

Connie Maxwell MAGAZINE

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THE QUEST FOR
DEEPER HEALING
A Decade of Dreams Exclusive



Connie Maxwell
CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Connie Maxwell

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MISSION

Connie Maxwell Children's Ministries exists to restore the Faith, Family, and Future of vulnerable children and families through Christian services that emphasize ministry and healing.

VISION

To become a national leader in Christian ministries of healing for vulnerable children and families.

The *Connie Maxwell Magazine* is sent to alumni, donors and friends of the ministry. Send address changes or cancellation requests to: Attn: Jill Bryant, Connie Maxwell Children's Ministries, P.O. Box 1178, Greenwood, SC 29648-1178

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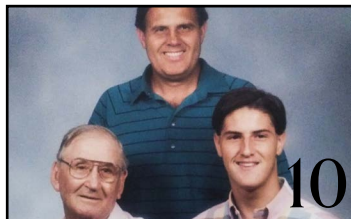


Above: Danny and Debra Nicholson pose with Trudy Cathy White (center), the daughter of Chic-fil-A founder S. Truett Cathy. She visited the Greenwood campus on August 14 to share inspiration from her latest book, *A Quiet Strength*.

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Connie Maxwell is **DIFFERENT....**

These are exciting times for our Connie Maxwell family, and indeed the future looks both bright and exciting! As we complete the first year of *A Decade of Dreams* testimony/strategic plan, we are pleased to communicate in the pages that follow the progress being made for the dreams of children.

As a valued member of our family, by now, you are aware that our future dreams have been built on a rich and meaningful history. Each dream has emerged from the essence of our storied past and is laced with meaning from the words and actions of faithful saints who have given their lives to this tender ministry.

Once again, I reviewed historical writings as I prepared to write this letter. The passage below caught my attention and stirred both my imagination and soul. Though these words are nearly 100 years old, they felt fresh and relevant for today and our future:

"Someday, there may come this way a great gift or great legacy that will provide for the perfecting of many of the plans that now call for accomplishment. The ideals have been long in advance of the ability to make them real. Someday it is hoped that Connie Maxwell will be really **DIFFERENT**. In the meantime, we will be as **DIFFERENT** as we can."

- A.T. Jamison, 1930

Even today, Jamison's words run through the veins of our dreams. In this issue of *The Connie Maxwell*, we feature an article entitled "The Quest for Deeper Healing." This article gives a preview to the "Circle of Healing," which is a beginning place in constructing our vision to be a national leader in ministry and healing for vulnerable children and families.

In addition, as we expand our presence across South Carolina and prepare for a comprehensive campaign to fund our many initiatives, we stand ready to define Connie Maxwell's vision as **DIFFERENT** and restore faith, family, and future of children and families in Jesus name.

As always, we appreciate your unwavering prayers and support for our children and families.

Thanks for being a **DIFFERENCE MAKER!**

For the Dreams of Children and Families,

Legacy donors make a greater impact on the ministry than most could imagine

What impact does a legacy gift have? At Connie Maxwell Children's Ministries, it can mean a literal lifeline for a child or family in need. Scott James, an alumnus and supporter of the ministry, illustrated that through his testimony during a 'Ceremony of the Blessing' on Wednesday, June 23. This quarterly gathering of staff, students, and special guests is a time to reflect on recent legacy gifts established for the ministry. "Every time I come back on this campus, a sense of calm and peace comes over me," James said. "I came from an absolute destitute situation."

“Every time I come back on this campus, a sense of calm and peace comes over me. I came from an absolute destitute situation.**”**

- Scott James
Connie Maxwell Alum

In 1946, when James was four years old, his house burned down. A month later, his father was killed in a tragic car accident. This left him, his mother, and two other brothers living in a barn.

"We had nothing, literally nothing," James recalled. "Our clothes were all burned up in the house fire."

They eventually moved to Hartsville, SC, and attended Emmanuel Baptist Church, where the preacher told his mother about Connie Maxwell. He recalled touring the campus in 1950 and meeting Dr. Sam Smith and another student named Jerry Friedner. Finally, in 1951, he and his two brothers were dropped off at Eastern Star Cottage (now known as Neb Cline).

While it was painful watching his mother drive away, he is beyond grateful for the new life that immediately began for him. "You can't begin to realize the impact that a secure place has on a child's life," said James. "Every day, I knew I had a place to sleep; I had food on the table and someone who cared for me. I knew that eventually, things would get better, and they did."

James can see the long-reaching impact that living at Connie Maxwell has had not only on his life, children, and grandchildren but his brother's families. "With us three

“You can't begin to realize the impact that a secure place has on a child's life. Every day, I knew I had a place to sleep; I had food on the table and someone who cared for me. I knew that eventually, things would get better, and they did.**”**

- Scott James
Connie Maxwell Alum

boys, none of us have ever been arrested, we all finished our education, and we had good families," said James.

He is also thankful for the values that were instilled in them by their mother. "I had a wonderful mother. She was the salt of the earth. She instilled our core values and committed herself to get on a Greyhound bus and come to Greenwood every six weeks on Saturday to visit us," said James.

James is the only survivor left between him and his brothers. When his brother Claude passed away, he knew exactly what he wanted to do with his estate and established an endowment in his brother's honor.

