



OAKWOOD
CHURCH

Annual Report

25-

26

Table of Contents

01-02

Lead Pastor

07

Global Partners

12

Student Ministry

03

Elders

08

Worship + Creative Arts

13

Kids Ministry

04

Operations

09

Groups

14

Communications

05

Guest Care

10

Mens Ministry

15

Building + Grounds

06

Community Partners

11

Womens Ministry

16-20

Stories

Oakwood,

Earlier this year our elder team was reviewing testimonies of some new members and we saw a common theme: Oakwood has welcoming people and a spirit of hospitality that causes people to stick around. One person noted that he had grown up going to church, but he quickly left the church and considered himself agnostic because of the hypocrisy he had seen. After attending Oakwood, he saw a different kind of church - one with people who are loving, kind, and serve one another. Another new member noted that she didn't initially think she would stay at Oakwood, but she would stick around long enough to support family and friends. However, Oakwood's attitude of not wanting something **from** her but something **for** her made a positive impression.

These are great examples of our church's gift of hospitality in action. When the gift is well applied, it not only blesses those who are already established in the church, but those who are just starting to come. My conviction is that as we learn to use this gift outside of our walls and make it a gift to the community, God will do amazing things with it! That is how we will reach people who are isolated and disconnected and those who are complacent about their God-given purpose. Let's keep building on what God is already doing in Oakwood and through Oakwood! We are called to this specific place for this specific time. What a blessing it is to serve together as a community that loves Jesus and lives to make His love known!



428 average
attendance each
Sunday (+3.6% from
last year)

I also want to take a moment to celebrate a few things from this past year. Join me in sharing your thanks for the great work done by three of our elders that are stepping down this year - Scott Walker, David Smith, and Steve Bentzler. Each of these men have made incredible contributions to the board and to our church as a whole. The next time you see them be sure to tell them thank you for all they have done!



16 Baptisms
(up from 9 in the previous year)

We also had three staff members become credentialed by the Evangelical Free Church of America! Being credentialed takes a lot of work and is an incredible achievement. Be sure to tell Sarah Hayden, Tom Hooper, and Caleb Garnett congratulations when you see them.

We had three all-church outreach events, which were the annual Summer Picnic, Crescendo Christmas Market and GraceNotes Concert, and our Good Friday Soup + Bread Dinner and Service. Each of these are easy invites for our people, appeal to the community, and bring fresh faces to Oakwood. You can read more information about those in the pages ahead, as well as other celebrations from each Oakwood ministry. After the ministry updates, you will find stories and testimonies from the people of Oakwood. Take some time to read the full report and I'm sure you will be as encouraged as I am.

Keep the Faith,

Financial Update

[Aug. 2025 - June 2026]

Budget	Giving	Expenses
\$1,182,100	\$1,190,950	\$1,113,968

Matthew Haslar
Lead Pastor



2

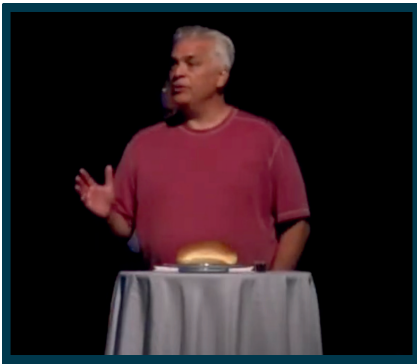
Elder cohort training sessions helped Oakwood men learn about eldership. Thanks to Mike Gapinski, Wayne Steffen, and Chris Blake for leading these!

160+

People participated in our all-church survey, which confirmed the health of our church

21

Members are interested in using their gifts to shepherd others in our congregation as Member Care Shepherds

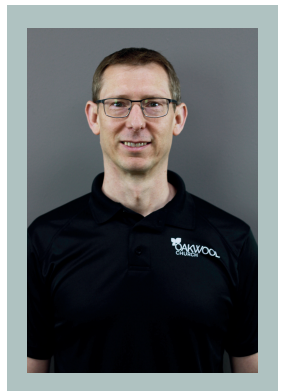


Looking Back

- Began each elder board meeting with extended prayer over our church. We consider it a great privilege and are honored to lift up before the Lord the people of Oakwood.
- Continued to practice our church value of unity with diversity as each person on the board brings an important and unique perspective. Through prayer and discussion, we've seen God lead us to unity and clear direction.
- Adopted a new shepherding model that can scale as our church grows, which enables us to provide greater care coverage to both members and regular attenders who belong to Life Groups.

