

**NOVEMBER/
DECEMBER 2020**

A Ministry of the
Free Will Baptist
Children's Home



Home HAPPENINGS

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

THE TOY RUN AND 2020

Without a doubt, the year 2020 has been one of the most unusual years in our lifetimes. Due to the pandemic associated with the coronavirus, cancellation of event after event has been the standard since March. However, we are thrilled to announce the 18th Annual Toy Run and Benefit Ride WILL be held as scheduled! Since the beginning we always have said, "Rain or Shine, Cold or Hot – the event will happen." 2020 will not be an exception!

On the first Saturday in December, that is the 5th this year, we will be welcoming our supporters and friends to one of the most exciting events in this part of the state. There will be scores of antique cars, hundreds of motorcycles, and lots and lots of people. Led by the Eldridge Benefit Team and scores of devoted volunteers, the day will mean Christmas gifts for the children who reside at the Home, and financial contributions for the Home's operations throughout the year.

Even though Covid-19 has impacted how we all must do things, we are doing everything possible for the Toy Run to be as close to normal as we can. We will rearrange some areas and adjust some procedures to apply caution. In addition, we encourage everyone who attends to implement whatever measures with which they personally feel comfortable.

This annual event has always been a bright spot on our calendars and this year will be no different. We invite you to join us. We recommend arriving before 10:15 am since the motorcycle groups roll in by 11:00 am. You can find more information at www.fwbhome.org or www.eldridgetoyrun.com.

ATTENTION
The Annual Eldridge Toy Run Benefit Ride
WILL TAKE PLACE AS SCHEDULED
"All Roads Lead to Eldridge"



DECEMBER 5
ELDRIDGE TOY RUN



MANDY MITCHELL

DIRECTOR'S DESK

"My Mama doesn't care anything about me." One of our residents made this statement to me recently, in a matter of fact way. It was heart wrenching to hear a young child say this. My response was I did not believe that. I told him I think some parents get overwhelmed and have a harder time doing all that needs to be done, but I felt very confident the issue wasn't a matter of his parents not caring or loving him.

The fact is all of our residents have thoughts, feelings, and emotions they are dealing with regarding their parents and families. Even though we strive to provide them with the best possible living situation that we can, we are not their family, and we are not a traditional home. Every child we have here deals with being placed out of their home in different ways. For some it appears it does not bother them. They are glad to be in a stable place with people who care about them and living with other children who can relate to what they are going through. Others are worried about the family they have left behind and wish they were there to help take care of them. A few children are so homesick they have a more difficult time adjusting and simply being able to be happy where they are. Some are so confused and hurt, they can't describe how they feel, and what is inside comes out through negative behaviors such as defiance and lashing out.

Add in the Holiday season where most families are planning big gatherings, parties, and carrying out long-standing traditions, and we have some children who simply feel they are missing out on normal family things. They feel like it's unfair and they do not know who to blame. That is where we come in with your help. Once Thanksgiving arrives, we are busy creating as much holiday cheer as we can. We help the children make wish lists of things they want but also lists of things they want to buy for their loved ones. We take them shopping. Every resident house decorates their houses inside and out. We wear ugly Christmas sweaters, roast smores, and drink hot chocolate. We have a big Christmas party with silly games and a campus-wide gift exchange. Each house has their own traditions as well. We also help them understand, many for the first time, that Christmas is not just about presents, parties, and trees, but about the birth of our Savior who came to set us free. Because of Jesus, they have hope through whatever trouble they are going through.

It is through your generosity that we are able to provide a Merry Christmas to our children. Thank you for your love, prayers, and support during this time.

The children are glad to be in a stable place with people who care about them and living with other children who can relate to what they are going through.

NEED TO KNOW MORE?

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.



Consider supporting the children at our Home through Amazon Smile. Use our Amazon Smile link, and a portion of the proceeds will go to our Home: [amzn.to/2WThH91](https://www.amazon.com/amzn.to/2WThH91).

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



Counseling AVAILABLE

In addition to providing a loving, Christian home to struggling children, we at Free Will Baptist Children's Home also offer counseling for individuals and families struggling with the same life challenges. We desire to help children and adults struggling with emotional and behavioral distress and to address anxiety, depression, and behavioral management.

