



# connection AND restoration

JAN 2025



## The Trail Leads Back Home

As we reflect on the recent holiday season, a recurring theme warmed our hearts here at My Father's Arrows: ***the trail always seems to lead back home.*** Whether it's through joyous reunions, heartfelt phone calls, or cherished memories, we are reminded of the profound impact this ministry has on the lives of children and families.

While we are overjoyed when God brings healing and restoration for families, we recognize that not every child we care for has a family to safely reunify with. This Christmas, several of our "big kids" returned to celebrate the holidays with us. They shared...

***"It feels so good to be back and feel like home, and feel so safe and secure again,"***

***and...***

***"There is no place like home, it's not the same anywhere else."***

For others who couldn't visit in person, the phone lines became a lifeline of connection.

Families that were once broken and are now reunited also reached out. One family shared, ***"Your ministry made a world of difference for us!"***

Proverbs 22:6 tells us, ***"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."***

We rest in this promise. By providing life lessons, setting safe boundaries, and giving unconditional love, we instill values and principles that guide children throughout their lives.

Thank you for being part of this ministry. **Your support helps us continue to be a place where trails of love, healing, and faith always lead back home.**

# Lights, Camera, Action!

Excitement was in the air from the moment the children began rehearsals for their Christmas play. The story of Christ's birth was brought to life from the perspective of the animals in the nativity, and their performances in downtown Pensacola, on our campus, and at Marcus Pointe Baptist were filled with a fun storyline, great songs, and a heartfelt message.



Our little actors loved sharing the miraculous story of Christ's birth. Not only did the children have fun, but they also gained valuable skills in communication, teamwork, and self-confidence.

We are so appreciative to everyone who came to see our little actors share their talents for the Lord, and also for our amazing volunteers that help pull off these productions.

One of key volunteers in our fine arts program is Ms. Cathy, the creator and director of many of the creative productions over the past several years. She prefers to work behind the scenes, but her productions and commitment to the children at MFA are spotlight worthy! Her journey to our home is both inspiring and a testament to serving others.



Cathy and her husband, Keith served in many locations, including Haiti, Florida, and South Carolina, finally settling in Pensacola in 2021. Cathy has taught music and drama everywhere she has

lived. She's written skits, taught brass, handbells, guitar, ukelele, and even translated an entire songbook into Creole. She enjoys teaching songs & skits that are fun and filled with a Biblical message.

Leaving the children and the audience laughing, entertained, informed and inspired is what she considers a job well done.....and we whole heartedly agree!

## Special Thanks

We had an amazing youth service with other area church youth. Reggie Dabbs ministered. Mr. Dabbs is an evangelist, motivational speaker to professional sports teams including the Dallas Mavericks, and acclaimed saxophonist. He delivered a powerful lesson of God's redeeming grace.



We had another HUGE blessing over the holidays when the partners from Be the Miracle came and presented each and every child at MFA with their VERY OWN bicycle! Not only were the children over the moon, so was the staff. This means no more fighting over bikes!





# Crafting and Skating and Lights....Oh My!

This past month has been busy and much of it was possible because your generosity and support. Your contributions have made a significant impact on the lives of the children at MFA, and we're delighted to share how your kindness has brought joy and fulfillment into their lives.

Thanks to your donations, the children have had the opportunity to see beautiful Christmas lights displays and go on field trips, have fun parties, and experience the joy of ice skating. Ice skating has brought sheer delight to our children who, for many, it was their first thrilling time on the ice. Art projects gave the children a therapeutic outlet to express themselves and discover their talents.

Whether playing music, acting in a play, painting, drawing, or constructing, each child has found a way to let their creativity shine, gaining a sense of accomplishment and self confidence. These activities may seem simple, but they provide the children with invaluable moments of happiness and normalcy that they might not otherwise experience.

These moments of joy are cherished memories and give a sense of belonging during the holiday season. Your generous donations have provided not only material resources but also the gift of joy, love, and special memories.



## Ways to Give

Did you know that you can make MFA a beneficiary of your life insurance, IRA, or 401K policy? In addition, you can assist with:

- Financial Donations
- Everyday Needs
- Vehicle Program
- Wills, Estates, & Planned Gifts



# Director's Corner

As we step into the promise of a new year, I am filled with gratitude for the incredible work God has accomplished through this ministry. Our ten year goals to build, grow, and serve have been fully realized in half the time. It's truly humbling to see how your prayers, support, and God's guidance have shaped this mission, allowing us to provide hope and healing to so many children in need.

Now, we find ourselves at a crossroads, with hearts full of big dreams and a need for wisdom as we seek the Lord's direction for what comes next. Our vision for 2025 and beyond is bold and ambitious, yet deeply rooted in our calling to serve children and families. Here are the key areas we feel led to focus on in this next season of growth:

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## EXPANDING OUR REACH

Build more cottages, providing a safe and loving environment for even more boys and girls who desperately need stability and care.

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## ENHANCING RANCH ACTIVITIES

The therapeutic value of our horses has been life-changing for so many children. We hope to increase ranch activities to maximize their impact.

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## DEVELOPING JOB TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

For the children transitioning into young adulthood, we want to equip them with practical life skills and work experience as they step into independence.

