

**NOVEMBER/  
DECEMBER 2023**

A Ministry of the  
Free Will Baptist  
Children's Home



# Home HAPPENINGS

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

## SPORTS & ACTIVITIES

There are some good reasons why sports and extracurricular activities are an important part of our program. This first one might be obvious: students, just like everyone else, need a break from concentrating on their work to refresh their working memory and attention span. These activities give them a venue for releasing energy and enjoying something they like.

Providing opportunities for activities like sports and music has social benefits, too. They give opportunities for conversation and building friendships. They experience team dynamics. These social benefits can all work together to boost a student's self-esteem as they give them a sense of belonging and confidence in themselves.

Another reason we encourage sporting activities for our children is that they learn good sportsmanship. That does not just happen. Some of our residents struggle with attitudes. Our house parents must be prepared to explain what behavior is and is not appropriate. Being a good sport when winning or losing is essential. Maintaining a good attitude when performing well or not so well is part of maturity.

We must confess...another reason we encourage sports is we like cheering them on to victory.



**MARK YOUR  
CALENDARS  
AND MAKE  
YOUR  
PLANS**

21<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL  
**Eldridge Toy Run**  
AND BENEFIT RIDE

**Saturday,  
December 2, 2023**

**"ALL ROADS LEAD  
to Eldridge  
THE FIRST SATURDAY  
IN DECEMBER!"**





MANDY MITCHELL

## DIRECTOR'S DESK

Somehow the Holidays are almost upon us again. We will be entering many people's favorite time of year of thankfulness, giving and generosity. I also know some who hate the Holidays because of bad memories or because their family situations are not what they would like them to be. Most of our residents really struggle during the holidays. I have always believed that the best way to combat pity and ingratitude is serving others. The Bible teaches this as well.

*"If you are doing these things, it is impossible not to be thankful for all of the abundant and precious promises the Lord has given to us."*

### **Here are a few questions to ask yourself if you are struggling with being thankful:**

Are you intentionally using your spiritual gifts to serve others? 1 PETER 4:10

Are you looking to meet the needs of others who have less than you? PROVERBS 19:17

Are you loving your neighbor as yourself? GALATIANS 5:13-14

If you are serving others, are you doing it with the intention of receiving nothing in return? MATTHEW 20:28

If you are doing these things, it is impossible not to be thankful for all of the abundant and precious promises the Lord has given to us. May the Lord bless you and your family during this Holiday season!



## 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.

## HARVEST DRIVE

# Thank You

This year's Harvest Drive was a real help. Thanks to all who brought supplies and/or gave money for the drive. It was a blessing to see long-time friends and to meet new supporters. Your gifts of supplies are not only a financial help, but it is also an expression of love and concern. May God bless you!

### **Hope you have a special day.**



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

GRACIOUS	11-04-03
MIA	11-04-09
SOPHIA	11-12-11
GINA (Staff)	11-22
BRITTANY (Staff)	12-02
ALLISSA	12-07-08
MATTHEW	12-21-04

## 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 | Wade Peoples  
Tim Baumgarten | Danny Williams  
Wayne Parker | Joey Pettis  
Waymon Fields



# The 21st annual event known as the Eldridge Toy Run

## AND BENEFIT RIDE

will be held **Saturday, December the 2nd.**

The benefit team does a great job organizing and promoting the annual effort.

**IF YOU HAVE NEVER ATTENDED, THIS WOULD BE A GREAT OPPORTUNITY.**



*Experience hundreds of motorcycles as they roll onto the campus.*



*Look at scores of antique cars.*



*Have lunch with 1500 generous people.*



*Be one of the volunteers.*



*Enjoy watching the children open gifts.*



*Wait to hear announcement of the total amount raised.*

**"ALL ROADS LEAD TO Eldridge THE FIRST SATURDAY IN DECEMBER!"**



## MEMORIAL GIFTS

*Below are memorial contributions from September/October 2023. We thank all those who honor their loved ones in this special way.*

### IN MEMORY

Kenneth "Snooks" Bynon

Jim & Milo Wesson

Dwayne Thrasher

Carey Pickett

Martha Kelley Stripling

Charles & Cindy Matthews

Richard "Bull" Corry

James Knowles

Martha Kelley Stripling

Morris Studdard

Randall Mayo

Ellen Allen

Edwin Fancher

Roxie Brannon

Christopher Nicholas Murray

Frank Barron

Reba Harmon

Michael Sullins

DeLeah Wade

Bull Corry

Mrs. Jerry Wells

Clyde Bonner

Ray Burns

Douglas & Martha Stripling

Mike Earrey

### DONOR

Robert & Gail Fayet

David & Renee Bynon

David & Renee Bynon

Mt. Paran Baptist Church

Samuel & Ann Gulsby

Faye Lovelady

Skip & Freida Roberts

Jim & Lisa Courington

Amanda Dodds

Albert Pickett Family

Stephen Chappellear

Mary Murray

Regina Barron

Phil & Mildred Kimbrough

Catherine Sullins Goodwin

Robbin Kilgore

Thelbert Rhodes

Wayne & Gwen Cornelius

Mike & Denese Marion

James H. Depoyster

### IN HONOR:

Marie Duckett

### DONOR:

Connie Turner

*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.*






P.O. Box 8  
Eldridge, AL 35554

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## PLEASE VISIT US:

-  Please visit us at our website: [www.fwbhome.org](http://www.fwbhome.org)
-  Join us on Facebook: **Alabama FWB Children's Home**
-  E-mail us at: [admin@fwbhome.org](mailto:admin@fwbhome.org)



# 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 hearts 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 e-mailing her at [gina@fwbhome.org](mailto:gina@fwbhome.org). She will be glad to provide any information you may need.

*Thanks for making Christmas special for our children.*