



Our mission: To strengthen communities by building strong youth and families

A Message from our Director



Have you ever considered running in a 5K race? Me neither. It never crossed my mind. In fact, if you asked me to list 10,000 things I want to do, running a 5K would probably not make my list. That is...until six months ago. It all started

in January 2009 with my New Year's resolution to exercise. Good plan, right? I thought so, too. So I began walking on the treadmill each day. My precious daughter, Elizabeth, started exercising, too. In May, she announced that she wanted us to run in the Relay for Life 5K. At her persistence, I entered the race. Mind you, I can barely make it 20 minutes on the treadmill, how am I ever going to run 3.1 miles? Did you know that a 5K is 3.1 miles? The day of the race, I had two goals. My first goal was to not come in last place and second, I did not want to make a trip to the hospital by ambulance. I accomplished both goals and can proudly say that I have ran in a 5K race. I will go back to my question, have you ever considered running in a 5K race? Family Connection is hosting a run on Saturday, July 10th called...**RUN FOR SHELTER** to benefit children and youth who enter our shelter program. Please join us for the **RUN for SHELTER 5K** on Saturday, July 10th.

*-Susan Johnston
Executive Director*

Did You Know? In 2009 Family Connection...

- Provided **7,136** meals, **2,779** showers and **1,205** loads of laundry for children and youth
- Conducted **1,180** Individual Counseling Sessions, **343** Group Counseling Sessions and **360** Family Counseling Sessions
- Reunited **83** youth who entered the shelter program with their family
- Educated **21,359** students on how to seek help in a crisis situation through Project Safe Place
- Educated **6,630** students and **3,106** adults on substance abuse and prevention
- Assisted **190** youth and **131** parents and siblings
- Distributed **2,745** survival aid packets to youth living on the streets
- Transported **29** youth to medical care
- Helped **27** youth get approved for Food Stamps
- Assisted **16** youth in obtaining their picture form of identification
- Helped **10** youth obtain long-term housing
- Assisted **37** youth in GED preparation

Stay connected with what's happening at Family Connection

If you are a child or family in need of assistance, call...

Family Connection's
24-Hour Help Line at
205-664-CARE.

Services

24-Hour HELP LINE

Group Home and
Emergency Shelter

Day Shelter and
Street Outreach

Project Safe Place

Counseling

Shelby County Drug
Free Coalition



familyconnection-inc.org

Have you visited our website?

It's designed to be informative, helpful and user-friendly. You can learn about volunteer opportunities, the TOPS program and our counseling services. You can donate so that we can keep providing services to the thousands of children and teens who seek help through Family Connection each year.

Log on and stay in-touch!

Town Hall Meeting to Stop Underage Drinking

Monday, March 29, 2010

On March 29th, people from across Shelby County came to Family Connection's campus for a Town Hall Meeting to Stop Underage Drinking. This event was sponsored by the Shelby County Drug Free Coalition, a program of Family Connection, with support from Shelby County Schools, Shelby County Sheriff's Office and Shelby County Commission.

Chief Justice Sue Bell Cobb was the keynote speaker. She was followed by a panel discussion of community experts that included Sheriff Chris Curry, Superintendent Randy Fuller, District Attorney Robert Owens, Judge Jim Kramer, ABC Board Agent Robert Gautney and Adriane Ireland with Bradford Health Services. Andrea Lindenberg with NBC13 News moderated the discussion. Those in attendance were able to visit informational booths by community agencies and received bags from Shelby Baptist Medical Center and fun giveaways.

The Town Hall Meeting finished with a discussion about the steps that the community can take to stop underage drinking. The Coalition will take these suggestions and use them to guide their upcoming work in the community. The Coalition is a volunteer-based organization made up of individuals from throughout Shelby County concerned about youth substance abuse.

Please join our efforts!

Visit our website www.shelbycountdrugfreecoalition.org or call 205-663-6301 ext. 208 for more details.

