



A WORD FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Greetings,

Let me first start by saying Happy New Year to all. I hope everyone has a very happy and prosperous 2017.

Thank you for making the end of the year special for us. When I arrived on Christmas and saw the children's eyes light up with glee, I felt an immense feeling of pride; pride in our children, pride in our supporters who made it all happen for us, pride to be at the helm for our milestone 100th year. As last year closed and this one begins, our mission continues, to provide a safe and structured home where a hurting child can heal. We ask that you continue to uplift our home in your prayers.

Let us please pray for one another that we may live in the spirit of cooperation, understanding, and love. I am blessed to learn so many life lessons from the young people at Brantwood. When I witness some of the pain and mistrust that some of our young people come to us with, I know that the one true common denominator in the answer to healing is love. I have witnessed the power of love to soothe broken hearts and transform lives.

As always, thank you for the love your have shown to Brantwood and our kids the past year. We are truly grateful for your support. Because of your love, some child's heart can be healed and their life may be transformed.

Sincerely,

Gerald Jones

gjones@brantwoodchildrenshome.org

Board of Directors

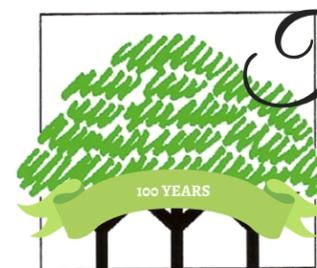
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Thank you
... to some of our
special sponsors!



FEB 2017

The BRANTWOOD Brag

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

This year marks a notable milestone for our home. We are celebrating 100 years of serving the children of Alabama. We have seen thousands of children pass through our doors. Hundreds of children with almost the same number of circumstances which brought them along this journey with us. No longer a home for children who were placed in the county jail when problems arose at home when the fathers were fighting in World War I, our home now serves children that have been removed from their homes by the Department of Human Resources.

Much like those first 12 children in our care, children come to our home through no fault of their own. Operating a residential childcare facility is a catch 22. In a perfect world, there would be no need for it. All children would be safe and secure, sleeping in their warm beds with not a care in the world. But without organizations like Brantwood, in the flawed world in which we live, can we imagine the alternative?



Also celebrating 100 years in 2017

- THE NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE
- NIKON
- GIRL SCOUTS COOKIES

That's why we are celebrating this year. Not only are we celebrating our longevity in this community, but we are celebrating all of the children, now adults, who have touched our hearts as we have hopefully touched theirs. This year, we invite you to celebrate with us. You'll receive other notes from us regarding our plans for our anniversary which will be held in November.

In the meantime, we are compiling a timeline of our history. We have found some fascinating things, but we know you can help. If you have any information about Brantwood's history, please give us a call or drop up a note in the mail. We'd love to hear the different perspectives as we prepare to share our journey to 100 years with you all.

May God bless our children.

FLYING HIGH AND SEARCHING LOW

On January 17, our children got a special treat when a helicopter landed by our tennis courts thanks to Stephanie Holmes, project coordinator for Dementia Friendly Alabama at the Central Alabama Aging Consortium. Stephanie partners with the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency as one of their many tasks is to find missing elderly adults who sometimes have dementia. After visiting Brantwood during one of the Chamber's 60 Minute Coffees, Stephanie knew she wanted to do something special for our children. She made one call to her friend Cpl. Kent Smith who recruited Greg Rainken to make the trip to Brantwood for a lesson on helicopters and the law enforcement profession.

Smith and Rainken probably entertained 100 questions from the physicality of the helicopter to aerodynamics. They answered each question with patience and care. In the end, they shared special words of encouragement for our children before lifting off and flying into the sunset.

Brantwood Children's Home
Montgomery's Children's Home Since 1917

I WOULD LOVE TO SUPPORT BRANTWOOD CHILDREN'S HOME IN JANUARY 2017

Enclosed is my gift of: \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 \$25 Other: \$____ (Please circle one.)

Donor Information

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, and Zip: _____
Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____
Email Address: _____

Ways to Give a Gift

Donate online: www.brantwoodchildrenshome.org

Enclosed is my check made payable to: *Brantwood Children's Home*

Please charge my credit card:

Expiration Date: ___/___ Security Code: ___ Zip Code: _____

Authorized Signature: _____ Date: _____

Thank you for your support!

Brantwood Children's Home is a 501(c)3 organization. Gifts to our nonprofit organization may qualify for federal and state deductions as the law allows. A receipt will be sent to you after your pledge has been received.



OUR 4 RESOLUTIONS FOR YOU

The new year is oftentimes a time for self-reflection and goal setting. Many people make resolutions for the new year that including exercising more, eating more healthy foods, or the like. This year, we'd like to add some resolutions of our own that benefit children in the foster system and residential child care facilities like ours.

