

CREATING A PLACE OF HOPE AND WHOLENESS



ANNUAL REPORT 2014

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From Our President **WELCOME "HOME"**

Dear Friends of ABCH



2014 WAS A GOOD YEAR for your Alabama Baptist Children's Homes & Family Ministries (ABCH). We experienced growth and change, celebrated accomplishments, and overcame challenges. I am very grateful for our wonderful supporters who make our ministry possible. We could not do this without you!

Those of you who have been longtime, faithful supporters will notice that our 2014 Annual Report has a very different look than in previous years. Our ministry is focused on serving children from hard places and leading them to experience hope and wholeness. In our annual report, you will read stories of young lives that have been damaged (some may even be described as "broken"), and upon first glance they may seem to be "beyond repair." To a technician, these lives can be repaired, but they will never look the same. To a loving Creator, no life is ever beyond repair, and especially not the life of a child. And to an artist, these lives serve as a canvas upon which to find beauty.

At ABCH, we do not view ourselves as technicians, seeking to use the latest superglue fads to patch up families so that no one will ever know they were broken. We are apprentices of a Great Artist, the Greatest Artist, who uses the blood of His only begotten Son to repair lives. It is the blood of Jesus that restores families, protects children, and nurtures the abandoned, neglected, and abused. That is why our ministry is unapologetically and unabashedly Christ-centered.

In the last decade, over 200 children have made professions of faith while living in one of our group homes or foster homes. In 2014, 25 children were adopted into permanent Christian homes. Also in 2014, we were privileged to provide care for nearly 10% of the children in need of out-of-home care in our state.

In our 2014 Annual Report, you will find statistics to keep you well-informed about the work of ABCH. But, you will also read stories of redemption and restoration. You will hear the Good News of hope and wholeness. You will be reminded that we believe the only healing for the children and families we serve is the healing that comes from Christ, the very Author of Hope.

We are not artists, but we are apprentices of the Greatest Artist, whose art is displayed not on canvas or in clay but with the lives of the least. He uses neither paint nor glue, but he repairs and restores lives and adorns them with glory using the blood of the Lamb. What a privilege it is to be His apprentice. I am so thankful for your partnership with us in helping children and families. May God richly bless you.

Sincerely,

ROD MARSHALL

President/CEO

Alabama Baptist Children's Homes & Family Ministries



SINOWIO CALVIDS 2014 CREATING STABILITY THROUGH THE STORM

GREG AND CHRISTY O'CONNOR had been fostering sister and brother, Kaya and Jaxson, for about a year when the 2014 ice storm hit the Birmingham area. The kids were just 4 and 5 years old then, and the O'Connor home was at least the second foster home they had lived in. Knowing they had been through so much transition, Greg wanted to do whatever he could to be with them and prevent the possibility of additional trauma that may be added to their lives by being separated from their parents, even for just one night.

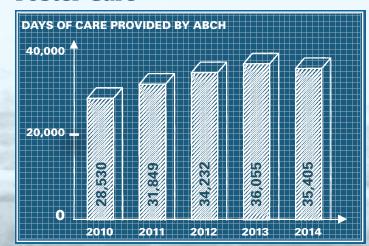
No one expected this storm that would literally freeze time and roads. Greg was traveling with a co-worker and was not in his own car when the road conditions began deteriorating around noon. They were in Moody (AL) at the time, and the kids were roughly 30 miles away in Hoover. He and Christy began texting and realized there was no practical way to get the kids home since she was stuck at work, and even if he got home, he was without a car since his was at work. He knew he'd either have to run or ride his mountain bike to the daycare to be with them.

Not knowing if he'd make it or not, they continued to travel, even getting out a few times to push cars up hills to clear traffic. Greg shared, "I did that partly out of the goodness of my heart, but also because I really wanted to keep moving!" Being fairly athletic, he began mapping out how close he would have to be to run home without risking serious injury since he'd be running in work/dress shoes. About 6 hours later, they made it to the Hoover area, but he had to run the last two miles to get home since those roads were not drivable. He quickly changed clothes, got a backpack with nighttime essentials so the kids could have a "normal night," and he hit the roads again.

