

JULY/AUGUST 2019

A Ministry of the
Free Will Baptist
Children's Home



Home HAPPENINGS

"Providing a *Loving* Home for *Hurting* Children."



ONE YEAR LATER

RALINDA ASPEY

What an amazing year it has been. It's hard to believe that it has been an entire year I have been at the Children's Home and a part of this wonderful community. One of the things that I was most excited about when coming here was being more accessible to the kids—being able to work with them as issues and concerns arose rather than waiting two or three weeks to see them. It was my thought that I would be of more help to these kids if I could walk with them in moments of distress.

But the most surprising thing for me is how beneficial being able to work with the other staff has been. I have always tried to incorporate parents and caregivers in the counseling process in whatever ways possible and being at the Children's Home has provided me with the opportunity to have more direct contact with the individuals caring for the children with whom I am working. This ability to collaborate on a weekly, if not daily, basis has had some amazing results. We have seen children work through emotional and behavioral turmoil that initially seemed overwhelming; I believe that their success is due, in part, to the efforts of their house parents and the staff to support and encourage them on their journey.

The mentality of teamwork that is held by the house parents and the rest of the staff has been truly astounding. I am so humbled and blessed to be able to work with a group of people who are dedicated to giving children the chance to heal and grow in a safe and loving environment. I look forward to continuing to work with these children and this staff in the years to come.





MANDY MITCHELL

Sometimes families have a fairytale idea of what it would be like to be a loving home for a needy child and after the dust settles, things aren't like what they thought they would be.

DIRECTOR'S DESK

One thing that we know very well here at the Home is that dealing with traumatized children is different than dealing with your own children or grandchildren. All of the children here have been through some kind of trauma. In all cases it is the trauma of being removed from their home. In many other cases it is much more with instances of abuse, neglect, exposure to drug use, and domestic violence. Experiencing these issues during the childhood years can, and often does, interfere with normal childhood development.

With this in mind, children that have been exposed to trauma can experience certain challenges. They may have different reactions to discipline. They may have issues with bonding or getting difficulty getting along with others. They also have a higher likelihood of having mental health issues such as depression, anxiety and mood disorders as well as an increased risk of using drugs or alcohol and being involved in criminal activity as they get older.

I receive calls often where families or friends have taken in a child and are struggling to help them adjust to living in their home. That is not surprising as what we might consider a "normal" home is abnormal to them. Sometimes families have a fairytale idea of what it would be like to be a loving home for a needy child and after the dust settles, things aren't like what they thought they would be.

Here are some things to consider:

With the drug culture today, there are so many children who are in need of a home. There is a

great need for foster parents in every state. If this is something you feel led to pursue, you need to understand that it is not the same as raising the children you already have, or the way you were probably raised. You need to research issues with traumatized children and make sure that you are ready to deal with tough behaviors and emotions. These children do need someone who will guide them through these issues and remain steadfast even when it is hard.

If you are considering fostering or taking in a child, please consider any children you already have in your home. Please be cautious about taking in traumatized children if there are younger or vulnerable children in your home. Even though you want to help and be a blessing to someone else, you do not want to put your own children at risk. They are your priority.

Know that as hard as you think it will be to care for a traumatized child, it will likely be harder than you think. Be ready to deal with anxiety, issues with bonding and trust, defiance, depression and anger. However, if you are prepared, and have a good support system in place, it could be one of the biggest blessings of your life-to have a hand in changing the life of a child.

Please know that if you are caring for a traumatized child and you need any advice or support, you can call us here at the Home! There might not be much we can do but we can listen, give advice, or refer you to someone who can help. Thanks for your support.

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.



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

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THE WILDS

JAMES & BRITTANY WEBB



There are two events the children here at the Home look forward to every year. One is our annual Toy Run event in December, and the other is our summer camp trip to The Wilds in North Carolina. Nestled in the Blue Ridge mountains is a Christian getaway that is post card worthy. Complete with a pristine lake, cascading waterfalls, crystal clear mountain streams, it is a back drop that looks like it came off the brush of a Bob Ross landscape.

The Wilds slogan is "The View Is Eternal." It is in this secluded and intimate setting that our kids get the opportunity to get away and focus on our Lord for a week with like minded campers and a staff that is dedicated to helping our kids learn and grow in Christ. While the children indeed look forward to zip-lining, the mountain super slide, paddle boats, and epic games like 3-way Big-Ball Volleyball, as a house parent, what I look forward to is the noticeable change in our children in their walk with the Lord. While many have come to know Jesus for the first time over the years at The Wilds, those that are already saved have come away with a deeper understanding, and closer relationship with their loving Savior.

At The Wilds the children get to worship and hear God's word preached twice a day. They have small-group Bible study sessions with their counselors, and nightly devotions with their cabin mates. That happens with loads of fun in between.

