



Hello, my name is Thelma. I was born in 1950 and have lived at the Home since 1990. I have a mental capacity of about 6 months old. One of my favorite things to do is move spoons from hand to hand. I am able to walk around and am still quite flexible – I hear people say often that they wish they could be as pliant as me when they get to be my age! I am so grateful to people like you who support the Galilean Home, they have given me much love and care and a home where I can be happy and healthy. Thank you.

NEEDS LIST

- ✓ Toilet paper
- ✓ Paper Towels
- ✓ Kleenex
- ✓ Bleach
- ✓ Shampoo
- ✓ Laundry soap
- ✓ Large, sturdy safety pins
- ✓ Fabric adhesive tape
- ✓ Powdered formula (any kind)
- ✓ "No sugar added" juice
- ✓ Dryer sheets

GALILEAN CHILDREN'S HOME
PO BOX 880
LIBERTY, KY 42539-0880



Bread of Life Café Hours:
 Monday–Wednesday–7:00am–3:00pm (ET)
 Thursday–7:00am–8:00pm (ET)
 Friday & Saturday–7:00am–9:00pm (ET)
 Closed Sundays



Call for Reservations **606-787-6110**

After two years in production, we now have a 30 minute DVD on the Galilean Home entitled *"The Story"*. It is available on request with any donation.

WE ARE STILL SAVING SOUP UPCs AND BOXTOPS!

Remember to send Campbell's soup UPCs and General Mills Box Tops (not Betty Crocker points), and make sure the Box Tops are not expired. We can earn much needed equipment and cash for our school. Every little bit helps!

Please remember that the two books Sandy wrote are available upon request with any donation.

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GALILEAN HOME SHEPHERD

Galilean Home Ministries, Inc.
 PO Box 880 Liberty, KY 42539
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606-787-5120
 VOLUME 26 ISSUE 3

Shipping Address: Galilean Children's Home
 712 South Fork Church Road
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Children in Need Find a Home in Kentucky

*Reprinted with permission from an article by Chelsea Apple, Opinions Editor
 Featured in the Centre College Newspaper, CENTRO*

Gerald "Jerry" Tucker describes himself as a man who wears many different hats. Officially he is the president and CEO of the Galilean Children's Home, a non-profit organization. In reality, he is financial advisor, publicity representative, and the general maintenance man who keeps things at the Home running smoothly. But his true title, he explains, is embroidered on his shirt, "Dad". He lives up to his name. Jerry currently has 34 children, 32 legally adopted and two biological. As head of the Children's Home, he is "Dad" to hundreds more. "We, felt a leading," he reflects. "We felt God leading us into the ministry that we are doing now."

That ministry includes taking in "kids" of all ages, ethnicities, and physical conditions. It provides them with a bed, food, education, and love – in endless supply. Over 800 children have entered the doors of the Galilean Children's Home since its inception in 1984; some to return to their respective families, and some to become permanent members of the Tucker household.

For seven years following their marriage in 1963, all Jerry and his wife, Sandy, wanted was to start a family. They tried everything, the latest medical innovations, surgical techniques, even prayer – nothing worked. Finally, in 1969 they adopted their first son, Jeremy. By the end of that

year they completed five more adoptions. Two "miracle" babies followed in the wake of their move to a small Kentucky farm. But, the real miracle had already begun, the foundation of the Galilean Children's Home, as the farm – and the Tucker family – continued to expand.

Now the Home and its adjacent buildings spread across twenty-two acres of farmland outside of Liberty, Kentucky, nestled amid hills scattered with Mennonite farms. A staff of 120 employees and volunteers provide around-the-clock care to approximately 50 residents of every age, color, sex, and physical condition. Jerry prides himself on the Home's inclusiveness, with the exception of the physically violent or sexually aggressive, no one who comes through the Home's doors is turned away. "What sets us apart is that we are so diversified. People will



Dad and Mom, 1998

say that they have never seen or heard of a place that takes in as many different "kids" as we do," Jerry explains. "We have normal kids, handicapped kids, red and yellow, black and white, rich and poor."

To see this diverse Home for myself, I arrange to meet Jerry for a Saturday morning tour. We meet first at the Bread of Life Café, the Tuckers' unique restaurant and one of two local businesses whose

income benefits the Home. The Tuckers' second business, The Liberty Trading Post, lies just beyond in Liberty proper, a miniature version of Goodwill, offering the surplus items originally donated to the Home itself, with enough leftovers to fill an entire store.

