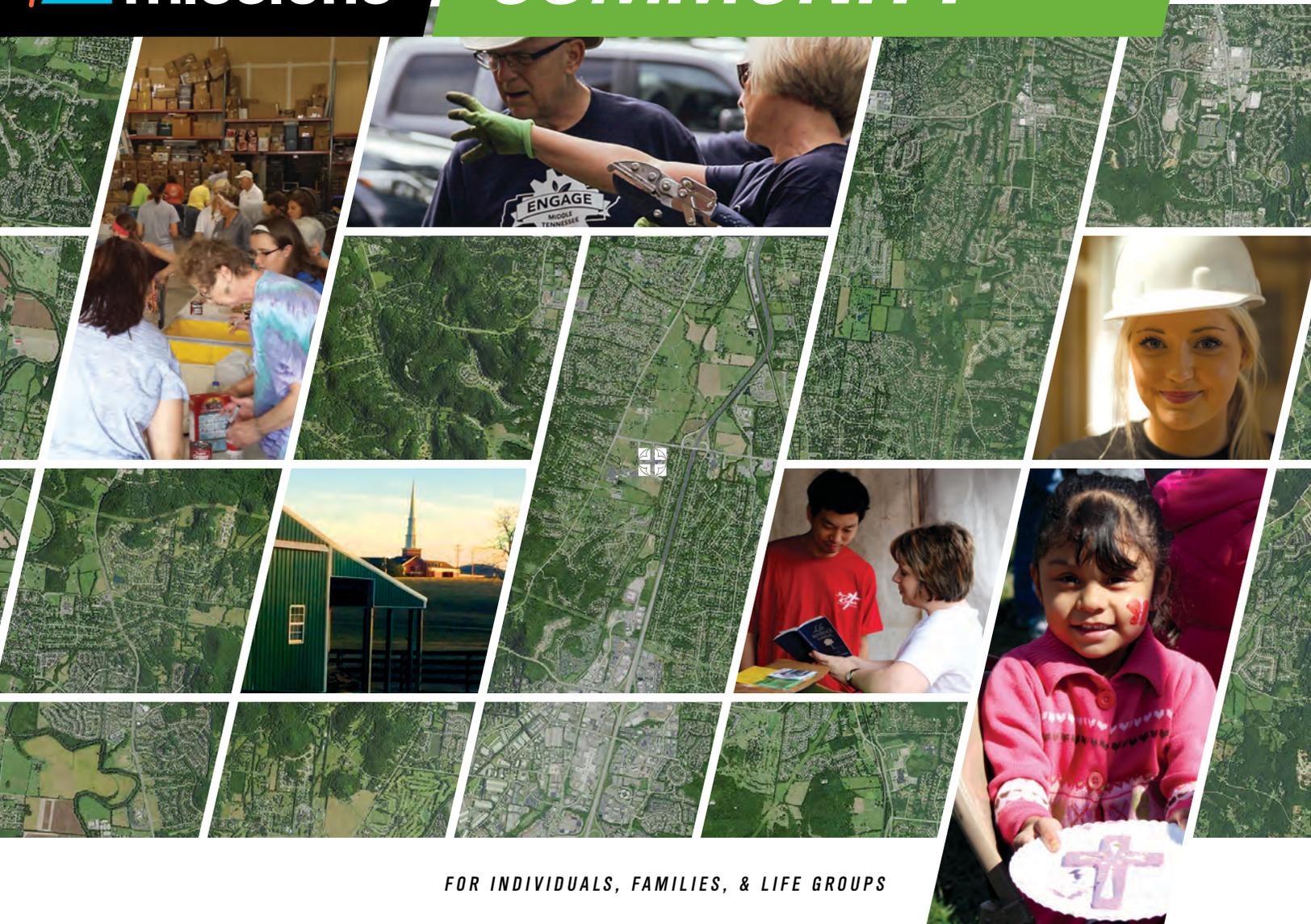


BRENTWOOD CAMPUS

ENGAGE GUIDE | 2017



COMMUNITY



FOR INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, & LIFE GROUPS

*In 2017, the Brentwood campus of Brentwood Baptist Church has the opportunity to address needs in the areas of poverty, education, healthcare, at risk communities, and orphan care in Middle Tennessee.*



*Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute.  
Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.  
— Proverbs 31:8-9*

Over the past few years, it has been exciting to see our Brentwood Baptist family grow through the addition of new regional campuses. Through these campuses, the gospel is being lived out in various ways as we work to care for the needs of people in our various Middle Tennessee communities.

