

MAY/JUNE 2020

A Ministry of the
Free Will Baptist
Children's Home



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

YOU CAN HELP

We have seen hundreds of children arrive on our campus. They come from diverse situations and various locations. They have different hair color, are of varied sizes, and are dissimilar in personality. However, they all had one thing in common; they needed a place to stay where they were loved and safe. They needed a home.

Since 1947 the Alabama FWB Children's Home in Eldridge, AL has provided such a home for children based on the foundation of love and obedience. Jesus is our example as He demonstrated His love for children. He wanted them to come to Him (Matthew 19) and He warned people about hurting a child (Matthew 18). The book of James explains that a real, genuine religion will "visit (look after) the fatherless...in their affliction."

This action could be described as being "a father to the fatherless." That is what we try to do each and every day. To enable us to accomplish such an important task, we ask those who want to help to contribute to our **Father to the Fatherless** offering. Your gifts enable the Home's staff to daily fill the role of a good father as we provide:

- Physical Necessities – shelter, clothing, food, medicine
- Educational Opportunities – school, training, correction, encouragement
- Emotional Support – hugs, listening ear, expressions of love
- Spiritual Direction – prayer, Bible reading, church attendance

With Father's Day on June 21st, the month of June is an excellent time to focus on the ministry of the Home. We ask you to do two significant things before Father's Day. First, would you have a time of prayer specifically for our children and staff? Second, would you please send a special financial gift to help us provide for these children.? You may mail your gift to P.O. Box 8 Eldridge, AL 35554 or you may go to our website, www.fwbhome.org and give on-line. Either way, please mark your gift as "**Father**" so we will know how to use it. Your gift is appreciated!



Alabama FWB Children's Home

FATHER to
the
FATHERLESS

"Jesus is our example as He demonstrated His love for children. He wanted them to come to Him..."



MANDY MITCHELL

DIRECTOR'S DESK

Like most of you things around the Children's Home are a lot different than they were this time last year. There is no end of school excitement, no sports to keep our children occupied, and no where to go! We are no longer eating our family meals at the big house and have had to temporarily suspend family visitations. During the last month we have had to isolate two of our resident houses for 14 days due awaiting test results of a houseparent and one of our residents (both tests were negative thank goodness). We realize how blessed we are to have stocked pantries with food and supplies (thanks to many of you!) and a large campus for our children to roam so they don't feel cooped up.

Even though things are different some things are still the same. We are still admitting children who need a home.

Even though things are different some things are still the same. Even though the world has stopped for many of us, unfortunately most of the things that we deal with on a daily basis haven't changed. We are still admitting children who need a home. We still have children struggling with abandonment and hurt from their biological families. We are still drying tears and battling for our children's trust, who in the past, could not trust the adults around them. For our DHR children things have come to a complete stop as far as the courts being closed and services not being available to their families to work their case plans, which will extend their stay with us.

I have thought often of the many children who are sheltering-at-home in undesirable circumstances-domestic violence, drug use, and abuse and neglect. These could be some of our children if they were not with us. It is a privilege to offer them a safe and loving home during this time. Let's pray for those children who have no relief from disadvantaged family situations.

Now more than ever we are so thankful for our faithful donors who have continued to give to our ministry during these uncertain times. Thank you for your generous giving and prayers.

SUMMER CAMP

As for now, our plans are to send our children to camp. Of course, we will continue to monitor the situation. However, we must be prepared, and this is the time of year we request you to help "Send a child to camp." It takes \$125.00 to sponsor a child for camp. It is a great investment in a child's life. If you are willing to do so, please send your donation and mark it for camp. If we cannot take them to camp this summer, we will reserve the money donated for next year. Thanks!



Hope you have a special day.

CURTIS (STAFF)	5-4
VIOLET	5-8-09
KELLIE (STAFF)	5-15
LYNN (STAFF)	5-16
XZANDER	5-22-07
ADILEIGH	5-31-07
SHANE	6-18-12

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 | Ralinda Aspey, Counselor | 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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

LIFE DURING QUARATINE

(The house parents in our two boys' houses share with us what it has been like under COVID-19 restrictions.)

What words come to mind to describe the past 6 weeks?

KM: Interesting, challenging, fun, and scary.

Tell us about some of the challenges.

BW: Patience, comforting some of the little one, coming up with ways to keep a house full of boys from going "stir crazy".

