

# Murrow Indian Children's Home

## Mission Statement

**The mission of Murrow Indian Children's Home is to provide a safe nurturing environment, spiritual foundation, and cultural experiences to Native American Children in crisis.**

## History

Murrow Indian Children's Home had its beginning in the mind of Rev. J.S. Murrow in the early 1880's. He had moved to Oklahoma as a missionary in 1857. He and his wife started a school in 1867 in Indian Territory. It is at this school that their hearts went out to several orphaned Indian Children. Rev. Murrow saw a great need among the tribes to have a place for orphaned and neglected Indian Children so he began contacting the Tribes and Association in the area about building just such a place. After much rejection, Sister Flack offered to donate a large building site and Sister Robb offered to donate \$500.00 if Rev. Murrow could obtain other pledge. Money was obtained and the property was ready for use in September 1887

On June 30, 1888 ownership of the property was transferred to the American Baptist Home Mission Society with the everyday operations remaining with a local board of trustees. It was not until 1910 that the American Baptist Mission Society took over all operations and moved the home to the campus of Bacone College. In 1920 an 80 acre parcel of land adjoining Bacone was purchased and Murrow Indian Children's Home was moved to the site that it now occupies. The funds to do this were donated by individual within the Creek Tribe who had prospered due to oil development. The original dormitories were used until 1956 when the cottages that are in use today were erected. There are now five brick buildings. One is the Administration Building where all of the day to day work is done and all of the records and supplies are stored. Three of the buildings are used as homes for the Children and the last is used for volunteer work groups.

*The three buildings that are used as homes for the Children enable Murrow to further the original traditions and purposes as they were established by Rev. Murrow. One of his dreams was that each home could provide much more than just a bed and a meal. By living with the Children closely in a family setting, the House Parents are able to develop close, effective relationships with the Children. Children are encouraged to get involved in school and community activities. The Children are also encouraged to learn about their Native American background and to attend cultural activities. In today's complex society, the family unit is critical in providing a Child with necessary learning experiences upon which the rest of his life depends. The family unit provides Children from broken homes and dysfunctional families a chance to experience a new way of living with others. The Children attend public school, church, have chores, play time, and study time.*