One thing we've been reminded of again and again is that poverty, education, healthcare, at risk community, and orphan care needs are greater than ever before. Each campus has people with the gifts, talents, resources, and hearts to serve these needs.

Our goal is to make sure you know how you can get involved in changing the stories—changing the lives—of people right here at home. That is what this guide is all about.

***What if Brentwood Baptist helped to change the story of those in need physically, emotionally, and spiritually in Middle Tennessee?***

## ***HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE***

In this guide you will find specific ways you can get involved in 2017. You will find descriptions of initiatives that Brentwood Baptist is involved in, information about trainings that will be coming up this year, and opportunities to work with our ministry partners to address needs in Middle Tennessee.

Each section will describe an area of need that our church is working to address: poverty, education, healthcare, at risk communities, and orphan care. In each of these sections, you will learn why this need is important, initiatives that the Brentwood campus is intentionally getting involved in to address the need, opportunities to receive training, and examples of ministries in the area that also work to address these concerns. You will also find a quarterly challenge that you can take on along with your LIFE Group, family, coworkers, or friends.



# POVERTY

## ***Why is the acknowledgment of poverty important?***

How we view poverty determines how we choose to engage it. If we see it simply as a lack of physical resources, then our answers are often about providing physical items. It's important that we choose to engage poverty by understanding that it is really much more than a lack of resources.

While often there will be a need for material goods, healthy relationships are often the missing piece of the puzzle.

In addition to helping to address the physical needs that come along with stories of poverty, the Brentwood campus is going to focus on providing relationships through resources. It is proven that without an advocate in their corner those living in poverty situations have an exponentially more difficult time moving from that situation.

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*Meeting human needs is commanded in Scripture. But God's ultimate plan for all people is a personal, saving relationship with Jesus Christ. Pray for our partners as they seek to not only meet needs, but also lead people to Christ.*

## *What is our response?*

### KEY INITIATIVES

#### 1 | FAITH & FINANCES CLASSES

This is a financial curriculum designed specifically for low-income adults. This class addresses the challenges the materially poor face and helps them rediscover their God-given dignity in the process of navigating next steps.

You can be trained as a facilitator, come and be a part of a class as a friend/ally, help serve a meal, work with child care as needed, and more. These classes will be offered as we work with our ministry partners and additional communities. Already through this resource we have seen people get out of strongholds like payday loans, find community where they thought they had none, and learn about how God provides.

#### 2 | ADDRESSING FOOD INSECURITIES

Food insecurity (a lack of food and or knowledge of where food will be coming from for a family) is prominent throughout Middle Tennessee. Through efforts such as the GraceWorks Food Drive and Christmas Food Baskets, we are able to help with some aspects of this need. However, there are opportunities throughout the year to help fill this void by connecting with our ministry partners. Whether through working the land, mentoring, rescuing food that would be thrown away, or distributing it, there are avenues to help come beside the food crisis in tangible ways. Let us help to connect you with some key next steps.

#### 3 | JOB SKILLS & TRAINING

In an ever growing and changing job market, new circumstances can seem more like a dream than a reality for people who have a challenged past, have never been able to complete educational opportunities, or simply do not know how to seek out opportunities. The skills, knowledge, opportunities, and training that Brentwood Baptist members can provide through programs and ministry partners is outstanding. These opportunities allow for the volunteers, facilitators, and mentors to rally around a person or persons and be their advocate as they are working to make a better future.

### TRAININGS

#### • POVERTY 101/ALLY TRAINING

This training gives a birds eye view for how to come beside poverty situations. It trains people on how to be an "ally" to and with those going through Faith and Finances (or similar) programs.

#### • POVERTY IMMERSION EVENT

Walk out a day in the life of an under resourced person. We will be taking scenarios to live out and try to determine the decisions that we would be forced to confront. This is designed to recognize the realistic challenges that come with multiple forms of poverty and the opportunity to engage the process of how to be part of the solution.



# EDUCATION

## ***Why is the acknowledgment of education important?***

We live in a world that is changing rapidly by the day. Educational resources help provide real opportunities for a future for so many. Education is a chance to help lead a future generation and craft worldviews. Adults and children need people to help them know how find and utilize resources to inform and direct their confidence and decision making. Teachers need to know there is a community of support around them that requires nothing in return.