We offer these services at a low cost to those who may not be able to otherwise afford professional services. We operate on an income-based, self-pay only basis, and services cost considerably less than the normal fees. Sessions can be in person or by way of tele-counseling. If you reside in Alabama and would like to set up an appointment, call our office at (205) 924-9751 and chat with our counselor, Ralinda, about scheduling.

STAFF TRANSITIONS



Dick and Barb Williams, who have served as house parents with the Home for 14 years, are transitioning to a new role. Their new position is Hospitality Coordinator which includes various responsibilities.

They will facilitate and assist visiting groups and special events. They will also promote the Home in church services and denominational meetings, provide relief for house parents, and assist with upkeep and operation of the campus.



Director Mandy Mitchell stated, "I am excited about this new position in that it will help the Williams' to use the gifts God has given them and at the same time enhance the ministry of the Home." She also announced

Judy McKinney, who has been serving as the relief house parent, has assumed the house parent role for the younger boys in the Freeman house. Much of her 30 plus years at the Home has been with this age and she has demonstrated a heart for them. Judy is a wonderful example of the quality staff God has provided us.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

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

IN MEMORY

- Robert "Bob" Steber
- William Martin
- Charles Lee
- Connie Shubert
- Lisa Overton Smith
- Jimmie Fievet
- Billy Gene Stovall
- Maxine Wright, Leon Sullivan
- Michelle Kilgore
- Dr. Delane O'Rear
- Frank Barron
- Michele Taylor Taggart
- Billy Moore
- Jerome Hale
- Ethel McJenkin
- Kenneth "Snooks" Bynon
- Jerry "8 Ball" Evans
- Dwayne Thrasher

- Alex Chaffin
- Barry McMillian
- Carey Pickett
- Tootsie Taylor
- Chrissa Alexander
- Agnes, Adoph & Ray Parker
- Letha Mills
- Mark Rakestraw

DONOR

- Linda Disspayne
- Magnolia FWB Church
- Frances Wilson
- Kamaryn White Wilson
- William & Pat Doss
- Danny & Jackie Atkinson
- Pat Barnes
- Jim & Lisa Courington
- Regina Barron
- Joe & Pat Taylor
- Smith Chapel FWB Church
- Cheryl Webb Family
- Burma Jordan
- Robert & Gail Fayet
- 8 Ball Memorial Ride
- Mt. Paran Baptist Church
- Samuel & Ann Gulsby
- Mike & Carolyn McDonald
- Liberty FWB Church
- Faye Lovelady
- The Steve Batchelder Family
- The Daryl Mills Family
- Hal & Jimmie Lindley
- Their Family
- The Ladybyrds Prayer Group
- Stephanie Garner, Sonya Garrett
- Jimmy & Donna Williams, Gina Smith
- Kay Thorn, Ralph & Gail Senter
- Jinny Minor, Deborah Stonecipher
- Wayne & Delores Northington
- Tommy & Patti Hawkins, Betty Logan
- The Grafton Mullins Family, Dena Waldo
- Shelly Johnson, Nikki Logan Hilton
- Amy Logan Mixco, Phil & Connie Frye
- Johnny & Felicia Brown, Kelli Graham
- Bailey & Pam Haney

IN HONOR OF:

- Jeff Lee

DONOR:

- Sue Dobbins

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.

Christmas at Our Home

Yes, Christmas is quickly approaching. It will be here soon and in the meantime excitement will begin to grow in the heart of our young people. You, our friends, help make that possible. Each year our supporters through gifts, visits, parties and cards share the joy of the season with our children.

We look forward to seeing many familiar faces and welcoming new friends into our family. If you are interested in participating in "Christmas at the Home", contact Gina by calling the office or emailing her at gina@fwbhome.org. She will be glad to provide any information you may need. Thanks for making Christmas special for our youth.



Happy Birthday!

HOPE YOU HAVE A SPECIAL DAY.

GRACIOUS	11- 4-03
MIA	11- 4-09
KODIE	11- 5-05
MIKA	11- 8-05
SOPHIA	11-12-11
GINA (STAFF)	11-22
HOLLY	11-30-06
BRITTANY (STAFF)	12- 2
MATTHEW	12-21-04

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



NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WINFIELD, AL
PERMIT NO. 41