Have you been to our web site recently? Visit us today at www.familyconnection-inc.org

UPCOMING EVENTS... **Please save these dates!**



Annual Golf Tournament

Monday, June 7, 2010



Family Connection's Annual Golf Tournament sponsored by Bryant Bank and Sirote and Permutt, P.C. is just around the corner!

Join us at Timberline Country Club on Monday, June 7 for a day of golfing to benefit Family Connection's programs and services. Each year, Family Connection's residential care program, street outreach team, individual and family counseling services and community outreach programs help and support thousands of our community's most vulnerable children, youth and families. It is made possible with your help! You can enjoy a day of golfing while helping children, youth and families or you can sign-up as a sponsor and receive recognition for your company while helping our community.



At the 2009 Annual Golf Tournament, Jay Reynolds, John Cox Webb, Bill Meador and Joe Parr (pictured with Advisory Board Member Angie Webb) were our 1st Place Winners

Visit www.familyconnection-inc.org for more information or to register online.

Run For Shelter—5K run benefiting Family Connection

Saturday, July 10, 2010



Family Connection is hosting a 5K run on Saturday, July 10th called...RUN FOR SHELTER to benefit children and youth who enter our shelter program. Without Family Connection's shelter, a teen you know might be staying in an abusive home, sleeping on a friend's couch, sleeping in a car or even under a bridge. Our shelter provides a safe place for

youth when difficult situations arise. Help us give youth a safe place to run for shelter. Watch for more information about the run.

Family Connection:
The Connection that makes a difference in the lives of children, youth and families from start to finish.



Movies for Homeless Youth

Bucky Law is the President of Transportation South and an outstanding community leader that I am fortunate to have on the Board of Directors. Recently, Bucky told me about a book I should read, "Same Kind of Different as Me." So I did what anyone does when your boss recommends you do something - I read it. Wow! It is an incredible story that involves a homeless man, a wealthy art dealer and a gutsy Christian woman - I won't tell you anymore - I don't want to spoil it for you.

In the book, there were two special occasions that "Miss Debbie" helped start at the homeless shelter. One was a movie night and the other was a birthday month celebration. Well....that got me thinking-We could have a Thursday movie matinee at our day shelter for homeless youth and serve popcorn and sodas. It will be great! We can ask people to donate DVD's or VHS tapes like E.T., Star Wars, Disney movies, etc. For our birthday month, we could ask a bakery to donate a cake and we could celebrate a youth's birthday for that month. What if no one is having a birthday that month? It doesn't matter - we eat cake!

The point is that these things like watching a movie or having a birthday cake is something that the children in our day shelter and the ones living on the streets never get to experience or enjoy. These are children, and I am excited about doing everything I can to bring some happiness into their lives. Will you help me collect movies, donate popcorn and sodas, and help me find someone who will bake cakes for our birthday month celebration?

Thank you Bucky for recommending a book!

Each year, youth-serving agencies across the country celebrate National Safe Place Week in March. Family Connection has operated a Safe Place Program since 1996. The purpose of the program is to partner with our business and community locations to provide "safe places" for a youth to access immediate help and safety in a time of crisis.

Currently, there are 72 Safe Place sites in Shelby County, Hoover and Irondale. Those sites include fire stations, YMCA's, public libraries, city halls, police stations and other businesses. Youth are educated in the schools and are taught to look for the distinctive yellow and black Safe Place sign that lets them know that business is a Safe Place site.

**Thank You to our Contributors—
We could not provide our services without
your help!**

January 2010– March 2010

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| Southern Area Caravan | Mr. and Mrs. Ray Simpson |
| St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church | Alabaster Auto and Tire, Inc. |
| Ms. Jean West | Cato Fashions |
| Lee Reid | Jim and Deborah Stone |
| Sammy Simpson | Calob Croggins |
| Alpha Delta Kappa | Dr. Holly Cost-University of Montevallo |
| The Avenue | Gene and Jeannie Duffey |
| Beverly Meeks-Oak Mountain Middle School | Chandalor Garden Club |
| Windy Rosenstiel | Aaron and Ashley Johnston |
| Rex Majors | Tim Paden-MBC-United |
| Jenny Lutomski | Bucky and Carrie Law |
| Jim N' Nicks BBQ | Camp Branch United Methodist Women |
| James and Estelle Thompson | Southwind Sales |
| Shirley Carlee | Montevallo WMU |
| Joey Ritchey | Jeanie Morris |
| Camp Branch United Methodist Church | |

THANK YOU!

