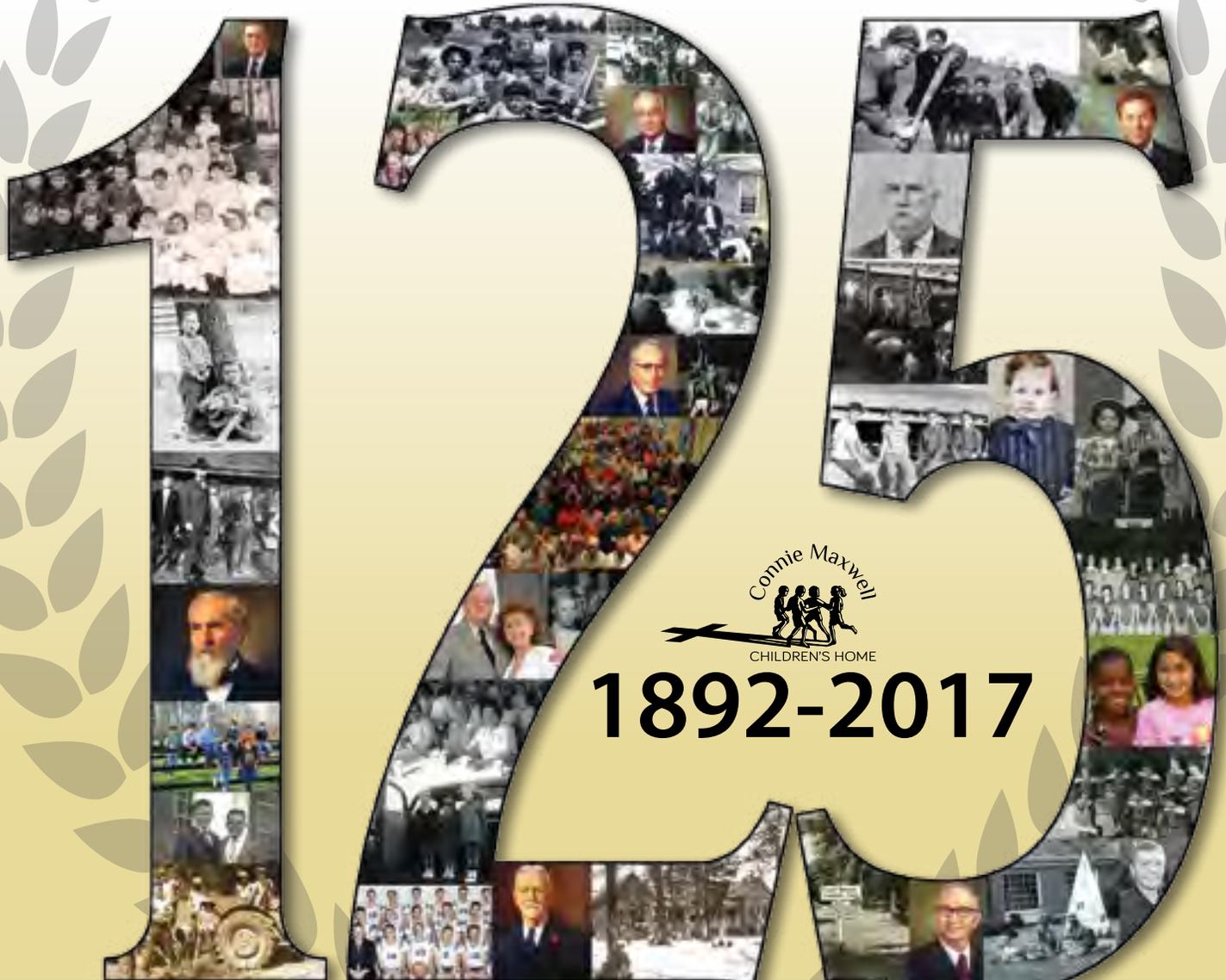

THE Connie Maxwell

For Alumni, Friends, and Family of Connie Maxwell Children's Home

Summer 2017 | www.ConnieMaxwell.com



1892-2017

The Beginning of Our Story

From Tragedy, Hope Emerged for Future Generations of Children

“Nearly a hundred children [are] pleading for admission.”
This statement, made by Dr. William P. Jacobs, founder of a South Carolina orphanage, caught the attention of W.W. Keys, who was a senior editor of the *Baptist Courier* in the late 1800’s.

On November 15, 1888, Mr. Keys wrote an editorial describing the plight of orphans that resonated with South Carolina Baptists and the Baptist Convention.

As the convention began to pursue this ministry opportunity, Dr. and Mrs. J.C. Maxwell were mourning the loss of their daughter, Constance Pope, or “Connie” as the family called her. Connie had been the Maxwell’s only child to survive infancy, but

she later died of scarlet fever at age seven. The Maxwells were considering ways to honor their daughter when they heard about the South Carolina Baptist Convention’s plans for an orphanage.

