A STEP BACK IN TIME

Former Children’s Home residents and those who lived and grew up in Eldridge all knew about the beautiful sandstone house which sat upon the hill overlooking the Home. The Thorogood House, as it was known, was built by William Thorogood, a stone mason who immigrated from England. The 3200 square feet house was completed in 1894 using rock quarried from the surrounding property.

For many years the house was admired and the location of much activity. The Thorogood family lived in the house until the 1960’s. After that time, it was rented for a while but in the 1980’s the house became mainly unoccupied. It remained that way until the house and property was acquired from Karen Thorogood by the Children’s Home in 2014.

The Home’s administration concluded this piece of history should be saved and restored. Charles Lynn and Paul Nolen were selected to begin restoring the house with as much of the original character and architecture preserved as feasible. The work was completed in July 2018 and the results were breath taking.

The eighteen-month labor of love was celebrated with an open house on July 14, 2018. Friends of the Children’s Home along with residents and former residents of Eldridge came for a peek of the restored house. Director Mandy Mitchell welcomed the guests and shared a brief history of the project. Board Chairman, Rodney Yerby, presented a plaque to Mrs. Karen Thorogood and shared the house will continue to be called the “Thorogood House” in the future. It will be available to rent for special meetings or events.
EXPERIENCING MINISTRY

The FWB Children’s Home is a ministry of the Alabama State Association of FWB’s. As a non-profit organization, FWBCH provides a loving, home-like, Christian atmosphere for children struggling with life's challenges and turbulent domestic situations. Our task is to help children hurt by life to find faith in God and enter adulthood as responsible Christian men and women with a purpose in life.

PURPOSE

Free Will Baptist Children’s Home is a ministry of the Alabama State Association of FWB’s. As a non-profit organization, FWBCH provides a loving, home-like, Christian atmosphere for children struggling with life's challenges and turbulent domestic situations. Our task is to help children hurt by life to find faith in God and enter adulthood as responsible Christian men and women with a purpose in life.

The FWB Children’s Home Newsletter is published six times per year to keep friends informed of current activities, programs, and service. If you have any questions, suggestions, or comments, please contact us.

Free Will Baptist Children’s Home, P. O. Box 8 Eldridge, AL 35554
Mandy Mitchell, Executive Director | Danny Williams, Communication
Phone: 205-924-9751 | Fax: 205-924-9574 | Website: www.fwbhome.org

FWBCH does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, nationality, or ethnic origin.

DIRECTOR’S DESK

If you are a parent, you know how important stability is for children. Well-adjusted children typically know what to expect from each day and follow a routine. Routine and predictability provide a sense of safety and wellbeing. For many of the children placed at the Home, the stability that we provide is something they are experiencing for the first time.

This is one of the reasons that most children tend to flourish on our campus. Anxieties lessen, behaviors become more controllable, and faces that were so often downcast are now quick to smile. About a third of our children have been here for around a year. For many of them it is the first time they didn’t have to change schools during the school year. They have been in one place long enough to play a sport and build relationships with others at church and school.

No matter what the situation, it is difficult for these children to be separated from their families. We know that we cannot take the place of their moms and dads, but we can give them safety and as much normalcy as possible. And this all happens during what can be a very traumatizing time in their lives.

E-TEAM MISSION TRIP

What a fantastic mission trip to St. Croix! We worked hard, saw beautiful sights, and made many new friends. We helped with VBS and got to know many children of the island. Five kids were saved, two of which I had the privilege to lead them to the Lord. That was an exciting time! We worked at the lighthouse mission – a place for the homeless to get food and clothing. We cleaned up the grounds and organized supplies. Most of the time we worked on the church and school. General cleanup and landscaping was done by all. Some of my favorite time was spent with the teens. We played, sang, and worshiped together during our stay.

The Lord revealed a great deal during this mission trip. He gave me the desire to go into Christian education. I’m praying that He can use me in this area on a mission field someday. I also realized how blessed I am and how much my testimony can influence those around me.

Thank you for your support (prayer and financial). You made all this possible for me!
Justin Skelton

EXPANDING MINISTRY

The Children’s Home is excited to announce an expansion in our services. Our staff counselor Ralinda Aspey will now be offering professional counseling for individuals and families in the community. If you live in the vicinity of Eldridge and are interested in these services, you may call the office for more information or visit our website.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rodney Yerby, Chairman
Shelia Bynum | Donnie Blackmon
Tim Baumgarten | Danny Williams
Wayne Parker | Waymon Fields

For many of the children placed at the Home, the stability that we provide is something they are experiencing for the first time.
Harvest Drive

The fall Harvest Drive has been an annual event for the Home since the 1960’s. Over the years churches, businesses, organizations, and individuals have donated tons of food, cleaning supplies, and paper products. The drive is a major element in stocking our pantry and reducing our expenses. It is also a wonderful way for folks to have a practical and more personal method of supporting our children.

