

# Hope!

the newsletter of southeastern children's home • fall/winter 2022

southeastern

children's  
home

inside ...

The heart of our  
ministry

A legacy lives on

Transitioning to  
adulthood

## Giving thanks for family

*The impact of family and home on a  
child's development is incalculable*

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June 1, 2022 – October 15, 2022

# Family is the heart

... and it's why your support of Southeastern is so vitally important.

**By Brad Brooks,**  
*Executive Director*

There is a powerful verse in the book of Joshua that I imagine most of us know well. In Joshua 24:15, the respected leader of the Israelites confidently declares, "...as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." It's a clear and concise faith statement about Joshua and his leadership – not just for the people of Israel, but for his family as well. It is perhaps the case for many reading this article that you have made a similarly powerful declaration for your own family.

The importance of family is a theme throughout the Bible; it is clear in both the Old and New Testaments that God highly values the family unit. At Southeastern Children's Home, we highly value family as well. We utilize the houseparent model – a model in which a dad and mom couple (and their own children) share their home with the children they serve and work with each day.

That family-type model and the benefits that come with it are at the heart of what our ministry does each day. We strongly believe in the family model, and we are firsthand witnesses to the benefits it can bring to the children who come to us from broken families. The children we serve come to us for a variety of reasons, but for the vast majority of them, it is the unfortunate case that their family did not choose to serve the Lord. And that choice has made a profoundly negative impact



*"... It is clear in both the Old and New Testaments that God highly values the family unit ..."*

on their lives; that impact often has devastating consequences. But that's why we're here, and that's why your commitment to and support of our ministry is so vitally important.

This newsletter mentions two of our children: DJ, a young man who came here because of our family model and has found a home here; and Emily, a young lady who came

here as part of a sibling group and has since also found a home and a family with us. Both have been with us for over a year, and both would quickly tell you that their houseparents and the houseparents' children are their families, too. They

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**Hope!** is a publication of Southeastern Children's Home, Brad Brooks, Executive Director. We can be reached **by mail** at Post Office Box 339, 115 Children's Way, Duncan, SC 29334, **by phone** at 864.439.0259, and **online** at [sech.org](http://sech.org).

# of our ministry

are just two examples of young people whose lives were positively and eternally impacted because Southeastern Children's Home exists and because we, much like Joshua many years ago, have made the decision that we will serve the Lord.

So, during this holiday season - as you enjoy meals and other events with your family, as you experience the gift-giving traditions of the season with them, as you laugh and smile and hold them close - I encourage you to offer a prayer of thanks to the Lord for your family. While there are far too many children

whose families have not chosen to serve the Lord, you can rejoice that yours has made that choice. And you can also rejoice that there are places like Southeastern Children's Home where family is highly valued and where the decision to serve the Lord has already been made.

Sincerely,



Brad Brooks



*Southeastern resident Emily and house mom Joni enjoy a day in the sun together at Ohana's shave ice place in Duncan.*

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# Robert Kimberly's

**Tributes, remembrance, thanks mark the culmination of**

**By Curt Harbuck,**  
*Director of Development*

Congratulations to Robert Kimberly on his recent retirement as Executive Director of Southeastern Children's Home and Counseling Center. Robert served as the head of this ministry for 32 years. In May this year, hundreds of people gathered in Duncan, South Carolina to honor Robert. During the opening prayer, Ernie Thigpen, the head minister at Central church of Christ, said it well to the standing-room-only crowd:

***"Robert was put among us to give his life in leading Southeastern Children's Home, ably assisted by Kim, and all the rest of us got to be a little part of that life that has been lived for this reason."***

Jim Cain, Chair of the Southeastern Children's Home Board of Directors, reflected on how, in 1990, the SECH board prayerfully welcomed an energetic 30-year-old young man who brought passion to honor God and do all things in an excellent and exemplary way and a passion to give his very best to the children God entrusted to the agency. Robert has demanded the children in his care be loved unconditionally and be treated as what they are, individuals made in the image of God. During his tenure, Robert has inspired all who know him, he has exhibited an unending love for the wellbeing of the children, serving more than 540 children through the years. With his visionary leadership, the agency has provided complete and compassionate physical, emotional, spiritual, and educational care tailored to the needs of each child. Children have seen modeled in Robert the adult role model that has been missing in their lives.