In 1891, knowing they would never raise children of their own, the couple offered the convention their 470-acre farm in Greenwood, SC with the conditions that the land always be used to help needy children and that the orphanage bear the name of their treasured daughter.



Connie Maxwell

Greenwood Cottage

Connie Maxwell was the first children’s home to make each cottage on campus self-contained. Each cottage had a cow, garden, and poultry yard to provide vegetables, milk, and eggs.



The first cottage, known for many years simply as Number One, later became known as the Infirmary, and was finally named Greenwood Cottage in 1912.

1891

First Superintendent

Rev. James L. Vass became the first superintendent of Connie Maxwell Orphanage and served from 1891-1899.



1908

Cost for Care

In 1908, it cost around \$85.00 a year to care for one child. The average stay was 8 years.

1910

Heat and Electricity

Between 1910-1912, steam heat and electricity became available to all cottages.

1892

1892

First Student Admitted

On May 22, 1892, Connie Maxwell Orphanage welcomed the first child, Susie H. Burton from Newberry County. She traveled alone by train and was met by Mr. J.K. Durst and his nine-year-old daughter Susie Durst Cheatham. By the end of the year there were 26 boys and girls, ranging from age three to 13.



1900

New Superintendent

Dr. A.T. Jamison served as the second superintendent of Connie Maxwell from 1900-1946. He has the distinction of serving the longest term as director—46 years. He also served as pastor for 34 years from 1912-1946. Dr. Jamison speaks of being a poor farm boy in his early years and never attended college; however, he was an avid reader and became a highly educated man.



1903

Cuthbert Cottage

Cuthbert Cottage was built in 1903 as a home for the foreman of the printing department. It was later enlarged and occupied as a cottage for boys March 31, 1908. At this time, the cottage was named in honor of Dr. and Mrs. Lucius Cuthbert of Aiken, who earlier had bequeathed their estate to the orphanage.



1905

Water Supply

In 1905, the orphanage developed a modern water supply. The pressing reason was a scourge of typhoid fever at another institution in a neighboring state, resulting in “a great many deaths.”

1907

New Pool

A swimming pool was built on the Greenwood campus. The pool walls were constructed of wooden planks, which were later replaced with concrete.

1912

Alumni Reunion

Alumni of the orphanage held their first reunion in 1912 with 30 alumni attending and formed an Alumni Association.



1915

The Arrival of Sam M. Smith

November 24, 1915, Samuel M. Smith arrived on campus. He was the 752nd child admitted into care at Connie Maxwell Orphanage. He was 10 years old and in first grade when he arrived.

1917

First Playground

The first playground was established on campus.

1920

Jamison Home

The Jamison Home was dedicated on September 3, 1920, and was named for Dr. A.T. Jamison. For many years, the basement served as the bakery. Also in 1920, a modern dairy including electric milkers was built on the site of what is now Brown Cottage.



1924

Connie Maxwell Song

Dr. Jamison wrote the Connie Maxwell Orphanage Song.

1927

Incorporated into City Limits

Conditions at the children’s home improved when it was incorporated into the Greenwood City limits. Some of the benefits included: better electrical service, paved roads, an upgraded water system, and security by the Police Department.

1924

Connie Maxwell Baptist Church

Connie Maxwell Baptist Church was organized in 1912. Until that time, children and staff had been attending Greenwood First Baptist Church. Three different buildings have served as Connie Maxwell’s church. The original structure was erected as a school building and chapel shortly after the founding of the children’s home. In 1924, construction began on the second church building, which was funded with a gift from the Woman’s Missionary Union of South Carolina.

1932

God’s Acre Plan

Former student Samuel M. Smith was hired as a Field Representative to assist church associations and Sunday schools. He visited rural people across South Carolina who might not have cash to give but could plant a patch of farmland and donate the produce to the orphanage. This ministry became known as God’s Acre Plan.



1928

The Great Depression

Times were difficult at Connie Maxwell during the Great Depression. Two cottages closed in 1928. Between 1933-1934, employee salaries were reduced twice by 10%. Many workers volunteered to return up to a fourth of their salaries to Connie Maxwell. Others offered to work for room and board only.

A Trip Through Time...

1938

Ezell Gymnasium

The Ezell Gymnasium was completed in 1938 with funds provided through the bequest of the late S.B. Ezell of Spartanburg, a longtime Connie Maxwell trustee. The building served as headquarters for the athletic and activities program, as well as a school assembly area.



1950

Alumni Pool

In 1950, the alumni swimming pool (part of the Jamison Square Project) was dedicated, and 15 staff members were recognized for their service of 25 years or more to the children's home. The alumni completed the Jamison Square Project, which consisted of a pool, picnic pavilion, and skating rink.