With a flashlight strapped on his bike handlebars, he began the 8-mile trek to the daycare. Despite slipping and sliding several times into ditches masked by snow and ice, he made it just as the workers were finishing up dinner, just in time to help get his children ready for bed. Though he had been discouraged by some from taking the risk of getting there, he said, "I couldn't have slept in my comfortable bed, knowing my kids were stranded just as they had been in other areas of their lives; I could not be comfortable when I knew my children were in need, and there was a chance that I could be there for them."

Greg is very humble about his actions that day, giving all credit to the Lord for making the way possible for him. He is also quick to share, when talking about it with others, that one way to look at that night is that one foster parent did what he could to make sure his kids were cared for. Another way though, that he feels is just as true, is that, "It's a good picture of what all ABCH foster parents do for their kids. Children need safe places every day, and our foster parents will do whatever is needed to make sure that happens."

Foster Care



"I couldn't have slept in my comfortable bed, knowing my kids were stranded just as they had been in other areas of their lives; I could not be comfortable when I knew my children were in need, and there was a chance that I could be there for them."



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GITI Talk

MAKING MEALS, MAKING MEMORIES

BY WHITNEY DAUGETTE

DINNERTIME IS A PRECIOUS TIME IN OUR HOUSE.

I love the moment right before we eat—everyone waits until the last person is served, then we hold hands and pray together. No matter what else has happened during the day, that time feels like a peaceful oasis from the busyness of life. It is a time to pause and be thankful for what we have—a small tithe of time and gratitude.

After this quiet moment, dinnertime conversation gets going, and it is never boring! The girls especially love to play a game we call "The ABCs of Gratitude." We go around the table and everyone says one thing for which they are thankful with each corresponding letter of the alphabet. This year, we have a lot of first graders still learning to read, so they may phonetically choose words like "cute babies" for the letter "Q." No matter how many times we play, it never gets old.

Around our table, we hear about their days, both the good and bad. We encourage and enjoy one another, laugh a lot, learn about their families, and teach manners and mutual respect. We also teach the girls how to prepare the table for meals. Oftentimes, one of the girls will assist in the cooking, and we intentionally talk about preparing the food. Through these simple acts, our hope is that one day, they will think back on their time with us and know how loved they are. And even more, we hope they will see a picture of their

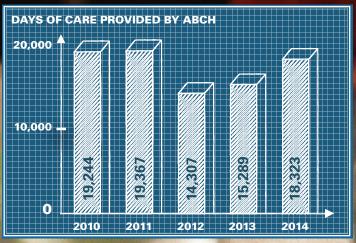
heavenly Father who prepares food for his children and prepares a table from which they were created to eat.

Since Cliff and I became House Parents, we have had 27 girls sit around this table with us. That seems like a big number until we begin to think about them individually. We miss those who are no longer with us, but each new girl is such a treasure. We truly stand in awe of the opportunity to be here and love these girls, many who come in with little or no knowledge of the Bible or God. We often create time after dinner for devotions, where we share the beautiful truths of God's redemption, love, and grace, planting seeds and asking our Father to water them.

ABCH group homes are unique. If you come visit us, you will not see an institution. You will see a home. If you come have dinner with us, you will not see a cafeteria. You will see a family.

Whitney Daugette and her husband, Cliff, have served as House Parents with us in Mobile since 2012.

Residential Children*



*Campuses, Group Homes, and Emergency Shelters

"The children around your table, as fresh and promising as young olive shoots. Stand in awe of God's Yes."

PSALM 128:3 (MSG)



Lasing Bonds

FINDING LOVE AND SAFETY IN FAMILY COUNSELING

"... through hard work and perseverance in counseling, and in trusting God to provide for their healing, small gains began to stick."

CLIENTS 2,731

COUNSELORS:
27

COUNSELORS:
27

COUNSELORS:
27

COUNSELORS:
27

TWIN BOYS, COLBY AND CJ, faced great difficulties and lived in many homes in their short 3 years before coming into the Ewart home. Because of this, their needs were great. Like many other children in foster care, they had built up emotional walls. They did not trust that adults and caregivers could *or would* meet their needs. No home felt safe, and the world seemed to be a very scary place. Being in control of everything was the only time they felt safe and secure. They came into the Ewart home rejecting love and nurturing, and they acted out negatively in order to maintain the protective walls around them, causing great stress to the family.

