

ACCA ACHIEVER



accakids.org

news@accakids.org

Five Thing to Know About...

ACCA President, Kurt Hetherington:

1. I have been married to the lovely and gracious Esther Hetherington for 35 years.
2. I am the proud father of 3 grown children and 5 awesome grandkids
3. I was saved at a basketball camp in Clarks Summit, PA when I was 16 years old.
4. I was born and raised in beautiful Gladwin, MI.
5. I love being outdoors and enjoy working on our property.



Welcome



KATE EACRET New ACCA Executive Director

I am so excited and honored to introduce myself to you as the new Executive Director of this wonderful organization!

I have spent my career working in the nonprofit social service field, mostly in Children's Home work. I received an undergraduate degree in Sociology and a graduate degree in Family and Children Services,

both from the University of Central Oklahoma.

After 14½ years with Oklahoma Baptist Homes for Children, I transitioned to working with adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities at A New Leaf before starting my own consulting business.

I was born, raised, and still live in Oklahoma, so I have a little bit of country built into me. I am very close to my family and friends and enjoy spending as much time as I can with them. I love to travel and have a goal of visiting every National Park—so I have quite a few adventures still ahead of me! I also enjoy fishing, camping, and spending time outdoors (preferably when it's not 100 degrees!). And I love to bake homemade goodies and am always happy to share them.

Joining ACCA truly feels like coming home. I am excited to be part of an organization that is dedicated to honoring God by supporting those who serve children and families.

One of my greatest desires is to help strengthen and grow ACCA while building on the wonderful foundation that has already been established. I'm excited about what the future holds and the opportunity to see where God leads us together.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- * **ACCA Board Retreat**
September 9th–10th
Hosted by the Texas Pythian Home
Weatherford, Texas
- * **ACCA Membership Meeting**
October 22nd
Virtual Meeting
- * **ACCA Leadership Retreat**
March 15th–18th, 2027
Winthrop Rockefeller Institute
on Petit Jean Mountain in Arkansas

STONEY BLEVINS

First ACCA Executive Director

ACCA members appreciate the service of Stoney as he unified our efforts, expanded membership, and solidified our objectives.

Thank You

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers:

Kurt Hetherington – President
James Greene & Associates

Debbie Rippstein-Bond – Vice President
Texas Baptist Children's Home

Richard Cuddington – Treasurer
Free Will Baptist Children's Home

Board Members:

Mashelle Ancell
Ben Richey Boys Ranch & Family Programs

Jason Charles
Sand Springs Home

Jimmy Harman
Black Mountain Home

Kevin Hewitt
Christian Children's Home of Ohio

Chad Puckett
Show-Me Christian Youth Home

Erin Seabourne
Hendrick Home for Children

Kristin Stansell
Texas Pythian Home

Chad Strike
Second Chance Ranch

COLLABORATIVES

Collaborative efforts within ACCA are intended to promote teamwork, transparency, resource sharing, and coordinated action in carrying out the association's objectives and programs.

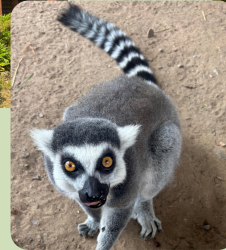
Family Care Ministry

Collaborative

Welcome Amy Maples from Texas Baptist Children's Home as the leader of this new Collaborative under ACCA

More under development
stay tuned for details...

News...



Issue Spotlight

2026 Youth Leadership Conference

It was a fantastic week! Seven Homes were represented with 75 people in attendance. The topic was making disciples and multiplying. Highlights from the week: small group time, worship, full group games, and camp activities such as the lemur experience, cliffhanger, and goat cave hike.



Comments from Campers & Sponsors:

"We enjoyed..."

"...the time for bonding and meeting others in our field of work."

"...getting to connect with all of the different kids and adults from across the country."

"...making new friends and swimming in the creek."

"...the Lemur Experience, Horseback Riding, getting to know new people and eat with them, being in the snack shack!"

"...the time spent with not only our boys but those from other places."

Member Spotlight

The Free Will Baptist Children's Home, Middlesex, NC, dedicated two new duplexes as part of its Thrive Independent Living program in the spring of 2026. These duplexes, along with another that opened last year, will provide a safe, stable home for youth aging out of foster care. The six apartments will enable up to 12 young adults to have a place to call home as they begin their journey into independent adulthood. Thrive Independent Living offers mentorship, career and college opportunities, and workshops for youth who may otherwise have limited support.



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