1948

Education

In 1948, the state recommended that children in institutions attend local public schools. The Board, however, decided to keep the first three grades on campus. The change was not fully implemented until 1958 when the city completed two junior high schools.

1955

God's Acre Plan Peak Year

God's Acre Plan experienced a peak year, with more than 1,600,000 pounds of corn, hay, and produce worth an estimated \$20,000.



1965

Connie Maxwell Baptist Church

The cornerstone of the present Connie Maxwell Baptist Church was laid July 11, 1965. The first service was held on May 22, 1966, the 74th anniversary of the first child's arrival on campus. Memorial gifts, unrestricted legacies, and special gifts from friends provided funds for construction. Ten faceted stained glass windows were a gift from the alumni.



1972

Dr. Ed Johnson

In 1972, Dr. Ed Johnson became the first African American social worker employed by Connie Maxwell Children's Home. Dr. Johnson, who also continued to serve his congregation at Morris Chapel Baptist, served Connie Maxwell for twenty years. He was instrumental in encouraging collaborative efforts between Connie Maxwell, South Carolina Baptists, and the Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention of South Carolina.



1966

Children on Campus

During this time period, 70% of children on campus had both parents living. The average length of stay was three and a half years.

1936

Children per Cottage

During 1936, there was an average of 21 children per cottage.

1934

Second Church Finished

Construction of the second Connie Maxwell Baptist Church was completed in 1934. It was funded by the Woman's Missionary Union.



1938

Alumni Pay Tribute

The Alumni of Connie Maxwell Children's Home paid tribute to Dr. Jamison at the 1938 reunion with the presentation of a silver plaque. At the 1946 reunion, they accepted responsibility for the development of a recreation area to be known as Jamison Square in appreciation for Dr. Jamison's long service "to the children of his generation".

1946

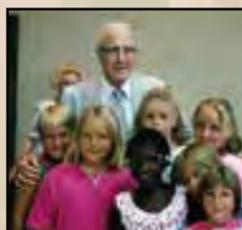
Name Change

In 1946, Connie Maxwell Orphanage was officially renamed Connie Maxwell Children's Home to reflect that most of the children living at Connie Maxwell were not orphans.

1946

New Leadership

On July 1, 1946, Dr. A.T. Jamison retired and turned the reins over to Dr. Sam M. Smith, who had served for 16 years as his assistant. Dr. Jamison continued to make his home on the campus where he had lived for 46 years among the children he had loved and served so devotedly. Dr. Jamison passed away due to a sudden illness on August 9, 1947.



1951

Children on Campus

In 1951, there were 350 children living on campus.



1958

Ezell Gymnasium Fire

The Ezell Gymnasium burned in 1958. The boys cleaned the remaining bricks for one cent a piece. Some of those bricks were repurposed for the current grounds shop.

1959

Highest Population

Between 1959 - 1960, there were 410 children living at Connie Maxwell. This is the highest number of children that Connie Maxwell has accommodated at one time. There was also a large number of families receiving financial support in order for the children to remain in their own homes.



1967

75 Year Anniversary

1967 marked the 75th anniversary of Connie Maxwell Children's Home. During that time, the children's home grew from one cottage to 22 cottages, 12 service buildings, and 12 staff residences. More than 350 children were under care. In 1892, the cost of operation was a little over \$7,000 a year; whereas, the budget for 1966 was approximately \$500,000. It is estimated that approximately 4,000 children had been served by Connie Maxwell up to this time period.



1970

Sam Smith Activities Center

Twelve years after the Ezell Gymnasium burned down, the Sam Smith Activities Center was constructed and is still utilized today.

1975

Pastor Resigns

Dr. John Murdoch resigned as pastor of Connie Maxwell Baptist Church. He served as the second pastor from 1946-1975. The Reverend Richard Roberts of Anderson College served as interim pastor until Reverend J.C. Collins was named pastor in 1976.

A Trip Through Time...



1977

Leadership Transition

In September 1977, following the untimely death of Dr. Murdoch, Dr. J. Heyward Prince assumed duties as president of Connie Maxwell. During the administration of Dr. Prince, who served until his death in 1993, Connie Maxwell added crisis homes in Florence and Greenwood to provide safety and compassionate care for children in need of immediate help.

1977

Mrs. Vera Smith

Mrs. Vera Smith, a cottage mother for 47 years, died on July 28, 1977. At the time of her death, her tenure was thought to be the longest of any cottage staff member in the country.

1980

Earl Street Group Home

Connie Maxwell opened a satellite location in Greenville called the Earl Street Group Home for Girls.

1988

Crisis Care

In 1988, 43 students received residential care at Cooper Nixon, Connie Maxwell's crisis care cottage.



1993

New President

In 1993, the Board of Trustees elected Dr. Jimmy McAdams as the next president of Connie Maxwell. Under his leadership, CMCH expanded its services to the Midlands and Lowcountry of South Carolina.



