



# Annual Meeting

March 19-21, 2019  
Asheville, NC

Please join us in the mountains of Western North Carolina for:

- Updates on current childcare issues and trends
- Training that covers relevant topics and provides practical tips
- Networking and fellowship
- Renewal and refreshment



DoubleTree by Hilton Asheville-Biltmore

## Encouraging the Encourager



Today's childcare landscape is daunting. Every day is a battle as we strive to do what's best for our children. For our 2019 annual meeting, we'll be reminded that our children are worth fighting for and that we're not fighting alone. In addition to practical, nuts and bolts topics, speakers will focus on ways we can come together to encourage one another, delving into God's word to inspire us in the midst of challenges. You'll be motivated, supported, and refreshed by your peers and by being reminded that, ultimately, God is in control.

*"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." (2 Timothy 4:7)*

## Black Mountain Home for Children, Youth & Families

Black Mountain Home for Children, Youth & Families (BMH) is the host ministry for the 2019 annual meeting. Started by Presbyterian minister Robert Perry Smith in 1904 as Mountain Orphanage, the Home took in Appalachian children whose parents had died or disappeared. Today, the Home provides care for children from birth through college graduation through family foster care, family-style residential care, transitional living, and independent living.



### For more information, please contact:

Heather Charles, ACCA Coordinator  
Tom Campbell, BMH President

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[www.accakids.org](http://www.accakids.org)  
[www.blackmountainhome.org](http://www.blackmountainhome.org)



### Mr. Jeff Becraft

Jeff Becraft is the Executive Director for Youth Corps, a dynamic leadership development experience for high school students in South Carolina. Previously, Jeff was the Executive Director of Fairway Outreach for 10 years, a mentoring program geared toward inner-city youth and children living in group homes. He also served as part-time chaplain at Carolina Children's Home for 14 years and continues to be involved with children's homes around the country. Jeff loves seeing young people (from all walks of life) live out their potential and wants to "ruin them as typical American teenagers and instill in them the vision of what their lives can be." Jeff holds a Master of Divinity degree from Columbia International University. He and his wife, Brenda, have three adult children and two ornery hound dogs.



### Dr. Kathy Cook

A "kiddo" person at heart, Dr. Kathy Cook, has dedicated her 45-year career to transforming children from "at-risk" to "at-promise", as a teacher, principal, founder of "at-promise" schools, and CEO. She holds a MA in Counseling, an Ed.S. in Instructional Leadership, and a Ph.D. in Child and Youth Studies, with expertise in the field of Autism. Having served in a variety of capacities including CEO of Circle of Care in Oklahoma and the Ramey-Estep Homes in Kentucky, Dr. Cook continues to serve children, youth and families as a national/ international Reviewer and Commissioner for the Council on Accreditation, as a speaker, and as an Educational and Leadership Consultant to organizations including Black Mountain Home for Children. She is also a skilled pianist and enjoys mentoring others who share her passion and dedication to "at-promise" children, all of whom have God-given gifts and talents. At home in Greenville, South Carolina, Kathy and her husband Jeff have four adult children and nine of the best

grandchildren in the world.



### Dr. Steve Crawley

Steve Crawley serves as Executive Director of Ministers Resource Services and as Chief Financial Officer for Lifeword Media Ministries and BMA America LLC, all of which are denominational entities of the Baptist Missionary Association of America. Steve entered occupational ministry in 2004 and has leaned on his prior corporate experience extensively, working in both formal and consultant roles to help ministry organizations enhance operational effectiveness, increase financial efficiency, and enable mission accomplishment. Steve has been a regular contributor to *Mission World* magazine and has co-authored one book published in 2012, *DiscipleWay: Following the Model of Christ by Making Disciple Makers*. He is currently co-authoring his second book titled *Bridging the Gap: Transforming the Man I Am to the Man I Want to Be*, which is scheduled to

be published in 2019. Having earned two masters degrees and a PhD, Steve also teaches leadership and administration for BMA Theological Seminary, as well as conducting teaching conferences focused on personal finance and issues facing the family. His most passionate interest includes leading *Men's Discipleship*<sup>5</sup> (MD5), a lay ministry focused on discipling men in living out their faith.