KM: Getting school work done for four teen boys in four different schools, staying on some form of schedule, coming up with meal ideas, determining things to do besides TV and video games, and helping with emotions of displaced boys. Some days we just want to know what day of the week it is.

Staying on campus is required, so what about church?

BW: We have missed going to church but are thankful for live streaming. On Easter Sunday we did not have internet so we watched Dr. Jeremiah on television. When it was over, one of our little boys said "He was o.k., but he ain't no Bro. Kent!"

Please share some positives from this experience.

KM: We hear thank-you and may I help you more often. We have seen a change in the way the boys interact and handle confrontations with each other. There is now more time to teach them new skills such as carpentry, lawn maintenance, cooking and crafts. We have more time to play ball together, go on hikes, go fishing, or just ride bikes. The boys have more time to just be kids without outside peer pressure and influences.

BW: We can start our school day with Bible. We have learned to "Think Outside The Box", too. Lego building contests, garbage can basketball, relays, charades, and tournaments on the OLD Wii game box have become their new favorites. Scavenger hunts from the van was a big hit, too. Some of them are even trying their hand at cooking. Making personalized pizzas was lots of fun.

Any final thoughts about the quarantine?

BW: Overall, we are very proud of our boys during this time. Quarantined- Yes. Miserable-No! On a lighter note – we didn't have to worry about a shortage of toilet paper because of faithful supporters who keep us supplied.

KM: Somedays we get along great and somedays not so much. Somedays are easier than others. As you can tell we are just a normal family just like yours. We deal with the same things you are dealing with. We just have the privilege of doing it at the Children's Home.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Below are memorial contributions from March/April 2020. We thank all those who honor their loved ones in this special way.

IN MEMORY

Carey Pickett

Alf Fields

Johnnie Pennington

Clifton Reeves

Stan Malone

Lucille Parnell

Clara Cicero

Donnie Hughes

Rev. & Mrs. L. Ross Peters

Will Besant

Jimmy Dale Moorman

Frank Barron

Rose Harrison

Roger Hill

Coleman Robertson

DONOR

Lee Pickett
Faye Lovelady

Joyce Blakenship

Richard & Wilma Baker

Jason & Lisa Gann
Oak Hill Methodist Church

Charlotte Malone

Onzell Godfrey

Burma Jordan

Magnolia FWB Church

George & Monica Bartlett

Richard & Susan Besant

Smith Chapel FWB Church

Regina Barron

Michael & Carolyn McDonald
James "Big Jim" Swindle

Jim & Lisa Courington

Marjorie Robertson

IN HONOR OF

Mary Holt

DONOR

Kenneth Brown

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.



HONOR ROLL

WELL DONE! WE ARE PROUD OF YOUR EFFORTS

PRINCESS | WESTLYN | VIOLET

ANGEL | TY



Items Needed

- Chicken Noodle Soup
- Cream of Chicken Soup
- Cream of Mushroom Soup
- Cream of Celery Soup
- Tomato Soup
- Vegetable Beef Soup
- Chicken Broth
- Chili
- Lima Beans
- Can Carrots
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Pop Tarts/Cereal
- Tomato Sauce
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Rotel
- Diced Tomatoes
- Crackers/Bread Crumbs
- Cookie Mix
- Brownie Mix
- Muffin Mix
- Gravy Mix
- Cooking Oil
- Tea/coffee
- Hot Chocolate
- Sugar
- Oatmeal
- Cereal
- Kleenex
- Ziplock Bags
- Styro Cups/Plates
- Wax Paper
- Plastic Wrap/Foil
- Toilet Tissue
- Paper Towels



SCHOOL SUPPLIES

- Mechanical Pencils
- Sharpies | Computer Paper
- Index Cards | Scissors
- Earbuds/Headphones
- Glue Sticks | Pens | Scotch Tape
- Highlighters | Expo Markers
- Washable Markers
- Notebook Paper
- Pocket File Folders
- Clear Page Protectors
- Clorox Wipes | Kleenex
- Composition Notebooks
- 1 & 2in Clear Front Cover Binder

E-mail us at: admin@fwbhome.org

Join us on Facebook: [Alabama FWB Children's Home](https://www.facebook.com/AlabamaFWBChildrensHome)

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

PLEASE VISIT US:

Return Service Requested

P.O. Box 8
Eldridge, AL 35554



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