2000

Connie Maxwell Christmas

Connie Maxwell Christmas started as a way to thank the Greenwood community and supporters of Connie Maxwell. The event has grown in popularity, with more than 20,000 people visiting the campus each year.

2002

Ben Davis Named President

Dr. Ben Davis first became part of the Connie Maxwell family in 1994 as vice president for development. In 2002, he was named president and served for another 12 years. Dr. Ben Davis dramatically improved the organization's facilities, expanded services, and increased access for children and families in need.



2004

Adams Campus

Adams Campus, a crisis shelter for boys and girls, was opened in Chesterfield in 2004. It was named the Adams Campus in honor of Paul Adams, a supporter and alumnus of Connie Maxwell, as well as a former resident of Chesterfield. Adams is a veteran of WWII and served on board the USS Nevada when it was attacked in Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

2014

Leadership Transition

In 2014, Randy Harling was named president of Connie Maxwell Children's Home. He resigned in 2016, and James Wright was named interim president. The Board of Trustees established a search committee to find the next president of Connie Maxwell Children's Home.



1976

New President



In the spring of 1976, the Board of Trustees elected John Murdoch as president of Connie Maxwell, replacing Dr. Sam Smith who retired that same year.

Dr. Murdoch served in various roles for 36 years at Connie Maxwell. In March 1977, Dr. Murdoch became ill with a form of influenza and died in his sleep while he was attending the Southeastern Child Care Conference. He was 61 years of age.

1981

Pee Dee Campus

Connie Maxwell acquired the Pee Dee Crisis Center in Florence.



1984

Adventure Based Counseling

Connie Maxwell established the Adventure Based Counseling program as a fun way to build trust, self-esteem, and confidence among children and groups. The program, still utilized today, relies on strategic games, and physical challenges to help groups reach goals.



1993

Brookland Campus

In 1993, Connie Maxwell continued expanding its presence around the state by acquiring the Brookland Home for Boys in Orangeburg.

1996

Marie Younts

In 1996, the Earle Street Home for Girls relocated to Mauldin and was renamed the Marie Younts Girl's Home.



1999

Neb Cline

Neb Cline, an alumnus of Connie Maxwell, generously donated the funds to renovate the Eastern Star Cottage. The renovation was completed in 1999. The building was renamed in honor of Neb Cline and currently houses most of the program staff. Allen Wood, also an alumnus, donated his architectural services for the project, while the Duke Endowment provided funds for the furnishings.

1998

Second Playground

The second playground (current) was established where the Convention Building was formerly located.

1997

Volunteer Program

Polly Davis, wife of Connie Maxwell Vice President for Development Ben Davis, became coordinator of a volunteer program.



2012

Alumni Village Completed

In 2012, the final phase of the Alumni Village at OASIS was completed. This project was adopted by the Alumni Association in 2000 and occurred in three phases, with phase I being completed in 2004 and phase II being completed in 2008. The total project included two bunkhouses, each sleeping 18 people, as well as a full kitchen, bathhouse, and outdoor pavilion.



2017

Candlelight Tour

In March 2017, Connie Maxwell held its first Candlelight Tour, in honor of our 125th anniversary. Guests on this guided walking tour watched six reenactments, which showcased aspects of our treasured history. Another tour is currently being planned for March 2018.





REFLECTIONS

of Connie Maxwell

Recent Graduates and Past Alumni Share Thoughts on Their Time at Connie Maxwell

On Sunday May 21, Connie Maxwell Children's Home held its annual Baccalaureate Service at Connie Maxwell Baptist Church. During the service, cottage parents read letters and presented each graduate with a Bible and Bible verse. After a devotional led by Rev. Miller Murphy, each graduate had

the opportunity to share their stories. Some had lived at Connie Maxwell for years, while others only a few months, but one thing is certain—their time here had an impact on each of their lives. Below is a summary of their reflections while at Connie Maxwell Children's Home.

Amber

Came to Connie Maxwell: January 2016
Graduation Plans: Will study two years at Piedmont Technical College, then pursue a degree Early Childhood Education at Lander University.

When I first came to Connie Maxwell, I was very afraid. I had never been far from home, and as I thought about the distance more, the worse the fear became.

I came to tour the campus in December 2015 and meeting the staff put my nerves at ease.

When I walked into Turner Cottage on January 11, 2016, I was greeted by smiles and hugs from Mrs. Lydia and the Turner Cottage girls.

Looking back today, I realize that just because something seems intimidating at the time, it may not be as bad as you think.

Reflecting on my life, I can finally understand why God's plan led me to Connie Maxwell. I have met so many people over the last year and a half. Some of them have told me how I helped them through certain times in their lives, but they were actually the ones helping me.

“
Reflecting on my life, I can finally understand why God's plan led me to Connie Maxwell.
 ”

I have faced many obstacles to get here, but I have always had support in my times of need, whether it was from a friend, my cottage parents, the staff, or my family.