### Dr. Bruce Henderson

A native of Mars (PA), Bruce Henderson was trained as a child psychologist at Bucknell University and the Institute of Child Development at the University of Minnesota. He has spent the past 40 years as a professor of psychology at Western Carolina University. He has published extensively on the development of children's curiosity and memory development. He has consulted with day cares, schools, and colleges and universities on a wide range of child advocacy issues. Bruce has worked with Black Mountain Home since 1989. He and his wife Judy live in Cullowhee and attend the First Presbyterian Church of Sylva, NC, where he has been an elder, a deacon, and a Sunday School teacher.



### Mrs. Sara Jenkins

Sara Jenkins is a former Lady Gamecock and All SEC track athlete for the University of South Carolina. She is the only member of her family to graduate from college, and her testimony reflects the beauty of our Lord and Savior and His great and awesome power to transform hearts and lives. At age nine, what Sara had thought would be a temporary placement at Epworth Children's Home turned into the bleak realization that she would never be returning home. Sara is now on staff as an itinerant evangelist with Forge Ministries based in Denver, CO. She speaks and shares candidly about God's unfathomable grace on her life and refers to being able to see God's grace by looking backwards. The people the Lord placed in her life made all the difference. "They were Jesus with skin on." In addition to speaking, Sara serves on the boards of Black Mountain Home for Children, Youth & Families and Lifeline Children's Services. Sara, her husband Chuck, and their two children live in Charleston, SC.



### Mrs. Karen McLeod

Karen McLeod has served as the President/CEO for Benchmarks since June 2006. In this role, she provides strategic leadership in the representation of approximately 90 private service agencies that provide MH/DD/SA, child welfare and juvenile justice programs to children, adults and families across North Carolina. She engages legislative and state/federal agencies to secure funding and legislation to promote quality care and identifies funding and public policy trends to drive system improvements. Karen leads public relations on legislative and policy issues and executes strategies to promote association positions with key state government decision makers, legislators and community advocacy groups. Mrs. McLeod has led the work of the association to focus on system changes to improve outcomes of care that emphasize researched based intervention models, effective use of data to track outcomes and performance based contracting. Prior to this position, Mrs. McLeod was the Executive Director of the North Carolina Association of County Directors of Social Service, a non-profit association that represents the 100 county DSS agencies. She also served as Director of the Office of Victim Services for the NC Department of Correction. Karen has also worked in the field of mediation, hospice and provided family intervention services for high-risk children. Mrs. McLeod currently serves as the chair of the Legislative Child Fatality Task Force, chair of the NC MCO/Provider Steering Committee, Vice President of the national NOSAC Association and serves on the national CEO Council of the Alliance for Children and Families. Karen has a Masters of Social Work from UNC Chapel-Hill. She is married and is the proud mother of a beautiful daughter named Logan Elizabeth!



### AppalachiaSong

AppalachiaSong is the union of musical minds, from different backgrounds and genres, joined together to proudly present wonderful and engaging performances of acoustic music. From Irving Berlin to the Carter Family, Appalachia Song takes you on a musical journey through generations of great American music in an enjoyable and informative way. Beginning with playing "Little Brown Jug" on the ukulele at age 9, **Kirk Randleman** has played music ever since. He discovered bluegrass music upon returning to Mars Hill College, Mars Hill, N.C. after a stint in the Army. A multi-instrumentalist, Kirk plays the mandolin, autoharp, banjo and guitar, and sings lead and harmony vocals. **Angelina Giampocaro Spencer** is the Chief Program Officer of Crossnore School & Children's Home of NC. This is the third ACCA annual meeting she has attended. When she got chills performing with Appalachia for the first time at a renowned Folk Festival, she realized it didn't matter what type of music as long as she was singing! This is Angelina's opportunity to vocally express her love of many styles of music and her love for the work God grants her every day in the lives of children! **Craig Bannerman** was first bitten by the music bug when he attended 1960's jam sessions of mountain pickers in Asheville NC. AppalachiaSong has allowed Craig to re-unite in a band with Kirk after some 25 years and explore different types and styles of music. Craig plays upright bass and sings in the band.