Educational scores are going down, but demands are going up. Children and adults do not always have the support systems around them that they need. Once a student feels behind, who will be there to hold their hand and say “I’m with you” until the end?

There are opportunities to journey with adults, children, and schools. A person to show up and let others know that they are cared for can mark miles in changing a person’s story and direction in life.

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*At risk communities have many needs. They need better schools, healthier families, and economic opportunities. But ultimately, they need healthy churches in their communities. It’s the local church, embedded in these communities, that is the true sign of life and growth.*

## *What is our response?*

### KEY INITIATIVES

#### 1 | MOBILE TUTORING TEAM

We will be assembling a “tutoring task force” to work with churches, ministries, and communities that do not have tutors readily available. This will include adult and/or children class options. We will be able to help connect those attending tutoring with a local ministry and/or body of believers in their own backyard.

Often it may include providing a backpack of simple supplies and resources so people can do their work. It might mean providing a bite to eat that a person may not receive at home. The classes offered will coincide with the needs of the community being resourced. The prayerful hope is that tutoring sessions will end with an opportunity for storying the Bible.

#### 2 | ADOPT A SCHOOL

There are many schools in our area that appear to have all the resources that they need and PTOs that resource them well. However, not many of these schools have churches that simply show up to love and encourage the teachers and staff in order to let them know that they care. This would be a wonderful opportunity for a LIFE group or team.

We hope to assemble teams to adopt local elementary, middle, and high schools. The tasks are simple: build a relationship with these schools and let them know that Brentwood Baptist cares about them and their needs. As schools are adopted, teams would continue to show up and encourage. This will speak volumes to teachers who are stretched beyond capacity daily. Each school comes with varieties of needs, so we are not making promises that we cannot keep. As a team adopts a school, they will determine how to come beside the needs that they discover along the way. Teams are not left alone to figure it out, but collectively all teams can support and encourage one another as we seek to make a Christ-centered impact on our local schools.

#### 3 | MENTORING

Many of our ministry partners ask for mentors more than anything else. A mentor will guide, encourage, and walk through life with their ministry recipients. These relationships often lead a mentor to discover educational needs and opportunities that exist or ways to encourage those who are already trying to tackle some of the educational voids.

### TRAININGS

#### • ENGAGING THROUGH TUTORING

One question that comes up from time to time is, “How do I engage people with the gospel if I’m not even allowed to talk about Jesus in schools?” This training allows for those participating with schools and in tutoring programs to learn how to love people well and represent the gospel even when it may feel like your hands are tied. This training will be encouraged for all people working with educational opportunities, but it is required of those who will be working with children.

#### • STORYING

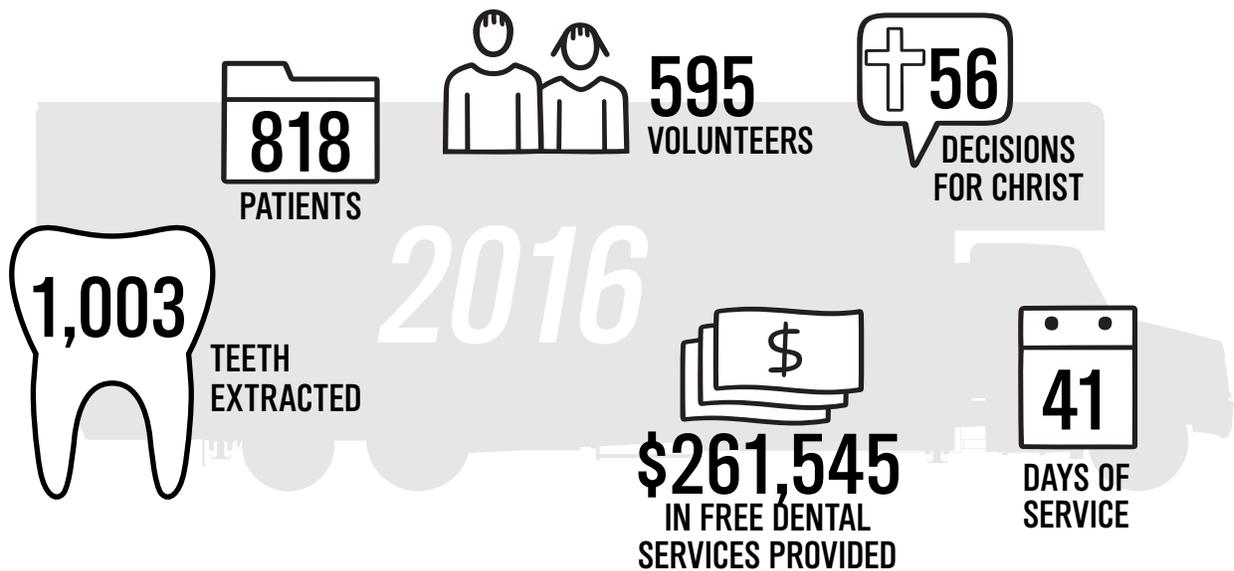
Engaging people with the gospel through storying is happening all around the world. We will train people on how to have conversations with people through sharing Bible stories. This is a piece we hope to implement through Mobile Tutoring as comprehension. The storying model unpacks stories and asks people to repeat what they have heard. Contact us to learn what storying is and how it can be used through all avenues of education and mentoring opportunities.