I haven't always looked at Connie Maxwell as home, but it has definitely grown on me. There were so many people involved in my life during my time here, and I would just like to say thank you to

you all.

You will run into hard times on your journey, but you should always trust God. He knows what He's doing.



Maria

Came to Connie Maxwell: January 2015
Graduation Plans: Will work as a cabin leader and lifeguard at Camp LaVida and study nursing at Lander University in the fall.

I know I'm not the same person I was when I stepped into the Neb Cline building on January 16, 2015.

When I first came to

“
I walked into Brown Cottage and instantly felt loved. Everyone accepted me because we all had something in common.
 ”

Connie Maxwell, I was a shy, scared kid who was always thinking about getting in trouble or being forgotten; however, that would soon change.

I walked into Brown Cottage and instantly felt loved. Everyone accepted me because we all had something in common.

I thank God that I was able to get a spot at Connie Maxwell, because it has made me who I am today.

Bobby

Came to Connie Maxwell: June 2003-2005, 2015-2017
Graduation Plans: Will study Criminal Justice at Piedmont Technical College.



I have been in and out of Connie Maxwell my whole life. I don't really remember much about the first time I came,

except that I was nervous and scared. But, there was just something about this place that felt like home.

Connie Maxwell

has helped so much to

prepare me for my future, both spiritually and mentally. Looking back on the time I have been here, there have been some bad times and a lot of good, fun times.

Connie Maxwell has helped me by shaping me and molding me into a man that I am proud to be.

“
Connie Maxwell has helped me by shaping me and molding me into a man that I am proud to be.
 ”

Connie Maxwell is important in my life, because it is like one big family to me, from the students, to the staff.

God has blessed me with a lot of good experiences since I have been here—from Mrs. Betty taking me and my cottage brothers fishing, helping Mrs. Brenda build the garden in the back of Hamilton Cottage, and Mr. Michael and the rest of the enrichment staff taking us on lots of fun and exciting trips.

Connie Maxwell has also blessed me with a safe place to sleep, food in my stomach, clothes, medical care if I needed it, and just a fun and safe environment to be in.

I just want to thank God for leading me to this wonderful place. As you get older, you appreciate how much the staff at Connie Maxwell really does

care, and how much they really want to help you succeed in life.

God has a plan for every person at Connie Maxwell, and as long as you continue to worship and praise Him, He won't let you down.

Carmine

Came to Connie Maxwell: February 2017
Graduation Plans: Will study Exercise Science at Lander University and pursue a career in Occupational Therapy.

I spent most of my life in Greenwood, but I have been at Connie Maxwell since February of this year.

I had a rough start in life. Throughout my journey, I have had a lot of battles to overcome.

A few of my struggles have taught me about perseverance. I am glad I learned about perseverance early in life. There are times when it would have been easier to have given up, but if I had done that, I most definitely would not be here today.

I didn't get through everything all alone—I had people helping me, praying for me, supporting me, and encouraging me during my journey. I tried to soak in all of their advice, even though the things they encouraged me to do were easier said than done. But I still managed.

When I was finally able to come to Connie Maxwell, I was very excited for the opportunity, because I was ready to get help with my goals.

“
Coming to Connie Maxwell has been one of the absolute best things that has ever happened to me, and I want to thank everyone that has gone out of their way to make sure that I am where I need to be.
 ”

Coming to Connie Maxwell has been one of the absolute best things that has ever happened to me, and I want to thank everyone that has gone out of their way to make sure that I am where I need to be. I also want to thank all of my supporters, that I think of as family. Without all of you, I would not be here ready to start a new life, or the person that I am today.

My advice to young people is to keep your head up high even when times get hard, and don't let that stop you from doing what you need to do to achieve your dreams. If you keep trying and stay connected to the people in your life who want to help you achieve your goals, you will surely get there.



Anthony

Came to Connie Maxwell: June 2010

Graduation Plans: Will study Criminal Justice at Piedmont Technical College, then going to Charleston Southern and enlist in the ROTC program, followed by the Air Force.



When I first came to Connie Maxwell, I was very frightened. I honestly didn't want to come to Connie Maxwell. My family moved around a lot, and I was often bullied when I went to a new school.

When my grandparents told me and my brothers we would be moving again, it didn't really surprise me because we were never in one place very long.

Connie Maxwell has really helped me through the years. I feel that God has really prepared me for what's in store. Don't get me wrong, the first few years I hated living at Connie Maxwell and wanted to go back to my grandparents, doing what I used to do, which was mostly just getting into trouble.

I was at Robert Black Cottage, and stayed there for about five and a half years—the hardest cottage to live in. Ms. Glossie and I bumped heads on a lot of things for a long time. For the first two years, I couldn't stand her, but now she is one of the few ladies that I hold dear to my heart. I now see all the things she was teaching me back then, and it has changed me for the better.