***"...During his tenure, Robert has inspired all who know him ..."***

Dorothy White, a former Southeastern Children's Home resident, said, "There are not enough words to begin to say how SECH has changed my life." She recounted that it was not another placement; it was home. She went on to say that Robert made it like home when she was living at SECH. She was able to be normal, not just another kid in care. She went on to say she looked upon Robert like a father. She went on to say that

***... Robert has demanded the children in his care be loved unconditionally and be treated as what they are, individuals made in the image of God ...***

Throughout his career, Robert has received many awards and honors. This year Robert received a Lifetime Achievement Award from Network 1:27 that read: *"For your Leadership, Compassion, Visionary Faith, and Personal Sacrifice on behalf of Children and Families in Need."*

# Legacy lives on

## Kimberly's 32-year career of service to children

On May 14, Robert received the Order of the Palmetto, the state's highest honor, from Governor McMaster and was presented by State Representative Rita Allison.

As a culmination of this event and his long and faithful service, the Southeastern Children's Home Board of Directors proclaimed:

*In honor of a life lived to serve and care for others, the Southeastern Children's Home Board of Directors declares that henceforth from this day the Duncan Group Home now known as "The Green Cottage" shall be known as "The Kimberly Cottage."*



*Southeastern Children's Home Executive Director Robert Kimberly (center) receives The Order of the Palmetto from Michael Leach, State Director for the South Carolina Department of Social Services, and Representative Merita A. "Rita" Allison on May 14, 2022.*

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# An important safety net for residents

**By Lian King,**  
Director of Social Services

The age of majority is the threshold at which a child legally becomes an adult, and in South Carolina, the age of majority is 18 years old. As if there were some mystical veil one crosses over into adulthood, where all the wisdom and knowledge necessary for survival in the real world somehow magically falls into place, readying a child to venture out on their own. Ask any adult north of 30, and they will tell you that 18 is far from an adult. The frontal lobe of the brain is not fully developed until approximately age 25. This portion of the brain is responsible for executive functioning and emotional regulation, among other things. How then, would we expect any child, let alone a child who is in the custody of the State, to be fully prepared for adulthood at the age of 18? Fortunately, despite the common misconception that youths "age out of care" at 18, there is State and Federal funding that ensures that youth may stay in care until the age of 21.

Children that leave their family's home to work, attend a vocational school, or college often have the luxury of a safety net, should their well-laid plans

fall astray. Children in foster care do not have this option and that is why it is crucial to their success they stay in care as long as they possibly can. Our family model

provides the love and support youth need as they transition from children to adults.

We currently have two residents who are at the threshold of adulthood and plan on utilizing our program past age 18. DJ, who is on the cover of this newsletter, will graduate from high school this winter. DJ plans on spending time working and saving money and then will go to college to study to become a youth minister. When asked what knowing that he can stay



*"... Our family model provides the love and support youth need as they transition from children to adults. ..."*

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Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Troyer  
Ms. Kylie Tucks  
Ms. Ruth Tuggle Family  
Mr. & Mrs. John Turner, Jr.  
Ms. Susan Underwood  
Mr. & Mrs. Barry Van Hamme, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Eric Van Splinter

Mr. & Mrs. Gary Vanover  
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Waddell  
Mr. & Mrs. John Wade  
Mr. & Mrs. Royce Wade  
Ms. Nancy Walden  
Mr. & Mrs. John Walker  
Ms. Jessica Walker  
Mr. Sammy Walker  
Mr. & Mrs. Floyd Wampler  
Mr. & Mrs. Eric Waters  
Mrs. Connie Waters  
Mr. James Watson  
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Watts  
Ms. Shirley Weatherington  
Ms. Darlene Weathers  
Mr. Eli Weaver  
Mr. & Mrs. Terrell Webster  
Ms. Karyn Weidman  
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Weller  
Mr. & Mrs. Kenyon Wells  
Mr. & Mrs. L West  
Mr. David Westbrook  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael White  
Mr. Scott White  
Mr. & Mrs. Dan Whitecotton  
Mr. Josh Whitener  
Mr. & Mrs. Rudy Whitener  
Mr. David Whitman  
Ms. Dorothy Whitman  
Mr. & Mrs. James Whitworth  
Mr. & Mrs. Kliff Wiant  
Mr. & Mrs. Kyle Wilburn  
Ms. Victoria Wilburn  
Mr. & Mrs. Martin Wildeman  
Mr. Virgil Wilkerson  
Mr. & Mrs. Donnie Williams  
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Wilson  
Mr. & Mrs. Tim Wilson  
Mr. & Mrs. T Edward Winston  
Mr. Jeremy Wist  
Mr. John Wist  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Witte  
Mr. Jacob Witten  
Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Woodcock  
Mr. & Mrs. Carol Woodley  
Mr. & Mrs. William Woodroof  
Ms. Sharon Woody  
Mr. & Mrs. Phillip Wyatt  
Mr. & Mrs. David Wyatt, II  
Mr. Roger Wykel