# HEALTHCARE

## *Why is the acknowledgment of healthcare important?*

Healthcare needs are a critical reality. People who do not have access to dental and medical resources often feel hopeless in many ways. To see and recognize the freedom that comes with a wound being healed is such a tangible picture of what it means to heal a wounded heart spiritually. How do we focus on addressing these medical needs locally?



## *What is our response?*

### KEY INITIATIVES

#### 1 | MEDICAL DENTAL UNIT

The MDU is a 40-foot evangelism tool. It is a mobile unit customized to provide free, limited medical and dental care to those in need all over Middle Tennessee. It functions under the direction of Amy Fairchild, MDU Coordinator and Family Nurse Practitioner, and a dedicated support team of volunteers.

We seek to meet healthcare needs for the purpose of evangelism. In Luke 9:6, Jesus sent the disciples out “from village to village, proclaiming the good news and healing everywhere.” In the same way, the Medical Dental Unit goes out to preach the gospel and provide healing. As we serve people through meeting their medical and dental needs, we share Jesus with them. We believe that Jesus Christ is the Healer of body, mind, and soul. It is because of Him that we give of our time and talents to serve others, and we believe that He is at work in the lives of people right here in Middle Tennessee. We cannot just meet physical needs without sharing with people about the One who created them, loves them, and wants a personal relationship with them.

We serve the Middle Tennessee area primarily by partnering with local churches. Our mission is not only meeting physical needs but to share the gospel while we are giving medical and dental care. By partnering with the local church, they can provide spiritual follow-up to new believers. We seek to partner with churches and faith-based ministries that have a vision of having medical/dental outreaches as a way to share Christ with people.

### TRAININGS

#### • MDU TRAINING

The Medical Dental Unit offers a quarterly training for all those who volunteer with the MDU. Do you need to be a medical professional to volunteer? No! There are volunteer roles that do not require medical or dental professionals. The MDU holds several events throughout the year all over Middle Tennessee.



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*What does it mean to be a disciple who makes disciples?  
True, we need to meet human needs. But, as we do we can—  
and must—proclaim Him as we serve our community.*



# AT RISK COMMUNITIES

## *Why is the acknowledgment of at risk communities important?*

As Nashville grows, we are learning more and more about the communities that are home to some of our most vulnerable populations. Through the lens of “at risk communities” we will take a look at how to address the reality of human trafficking in Nashville and surrounding areas, the refugee story as our neighborhoods become increasingly diverse daily, and Safe Families as we seek to engage families that are in a temporary time of distress.

In several ways, many of these stories overlap with each other, along with orphan and foster care. If people do not step in along the way to help change a person’s path, one issue can lead to another. Let’s step into the gap and be the people who acknowledge and help change lives.

## *What is our response?*

### KEY INITIATIVES

#### 1 | **TRAFFICKING SUPPORT & PREVENTION**

We are going to draw local resources who engage trafficking together to discover how to come beside this real issue in tangible ways and collaborate to make a difference. We will be working to provide education and awareness as we then learn what resources we can plug into and how to be a part.

In many ways, prevention starts with some of the initiatives mentioned in the earlier pages of this guide. Trafficking often preys on the vulnerable, but it also preys on the person who is just looking for someone to care.