Regardless, the Ewarts were determined to help them. Through all the negative behavioral issues, they loved these boys. They knew these children were precious and deserved to *feel* loved. The Ewarts realized

though, they couldn't walk this journey alone. In order to bring healing to the boys, they needed help through professional counseling. In order to show these boys unconditional love, the same love that Christ shows us, they needed to add specific tools to their parenting tool box as they built this new home for them.

Four months after welcoming Colby and CJ into their home, they began weekly counseling sessions with us at Pathways Professional Counseling, focused on enhancing attachment, self-esteem, and developing trust in others. We continued in counseling for over 13 months, providing the family with parenting tools and techniques to help the boys heal. There were times when the journey was very difficult. But as their therapist worked to help this family connect through different play activities and therapeutic interventions, they began to see glimmers of hope arise. Over

this 13-month period, though progress was made, regression would occur. However, through hard work and perseverance in counseling, and in trusting God to provide for their healing, small gains began to stick The Ewarts began to hear loving language from their sons and felt connected to them in a significant way for the first time. Through family counseling, they were forging a lasting bond.

We are happy to share that on November 18, 2014, after 1,256 days as foster children in their care, Colby and CJ were adopted into their forever home with the Ewarts! This couple, like many other foster parents, worked hard to bring the boys to their permanent home of safety, acceptance, and belonging, and they continue to lead them along their paths of healing.

6 Home: Creating a Place of Hope and Wholeness

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Susan* has five children and lived with a man who was abusive and drank heavily.

Maria* grew up in foster care, graduated college, and married; her husband left unexpectedly when their baby was only months old.

Samantha* found herself in the middle of domestic violence with three children exposed to that danger as well.

WITHIN THE PAST YEAR, each of these mothers found themselves seeking refuge from circumstances that overwhelm many women, often to the point of giving up or giving in. But these women aren't like most. They are fighters, and they are strong. They all came to ABCH in need of care, protection, and HOPE, and that is what we have helped provide.

Whether our "children" come to us in foster care or as adults who need care, they are all experiencing pain and trauma. "The only real difference is, the adults who come in are just in bigger bodies." This is an observation from Family Care program director, June LaFontaine. She and her husband, Woody, have served with our ministry in multiple capacities since 1981. They feel their current call to Family Care is to love, encourage, and affirm these mothers and to help them discover and develop their potential. Family Care is designed specifically for single moms and their children as they transition from difficult environments.

June shares, "Our purpose is not to take away the pain or fix their life so it will work; rather, it's to walk through the pain with them, forever pointing them to Jesus Christ, the only real healer of pain."

There are three Family Care homes (Alabaster, Gardendale, and Oxford) that include multiple living units in each, to serve more than one family at any given time. The program can last up to one year, and everything is provided when a family moves in. Their apartment is completely furnished and counseling is provided for each mom and her children, as needed. The mother's responsibility is to secure and maintain a job and to care for and discipline her children. Our staff works with each mom to set up a daily budget, with 30 percent of every paycheck going into a personal savings account. This helps a mother as she leaves the program, enabling her to afford a place to live and then in the long-term, to learn the value of budgeting.

As June reflects on the life transformations she bears witness to regularly, she says, "To see these moms come in so broken, and to watch what God does in one year of their lives, is so exciting! At the end of their year, we want to claim for each mom, 2 Peter 3:10, 'But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. To Him be all the glory both now and forever. AMEN."

*Names have been changed to protect their identity.







rents & Trips

HOME IS WHERE YOUR HEART IS



This past summer, we went outside of state lines—outside of country borders in fact—to help care for those in need. We partnered with Orphan's Heart, an international ministry of Florida Baptist Children's Homes, to send two groups, totaling over 35 volunteers, to help build homes as part of a community development project near the city of Azua in the Dominican Republic (DR).

With nearly 40% of the population in the DR living below the national poverty line, Orphan's Heart partnered with local church, Iglesia Fundamento Bíblico, in Santo Domingo, to build this large scale, comprehensive community development project in order to help meet the needs of those living in poverty. When complete, the project will include the building of 100 homes and a multi-purpose community center. It will also be staffed by a full-time Christian social worker to help community members with job, agricultural, and life skills. While our groups were there, they built nine and a half homes, as well as provided VBS type activities for local children.

