A Word from our Executive Director

Greetings,

It seems like yesterday that summer began. We heard, as many parents do, the nervous energy of our children discussing the summer “to do list.” Thanks to our friends, we were able to enjoy some movie days, skating, or visiting the park with a cool treat. But most of the summer, was spent as a family, enjoying each other’s company, learning more intimately about our children; their hopes, dreams, and fears.

As we learned more, we were able to provide several educational opportunities to our children. We had a couple attend camp at the Alabama State University, one complete an Adult Education course at Trenholm State Technical College. We have several children obtain their first summer jobs. We had two receive their high school diploma. All of which are major accomplishments in their own right. I’m so proud of our children, of the staff that support our children in each new endeavor, and those that provide their support so that we can create these opportunities. I’m a proud papa of 32 (I can’t forget my two at my other home), proud of the direction our home is going, and proud of the dreams we are making come true. As the summer draws to an end and our children return to school on August 14th, we have a lot planned for our home in the coming months. We ask that you buckle up and join us for an amazing, spirit-led journey.

God Bless,

Gerald Jones

gjones@brantwoodchildrenshome.org

The BRANTWOOD Brag

POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE

Opportunity

With doubt and dismay you are written.
You think there’s no chance for you, son?
Why, the best books haven’t been written.
The best race hasn’t been run!
The best score hasn’t been made yet.
The best song hasn’t been sung.
The best tune hasn’t been played yet.
Cheery up. For the world is young.

No chance? Why the world is just eager
For things that you ought to create.
Its stone of true wealth is still meager;
It needs are incessant and great.
In years For more power and beauty
More laughter and love and romance.
More loyalty, order and duty.
No chance: why there’s nothing but chance!

For the best verse hasn’t been rhymed have
yet.
The best house hasn’t been planned.
The highest peak hasn’t been climbed yet.
The mightiest rivers aren’t spanned yet.
Don’t worry and fret, faint-hearted.
The chances have just begun.
For the best jobs haven’t been started.
The best work hasn’t been done.
Berton Bradley

Congratulations to our graduating class of 2017. Brantwood held our fourth annual commencement ceremony on May 25 at Saint James United Methodist Church, where we had one young man and young woman to graduate.

Dr. Lester Spencer, lead pastor at Saint James, opened our occasion with a prayer and ended our ceremony with the same. Brantwood’s On-Site Educational Program’s Administrative Teacher Gwendolyn Townsend providing a rousing welcome to our attendees. LaDonna Rudolph, an education specialist with the Alabama Department of Education, was on hand as our commencement speaker. She gave congratulatory words as well as words of encouragement to our graduates.

Each of our graduates are beginning new adventures. Although one of our graduates is no longer in our care, both graduates are enrolled in college for the fall. Our other graduate will enter our Independent Living Program and stay with us a little while longer.

Please keep them in your thoughts as the transition to adulthood is sometimes a hard transition to make. We share with you some words that we left with them during graduation.

I WOULD LOVE TO SUPPORT BRANTWOOD CHILDREN’S HOME IN AUGUST 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.

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________________________________________
Expiration Date: ______/______ Security Code: ______ Zip Code: ______

Authorized Signature: ____________________________ Date: ______

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CHURCHES COOKING UP SOMETHING GOOD

On June 10th, several churches came together in the parking lot of Cramton Bowl to host the Churches for Children BBQ Cook-off. Nine area churches came together for the friendly competition to see who could cook the best chicken, ribs, and pork.

We’re not certain who had it worse, those up early cooking and braising the heat of day or our judges, who had to be bursting at the seams from barbecue overload. Thank you to our panel of judges, Tay Ferguson, Felicia Thomas, and Tiffany McCord for expanding your horizons and your bellies for our competition. Tickets were sold to the public so others could partake in the deliciousness of the day as well.

In the end, the competition came down to presentation. Just a tip for those participating in our next cook-off: Never underestimate the power of garnish.

WINNERS

Chicken
Maggie Street Baptist Church
St. James Baptist Church
Freewill Missionary Baptist Church

Ribs
Maggie Street Baptist Church
Unity Worship Center
St. James Baptist Church

Pork
Unity Worship Center
Maggie Street Baptist Church
Freewill Baptist Church

WELCOME BRANTWOOD’S NEWEST BOARD MEMBERS

Robby Brantley graduated from Auburn University in 2004. He currently serves as Vice President at Capitol Container. His mother, Susan Kennedy, was a board member as he was growing up. So he has been involved with Brantwood at a young age by volunteering at the Truck Raffle, Annual Christmas Party, and other annual events.

Dr. Spencer is the Lead Pastor at Saint James United Methodist Church. He served from 1993-2011 and was reappointed to serve on July 1, 2016. Lester and his wife, Janeese, have been married for 28 years and have three children, Harden, Ciara, and Joshua. Janeese has been an ordained Deacon in the United Methodist Church for 28 years. Harden, the oldest, is attending seminary at Duke Divinity School. Ciara is in the Nursing School at UAB, and Joshua, the youngest, is attending Auburn University.

Dr. Spencer was born in Mobile, AL, but was raised in Montgomery.

Pamela Robinson Higgins serves as the Presiding District Judge for Montgomery County, Alabama. She holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Alabama and a Juris Doctorate from the Walter F. George School of Law, Mercer University. She is a member of the Alabama State Bar and the Georgia State Bar. She is a member of the Montgomery, Alabama Chapter of Links, Incorporated, Leadership Church Women United, the Junior League of Montgomery (Sustainer), and the Alabama Lawyers Association.

She has served as a member of the Board of Directors of the American Red Cross of South Central Alabama, the Advisory Board for Auburn Montgomery College for Business, and the Montgomery Chamber of Commerce Women in Business Forum. She is married to Lamar P. Higgins and is a member of St. Paul AME Church, Montgomery, Alabama.

Dr. Porcia Bradford Love is a Board Certified Dermatologist and the founder of River Region Dermatology and Laser. She is as also a Clinical Assistant Professor at the University of Alabama School of Medicine, where she enjoys precepting and mentoring resident physicians and medical students.

Dr. Love is a Fellow of the American Academy of Dermatology, the American Society of Dermatologic Surgery, the Skin of Color Society, and the Women’s Dermatologic Society. She also serves on the University of Alabama’s Community Affairs Board of Advisors, the Leadership Advisory Board of the American Cancer Society, Leadership Montgomery, and Medical Outreach Ministries.

Dr. Love is married to J C Love, III, an Attorney with Rushton, Stakely Law Firm in Montgomery. They welcomed their first daughter, Caroline, in August 2015.

GOLF TOURNAMENT IS SEPTEMBER 14TH

We are hosting our annual Fore the Love of our Children Golf Tournament on September 14th at RTJ at Capital Hill. Registration is now open for the event. Individuals are $150. Teams are $600. Lunch and registration will be at Noon. Tee time is 1:00 PM. We also have a number of sponsorship opportunities available. Contact Krystal at 934-549-5700 or k.royal@brantwoodchildrenshome.org for more information.