

# How Did MCC Come to Have Chickens?

*Middle school student Mary Jane Bauer*



I'm sure you've seen the chickens over by the garden, and you maybe even went inside to pay the hens a visit. But have you ever wondered how or why they're here? My name is Mary Jane Bauer, and I'd like to fill you in on the history (and present!) of the chickens.

It may seem like chickens have called MCC home for ages, but the truth is the feathery friends have only lived here for about 8 years! It all started in 2008, before my family and I were members of MCC, when Jeff Wild decided to bring chickens into the garden area. A few Boy Scouts generously built the coop that is still standing today, and Jeff set up a 2 foot high chicken wire fence around it. The chickens were then brought from a farm to our church, and about a year later, my family and I showed up.

I took an immediate interest to the chickens, but the chickens wanted nothing to do with a curious 6-year-old, or really anyone. But, I still loved the chickens with all my heart, and visited them daily. And before we knew it, my mom and I became the main care providers for the hens!

When a chicken would die of predators (the main cause of MCC chicken death), I would be heartbroken. So, we fixed up the enclosure a bit, gave it a roof, and it was good to go. But still, chickens continued to pass away, until only 2 were left. We decided it would be best for them to be taken to a farm to live out their days, so it was done.

And in the blink of an eye, there were 4 furry chicks in our basement. Rosie, Gracie, Trixie, and my favorite, Ziggy Bobo. They were raised with care and love, and soon, were big enough to be in the MCC coop! I was overjoyed to have 4 friendly chickens to share with the community. But sadly, only about 2 years later, Trixie and Ziggy Bobo died. Down to only 2 hens, we decided to raise 4 more; Robin, Lucy, Blossom, and Phoebe.

At the beginning of this summer, the chickens were in for a huge treat! Their enclosure, which was run down, got renovated and re-shaped. The new version is much safer, and will hopefully keep the chickens safe for a long time. The chickens are very thankful for everyone who helped with the process of the renovation, from planning to building. Now, it feels and looks much safer and nicer for the happy hens!

Fast forward to today, where the six hens live together in peace. All we want is for the chickens to live out their lives making people happy, and all the chickens want is to meet new friends, play in the mud, and continue to put a smile on your face.

*The MCC Chickens are now enjoying their own Facebook page. Come get the latest scoop at the coop: <https://www.facebook.com/MCCchickens/>*