Looking Ahead

- Engaging the new Member Care Shepherds with members who do not currently belong to a Life Group. We will continue to expand this shepherding strategy by recruiting and training additional Member Care Shepherds until we have comprehensive coverage of all our membership.
- Developing additional policies and procedures to help us better care for the congregation at Oakwood.



Scott Walker
Elder Chairman

50

Events hosted by Oakwood ministries, positively impacting guests with our gift of hospitality

71

Non-Oakwood programming events occurred in the facility, including concerts, parties, and celebrations of life



3+

Nights per week Mission Field is used for softball and baseball league games, making great use of our grounds



Looking Back

- Staffed the reception desk with three committed volunteers who serve more than 18 hours each week answering calls, opening doors, and completing office tasks. Thank you Dana Murdock, Ann Gapinski, and Amy Colonna Remillard.
- Improved the Sunday morning prayer experience by placing a large banner at the front of the Worship Center to better communicate where attenders can receive prayer, and welcomed three new members to the Prayer Team.
- Organized and ran The Café during the first-ever Crescendo Christmas Market on Nov. 29. Shoppers enjoyed pizza or grilled cheese with the proceeds benefiting Oakwood Missions.

Looking Ahead

- Improving a number of our administrative processes at the recommendation of the Visionary Finance Team to make us even stronger stewards of Oakwood's financial gifts.
- Researching and creating an outreach opportunity on the Oakwood grounds to help us reach our goal of more attenders at Oakwood.
- Planning and hosting the 2nd annual Crescendo Christmas Market and Gracenotes Orchestra Concert on Nov. 30.

Becki Behrens
Director of Operations



110

Interactions with guests who've connected with Oakwood for the first time

40

Guests hosted at 10 Newcomers' Receptions



41

New members joined Oakwood this year



Looking Back

- Updated the main lobby with a new Welcome Center and coffee station.
- Increased training and connection points for Safety Team and Medical Team.
- Collaborated with all the Guest Care Teams (Safety, Medical, Welcoming) for second service guest experience improvement.
- Created videos showcasing Oakwood's emergency plans and emailed them to the congregation.

Looking Ahead

- Improving the interior directional signs and room signs at Oakwood.
- Developing the Leadership Pipeline for Guest Care teams to foster volunteer retention.

Sarah Hayden
Adult Discipleship Director



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

06

4

Bins filled for the
Waukesha Food Pantry

163

Operation Christmas Child
boxes donated

14

Trained volunteers for our
newest partner, Family
Connect of
Wisconsin/Care Portal



14

Local families received
care from the Family
Promise Christmas event
held at Oakwood



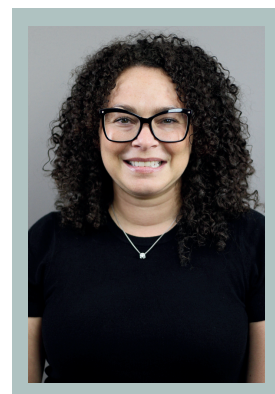
Looking Back

- Hosted the Family Promise Christmas Party, which showcased our gift of hospitality and allowed us to serve the isolated/disconnected families in our local community.
- Gained a new Community Partner, Family Connect of Wisconsin/Care Portal. This partnership gives us the opportunity to meet real-time needs while establishing meaningful connections with families in our community.
- Cleaned up the grounds at Family Promise with 13 volunteers from Oakwood. The team even had time to help a neighbor with his landscaping, showing him the love of Jesus.

Looking Ahead

- Increasing our involvement with Family Connect of Wisconsin/Care Portal.
- Exploring new and ongoing opportunities to serve our Community Partners at their locations.

Gerrylynn Ferguson
Community Partnership Coordinator



14

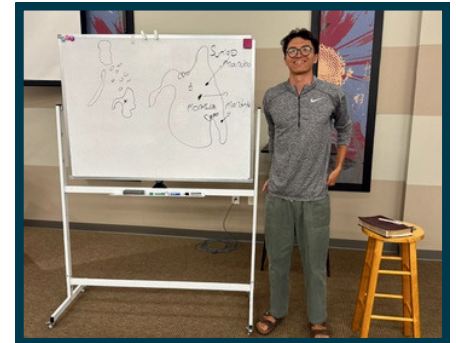
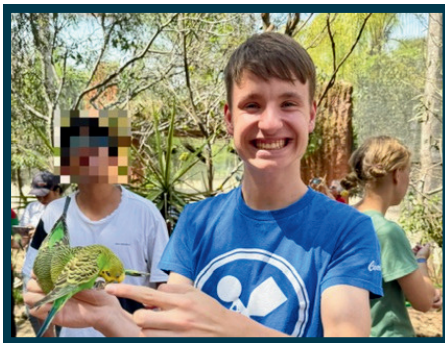
People shared Jesus in Puebla, Mexico during Oakwood's 5th trip to Esperanza Viva