Even though the purpose of the trip was largely construction related, group members had a bigger mission in mind—to share the love and gospel of Christ. One of the college students on the trip, Allison Looney, was able to share her testimony with the local children. When Allison was younger, she lived in our care at our Decatur campus before being adopted. "I told her before going on the trip that she didn't have to share anything about her past if she wasn't comfortable doing so," shared Bob Dewhurst, Vice President for Development of ABCH. "But she told me she would do whatever she could for the name of Christ."

WE NEVER SIT STILL FOR LONG, if ever, around ABCH! In addition to events shared here, we also participated in multiple conferences where staff both led sessions and hosted displays. In the spring, we co-sponsored Beeson Divinity School's Orphan Care event, and in the fall, we sponsored an ABCH first-time event, the Becoming Home Breakfast: How the Church Responds to the Fatherless in Alabama, during the State Convention. At the breakfast, we were able to tap into the minds of some of our best leaders around the state in foster care, and provided resources and ideas for churches to be involved.

2014 was a strong year for us in sharing about the ministry, and we look forward to what God has in store for 2015!



Barons Game

"For it's one, two, three strikes, you're out, at the old ball game!"

In May, foster families from the Birmingham area, as well as children from our Decatur and Oxford campuses, got to sing this American classic while being treated to a night out at a Birmingham Barons baseball game at Regions Field.

Before the game, foster families and children in our care gathered at Railroad Park, located across the street from the stadium, for a classic picnic with sack meals containing sandwiches, chips, and cookies. A group of volunteers from National WMU helped prepare and hand out these meals at the picnic, and then joined us for the ball game. It was a great time of fun, family, and fellowship!



Christmas Open House

We were blessed to have nearly 2,000 people attend our Christmas Open House events in Decatur, Dothan, Mobile, and Oxford, on the second weekend of December. Many of our children gave tours of their homes, showed off how they had decorated their rooms, and invited guests to enjoy delicious Christmas cookies and treats with them too! Unique to the Dothan event was a petting zoo, a live nativity, and performances from two local elementary school chorale groups!

In the midst of Open House activities, we remember why we celebrate the Christmas season—for our Savior. While decorating in Mobile, a little boy who had recently come into our care pointed to an ornament of Mary, Joseph, and the baby, asking who they were. "The other boys living in the house all chimed in to answer quickly, saying, 'He's the Savior of the world!'" when pointing to the baby, shared Dani-Ga Chester, a House Parent in Mobile. "Then the boys started sharing who Jesus is to them. It was amazing to think this conversation all started with one little ornament."



Heritage Farm Day & Trail Ride

For the ninth year in a row, the Maddox family opened up their farm to the Wiregrass community for the Heritage Farm Day & Trail Ride, a fun-filled day of horse-drawn wagon rides, farm demonstrations, a petting zoo, an Easter egg hunt, BBQ lunch, and much more—all to benefit the children in our care.

This event helps these children and also provides an opportunity for them to know there are people who care deeply for them. "Dr. Maddox just has a way of making each of our children feel really special," shared Kim McGainey, Area Director of Southeast Alabama for ABCH. "He shakes their hands and calls them each by name. One child came up to me after talking with him and said, "I think I'm really important to Dr. Maddox!" Thank you to the Maddox family and the Wiregrass community for supporting ABCH and the children in our care!



Kris Banister Memorial Golf Tournament

On the first Saturday in June, we celebrated in Decatur, the 10th annual Kris Banister Memorial Golf Tournament. This annual event is sponsored by First Baptist Church Fairview Brotherhood, and it gets better every year. With the help of many wonderful friends and sponsors, \$11,000 was raised to benefit the ABCH Decatur campus, and multiple in-kind donations were received from local businesses! We are especially thankful for the countless volunteer hours poured into this event, and appreciate the support of our flagship sponsor, Merchants Bank of Alabama.

Visit krisbanistermemorial.yolasite.com to learn more about getting involved in this event.