Ever since I moved to Connie Maxwell, my family has gotten bigger, because I consider everyone at Connie Maxwell my family. I especially want to thank Mr. Dan Walters, who is like a father to me and helped me through a lot of tough times. I also want to thank Mr. Ron Amerson and Ms. Lauren Tucker, who pushed me to be greater than I ever thought I could be. I am so thankful for my grandparents. They took three lost, scared, hurt, and lonely kids and did their best to raise us.

“**Ever since I moved to Connie Maxwell, my family has gotten bigger, because I consider everyone at Connie Maxwell my family.**”

I can remember before we came to live with our grandparents, we used to go to school hungry. Our school would give out brown bags with breakfast in them each morning. I was always hungrier than anyone else, so I would try and get in line first, but since I was often bullied, I would be pushed to the back of the line. My teacher saw that I was a very troubled child and didn't have much food, so she would tell the lunch lady that we had two extra kids in the class and would give those brown bags to me.

My grandparents helped get us out of situations like these, and helped me get to where I am today. I could never thank them enough.

I thank God for the people that He put in my life and for showing me that everything does happen for a reason. God says everything will be beautiful in its own time, even if you can't see it right then. Don't worry, because it will happen. Just give it time.

Ashley Hall

Came to Connie Maxwell: 2007-2009

Campus: Pee Dee Campus, Florence

I became a resident at Connie Maxwell in 2007. The events that led up to my moving there are not important. The important things are the memories and influence that I still have from living there.

I would not be the person I am today without the help of Connie Maxwell. The staff, the other girls, the constant support we all felt—all had a hand in making me the mother, daughter, and person I am today.

I was not always helpful. I was not always obedient. At times, I pushed the staff to their breaking point, but even on my worst days, one thing never changed—their loyalty and determination to make me believe I was a person worthy of respect and capable of amazing things.

I now live with my husband who is in the military and my two stepchildren in North Carolina. I have been through so much, and I firmly believe if it wasn't for my mom who found Connie Maxwell and the girls home for opening their doors to me, I would

“**The memories I have from Connie Maxwell are those of family and acceptance.**”

have never made it through half of it.

The memories I have from Connie Maxwell are of family and acceptance. I never felt like I was a part of the staff members job or a burden.

I cannot thank them enough for pushing me to be the person I knew I could be.



Cecil Sandifer

Age: 94

Came to Connie Maxwell: 1934

Cecil Sandifer is 94 years old and came to Connie Maxwell Children's Home when he was around age 9. His mother had died of pneumonia and his father abandoned him and his two brothers. While at Connie Maxwell, he met his wife, Frances Ballard. Together they raised 7 children and managed a successful funeral home business in Westminster.

Cecil went on to serve as Westminster's mayor for 10 years, and as a S.C. House of Representative for 12 years. He was one of the founding members of the Westminster Apple Festival, which was started in 1961.

In 2001, he and Frances started a college scholarship fund at Connie Maxwell, and eight years later, they helped pay for a renovation of the campus dining hall, where a painted portrait of them still hangs today.

Below Cecil shares some of his thoughts on Connie Maxwell, as well as one of the greatest lessons he ever learned.



Early Memories of Connie Maxwell

Connie Maxwell played an intricate part into my being where I am today and all the accomplishments I have made. Why would I feel that way? There are so many areas to reflect upon. For example, the spiritual atmosphere of Connie Maxwell played a big role in my life.

We also learned to respect our seniors and people in charge, from the superintendent right on down. We looked up to them and they were very caring people. Back in those days, people wore a tie and coat, and that impressed me and the other children there.

One of the greatest blessings I received at Connie Maxwell were the cottage mothers. Many people referred to them as “Matrons,” but as far as I was concerned they were truly cottage mothers. When you think back that a cottage mother had 20 children under her care, children of all ages and personalities. It was phenomenal how successful they were. They were responsible for the food, the training of the children, and resolving problems within the family of 20.

Daily devotions were a part of life. Some days we would have sentence prayers and would have to have a verse ready before we met for the devotion. Sometimes, I would try and get by with John, chapter 11, verse 35 “Jesus wept,” but it didn't always work.

The Greatest of All Lessons

I had a problem adjusting in the beginning. I was arrogant. I was about 9 years old and came from a broken home. My mother died from pneumonia and my father just went astray. Me and my brothers were finally put on the street to an aunt, who worked at a department store. She started working with Connie Maxwell to try and get us in, and at first, it wasn't a good experience.

I was bitter and mischievous. In fact, Dr. Jamison had threatened to send me away because I was not very cooperative.