262

New Bible translations have been launched through our partner, Serve the Global Church, since January

12

Students from Cru at Marquette were baptized this year



Looking Back

- Hosted several Global Partners throughout the year as they shared live updates either from the stage or in smaller settings. This allowed Oakwood attendees to learn more about and get involved in their ministries.
- Helped with "The Great Commission Course" on Wednesday nights, which several Oakwood attendees participated in and learned about the need for Jesus around the world.
- Glorified God by giving financial assistance to ReachGlobal in Congo so they could purchase healthcare devices for kids in the Promise Home.
- Blessed some of our partners by helping with grocery costs, furniture purchases, a new water pump, and travel expenses.

Looking Ahead

- Enjoying visits from two of our Global Partner families who are stateside for the summer.
- Sharing the love of Jesus at Royal Family Kids Camp in August.
- Hosting Perspectives in January 2027.
- Sharing our partners with the congregation during our third annual Global Partner Day in March.
- Returning to Esperanza Viva in 2027.

Sonja Anderson
Missions Coordinator



WORSHIP + CREATIVE ARTS

08

100+

People participated in a worship night focused on exploring each person's God-given purpose

17,138

Chairs were set up throughout the year to welcome attendees on Sunday mornings

6,160

Cups of juice filled and more than 40 loaves of bread baked for Communion Sundays

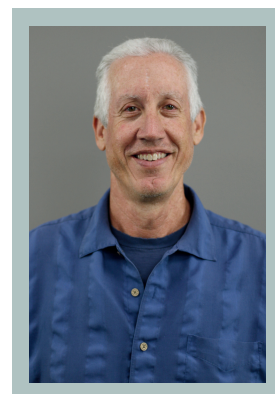


Looking Back

- Collaborated with Gracenotes Orchestra on two concerts - one was hosted in the spring but the Christmas-season concert was cancelled due to weather. These concerts draw isolated and disconnected people to Oakwood, several of whom attend after the concerts.
- Expanded the Worship Team with six new volunteers stepping in to use their gifts.
- Created and shared numerous testimony videos throughout the year to provide another way for people to see and feel the love of Jesus.

Looking Ahead

- Continuing to grow the volunteer leaders we have on the Worship Team.
- Improving the livestream experience with increased training and better cameras.
- Collaborating with Gracenotes Orchestra and the Gracenotes Jazz Ensemble to build relationships and draw in the isolated and disconnected.



Tom Hooper
Worship + Creative Arts Director

10

Faithful leaders for Wednesday Night Community adult groups, which often include new Oakwood attendees

2/5

Of the discipleship pathway classes based on Oakwood values have been written and implemented



4

New Life Groups formed



Looking Back

- Defined Connect Groups and Life Groups as part of Oakwood's vision for true community.
- Re-launched the young adults group with new leaders. This group now meets weekly in a home.
- Implemented the Life Group shepherding model for Life Group leaders to collaborate with elders in caring for Oakwood members.
- Developed and presented the Connect with God class during Wednesday Night Community, which focused on prayer and worship.

Looking Ahead

- Adding a class about the Holy Spirit as part of the healthy discipleship pathway.
- Developing more support for new Life Group leaders.

Sarah Hayden
Adult Discipleship Director



20+

Books of the Bible studied chapter-by-chapter during Mighty Men of God

50

Men from Oakwood attended the No Regrets conference and more than 20 guys stayed for the pizza debrief after



Bridgebuilders constructed a ramp for a family in need and continued to support the widows of Oakwood



Looking Back

- Moved the location of the monthly Men's Breakfast from Marty's Pizza in Delafield to Oakwood, allowing for future growth.
- Continued to provide daily opportunity in prayer and the Word through Mighty Men of God. Men continue to come to this group, all at various places in their faith journey.
- Brought together new and familiar faces to study God's Word during a men's group at Wednesday Night Community.