In fact, practically everything at the Galilean Children's Home – from the enormous K-12 school building to the pre-school to the handicapped facility – has either been donated or built by hand. It is not so much a single facility as it is a complex of approximately 20 buildings – simple, well maintained, and self-sustaining. A veteran of the construction industry and a former Mennonite, Jerry and his team built the structures themselves, with additional help from the surrounding Mennonite community and church volunteer groups from all over the United States and Canada.

One of the first stops on our tour is the Blessing House, a haven for residents with severe mental and physical handicaps. Rosie, the house greeter, leaps up and hugs me as I enter, giving the back of my hand a loud kiss. In the outer room I meet Thelma, a tiny wizened woman in her sixties who makes one of her journeys out of her chair to meet me, curling her cool, knobby hand in mine. The walls are lined

with beds, residents nestled under sheets. Jerry beams at everyone, greeting each person by name.

In the main complex of the Home (Jerry's original log cabin expanded by haphazard buildings) we pass down halls of bedroom doors, through a massive cafeteria, a recreation room filled with games, and the chapel.

License plates line the walls, bearing Jerry's nickname, "Papa Oso" – Daddy Bear. Bearded and broad-shouldered, with barely a wrinkle betraying his 70 years, it is an apt description. The name is a souvenir of one of his many trips abroad as part of the Galilean Homes' Foreign Ministry. The Tuckers have traveled to 17 different countries, flying children with severe medical needs back to the United States for treatment before returning them to their families.

Jerry also shows me his apartment in the Home, a cozy room dominated by family photos. Since his wife, Sandy, lost her battle to cancer in 2007, he has not owned a bed. "For the past three and a half years, I've slept right here," he says,

patting his armchair. During our tour he mentions her almost continuously, indicating ministries she began and buildings she named. "She had such a hand in everything. There was no question who was the boss in this operation," he reflects mistily. "I mourn for her everyday." An empty log cabin, the



John, Bradley, Spencer, and Bear



Angie and "gang" roasting marshmallows

Tuckers' getaway, stands on the property; a testament to the couple's enduring love.

Another testament to the Tuckers' love is the Galilean Christian Academy, the property's own school facility for grades K through 12. Hosting more than 70 children, both from the Home and around the region, the school is staffed by its own principal, school secretary, and 14 teachers. Classrooms are separated by grade, and the building boasts its own science, language, and computer labs. There is a cafeteria and even a fully equipped gymnasium to host the School's KCSAA sports teams. The Academy uses an Alpha-Omega curriculum with multiple graduates going on to college.

The last stop on our tour is the Angel House or the nursery, a manifestation of the Tuckers' "Born Free Ministry". The Angel House accepts and cares for the infants of incarcerated, pregnant mothers, facilitating weekly visits and raising them until their mothers' release. We pass room after room of sleeping infants in mismatched cribs, rooms filled with plastic playground equipment and toys. "The miniature Walmart," Jerry jokes, opening a door to reveal whole racks of baby clothes and baskets overflowing with tiny shoes.

The complex is enormous and I haven't even mentioned the Preschool, Carpenter's Shop, the Quilt Shop, or the Fudge Factory. But, what is even more enormous is the love and care the Tuckers

have invested in everything, particularly their kids. Jerry and Sandy have started a family that spans the globe, providing a home for those in need.

Dad's Two Cents

It is a beautiful, spring-like day here in Kentucky. Spring was always Mom's favorite season. She really enjoyed planting flowers and doing all of those extra chores that we all save up for spring. Even when she was sick, she kept busy at little odds and ends.

We really appreciate all those who have stuck with us through the thick and thin of today's troubling times. "Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." I Thessalonians 5:16. As long as the Lord keeps blessing me with good health and a clear mind, I plan to continue running the "good race". Daily I pray for the patience of Job, the wisdom of Solomon, the strength of Samson, and the perseverance of Paul.

Stop in sometime and see us. We enjoy visitors and you will leave more blessed than when you came. If you get hungry, stop by the Bread of Life Café. We guarantee you will leave with a satisfied appetite.

Looking forward to the "Blessed Hope", we remain,

Jerry —Jerry & Children

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Weldon