1 Awareness and Advocacy

Perhaps the biggest impact one can make is to become an advocate of change for children placed in the foster care system. Be the voice for the voiceless by educating yourself with the facts and contacting our local lawmakers and politicians as they make important decisions everyday that impacts the level of care we are able to provide.

2 A Support System

Some children in foster care have only the support of those that directly care for them. What about those teenage angst that you don't want to tell your parents? Where can they turn? Providing support as mentors is crucial to youth development.

3 A Lasting Bond

Speaking of support systems, can you imagine the thoughts that go through a youth's head as they are approaching aging out of the system? Where will they turn? It doesn't take much to build a strong bond with our youth, a kind, encouraging note, a birthday card, a cupcake. Just knowing that you care and were there when it counts is enough.

4 Dedication

Children in the foster care system have already been let down by the main people who were supposed to love and protect them. What they need now more than ever is consistency and people who are dedicated to their success. We are proud to have so many people dedicated to our mission.

OFFICE DEPOT: THE STORE OF THE FUTURE

Office Depot, a leading global provider of office supplies and services, held a ribbon-cutting celebration for the grand re-opening of its newly remodeled store in Montgomery, AL on December 6, 2016. The store, which is located on 5070 Vaughn Road, features Office Depot's exciting new "Store of the Future" format including a number of enhanced features designed specifically to improve the customer experience.

During this ceremony, the Office Depot Foundation donated new children's backpacks with essential school supplies to three local nonprofit organizations. Brantwood was proud to be one of the recipients of the Office Depot Foundation's kindness. In addition to 40 well-stocked backpacks, each nonprofit also received a \$100 Office Depot gift card.

The sackpack donations are a part of the award-winning Office Depot Foundation National Backpack Program, through which it donates new sackpacks to deserving children across the United States and beyond. Since the program began in 2001, the Office Depot Foundation has given away more than 4 million backpacks and sackpacks to help children succeed in school.

AHSAA: WE'RE ALL ALL-STARS HERE

Brantwood has the pleasure of hosting the Alabama High School Athletic Association All-Star Team prior to their 30th annual Alabama-Mississippi All Star football game at Cramton Bowl. A special thank you to Lance Brown with the Montgomery Rotary Club, which through their partnership with the AHSAA helped to facilitate a joint service project on December 9. The project was to erect an outdoor storage unit near the cottage. With some 30 children under Brantwood's care, storage space can oftentimes be an issue. So, when Brown approached us many months prior wanting to get involved, we knew this was a great opportunity to complete a project that has been overlooked for so long.

The team and coaches were great. The kids were especially grateful that school was released an hour early that Friday so that they could meet the team. If you can imagine nearly 50 people attempting to play basketball on a single court, you can imagine the delight the children had interacting with the team that day.

PLANTING THE SEED FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

Our little seedlings need nurturing and support in order to bloom into the lively adults we know they can be. For a donation of \$100 monthly, you can be the seed for a better tomorrow. Gifts to the Sponsor-a-Child Program will allow our children the opportunity to play sports, participate in dance, and so much more.



If you'd like to give to this program, please write Sponsor a Child on the memo line of your check.



I planted. Apollos watered. but God gave growth... He who plants and he who waters are one and each will receive his wages according to his labor.

1 Corinthians 3: 6-9

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



THE LOVE RUN

FEB

The toughest 5k in Montgomery is back. Warm-ups will start at 7:30 AM at Paterson Field and end with a celebration at Brantwood Children's Home. Registration is \$25 and is now available on www.active.com. If running the race isn't your thing, we are accepting donations to the run. Just write *Love Run* in the memo line of your check. If you have any questions about getting involved, please call Krystal at (334)549-5988.



KICKING FOR CHANGE KICKBALL TOURNAMENT

FEB

Kicking for Change is hosting their inaugural charity coed kickball tournament with the goals of promoting the local community, providing a tool to combat childhood and adult obesity, and fostering awareness of underprivileged citizens. Kicking for Change has chosen Brantwood as the recipient of the proceeds. Registration is \$35 and can be found at gokickball.com/Montgomery. Email cliff@kickballmafia.onmicrosoft.com



TRUCK RAFFLE

APR

Our One Big Truck for All the Little Engines Truck Raffle is scheduled for Saturday, April 29th at Brantwood. Tickets are \$100 and will go on sale on February 1st.

PEACE ON EARTH, GOODWILL TOWARDS MEN



New bikes, new coats, a new projector to watch movies as a group... those are but some of the donations we received this Christmas. The holidays are always a solemn time, but we're able to give our children so many firsts; their first Christmas tree, their first bike, their first Christmas stocking. More than that, you have demonstrated to our children that there can be peace in even the most trying of circumstances and that love and goodwill can be found in their hearts.