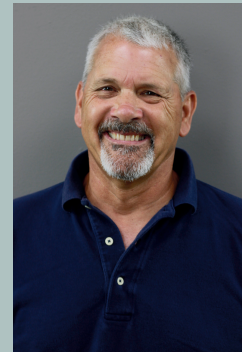
Looking Ahead

- Working on our Men's Ministry calendar for the next year, brainstorming how to leverage all that we do.
- Finding new on-ramps for younger men to plug into the Men's Ministry at Oakwood.
- Continuing successful ministries like Mighty Men of God, the Men's Breakfast, and more.

Matthew Haslar
Lead Pastor



Don Douglas
Facilities Manager



16%

Of Women's Christmas Event attendees self-reported they don't regularly attend church

100

Meals provided in the last 12 months through the Care Connection meal ministry

40+

Women used their gifts of teaching, worship, hospitality, administration, etc., at the Women's Conference in April



Looking Back

- Continued to provide opportunities for outreach and connection through events and groups to women who aren't yet connected to a church.
- Helped women develop leadership gifts in several areas, including Just Among Moms, through mentoring opportunities.
- Built community among women of different generations through Gather events.
- Funded two Tabitha Centers at the Women's Christmas Event with generous donations from attendees.

Looking Ahead

- Evaluating ministry effectiveness for both married and unmarried women.
- Continuing to draw in young women and teens to Womens Ministry.

Sarah Hayden
Adult Discipleship Director



36

Gospel conversations held between Oakwood students and their friends, family, or peers since May

28

High school students attended the Districts Youth Conference in January, up from 16 in 2025



46

Followers have joined the new Instagram account @thriveatoakwood



Looking Back

- Completed the THRIVE Room renovation and rebranding effort.
- Attended Districts Youth Conference with high school students and fall retreat at Lake Geneva Youth Camp with middle school students.
- Introduced gospel-advancing values into student ministry, including a time of gospel review and focused prayer for the lost.

Looking Ahead

- Encouraging students to have 300 gospel conversations during the 2026-2027 school year.
- Aiming to see a 10% increase in conversions from students sharing Jesus with their peers.
- Introducing a new summer conference option for high school students to attend in 2027.

Caleb Garnett
Youth Pastor



6

Kids were baptized

101

Kids attended the 2025 Kids Summer Day Camp, and 3 of them prayed to accept Jesus



\$914.52

In offering collected during the school year for three different projects: Operation Christmas Child, Miss Shirley's mission trip, and the Mexico Mission Trip



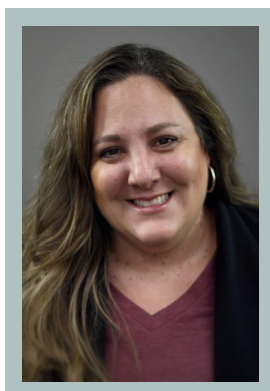
Looking Back

- Launched Kids2.0 with 11 new volunteers!
- Welcomed Sarah Burbey to the staff team. She oversees Wednesday Night Community.
- Updated classrooms with paint, smart TVs, seating, and sensory-friendly elements.

Looking Ahead

- Hosting the 5th annual Kids Summer Day Camp at Oakwood! Kids from Oakwood, Grace Church, and their friends will enjoy exploring the nature of God at Rainforest Falls!
- Updating child protection policies.
- Revamping the Kids2.0 programming.
- Creating welcoming spaces and equipping volunteers so children of all abilities, including those with special needs and sensory differences, can belong and thrive.

Sarah Burbey
Kids Ministry Coordinator



Ashley Schmidt
Kids Ministry Director



197

People began following us for the first time on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube

41

Guests completed connect cards during community events for which we purchased ads (Summer Picnic, Christmas, Good Friday/ Easter)

100+

Estimated guests at the Crescendo Christmas Market (despite the snow storm!)



Looking Back

- Created more video content for social media, which increases our viewership and engagement on those platforms.
- Planned and held the first ever Crescendo Christmas Market at Oakwood, including finding and managing vendors, leading the volunteer teams, promoting the event, managing vendor donations to community organizations and missionaries, and more.
- Trained one new adult and three new student volunteers for The Café, which continues to provide financial aid for student trips and Missions.

Looking Ahead

- Hosting the second Crescendo Christmas Market to introduce the isolated and disconnected people in our community to the love of Jesus through Oakwood.
- Continuing to reach new people in our local community, inviting them to Oakwood services and events.

