister to Children at FBC Matthews, the church raised \$1,773.62. FBC Charlotte's contribution is



Photo credit: David Hinely



**Bike for Change** enters its 11th year as children from First Baptist Church in Charlotte and First Baptist Church in Matthews pedal their bicycles on October 19. The event aiding Baptist Children's Homes' boys and girls raised more than \$38,000.00 – the largest amount collected through the annual event.

a record \$36,243.

"God has blessed our folks' efforts," Westmoreland said. "It's a great number, but it's the people behind the numbers that count."

**Bike for Change** benefits BCH while teaching children the importance of making a difference in

the lives of others. Any church can host its own **Bike for Change**. Information and resources are available at [www.bikeforchange.org](http://www.bikeforchange.org). For further information and assistance, contact Jay Westmoreland at 704-331-2266 or [bikeforchange@bchfamily.org](mailto:bikeforchange@bchfamily.org).

## Look no further – I have the perfect Christmas gift idea!

By **Brenda B. Gray**, Executive Vice President, Development and Communications

I am not a shopper. I have always waited until the last minute to do my Christmas shopping. Of course, by the time I would begin shopping, everything had been picked over. My choices were limited, and my stress level was heightened. Recently, I made a decision to give gifts that share hope and change lives.

Are you checking your list and trying to determine just the right gifts for those special ones in your life?

I hope you will consider adding another name to your list – **Baptist Children's Homes**. A great way to remember family, friends, employees, customers, business associates, or co-workers this Christmas would be to send a gift in their honor and share hope with a child or family in BCH's care. BCH will notify the honoree with a card and acknowledge receipt of the gift to you.

What better gift to give someone than to honor them with a gift that will truly make a difference?

### Deciding what to give:

A gift of cash, securities, retirement plans, life insurance, gifts that provide income for you such as gift annuities, or a gift through your will or living trust are all excellent gift opportunities as you consider your year-end gift. Gifts made between now and the end of the year can generate income tax deductions and help Baptist Children's Homes continue its vision of "sharing hope. . . changing lives." Check with your financial advisor to see what the best strategy will be for your particular situation.

**Exciting News!** Two possible opportunities to double your gift:

- Check with your employer to see if they have

a matching gift program. This is a way to double your gift without doubling your donation.

- We presently have a challenge gift of \$200,000 in effect until January 31. Your gifts will be matched up to \$200,000. Help us meet this challenge!

Our ability to meet the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of children is directly related to the financial investment you and our other friends will make in the lives of children and families who are seeking hope and peace. Thank you for offering the spirit of Christmas to our children and families 365 days a year. Thank you for your investment and for your willingness to make a difference. *Your gift will have a lasting impact.*

For details on any of these gift options, please call 1-800-476-3669 or 336-474-1230 and ask for Brenda Gray.