“**One of the greatest blessings I received at Connie Maxwell, were the cottage mothers. Many people referred to them as ‘Matrons’, but as far as I was concerned they were truly cottage mothers.**”

I never will forget the day Dr. Smith drove up to the house. Whenever you would see Dr. Smith and Dr. Jamison drive up, you would always think *what have I done now?* I had had my share of chopping wood on Saturdays and punishments of that sort, so I asked, “What did I do?” “Nothing, we just need to have a little talk,” Dr. Smith said. “Your father's dying.”

I told Dr. Smith I didn't want to see him. He just abandoned me. He shoved me out in the world while he did his own thing. He turned out to be an alcoholic too, which was no surprise.

Dr. Smith insisted that I go see my father, and said I would feel better, so I finally agreed.

When we arrived at the hospital, I can remember just like yesterday, the nurses said, “Oh, he's been calling for you.”

I asked Dr. Smith to let me go see him alone. I was ready to tell my father a few things. I was still so angry and arrogant.

As soon as I walked into the room, he broke down crying and said, “My son, my son, will you please forgive me? I know I didn't do right with you.” I looked at my father, and he had tears running down his face. I stood there a minute and said, “Yes, I forgive you.” I put my arms around him.

It was all over as far as I was concerned. I held no more malice. That was a change in my life, right then and there. I learned one of the greatest lessons of all lessons that I had ever learned—that you cannot carry malice. You will only hurt yourself. I wasted all those years carrying that anger, which was stupid.

I came back to Connie Maxwell and was a changed person altogether.

I owe everything, all my accomplishments in the world affairs to Connie Maxwell. Of course, I really owe the Lord everything—whatever successes I might have had in life.

Top 125

Churches in Giving

Nothing makes a greater impact to the children and families of Connie Maxwell Children's Home than the support, involvement, and enthusiasm of our donors and volunteers. Below is a list of

our Top 125 Churches in Giving since our records were established in 1990. We proudly recognize these major contributors who demonstrate a spirit of generosity and commitment to our mission of caring for children while developing and strengthening positive relationships in a Christian environment.

Rank	Church	Location
1	Honea Path First Baptist Church	Honea Path
2	Sweetwater Baptist Church	North Augusta
3	Orangeburg First Baptist Church	Orangeburg
4	Nazareth Baptist Church	Blacksburg
5	Jones Avenue Baptist Church	Easley
6	St. Johns Baptist Church	Ehrhardt
7	Black Creek Baptist Church	Darlington
8	Fairview Baptist Church	Spartanburg
9	Beaumont Baptist Church	Spartanburg
10	Abbeville First Baptist Church	Abbeville
11	Gethsemane Baptist Church	Saint Matthews
12	Clear Spring Baptist Church	Simpsonville
13	First Mount Moriah Baptist Church	Greenwood
14	Clinton First Baptist Church	Clinton
15	Millbrook Baptist Church	Aiken
16	South Main Street Baptist Church	Greenwood
17	Spartanburg First Baptist Church	Spartanburg
18	Anderson First Baptist Church	Anderson
19	Town Creek Baptist Church	Aiken
20	Union First Baptist Church	Union
21	Ebenezer Baptist Church	West Union
22	Simpsonville First Baptist Church	Simpsonville
23	Buck Creek Baptist Church	Chesnee
24	Landrum First Baptist Church	Landrum
25	Big Creek Baptist Church	Williamston
26	Brunson Baptist Church	Brunson
27	Belvedere First Baptist Church	North Augusta
28	Clearview Baptist Church	Travelers Rest
29	Casey Creek Baptist Church	Chesnee
30	Summerton Baptist Church	Summerton
31	Westside Baptist Church	Cheraw
32	Mt. Paran Baptist Church	Blacksburg
33	White Plains Baptist Church	Cowpens
34	Mt. Carmel Baptist Church	Easley
35	Reedy River Baptist Church	Greenville
36	Harris Baptist Church	Greenwood

Rank	Church	Location
37	Fountain Inn First Baptist Church	Fountain Inn
38	Bounty Land Baptist Church	Seneca
39	Mullins First Baptist Church	Mullins
40	Brownsville Baptist Church	Blenheim
41	New Hope Missionary Baptist Church	Conway
42	Kershaw First Baptist Church	Kershaw
43	New Prospect Baptist Church	Laurens
44	Elljean Baptist Church	Easley
45	Northside Baptist Church	Orangeburg
46	Bethany Baptist Church	Spartanburg
47	Cheraw First Baptist Church	Cheraw
48	Philadelphia Baptist Church	Pauline
49	East Dillon Baptist Church	Dillon
50	Walnut Hill Baptist Church	Campobello
51	Boiling Springs First Baptist Church	Boiling Springs
52	Pyerian Baptist Church	Dillon
53	Friendship Baptist Church	Barnwell
54	Bethany Baptist Church	Belton
55	Rock Springs Baptist Church	Easley
56	Johnsons Chapel Baptist Church	Georgetown
57	Lake City First Baptist Church	Lake City
58	Oakhurst Baptist Church	Heath Springs
59	Bellview Baptist Church	Laurens
60	North Augusta First Baptist Church	North Augusta
61	Allendale First Baptist Church	Allendale
62	Union Baptist Church	Lancaster
63	Warrenville First Baptist Church	Warrenville
64	Six & Twenty Baptist Church	Pendleton
65	Union Baptist Church	Iva
66	Long Branch Baptist Church	Anderson
67	Lake Murray Baptist Church	Lexington
68	Pacolet Mills Baptist Church	Pacolet Mills
69	Sisk Memorial Baptist Church	Fort Mill
70	Lexington Baptist Church	Lexington
71	Greenwood First Baptist Church	Greenwood
72	Springfield First Baptist Church	Springfield