Sarah Duwe
Communications Director

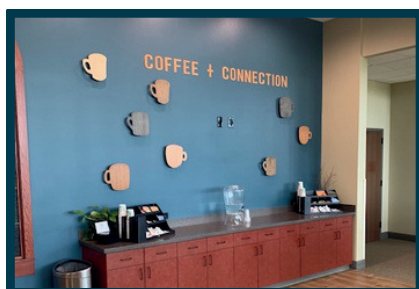


BUILDING + GROUNDS

15

92

Pieces of wooden decor hung in the upper lobby to make it more welcoming and modern



2

Outdoor work days with volunteers and staff to weed, trim, mulch, and update the grounds



Looking Back

- Completed a full remodel of the THRIVE student room and a partial remodel of the upper lobby, including removing the welcome desk and laying tile, plus updating the wall decor.
- Added Larry Schmidt to the Building and Grounds Team, taking on the role of chairman.

Looking Ahead

- Updating the Gathering Place (lower level) with fresh paint, new chairs, a new video system, and decor.
- Repairing some of the exterior siding.
- Continuing to add to the gardens at Oakwood.
- Adding two new cameras to the parking lots.

Don Douglas
Facilities Manager



“While waiting for the kids to go on stage recently, I looked around at the older kids and volunteers standing and (quietly) goofing around in the hallway. It struck me how amazing all of the people in Kids Ministry are and how much I love them all. God has really blessed us with the right people.”

Julie Bjerregaard
Kids Ministry Volunteer

“The Mexico Missions Trip was a very eye-opening experience. Living in America, especially in the Lake Country area, many people are affluent. While there are people experiencing homelessness in America, they tend to reside in bigger cities. Going to Mexico, I saw that not everyone is as fortunate as most people in the U.S. It struck me in a powerful way that the children at the orphanage, Esperanza Viva, chose to be full of joy in less-than-ideal circumstances. They had every reason not to be happy, but they were so sweet and welcoming to the Oakwood team. It was fulfilling to spend time playing with the kids and to learn more about the Living Hope ministry.

Being able to explore Mexico was another favorite part of the trip. In the village of San Martin, children came running from their homes in the hills. They know to expect someone from Living Hope every Saturday. We hosted a VBS, including performing a puppet show, singing songs in Spanish, making a craft and playing games. We also fed them lunch. This village has no running water and there is no sustainable housing. The families live in shacks and sheds. They have no water to bathe or wash their clothes. Children as young as 6 are responsible to carry and care for their younger siblings.

As I watched how these children lived, God gave me a new perspective regarding joy. Even though it broke my heart to see and experience their circumstances, their joy was contagious. This trip impacted me in an amazing way and I encourage others to participate in the future.”

Emily Adams
Student Mission Trip Volunteer

“I am so happy to share my experience with the women’s group on Wednesday evenings. It not only gave me a safe space to discuss the hard questions and to feel included in finding the answers, but connection is what really stood out to me. Connecting with women, fellow faithful woman, no judgement, no shame, just love and support. And for that experience I am grateful for my community of women.”

Alana Sanfilippo
Women’s Ministry Participant

“ This past year, I had the opportunity and honor to participate in both the Women’s Christmas Event and the spring Women’s Conference by being part of a skit and leading worship. I hadn’t stretched my drama wings since high school, and it was really edifying to meditate on the passage and write my monologue. I received the opportunity to work with women I had never met before and now consider friends, despite the stressful twists and turns that come with navigating an event like that together. Preparing the music for the spring event was definitely a growth opportunity for me and, while it wasn’t easy, it was a welcome challenge. I feel like I grew as a person and as a musician as a result. There is no way the music could have come together without God pulling it together. I learned and grew so much through participating in both events, and God’s presence was very apparent in the preparation and execution of both as well.”

Tamara Vetter
Womens Ministry and Worship Team



“ At a Men’s Breakfast, we prayed over an individual’s marriage that was in a temporary separation. During May’s gathering, he joyfully reported that their marriage was back on track. He specifically thanked the men for their prayers, but also mentioned how a specific teaching at the breakfast (way to go Thomas Freeman!) helped him take some important steps towards healing. Stories like these are what makes Men’s Ministry great. It is an example of guys gathering together for encouragement, support, and prayer. When we consistently take things to the Lord together, we see Him do great things!”