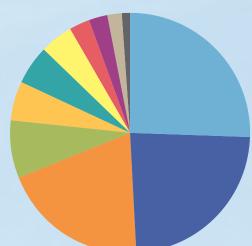
SUPPORTING HOMES AROUND ALABAMA

2014 FINANCIALS

2014 INCOME

(listed from largest to smallest \$ amount)

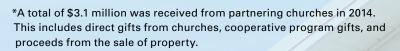
■ Churches*	\$2,521,557	25.6%
■ Investment Income	\$2,324,759	23.6%
Individuals	\$1,951,873	19.9%
■ Benefits & Entitlements	\$755,356	7.7%
Other Income	\$533,932	5.4%
■ Legacy Gifts	\$508,176	5.2%
Foundations & Grants	\$441,150	4.5%
■ Pathways Professional Counseling	\$267,734	2.7%
■ Alabama Baptist Cooperative Program	\$257,273	2.6%
Businesses	\$187,373	1.9%
■ Events & Fundraisers	\$84,955	0.9%
2014 Total Income	\$9,834,138	100.0%



2014 EXPENDITURES

Homes For Children	\$2,564,793	27.9%
■ Foster Care	\$2,415,228	26.3%
■ Pathways Professional Counseling	\$1,629,302	17.7%
Family Care	\$588,736	6.4%
College Aid	\$252,634	2.8%
Family Aid	\$208,469	2.3%
International	\$38,035	0.4%
Outreach	\$25,876	0.3%

2014 Total Expenditures	\$9,189,313	100.0%
■ Communications	\$287,146	3.1%
Development	\$857,951	9.3%
Administration	\$321,143	3.5%
Administration I nat Waximize	es Kesources	



The numbers in this report use the unaudited totals for 2014 and reflect cash received and cash spent. Revenues and expenses which do not impact annual operations have been excluded. A copy of the complete 2014 Independent Audit is available through alabamachild.org



Top 25 Churches Giving Total

(Based on total giving)

CHURCH NAME // ASSOCIATION

- 1. Tuscaloosa First Baptist Church, Tuscaloosa
- 2. Henagar Baptist Church, Sand Mountain
- 3. Shades Crest Baptist Church, Birmingham
- 4. The Church at Brook Hills, Birmingham
- 5. Montgomery First Baptist Church, Montgomery
- 6. Evergreen Baptist Church, Conecuh
- 7. Hunter Street Baptist Church, Birmingham
- 8. Prattmont Baptist Church, Autauga
- 9. Brookwood Baptist Church, Birmingham
- 10. Pell City First Baptist Church, St. Clair
- 11. Maytown Baptist Church, Bessemer
- 12. Shades Mountain Baptist Church, Birmingham
- 13. Eastern Shore Baptist Church, Baldwin
- 14. Winfield First Baptist Church, Marion
- 15. Fairview First Baptist Church, East Cullman
- 16. Crawford Baptist Church, Mobile
- 17. Oak Mountain Baptist Church, Shelby
- 18. Samson First Baptist Church, Geneva
- 19. Whitesburg Baptist Church, Madison
- 20. Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Tuscaloosa
- 22. Lakeside Baptist Church, Birmingham
- 23. Prattville First Baptist Church, Autauga

21. Sylacauga First Baptist Church, Coosa River

- 24. Athens First Baptist Church, Limestone
- 25. Cloverdale Baptist Church, Columbia

Corporate Sponsors

The Caring Foundation (Entity of Blue Cross and

Blue Shield of Alabama)

Chevron Matching Employee Fund

Children's Fund Foundation (Wellborn Cabinets)

Dixie Horse & Mule, Co.

Inline Electrical Supply Co., Inc.

Long-Lewis Foundation

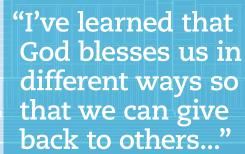
National Christian Foundation

Skyland Discount Drugs

Sunny King Automotive Group

Toyota of Dothan

Vision Press



DONOR TESTIMONY

Why do we give to Alabama Baptist Children's Homes?

I started giving to ABCH while I was away from home, in college. In the absence of having a church family at that time, my mom recommended giving to the Children's Homes as a way to honor the Lord with my income, so I did. After graduating college, I married DJ, and we moved. We continued to support ABCH while looking for a church home, which happened relatively fast. We began attending regularly and eventually became members. After five years of donating to ABCH, we had learned so much about how our donations are used to help children, and we were compelled to maintain our regular giving. I've learned that God blesses us in different ways so that we can give back to others, whether it be our time, possessions, money, or even knowledge and wisdom. Giving to ABCH is, and will remain, a firm fixture in our life from now on!