Rank	Church	Location
73	Thompson Creek Baptist Church	Ruby
74	Cannon Memorial Baptist Church	Central
75	Gaffney First Baptist Church	Gaffney
76	Powdersville First Baptist Church	Easley
77	Laurens First Baptist Church	Laurens
78	Coronaca Baptist Church	Greenwood
79	Shiloh Baptist Church	Aiken
80	East Gaffney Baptist Church	Gaffney
81	White Springs Baptist Church	Lancaster
82	Pine Grove Baptist Church	Beech Island
83	Morningside Baptist Church	Union
84	Northside Baptist Church	West Columbia
85	Greenville First Baptist Church	Greenville
86	Dillon First Baptist Church	Dillon
87	Fish Camp Fellowship	North Augusta
88	Central Baptist Church	York
89	Republican Baptist Church	Clarks Hill
90	Cowpens First Baptist Church	Cowpens
91	Antioch Baptist Church	Blacksburg
92	Olar First Baptist Church	Olar
93	Holston Creek Baptist Church	Inman
94	Mt. Tabor Baptist Church	Westminster
95	Mountain View Baptist Church	Boiling Springs
96	West Hartsville Baptist Church	Hartsville
97	Whitefield Baptist Church	Belton
98	Grassy Pond Baptist Church	Gaffney
99	Rabun Creek Baptist Church	Gray Court

Rank	Church	Location
100	Poplar Springs Baptist Church	Moore
101	Lawtonville Baptist Church	Estill
102	Gilead Baptist Church	Jonesville
103	Cherokee Creek Baptist Church	Gaffney
104	Marietta First Baptist Church	Marietta
105	Fort Mill First Baptist Church	Fort Mill
106	Rehoboth Baptist Church	Edgefield
107	Pleasant Hill Baptist Church	Central
108	Providence Baptist Church	Hodges
109	Glendale Baptist Church	Spartanburg
110	Green Hill Baptist Church	West Columbia
111	Calvary Baptist Church	Florence
112	Hillcrest Baptist Church	North Charleston
113	Shady Grove Baptist Church	Belton
114	North Side Baptist Church	Greenwood
115	Pine Grove Baptist Church	Chesterfield
116	Manning First Baptist Church	Manning
117	Hunt's Memorial Baptist Church	Easley
118	Ridge Baptist Church	Summerville
119	Jackson Baptist Church	Wellford
120	North Myrtle Beach First Baptist Church	North Myrtle Beach
121	Westminster First Baptist Church	Westminster
122	Hagood Avenue Baptist Church	Barnwell
123	Union Baptist Church	Pamplico
124	Camden First Baptist Church	Camden
125	Reedy Fork Baptist Church	Greenville

James 1:27 - Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

Celebrate with Us

Connie Maxwell was established in 1892 as a result of a vote by the South Carolina Baptist Convention and has continued as a ministry partner of the state convention for 125 years. It is critical for individuals and churches of the South Carolina Baptist Convention to show ownership of this ministry through their generous support and involvement. Every gift is important and appreciated. To celebrate our anniversary, we have special offering envelopes available for your congregation. To request these, please contact Debbie McDowell at (864)942-1405 or dmcdowell@conniemaxwell.com.

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Connie Maxwell Children's Home partnered with Courier Publishing to reprint *Someone Held My Hand*, a collection of uplifting stories by alumni and friends of Connie Maxwell. With the latest reprint, more than 17,000 copies of the book have been published.

Subtitled *A Series of God Stories*, the book was compiled by Gene Bishop, who grew up at the children's home and served on the Connie Maxwell board of trustees, and Tony Atkinson, Connie Maxwell's director of church relations.

Connie Maxwell is offering the book for free but requests \$5 to cover shipping and handling for each book ordered. All proceeds and donations generated by the book go directly to the Connie Maxwell Children's Home operating fund.

To order the book, contact Shelby Brown at (800)868-2624 or sbrown@conniemaxwell.com.

Atkinson is available to speak about the book and Connie Maxwell Children's Home to churches, civic clubs, mission groups, and other organizations. He can be reached at (843)598-0575.



www.ConnieMaxwell.com