Mr. & Mrs. Scott Yarbrough  
Ms. Kay Yenny  
Ms. Patricia Yenny  
Mr. & Mrs. Fred York  
Ms. Judy Young  
Ms. Linda Young  
Dr. & Mrs. Anthony Zeiss

## Memorials

RAMIERO ARREOLA  
Mr. & Mrs. Carol Woodley  
KENNETH D. AVINGER, JR.  
Anonymous  
LUCILLE BABBITT  
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Audia  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Fitzpatrick  
Ms. Sharon E. Johnson  
ED BIBREY  
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Brown  
JOHN BURNETT  
Mrs. JoAnne Burnett  
STEVE BLAYDES  
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Wampler  
PATRICK DEL RAY BROWN  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Caison, III  
The Summerville church of Christ  
ROBERT LEE BROWN  
Central Church of Christ,  
Spartanburg  
Ms. Sara Dexter  
Ms. Janet Lindner  
Mr. Barrett Mills  
Mr. & Mrs. Ernie Thigpen  
Subbu Meiyappan  
EVA BUCHANAN  
Church of Christ at Gold Hill Road  
WAYNE BUSEY  
Ms. Maranell Busey  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Miller  
KEITH CLARK  
Church of Christ at Gold Hill Road  
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Wampler  
DR. WILLIAM BENJAMIN CLARK, III  
Mr. James Fickling  
CLARA COLE  
Ms. Donna Cole  
RUTH DAILEY  
Dr. & Mrs. Jimmy Alston  
Greenwood, SC Church of Christ

# who stay with us past the age of 18

until age 21 means to DJ, he replied that "It makes me feel more secure. Knowing I don't have to worry about figuring out where to live after I turn 18 means I can focus on going to school." DJ planned on going to school to become a social worker but stated that after coming to SECH "I became a Christian, and I decided that there was no better way to help kids and do God's work than becoming a youth minister."

Emily, a college freshman, stated that staying at SECH has provided her with an "opportunity to have a support network, a family, connections, relationships, and a purpose. I am the go-to-girl in the house, like a big sister, and a role model. If I didn't have those connections, I would have left when I turned 18."

Children with safety nets can take chances. They can follow dreams and become who they were meant to be. At SECH, it is a privilege to provide children, adolescents, and young adults with the roots to grow and the wings to fly. With an emphasis on building relationships and connections, we can guide our young adults on their journey and provide them with a soft place to land.



*Southeastern resident Emily on her first day at college.*

SHIRLEY BEARDEN DAVIS  
Williston Church of Christ  
Ms. Marylen Jackson  
SARA E. DISMUKE  
Ms. Rosalie Crouch  
Mr. Kenneth Hunsucker  
Ms. Melinda Jarnecke  
JANET FORREST  
Mr. Paul T. Forrest  
OREN EDWARDS  
St. Andrews Road Church of Christ  
KATHERYN ESPOSEDO  
Mr. & Mrs. Carol Woodley  
NORMA FRANCESE  
Mr. & Mrs. William Cuda  
LARRY GIBSON  
Mr. & Mrs. Max Nigh  
ANNETTE GORE  
St. Andrews Road Church of Christ  
Ms. Linda Young  
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Winston, III  
Mr. & Mrs. Carol Woodley  
GILL GREGORY  
Ms. Pat Gregory  
JOYCE HOLDREN  
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Wampler  
JOE HOUSTON  
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Brown  
GALE HUBBARD  
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Brown  
WES & PEGGY KIMBERLY  
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Curry  
OSCAR & SARA KOONTZ  
Mr. Kenneth Hyder  
ROGER LANE  
Mr. Randall Spake

