

A Brother & A Sister

The stack of letters from children in Vacation Bible School is like tonic for the soul. Some expressed insightful questions; some revealed personal tragedy or pain. Some brought smiles to our lips. One letter asked simply, "Do you have any room at your children's home?" And quickly followed with the statement which revealed their intent, "I have a brother and a sister."

Aside from the humor, it was just one more way of asking, "What kind of young person comes to live at the Woodburn Christian Children's Home and how are they placed there?"

Children who come to live at the Woodburn Christian Children's Home must be willing participants in the program.

Short-Term Placement (One Year Minimum) are usually having some level of trouble with their parents or siblings at home but would fall into a Pre-Delinquent Category. They are placed with the anticipation of restoration to their natural family. The key to the suitability of a child to short-term placement is his ability to function in the kind of open family environment necessary to the successful treatment of our long-term placements.

Many of our children are Long-Term Placements. Their need simply put, is for a stable Christian family environment. Though they are usually not candidates for adoption, their parents are unable to provide a home for them for one reason or another. They may live at WCCH until their graduation.

All WCCH placements are private placements. Though children may, in some cases, be involved in welfare or court action, they process of placement is usually referred through one of our supporting churches and always accomplished through their parent or guardian. Your Role in this process cannot be overemphasized. You are our eyes and ears. Candidates for placement are discovered through your sensitive discernment, not through the courts of DPW.

Now, let me answer one final question asked in the VBS correspondence. "Since you are called the WOODBURN CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME, does that mean that you only take Christian Children?" My answer to that is that our name is more a prophecy than a condition of acceptance. In addition to the provision of a secure environment and the necessities of life, our goal is to raise young people who will grow strong and good and honor God with their lives. We believe the goal is worthy of our effort. We need your help along the way.

God Bless,

Lee Bracey
Administrator