Family Connection– The CONNECTION that Makes a Difference



On January 12th, over three hundred books were donated to Family Connection by University of Montevallo students, members of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and the general public. The outpouring of books for the youth at Family Connection is an example of one of the many ways that the University of Montevallo Falcon Scholar's in Action program has benefitted Family Connection. Carrie Robins, a Falcon Scholar, worked with the Calera Library, the Hill House and the Carmichael Library at the University of Montevallo to create a book drive to provide new books for the youth at Family Connection. In less than a month and a half, the community pro-

vided Family Connection with over 300 books. Thanks to the hard work and initiative of Carrie Robins, the residents of Family Connection have over double their reading library. Thank you Carrie for your hard work!



Carrie Robins with books
donated to Family Connection

Do You FACEBOOK? Search for "Family Connection Inc" on FACEBOOK and become one of our fans. You can view pictures of events, see the latest updates and connect with other Family Connection Friends!



Leadership

Susan Johnston– Executive Director

Board of Directors

Robin White-President

Alabama Power

Terry Ward-Vice President

ASC Volvo Construction

Pam Persons-Secretary

Medical Transcriptionist

Billy R. Jones-Treasurer

Bryant Bank

Calvin Gunn, Retired AT&T

Joey Ritchey, Sirote & Permutt, P.C.

Martha Smith, RELI, Inc.

Bill Best, Retired, Goodyear

Casey Morris, Ekklesia Coffee House

Judge Ron Jackson, District Court Judge

George "Bucky" Law, Transportation South

Wes Rimes, KBR

Alden Snow, Quantitative Research Associates

Shamichael Hallman, Regions–Birmingham Offices

Dave Lowry, Computer Troubleshooters

Dr. Tom Weber, Shelby Family Chiropractic

Carla Ryan, State Farm, Wildwood

Caroline Bradshaw, Youth Position

Connie Gaiter, Juvenile Court Services

Thanks for your support and hard-work!

Our Wish List

Family Connection depends upon the generosity of the community for many of our operational needs. Because the needs of Family Connection are ever changing, we encourage you to consider monetary donations, if possible. If you are able to donate any of the following items that are new or in good condition, please contact us at 205.663.6301 ext. 201 for donation instructions. Thank you!

General Household Needs

- * Cleaning items
- * Paper towels and toilet tissue
- * Trash bags
- * Paper plates
- * Canned goods
- * Snack items
- * Juice drinks
- * Towels and washcloths
- * Twin size sheets and comforters
- * Pillows and pillow cases
- * Shower curtain liners
- * Large pots and pans
- * Dish washing detergent
- * Laundry detergent
- * Fabric softener sheets

Teen's Needs

- * School supplies
- * Shoes and socks
- * Various clothing
- * Personal hygiene items
- * Toiletries
- * Bras/underwear
- * Hairdryers and curling irons
- * Hair brushes/combs
- * Board games
- * G-rated movies
- * Sports equipment
- * Back packs/duffle bags



Family
CONNECTION Inc.
Helping Children - Connecting Families

Your Gift To Family Connection

Yes, I want to help strengthen children, youth and families to build a better community!

Here is my gift of \$

Please make checks payable to Family Connection or donate online at
www.familyconnection-inc.org

Please Return to:

P.O. Box 535

Saginaw, AL 35137

205-633-6301 ext. 201

Fax: 205-663-6371

shelbyyouth@charterinternet.com

If you would like to make a donation in honor or memory of a loved one, please complete the information below. We will gladly send an acknowledgement.

(circle one) In Honor or Memory of Name:

Send acknowledgement to:

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