## 2 | ADOPT A REFUGEE FAMILY

Imagine coming from a traumatic situation, being placed in a new country, and having to learn how to make a new life when people around you may not understand and sometimes even fear you because of a minimal understanding of what your story and journey might have been like. Families are coming to Nashville in droves and trying to learn how to live in a new place with new rules. That would be confusing and frightening for anyone.

There are chances for Brentwood Baptist families, LIFE Groups, and individuals to help. This help will begin to translate as hope for refugee families. What better way for people to learn about the hope that is found in Christ than to first have experienced the hope that comes as the church family chooses to love their new neighbors well. You can do this by adopting a family, teaching ESL, providing transportation or meals, and so much more.

## 3 | SAFE FAMILIES

This is a program that provides a way for people to step into the gap and provide support for families going through a temporary time of distress. There are several roles to play. You can be a host home for children while their parents take a few weeks to get back on their feet for various reasons. You can be an advocate for the parents. You can help provide meals or resources for host homes who are receiving children. Or you could simply provide transportation back and forth to school for the children. These small steps provide the opportunity for God's family to become the community for a family and provide hope in the midst of a storm. This program also provides the possibility that less children will end up in the foster care system if they do not need to be.

## TRAININGS

### • ACES/TRAUMA TRAINING

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) unpacks the effects of trauma on the brain and reactions that come as a result of early traumatic situations in a child's story. This information helps us understand not only children, but adults who may have gone through trauma as a child in its various forms. This training is a key way to start to understand people well and learn how to support them in the midst of trauma effects that they may not be able to control or understand.

### • TRAFFICKING TOOLBOX

In collaboration with ministries and resources in the area, we will be working to put together an awareness event that helps our members understand what is happening in regard to human slavery and how to be a part of the solution. "The Apathy Effect" exhibit will be shown at Brentwood Baptist. This exhibit unpacks the story, but also allows us to recognize that there is hope. We will be offering a teaching series that helps us recognize where our church is uniquely positioned to step into the gap in Middle Tennessee.

### • SAFE FAMILIES FAITH FORUM

This is a training that helps church members understand all of the possible roles that one can play in caring for the needs that come with Safe Families. Bethany Christian Services will lead this forum to help answer questions that come with each role and to provide the next steps regarding placements and how to get further involved.

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*Sometimes people say, "Preach the gospel at all times. If necessary, use words." It's a popular quote. But, it's really quite dangerous. Too many Christians think that just doing good things is enough. But we must love in word and deed. Pray for our members and partners. Pray that we would know how to integrate our hands and voices for the full gospel to truly shine.*



# ORPHAN CARE

## *Why is the acknowledgment of orphan care important?*

The mission of our orphan care team is to further God's kingdom by caring for orphaned and abandoned children. This is not a concern happening solely in other areas of the world. There are people making difficult decisions every day to care for their children or to place them somewhere where they can be cared for. Sometimes this happens through adoption and other times it may happen through fostering. There are times when this decision may be made for the family because their home may not be the best circumstance for them at the time.

Regardless of the "why," we are called to rise up and call these vulnerable children family. You can open your home or support those who are at a place to open their homes. We also have to chance to do this by coming beside ministry relationships and building relationships with children and families in this way. The State of Tennessee is starting an effort in coordination with local churches to help tackle some of the opportunities to find homes for our waiting children. You can be part of the solution.

## *What is our response?*

### KEY INITIATIVES

#### 1 | COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & EDUCATION

This will happen with people at different stages of involvement. We find that support systems are key. We want to help people find others who have been there before and can help them know what to expect and what to do. We want to help build a community that helps to support families before and after the adoption and fostering process. We know that there is a need for educational opportunities. During the year we are will be able to bring experts in to unpack some things that may help those in the adoption and fostering process. Examples of educational training we've been able to provide in the past include addressing attachment issues, sensory issues, and trauma issues.

## 2 | ADOPTION

We do not support one organization because there are many personal decisions that go along with selecting the right fit for you. However, we are blessed to be connected with resources that can help to answer many adoption questions along the way. You are not in this alone. Community is the key. We also know that adoption is not cheap. Through the Brentwood Baptist Foundation there are opportunities to receive minimal grants. Also let us connect you with ministries like Both Hands that allow families to come beside each other in a ministry project for a window in the process of building financial support.