Matthew Haslar
On Behalf of Mens Ministry

“ I have to say my time at Oakwood over the past couple months has just been a great blessing. I have felt so warm and welcomed. [My son] had a FANTASTIC time at his youth group last week - he hasn’t stopped talking about it and is very excited to be there again next week! And the same for me - JAM was a very supportive group that I felt very comfortable in. I feel really strongly towards Oakwood and it’s been a while since I’ve felt this at home. It’s been a great journey so far and I can’t wait to grow in faith.”

Ashley Serrano
Oakwood Attender

“As we prayed and prepared for a worship night, it was clear that the direction should be focused on each individual's God-given purpose. As the Lord often does, He made it so clear that His hand was in it, showing His purpose for the many people who led the event. Those who attended spent time with the Lord seeking their God-given purpose.”

Tom Hooper
Worship and Creative Arts

“As newcomers to the church, it's amazing how attending 9 months of Wednesday nights have forever impacted our lives and our faith journey. The different perspectives, from the individual classes we attended to the collaboration and conversation, opened our eyes to see the Bible more holistically. It is amazing how attending Wednesday classes introduced us to so many more people from the church and allowed us to build everlasting relationships with some. We love that every meeting opened and closed with a prayer personalized to the group and their needs that week. And then, glory be to God, miracles seemed to follow. The group leaders are phenomenal. They know the material well and present it in a manner that involves everyone, without pressure or judgement. We are anxiously awaiting the start of the Wednesday night classes in the fall.”

Sandy and Matt Klein
New Oakwood Attenders

“As elders, we felt the need to develop a ministry that could offer special care to those who were either grieving or navigating a crisis. Incredibly, at that same time, God had called Steve and Mira Hook to bring their past experience and leadership with Stephen Ministry to Oakwood, which perfectly matched that need. Stephen Ministry offers an effective way to organize, equip, and supervise a team of congregation members (called Stephen Ministers) to provide one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people experiencing challenges in life. With Steve and Mira's help, we now have trained Stephen Ministers at Oakwood and people are already using this ministry. Praise God for making this a reality!”

Scott Walker
Elder Chairman

“ Earlier this year, one of the trailers used for moving our skid loaders was stolen from our property. Because of our upgraded security cameras, we were able to provide clear footage to local law enforcement, helping them quickly identify the individual responsible and recover the trailer.

But the real highlight wasn't just the successful recovery—it was the response of the trailer's owner, one of our members. Instead of pressing charges, they chose to extend grace. In a moment when justice could have been demanded, forgiveness was offered.

This incident reminded us that strong security protects our resources, but a Christ-shaped community reveals our heart. We are grateful for both.”

Don Douglas
Building + Grounds

“ I attended the Connect with God class this spring and found it to be incredibly thorough, practical, and Biblically sound. In six weeks, we covered all of the major forms of prayer, including many ideas for how to implement them into our daily rhythms. I also loved the interactive nature of the class. We were given the opportunity at each session to practice what we were learning, both individually and in a small group. I walked away with a deeper understanding of prayer as well as resources and tips for growing my relationship with God through His Word and prayer.”

Jen Wollner
Group Participant



“ A parent of two newer students in our ministry recently expressed how much the students loved being a part of THRIVE Student Ministry and how much it has meant to them. This was especially exciting since these new students were invited by a friend to come and be a part of our Student Ministry.”

Caleb Garnett
THRIVE Student Ministry

“It was such an encouragement and inspiration to see who and what the Lord brought together at the Family Promise Christmas Party, where I volunteered to wrap gifts with a team of others. Parents had given a list of two gifts each child wanted. The Family Promise staff found churches and others to donate those gifts. They organized it in a way that each of the 28 families had a black plastic bag to conceal the surprise gifts. The staff also chose a gift for each parent and placed it in the same bag. The volunteers wrapped gifts with the parents while their children played games and completed activities in other rooms. Volunteers and staff shared words of love and encouragement. Breakfast, snacks, and lunch were served buffet style in our large room, where there was space for children to play and families to feel community while Christmas songs filled the air. It was a beautiful display of Jesus' love being shown through the Body of Christ to struggling families.”

Anonymous
Family Promise Event Volunteer



“Thank you for letting us use your church for our graduation this year. I am hearing wonderful things about the event and am truly grateful to everything Oakwood did for us. We hope we can continue to host our graduation with you for many years to come.”

Kindra
Lake Country Classical Academy