DJ and Katie Grantham Millbrook, Alabama

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2014 HIGHLIGHTS

LEADERS & PARTNERS

2014 ABCH LEADERSHIP

President/CEO

Rod Marshall, EdS, LPC

Vice Presidents

Dr. Robert L. Dewhurst, CCNL, CFRE *Vice President, Ministry Development*

Dr. Louise Green, LCSW, ACSW, NBCC, RPT, PIP Senior Regional Vice President, Central Alabama

Dr. Riley P. Green III, MTS *Vice President, Administration*

Ross Hickman, LPC, RPT Vice President, Counseling Ministries

Dr. Michael Smith, MSW, LCSW, PIP, MBA Regional Vice President, North Alabama

Dana Watson, LGSW Regional Vice President, South Alabama

Area and Program Directors

Sam Allison, CPA, MBA, CGMA Director of Finance & Accounting

Michelle Drashman

Director of Communications

Ted Embry, LCSW, MSW, MDiv Area Director Northeastern Alabama

Lisa Edwards Keane, MAMFC, LPC-S, RPT, NCC Clinical Director

Pathways Professional Counseling

Kim McGainey, LBSW, MA Area Director Southwestern Alabama

2014 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chairman

Dr. Ray Hammock, Fairhope

Vice Chairman

Ms. Lana Hawkins, Arab

Secretary

Mrs. Charolette S. Hamby, Birmingham

Elected Members

Mrs. Laura Graham, Tuscaloosa Mrs. Bonnie B. Henderson, Opelika Mr. Marc Ivey, Valley Grande Mr. Reynard McMillian, Sr., Irondale

Mr. Les Myers, Vestavia

Mr. Allan Neill, Florence

Mr. Phillip A. Padgett, Cragford

Mrs. Leah Stephens, Montgomery

Dr. Rick M. Weber, Dothan Mr. Alan Wilks, Henagar

Mr. Randy Winton, Brewton

Dr. Kurry Wyatt, Vinemont

Ex-Officio Members

Dr. Rick Lance
Executive Director
Alabama State Board of Missions
Montgomery

Dr. John H. Killian

President

Alabama Baptist State Convention

Maytown

PARTICIPANTS AT

CAMP OF CHAMPIONS

MILLION
RECEIVED FROM
PARTNERING
CHURCHES
IN 2014

849 CONTACTS MADE THROUGH

PATHWAYS EVENTS

21% f v v lincrease in social media engagement from 2013

FAMILY CARE RESIDENTS
GRADUATED FROM THE
"JOBS FOR LIFE" PROGRAM
AND SECURED EMPLOYMENT



2 ADVISORY BOARDS
IN DOTHAN & BIRMINGHAM
FOR YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

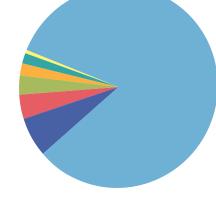
25 ADOPTIONS
THROUGH ARCH

PROFESSIONS OF FAITH

RECEIVED DURING FIRST-TIME EFFORTS ON #GivingTuesday



4,325



Pathways Professional Counseling: **3,580**

Foster Care: 271

Help to children when one or both parents die: 83

Campuses, Group Homes, Emergency Shelters: **167**

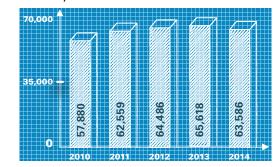
Family Care (Mothers, Dependent Children): **77**

Family Aid: 132

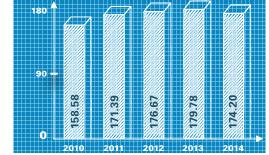
College & Independent Living: 15

DAYS OF CARE

Total Days of Care for children & families served



AVERAGE DAILY CARE



16 Home: Creating a Place of Hope and Wholeness



Why we exist: **OUR PURPOSE**

Hope and wholeness for children and families through knowing God

The result we hope to see: **OUR VISION**

The purpose of Alabama Baptist Children's Homes & Family Ministries is to protect, nurture, and restore children and families through Christ-centered services.

PO Box 361767 | Birmingham, AL 35236 | (888) 720-8805 | EMAIL: info@alabamachild.org | WEB: alabamachild.org

Our main ministry locations are in Birmingham, Decatur, Dothan, Mobile, Montgomery, and Oxford. For a complete listing of services available at each, as well as counseling offices around the state, please visit us online at alabamachild.org/locations.