## 3 | FOSTERING

When Brentwood Baptist began, we first met at the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes. So, you can say fostering has always been a part of our DNA. We continue to have a strong active relationship with the TBCH through Visiting Families, mentoring, providing resources, and more. In addition, Tennessee Fosters is an initiative connecting the fostering need in Tennessee with the faith-based community. Through this initiative, we can connect to greater resource needs in our own backyard. [AmericasKidsBelow.org](http://AmericasKidsBelow.org) helps to unpack this need and how to address it.

We will have access to Metro "Care Portal" as a piece of the initiative, allowing our church to step into new, minute by minute, care and resource needs in our local fostering community.

## TRAININGS

### • CAFO (CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE FOR ORPHANS)

"The CAFO Summit has become the national hub for what Christianity Today called, 'the burgeoning Christian orphan care movement.' Last year's conference drew 2,000 foster and adoptive parents, orphan advocates, pastors, and leaders from 30 countries. Together, we explore effective foster care, adoption, family preservation and global orphan ministry." The CAFO Summit will be held at the Brentwood campus this year May 4-5. There will be opportunities to volunteer and also to simply attend. To learn more visit their website at [Cafo.org/summit](http://Cafo.org/summit)

To volunteer, please sign up at [Cafo.org/summit/volunteer](http://Cafo.org/summit/volunteer)

### • PATH/CONNECT CLASSES

Parents as Tender Healers Classes are required in order to foster. We are thankful for our local partnerships that allow for classes to be hosted on the Brentwood campus periodically. Stay tuned as these classes are made available during 2017.

### • SEMINAR (TBD)

As we learn more each year about specific topics that our Orphan Care community needs to know more about, we are able to bring in experts to address these specific areas. Stay tuned for these classes and dates. To make sure you are on this promotion list, please reach out to our Orphan Care Community at: [vhowell@brentwoodbaptist.com](mailto:vhowell@brentwoodbaptist.com)

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*Throughout Scripture, we see constant reminders and admonitions to care for the least of these. Why is this so important to God? Because He died for all people. And, it's His desire to see His people demonstrate love for others as a reflection of their devotion to Him.*



# A LIFE GROUP QUARTERLY

## Why is serving as a LIFE Group important?

The “E” in LIFE Group stands for Engage. We are meant to do LIFE together, care for each other as well as caring for others. With open hearts and arms and with disciple making at the core of what we do, let us issue a Quarterly LIFE Group Challenge. Your LIFE Group may already be fully engaged in ministry, mission and relationship however if not please be encouraged to adopt this model as a guide to help you get started.



### Quarter 1 Challenge WINTER/SPRING (JANUARY–MARCH)

#### • ADOPT A FAMILY OR COMMUNITY

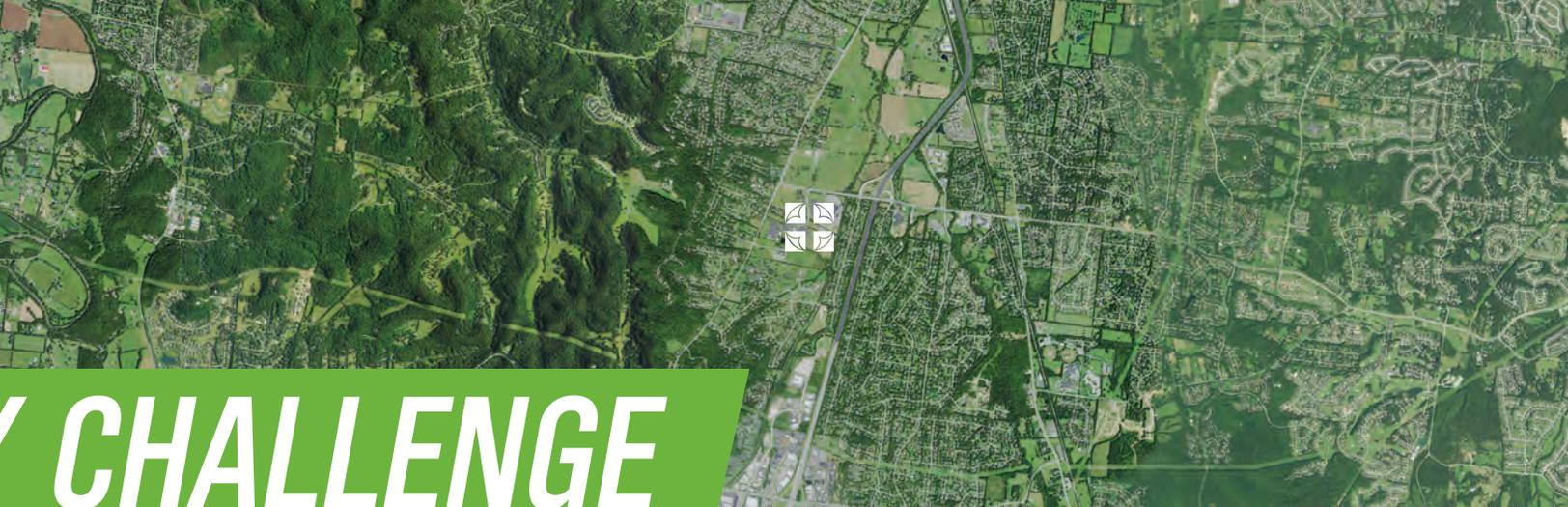
As a LIFE Group, choose a family, ministry, school, or neighborhood to adopt. You could adopt a refugee family or a widow you know. You could adopt a school and be part of that education initiative. You could adopt a ministry and decide to intentionally plug in there.