In this issue of “Home Happenings” we have provided an extensive list of specific items we presently need. We encourage you to join others in making this year’s drive a great success. Thank you for thinking of us. Whatever you are able to give, it will definitely be appreciated!

Green Beans Pizza Sauce Pickles (spear/slices) Kleenex
Sweet Peas Minute Rice Green/Black Olives Toilet Tissue
BBQ Sauce Refried Beans Nature’s Seasoning Wet Wipes
Lima Beans Brown Gravy Mix Mustard/Mayo Glade Plug-in Refills
Tomato Sauce Pudding Ketchup Pine Sol
Rotel/Chili Pop Corn Salad Dressing Face Wash
Cream of Chicken Gatorade Styro Plates/Napkins Deodorant
Tuna/Chicken Country Time Plastic Forks/Spoons Shampoo/Conditioner
Manwich Lemonade Straw/Forks/Spoons Hairspray
Pinto Beans Elbow Macaroni Dish Detergent Shaving Cream
Chili/Taco Seasoning Lasagna/Egg Noodles Dishwasher Detergent Hair Brushes/Combs
Chicken Broth Saltine/Ritz Crackers Washing Detergent Ponytail holders
Cream of Celery Lemon Juice Bathroom Cleaners Socks
Tea/Coffee Confection Sugar Window Cleaner Pens
Juices/Kool-aid Cereal/Pop Tarts Clorox Mechanical Pencils
Black-eye Peas Snacks/Chips Dryer Sheets Clorox Wipes
Creamer Canned Pears

Our Sympathy

We extend our love and prayers to the family of Rev. Ray Ritch who passed away on July 24, 2018 at the age of 89. Brother Ritch pastored for over 40 years and served as a board member of the Home for many of those years. He served on our Board of Directors until earlier this year when he resigned because of his growing health issues. We are appreciative of his many years of service and his love for our ministry.

ELLEN (STAFF) 9/9 • DALTON 9/10/07 • JUDY (STAFF) 9/18 • KATRINA (STAFF) 9/21 • KODA 10/2/05 • BARB (STAFF) 10/6 • JAMESON 10/7/04 • DUANE 10/11/02 • DANIEL 10/24/07

HOPE YOU HAVE A SPECIAL DAY.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Below are memorial contributions from July/August 2018. We thank all those who honor their loved ones in this special way.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IN MEMORY</th>
<th>DONOR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ann Harrison</td>
<td>Nene’s Plunder Biz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Detherage</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milan Ruble</td>
<td>Russell &amp; Phyllis Detherage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frank Barron</td>
<td>Regina Barron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frank Morrison</td>
<td>Betty Tucker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Edgar Albright</td>
<td>His Children: Pauline, Paul, Eugene, Ida Mae &amp; Juanita</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeremy England</td>
<td>Jerry &amp; Betty Atkins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joey Oden</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jimmie Bianco</td>
<td>William Allen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lynn Vickery</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Randy Cole</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dewayne Shewbart</td>
<td>Cheryl Webb Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wallace &amp; Barbara</td>
<td>A Friend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McDonald</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Betty Roell</td>
<td>Ray &amp; Marthalene Ritch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Montgomery</td>
<td>Betty, Chris &amp; Steve Creasy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zenus &amp; Tennie Stapp</td>
<td>Sandra Stapp Williams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. M. H. Hollis</td>
<td>Ken &amp; Carolyn Michael</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Ray Ritch</td>
<td>Richard &amp; DeeDee Fikes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Carol Lay, Ken &amp; Carolyn Michael</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Robert &amp; Charlene Pruett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bobby Kimbrel</td>
<td>Central Walker County Coon Hunters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alabama Dog Hunters Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larry S. Hall</td>
<td>Patricia Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Martin</td>
<td>Ruby Gilbreath &amp; Family</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IN HONOR

David Harrison

Nene’s Plunder Biz

You may pay tribute to your loved one with a donation in their honor. Please include with your gift the information needed to notify the family. Recognition will also appear in the upcoming newsletter.
Executive Director, Mandy Mitchell, and three of our children represented the Home at the annual luncheon for **NICK’S KIDS** on August 2, 2018. KIDS is a foundation for helping children established by Nick and Terry Saban.

The Home’s Board of Directors and Advisory Board will have their annual meeting on Saturday, October 6th at the Home with a 9:00 am start.

**THANK YOU FOR SCHOOL SUPPLIES:** Our friends out did themselves in their response to our request for school supplies and fees. We received more items and money for our children’s school expenses than we have in several years. **WE APPRECIATE YOU!**

If your church or organization would be interested in having a Home representative come and share with you about our ministry, please give us a call (205-924-9751) and we will be glad to schedule a time. It is always our privilege to meet our many supporters in person and to share what God is doing.