BETTY LAMONT  
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Wampler  
JIM LANIUS  
Church of Christ at Gold Hill Road  
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Wampler  
MAXEY D. LOVE, JR.  
Anonymous  
THERDERA LUIZ  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Fitzpatrick  
OLIN MCGUKIN  
Mr. Randall Spake  
REGINALD MORTON  
Ms. Sara Dexter  
ROBERT NALLEY  
Ms. Jeri Schwartz Hall  
PATRICIA NIGH  
Mr. & Mrs. Max Nigh  
BENNY NODINE  
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Barnette  
DAVID NORWOOD  
Ms. Virginia Norwood  
GEORGE PEARSON  
Ms. Virginia Norwood  
Mr. & Mrs. R. Letand Rodgers  
BRO. RICHARD RAMKINSON  
Ms. Dorothy Johnson  
Mr. & Mrs. John Johnson  
MARTY RAWLES  
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Wampler  
LEE REEDY  
The Summerville Church of Christ  
MILDRED REID  
Ms. Wilma Stuart  
JUANITA ROWE  
Church of Christ at Gold Hill Road

GENE SAMS  
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Brown  
SHELBY SATTERFIELD  
Mr. & Mrs. James Burley  
VEVA SAVAGE  
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Wampler  
Church of Christ at Gold Hill Road  
ANNIE LEE SCOTT  
Her Loving Children  
DAPHIE SELLARS  
The Summerville Church of Christ  
ROBERTHA SHAW  
Mr. & Mrs. A. Lee Brewer  
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Brown  
Mr. & Mrs. Carol Woodley  
STEVE SHELTON  
Mr. & Mrs. Todd Buelow  
Mr. Brett Hinson  
Ms. Minnie Phillips  
Mr. Doyle Shelton  
Mr. & Mrs. David Smith  
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Wampler  
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Cox  
JANE SPENCER  
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Brown  
SYBILLE SPRANG  
Grand Strand Church of Christ  
GARY STEVENS  
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Wampler  
Church of Christ at Gold Hill Road  
TRAVIS TARRANT  
Mr. & Mrs. Carol Woodley  
DAN THOMAS  
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Brown

ROGER DALE TRIPP  
Mr. & Mrs. Barry Monroe  
Mr. & Mrs. Scott Shely  
RUTH TUGGLE  
Mr. Randall Spake  
DR. MALCOM USREY  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Dom  
JOE VAN PELT  
Ms. Virginia Norwood  
KIMBER LEE WHITTEN  
Mr. & Mrs. Don Barnette  
Ms. Brenda Bell  
Shannon & Mishi Morgan  
MARVIN WILLIAMS  
Grand Strand Church of Christ  
KAREN WRIGHT  
Grand Strand Church of Christ  
CAROLYN WOLFE  
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Brown  
DAVID WYATT  
Mr. & Mrs. Travis Wyatt  
Mr. & Mrs. Philip Wyatt  
WILLIAM H. YOUNG  
Ms. Patricia Hair

## In Honor Of

ED & BARBARA BERLIN  
Ms. Barbara McDermott  
ANN W. CAMPBELL  
Mr. Robert Campbell  
JANE FARLEY  
Mr. & Mrs. William Nevins  
ALTON FREE  
Mrs. Kathy Sims  
HAMMON HATCHETTE  
Mr. & Mrs. Chuck Hatchette

BARBARA DAVIS KOHLER  
Mr. & Mrs. Randy Johnson  
JOE MANNING  
Mr. Ed Hipp

## In Honor of Birthday

DENISE G. GANZIE  
Mr. & Mrs. James Burley  
JANE FARLEY  
Mr. & Mrs. William Nevins  
WYLENE KELLER  
Mr. Kenneth Hyder  
SULLIVAN M. ROGERS  
Mr. & Mrs. James Burley  
TERRI ROGERS  
Mr. & Mrs. James Burley  
TONYA ROGERS  
Mr. & Mrs. James Burley  
JERRY SATTERFIELD  
Mr. & Mrs. James Burley  
In Honor of 16th Birthday  
MAYA ARGO  
Mrs. Nancy Bailey

## In Honor of Retirement

ROBERT C. KIMBERLY  
Mr. & Mrs. Holbert Hale, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Alan Larmon  
Mr. Hugh Price, Jr.  
RAY CORRADI  
Fluor Corp. c/o Ms. Peggy Latini

# Thank you!

# fall/winter 2022

# HOLIDEE!