Part of this year's focus was on what a Christian life should look like and the fruits that we bear. This helped our children think deeply about their own spiritual fruits and inspired some to decide to consciously work on these areas in their lives. This year's trip was another positive and influential experience for our children that will help them not just in this life, but for eternity!

Our children are already anticipating next year's trip. I would like to send out a huge THANK YOU to the Wild's Staff, and all those like you who support the ministry here at the Children's Home. Through your support we are able to provide these opportunities for the kids that will impact their lives significantly. Thank you!



MEMORIAL GIFTS

Below are memorial contributions from May/June 2019. We thank all those who honor their loved ones in this special way.

IN MEMORY

Patti Shewbert
Wayne Elliott
Mary "Lib" Cobb
Kathryn Bailey
Gene Rollins
Ava Lee Guyton
Joyce P. Chappelear
Travis Thomas

Carey Pickett
Louise Lambert Hayes

Mr. & Mrs. C. L. Harrison
Mr. H. E. Richardson
Oleta Key
Mr. & Mrs. Theron Howell
Mike Gilbreath
L. C. Gilbreath
J. A. Thomas
Charles Trammell
Jack Christian

DONOR

Cheryl Webb Family
Mrs. Olene Rollins
Mollie Lunsford and Family
Stephen Chappelear
Ruby, Amanda, Erik,
Hannah & Ethan Gilbreath
Faye Lovelady
Bob & Linda Maddox
Darryle & Debra Wilson
John & Ruby Pike

David Harrison
Mrs. Mae Rose Richardson
Mrs. Hilda Ray
Browning & Deborah Riggs

Amanda Gilbreath
Martha Trammell
Cy, Lisa and Lynne

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.

Happy Birthday!
HOPE YOU HAVE A SPECIAL DAY.

Ralinda (staff) 7-01 | Deanna 7-14-04

Ty 7-23-05 | Shaun 8-07-06 | Westlyn 8-15-06

Cason 8-19-09 | Danny 8-31-05

HONOR ROLL

WELL, DONE! KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK

Dalton | Aiden | Cason | Koda | Levi | Shaun
Justin | Duane | Daniel | Devon | Cameron
Kaya | Brooklin | Lexie | Deanna | Holly

SCHOOL SUPPLIES



Well school will start back in early August for our children. We wanted to let you know again of some of the items we will need for them when they do. Listed below are some of the things we will need.

Mechanical pencils, Sharpies, Computer paper, Index cards, Scissors, Earbuds/headphones, Glue sticks, Pens, Scotch tape, Highlighters, Expo markers, Notebook paper, Clorox wipes, Kleenex, Composition notebooks, Calculators, Pocket file folders, 1 & 2 inch binders

If you prefer, you can make a financial donation and we will purchase the items. There are several school fees we must pay, too. These fees include computers, lockers, sports, etc. Any assistance you can provide is greatly appreciated.

Items Needed

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mayonnaise	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rotel
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Vinegar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bisquick
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Pickles/Olives	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tomato Paste
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cream of Chicken	<input type="checkbox"/>	Diced Tomatoes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cream of Mushroom	<input type="checkbox"/>	Peaches
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cream of Celery	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cake Mixes/Frosting
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chicken Noodle	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gravy Mixes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chicken Broth	<input type="checkbox"/>	Taco Seasoning
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chili	<input type="checkbox"/>	Spaghetti Seasoning
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Can Chicken	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chili Seasoning
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jelly	<input type="checkbox"/>	Toilet Tissue/Kleenex
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Pancake Mix/Syrup	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brooms/Mops
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Oatmeal-Instant	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dryer Sheets
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cooking Oil	<input type="checkbox"/>	Windex/Furniture Polish
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cereal/Pop-Tarts	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fabric Softner
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Salad Dressings	<input type="checkbox"/>	Garbage Bags (13/33gal)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Can Carrots	<input type="checkbox"/>	Laundry Detergent
	Spaghetti Sauce	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dishwasher Detergent
	Chips	<input type="checkbox"/>	Paper Towels
	Snack Cakes	<input type="checkbox"/>	Styro plates/
	Crackers (Saltine/Ritz)	<input type="checkbox"/>	16/20 oz. Cups
	Cheese/Crackers	<input type="checkbox"/>	Plastic Forks/Spoons
	Peanut Butter Crackers	<input type="checkbox"/>	Batteries AA/AAA
	Juices/Gatorade	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bath Towels/Wash Cloths
	Drinks	<input type="checkbox"/>	Light Bulbs
	Bread Crumbs		

ATTENTION AMAZON SHOPPERS



We have a new way for you to help the Home!

You can now shop our Charity Shopping List on Amazon and have needed donated items shipped directly to us!

https://smile.amazon.com/.../NHZU14N00.../ref=smi_ext_lnk_lcl_cl

E-mail us at: admin@fwbhome.org

Join us on Facebook: [Alabama FWB Children's Home](#)

Please visit us at our website: www.fwbhome.org

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