



January 2010

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

### *Making a Difference in the Lives of Children, Youth and Families*

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

### **Family Connection's Programs Make a Difference**

*"The TOPS Program is making a difference everyday in the lives of Shelby County students. The counselor works with students individually on issues ranging from decision making skills to bullying to grief to handling peer pressure. The TOPS Program provides services at no cost and at the student's school thus helping students that might otherwise not receive mental health services due to lack of transportation or insurance."*

**Dorann Tanner, Social Worker, Student Services Department, Shelby County Schools**

*"I was broke, hungry, and homeless. When I walked into Project HOPE, my life began to change for the better."*

**AJ, youth served by Project HOPE**

*"Family Connection remains an invaluable resource to the Juvenile Court. Having served countless children and families, the program is committed in their mission to serve those in need."*

**David Hall, Shelby County Juvenile Court Services**

*"The Shelby County Drug Free Coalition is a valuable organization in the Shelby County community. The coalition brings together volunteers from across the county, including law enforcement, treatment providers, social services and the Juvenile Court, to prevent substance abuse among our youth. The coalition strives to provide education to youth and parents as well as targeted interventions to prevent substance abuse. I am proud to be a part of the coalition and encourage community members to join the efforts to help keep Shelby County safe and drug free."*

**Jim Kramer, District Court Judge**

## Thank You to all of our Friends for Sponsoring an Ornament to Help a Child

Pat Goodwin-In Memory of Charles Goodwin  
 Vesta Dorsey-In Memory of Bertha Cosper  
 Melvin & Doris Lamons-In Honor of Colin & Madison Lamons  
 Michael & Brenda Rice-In Memory of Lola Nelson Rice  
 Reggie Holloway-In Honor of the Holloway Family  
 Diane & Frank Peeks-In Memory of Nicholas Wallace Peeks  
 Tom & Carole Davidson-In Memory of Shelley Davidson  
 Don Armstrong-In Honor of Virginia Armstrong  
 Gloria Jackson-In Memory of James Jackson and Honor of Lena Jackson  
 Allen Rice-In Memory of Barbara Rice  
 Wilhelmina Milam-In Honor of Jesus' birth, death and resurrection for all who believe  
 Susan Johnston-In Honor of Robin White & Angie Webb  
 Patti & Jerry Smith-In Honor of Shelley Marck & Jarrett Smith  
 Lois Tipton-In Honor of Terry & Leigh Ward & Allie Ward  
 Robin & Paula White-In Honor of Elaine & Paul Gordon  
 Alden Snow-In Honor of Chip Rowe, Alan Lancaster, Kelly Thomas, Jr.  
 Scott, Juanita, Baden and Emma Sanderford-In Honor of Robin & Paula White  
 Ray Hamilton-In Memory of Billie Dean Hamilton

John & Sandra Wingate-In Honor of Pam & Gene Smith  
 Riverchase United Methodist Women-Circle of Love  
 Paul & Tommie Ann Edwards  
 Neil Bailey  
 Jennifer Pesci  
 Danny & Martha Acker  
 John & Catherine Sarris  
 Michael & Wanda McKelvy  
 Kathryn Neville  
 Harris & Cynthia Wheeler  
 Blake & Rebecca Austin  
 Don & Francis Viger  
 James & René Day  
 Rick & Tina Neathammer  
 Pam Persons  
 Bill & Peggy Best  
 Merle Clement  
 Lindsey Allison  
 Wallace Williams  
 Cathryn Snow  
 Joey Ritchey



## Groups that Help us Make a Difference

Thank you to everyone who provided canned food items, personal care items, clothing items, blankets and gifts this holiday season. You help us make a difference in the lives of children, youth and families.

Alabaster Target  
 Alpha Delta Kappa  
 Columbiana First Baptist Church  
 Chelsea High School FBLA  
 Chelsea Intermediate School  
 Montevallo Silver Club  
 St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church  
 St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church  
 Thompson High School Key Club  
 Thompson Middle School Student Ambassadors  
 Unity Baptist Ladies Class  
 Westover Homemakers Club



David and Beth Ann Evans delivered "Santa" gifts for the youth in our shelter. Thank you St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church for giving these gifts!

## A Special Thank You to Southern Area Caravan

Southern Area Caravan members are long-time friends of Family Connection who always go above and beyond in raising funds for our agency. Without their support, some of our programs and services would have to be reduced or eliminated. We are truly blessed to receive a donation from the Caravan's annual charity auction and once again, they exceeded all of our expectations!

**Special recognition was given to Charlie Heaton, also known as "Santa", who has raised thousands of dollars for Family Connection by auctioning "Santa Time" each year. Thank you to Santa and all of our Caravan friends.**



Check presentation to Susan Johnston, Executive Director of Family Connection, Inc.

### Meet Board Director Calvin Gunn...



- Retired from AT&T
- Avid golfer
- Dependable
- Friendly
- Passionate about helping children and families

Calvin Gunn is someone that everyone knows—and that is a great compliment! He has a laid back personality but he is a bulldog when it comes to issues surrounding children and families. Calvin Gunn has served on the board of directors for Family Connection for over 23 years. He has always been there to help and will roll up his sleeves and pitch in on every task. He is a great friend and part of the life work that we do at Family Connection. Thanks Calvin!

### Meet our Staff, Ed Eaton...

Ed Eaton is Project HOPE's Day Shelter Manager and has worked with Family Connection for seven years. Affectionately known as "Mr. Ed", he works tirelessly with homeless/street youth in the Birmingham area. Monday through Friday, Ed opens the Day Shelter to homeless/street youth and spends his time preparing a hot meal, digging through the clothes closet, teaching job readiness skills, looking through the classified ads, scheduling appointments, and encouraging youth to leave their life on the streets.



Thanks Ed for your dedication: Project HOPE is successful because of the work you do!

## Family Connection—the CONNECTION that makes a difference

### Unique Partnership with Local College Students

“Falcon Scholars in Action” program is a partnership between the University of Montevallo, the Shelby County Commission and non-profit agencies in the community. Family Connection is one of the agencies in this partnership and was fortunate to have three Scholars this fall. Those Scholars were T.J. Jones, Carrie Robbins and Teresa Whiting. The Scholars assisted our staff in the Residential Shelter program with group counseling sessions, supervising recreational activities and inputting data into a management information system. The Scholars are students at the University who have excelled academically and have demonstrated a commitment to serving those in the community. The Scholars serve 10-15 hours per week.

**Thank you for your hard-work this fall!**

### Moe’s in Alabaster Willing to Help Family Connection—Here’s How

Locate your Moe’s V.I.P. card (enclosed)

1. Dine at the Alabaster Moe’s in the Colonial Promenade before March 31, 2010.
2. Present your Moe’s V.I.P. Card.
3. Family Connection will receive \$1.00 for each card used.

**PLEASE HELP - DON’T FORGET YOUR VIP CARD THE NEXT TIME YOU VISIT MOE’S.**

Do you facebook? Search for “Family Connection Inc” on facebook and become one of our fans.



### 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](http://www.familyconnection-inc.org).

**All Donations are Tax-Deductible**

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: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**Please return to:**

P.O. Box 535 Saginaw, AL 35137

Phone: 205-663-6301 ext. 201

Fax: 205-663-6371

[shelbyyouth@charterinternet.com](mailto:shelbyyouth@charterinternet.com)

Please include Family Connection in your will and tell us when you do!

