

Issue 11, January 26, 2017

OUR HOUSE

IN FOCUS



OUR CLUB

Meet the Wallace
Brothers

The Adopt-A-Family
Program

Reading with Pet
Partners



HUMANS OF OUR HOUSE

The Wallace
Brothers

Three years ago, Justin, age 8, Dylan, age 11, and JT, age 14, became residents of Our House and were first introduced to Our Club. According to JT, their family of five moved into the shelter because they *"couldn't find anywhere else to stay."* Justin explains that the boys were not excited about the shelter rules because they *"couldn't watch t.v."* whenever they so desired. Living in the Shelter wasn't easy but it was made easier because they had Our Club, where they were able to build lasting relationships and enjoy time with friends.

OUR TEAM

Adrienne Dawson
Youth Programs Specialist

Team Member Since: 2014

Hometown: North Little Rock, AR



"Working at Our House has reinforced my desire and passion for working with youth. Every day is a new adventure with its own set of challenges and victories. Many of the youth I work with, including JT, Dylan, and Justin, have been participants of Our Club for many years. It is such a joyful and humbling experience to get a chance to do life with them, and watch them grow and mature into wonderful young adults."

After graduating from Hendrix College, Adrienne spent a year as an Americorps Member for a nonprofit in Dallas before returning to Arkansas and serving as a VISTA for Arkansas 4-H. She decided to pursue a career at Our House after being inspired by its youth program and "love for service". Adrienne hopes to encourage the youth she works with to become great leaders and reach their full potential. Outside of Our House, Adrienne sings in a gospel group and enjoys restoring old furniture.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

Adopt-A-Family

The Wallace Family is one of 180 families who were impacted by Adopt-A-Family this year. The Friday before Christmas, Ms. Lakeisha came to pick up gifts for her, her husband, and her boys, JT, Dylan, and Justin. While we were helping her take her presents to her car she excitedly said, "How am I going to hide these presents from my boys!" With the help of our wonderful donors, not only did the boys wake up with lots of gifts on Christmas morning, but they were also able to attend a WWE event – an experience none of them will forget!





HUMANS OF OUR HOUSE

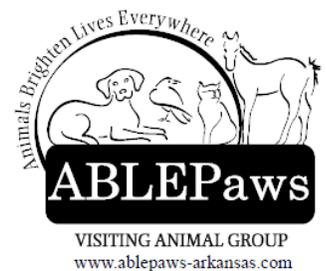
The Wallace
Brothers

JT, Dylan, and Justin were pleasantly surprised with their experience in Our Club. "It was fun. I liked when y'all opened up the new building," says JT. When asked about their favorite aspects of attending Our Club, Justin said, "When we watch movies, go to the computer lab, go outside, and field trips." As the boys reflect on their time in Our Club, Dylan gladly proclaims that his fondest memory is "when we went to Magic Springs." As the boys maneuver through life and have since moved out of the shelter, Our Club has remained a source of stability where the boys are encouraged to learn, play, and create everlasting memories.



PARTNER APPRECIATION

ABLEPaws Pet Partners



[Click here to learn more about
ABLEPaws!](http://www.ablepaws-arkansas.com)

ABLEPaws' Pet Partners program comes to Our Club weekly to allow our youth a chance to decompress, spend time with therapy animals, and practice their reading skills. Pet Partner teams visit hospitals, schools, and other facilities and events in the central Arkansas area, with the mission to bring hope and healing to others through the human-animal bond. Our students look forward to Pet Partners visits; Justin says that reading to the dogs is *"super fun. I got to read a book I read before. I liked it more this time."*