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## CREATING TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

Develop transitional housing to offer continued support for our children that are aging out of care.

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## INCREASING FAMILY SUPPORT

We hope to strengthen families through the expansion of resources and programs that create lasting change.

These dreams are big, but we serve an even bigger God. As we plan for the future, we're reminded of Proverbs 16:9: "A man's heart deviseth his way: but the Lord directeth his steps." We want to ensure that every step we take is aligned with His will, His way, and His time for this ministry.



This is where we need your partnership in prayer. Please join us in seeking God's direction as we dream, plan, and move forward in confidence.

Pray for wisdom for our leadership, provision for the resources needed, and discernment to focus on what will truly glorify Him and serve His children with excellence. Pray for the children and families who will be touched by this work, that their hearts will be open to healing and restoration.

Thank you for standing with us as we look ahead. Together, let's trust in the Lord's leading and step boldly into the future He has prepared. May 2025 be a year of renewed focus, faith, and fulfillment of His plans.

Blessings,

*Sarah Ellis*

**Sarah Ellis**  
Executive Director  
My Father's Arrows







## IMMEDIATE NEEDS

You can help with the most pressing needs at MFA. Shop using this helpful list of daily needs. Then drop off or ship the items to our location.

- Laundry Pods
- Copy Paper
- Garbage Bags
- Eggs
- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- Dawn Dish Soap
- Craft Supplies
- Hair Conditioner
- Fresh Fruit / Veggies
- Sliced Cheese
- Chicken / Beef Broth



[myfathersarrows.org/everyday\\_needs/](https://myfathersarrows.org/everyday_needs/)

## VEHICLE PROGRAM

Donating your car, truck, boat, ATV or other vehicle is a great way to meet the extensive transportation needs that we have at My Father's Arrows. The vehicle is used on the farm, donated to an aged out youth, or sold to help support our ministry. We even offer to take care of all the small repairs and will pickup the vehicle for free!

Please call (850)675-4403 to discuss the options to get involved.

## STAFF NEEDS

A good team of staff members is critical to continuing the ministry at MFA and giving children the stability and security they need to thrive. **We currently have openings for direct care staff on evenings and weekends.**

Please contact us via email at [info@myfathersarrows.org](mailto:info@myfathersarrows.org) or call us at (850) 675-4403 for our most recent openings.

## WAYS TO CONNECT

- 📍 4025 County Road 178 Jay, FL 32566
- 🌐 [myfathersarrows.org](https://myfathersarrows.org)
- 📞 (850) 675-4403
- 📧 [myfathersarrowsinc.3392/](mailto:myfathersarrowsinc.3392/)
- 📺 [facebook.com/myfathersarrows](https://facebook.com/myfathersarrows)

# THE arrow

BULLETIN



## ACCREDITATIONS



# CORE

COALITION OF RESIDENTIAL EXCELLENCE



THE FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN CHILD CARING AGENCIES



NAPS National Association of Private Schools

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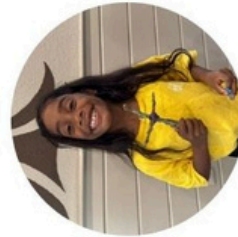


# LET'S CELEBRATE!

Join us in praying over this child on her birthday, that God would be real to her and that she would find peace, hope, and their future in Him.



Danielle | 11  
January 31st



Elizabeth | 9  
January 31st

## BLESS A CHILD ON THEIR BIRTHDAY

Join our Birthday team and sponsor a child's birthday with a \$25 donation. This donation makes it possible for us to take a child on an individual shopping trip and invest not only in a special gift, but also in them as an individual.

### GIVE ONLINE!

Just point your phone's camera here:



[myfathersarrows.org/donate/](https://myfathersarrows.org/donate/)

## IT STARTS WITH YOU

As the chaos in the world continues to grow, are you confident about your future? God has so many wonderful things for you! You can ask Jesus to come into your heart and change your life forever.

There is only one way to succeed in life and it's by walking with Jesus.



### CONFESS

1 John 1:9 it says that if we confess our sins, Jesus is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

### REPENT

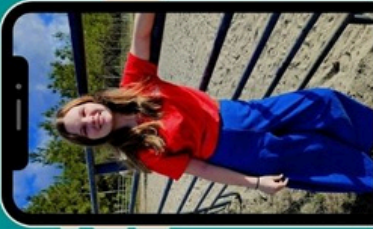
Repent and turn away from our sins like it tells us in Acts 2:38.

### BELIEVE

Acts 16:31 says, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."

**ONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN YOU AND JESUS CAN CHANGE EVERYTHING!**

## STAY IN THE LOOP



Be among the first to receive updates about the children, prayer requests, photos, special events and more.

SCAN HERE to sign up for our emails:



[myfathersarrows.org/email-sign-up/](https://myfathersarrows.org/email-sign-up/)

## ESTATE PLANNING

Did you know that you can make MFA a beneficiary of your life insurance, IRA, or 401K policy? Our legacy has your name on it! Provide a child a secure, stable avenue out of their desperate situation through your legacy gift to My Father's Arrows.

To help in this way, please contact our Executive Director, Sarah Ellis, directly [by email](mailto:sarah@myfathersarrows.org) or call (850) 675-4403. Thank you for blessing our children with your legacy gift.