### Quarter 2 Challenge SPRING/SUMMER (APRIL–JUNE)

#### • ENGAGE MIDDLE TENNESSEE

Engage Middle Tennessee is an event that happens across all Brentwood Baptist campuses on April 8, 2017. This event is a day for our LIFE Groups to intentionally get out and activate the “E” in LIFE. For this Engage Middle Tennessee day, we encourage you to have your ministry project be informed by the community that you chose do adopt in the first quarter. If you adopted a family, invite them to serve with you. If you adopted a community, maybe this is a great day to love them well by serving them in some way.



# CHALLENGE



## Quarter 3 Challenge SUMMER/FALL (JULY-SEPTEMBER)

- **FOOD INSECURITIES & SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDS**
- **CHRISTMAS IN JULY**
- **GRACEWORKS FOOD DRIVE**

Let's help address food insecurities and school supply needs. We will be hosting "Christmas in July" to give toward the Christmas Food Baskets Project happening later in the year. In September, we will be hosting our annual GraceWorks Food Drive, and we will learn from our school and partner relationships about how to address school supply needs. These are just a few examples of ways your LIFE Group can be involved.



## Quarter 4 Challenge FALL/WINTER (OCTOBER-DECEMBER)

- **CHOOSE FROM THE HOLIDAY SERVICE GUIDE**
- Choose an opportunity from the Holiday Service Guide (available in November). This guide lists ways that our ministry partners need your help throughout the holiday season. You could get involved by helping at an event, delivering a food box, or adopting a family for Christmas. You can look through the guide to find the right fit for your LIFE Group.

***How is this disciple making?***

In Quarter 1, LIFE Groups are challenged to adopt a family or community. Let this relationship grow and continue as your LIFE Group works through the following remaining quarterly challenges.

For example, if you adopt a refugee family in Quarter 1, then invite them to serve with you in Quarter 2 for Engage Middle Tennessee or serve the ministry that allowed you to connect with them as your LIFE Group's project that day. If your LIFE group decided to adopt a neighborhood in Quarter 1, then do a kids camp or clean up event or invite neighbors to serve along with you for Engage Middle Tennessee in Quarter 2.

Continue to serve together throughout the following quarters through different challenges and allow those relationships to continue to grow. You will have opportunities to share God's love with the people you've served and built relationships with throughout the year.



**LOCAL  
INFORMATION:**

- It costs \$1,250 to rent the average one-bedroom home. (That's 3.5 part-time jobs.)
- 19% of Nashvillians live in poverty (which is worse than the national average).
- There are 31,951 unemployed people (lacking basic job skills).
- 1 in 3 children live in poverty (and that number is growing).

To Middle Tennessee, From Middle Tennessee

Visit [BrentwoodBaptist.com/localmissions](http://BrentwoodBaptist.com/localmissions)  
to get started today!

# STATISTICS



**NATIONAL  
INFORMATION:**

- Every year, 26,000 children in foster care age out of the system at 18 (or 21 in some states) with little or no support.
- Less than half will graduate high school
- 1 in 4 will be in trouble with the law within just 2 years of aging out
- Nearly 2/3 of the girls will be pregnant by age 21
- 1 in 4 will experience PTSD in their lifetime
- 1 in 5 will become homeless
- All have an exponentially higher risk of becoming a victim of human trafficking



Brentwood Baptist