"Every bit of the money from Claude's estate I gave to Connie Maxwell, and I gave it proudly," said James. "I regularly give to Connie Maxwell. I do it because I love this place so much. There are wonderful opportunities here."

Roma Muller, the widow of former Trustee Rev. Johnny Muller, attended the 'Ceremony of the Blessing' with her family. They recently established a scholarship fund in Rev. Muller's honor. She recalled how Rev. Muller had loved Connie Maxwell ever since he was a little boy.

"My husband felt like serving on the board was a culmination of his life because he felt like his mother knew," Muller said. "It was her heart and then became his heart. Her love for children transferred over to him, and then that love to us."

Connie Maxwell President William D. Nicholson II doesn't apologize for talking about the importance of planned giving and how we are reaping financial blessings today from sacrifices made in the past. In fact, this past year, the ministry was incredibly fortunate during COVID

when many organizations shut their doors due to financial strains.

“Because of the sacrifice and service of so many saints that have come before us, we are blessed by an endowment that kept us strong,” Nicholson said. “We didn’t have to miss paychecks or a moment to take care of our children.”

Nicolson continued, “We are here because you are blessed, and you blessed us. This ‘Ceremony of the Blessing’ is to honor the memory of the people who have sacrificed to make sure that our children have a place to call home. That our children are loved and taken care of.”

Other estates that were honored during the ceremony included the late Mrs. Bobbie Jo Branyon, Mr. Julian Bolton, and Mrs. Lula M. Smith.

There are more children and families that need help, and Connie Maxwell hopes to be able to support even more in the future according to the new strategic plan, A Decade of Dreams.

“Because of the sacrifice and service of so many saints that have come before us, we are blessed by an endowment that kept us strong,” Nicholson said. “We didn’t have to miss paychecks or a moment to take care of our children.”

- William D. Nicholson II
Connie Maxwell President

For more information about the strategic plan or other ways to get involved in the ministry, please visit www.ConnieMaxwell.com.

Below: Staff, children, and families of legacy donors gather in the prayer garden for the ‘Ceremony of the Blessing’



DESTINATION



UNEARTHING THE TRUTH ABOUT JESUS
JEREMIAH 29:13

BY SARAH JANE SCHEIRER

Vacation Bible School is nothing new to our ministry; yet, it has been years since one was hosted at Connie Maxwell Baptist Church. That changed this summer when Senior Pastor Stephen Johnson and Minister of Music and Discipleship Alex Morrison organized a time of dedicated worship so our children and staff could participate in 'Destination Dig' Vacation Bible School.

Children enjoyed unearthing the truth of Jesus by learning about Biblical archeological artifacts from around the world. Connie Maxwell's Children's Ministry Assistant, Kassi Johnson, stated, "many seeds were planted as we got the opportunity to share God's word

through Bible study, music, games, crafts, missions, and even delicious snacks."

With over sixty children participating and thirty Connie Maxwell staff, this became a time to connect, worship, and grow our relationships as the word of God was shared with children. The verse for this year's Vacation Bible School read, Jeremiah 29:13, "you will seek me and find me when you search for me with all your heart." This scripture perfectly describes the week of unearthing the certainty of Jesus.



Children, staff, and volunteers gather for a photo on the final day of 2021 Destination Dig Vacation Bible School.

Each day was filled with new experiences as our children walked the halls decorated with vines, old pottery, and replicas of ancient artifacts. Our junior archaeologists ranged from ages kindergarten to twelfth grade. Each activity was constructed by staff to be the most interactive experience for the varying age groups. They sang new songs, completed art projects, heard the word of the Lord, and learned about real-life archeological finds that are tangible pieces from the past. Lesson plans were designed to further the learning of Jesus and incorporate the scripture.

One of the most popular crafts reported for the week was the making of 'ancient' clay pinch pots. As the clay was worked and molded, each child was reminded of how Jesus used His hands to heal a blind man. The scripture for this craft included John 9:10-11 ¹⁰ "How then were your eyes opened?" they asked. ¹¹ He replied, "The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see."

Teachings consisted of learning more about Jesus's time on Earth, including his birth, how he healed the blind man, the betrayal from his disciple, and when Jesus rose again from the dead. In addition, the week focused on our children becoming junior archeologists to explore and discover the truth within the verses that our staff shared. With the help of our team, scripture was lifted from the pages of the Bible and became a part of Connie Maxwell Baptist Church.

"This was amazing to see our entire campus come together in such a unifying way to serve our kids! We look forward to this being the start of a new tradition at Connie Maxwell Baptist Church, working together in Vacation Bible School every year!" Stephen Johnson.

“This was amazing to see our entire campus come together in such a unifying way to serve our kids! We look forward to this being the start of a new tradition at Connie Maxwell Baptist Church, working together in Vacation Bible School every year! ”

- Stephen Johnson
Senior Pastor



Connie Maxwell Baptist Church was transformed into a desert-like environment that helped set the stage for Destination Dig. Alex Morrison, above, leads one of the morning sessions. Below, summer missionary Mary Garcia, works with Sara on an activity. The children enjoyed fun crafts and recreation time throughout the week.



An Evening With Trudy Cathy White

Trudy shares key foundations for building a lasting legacy

BY SARAH JANE SCHEIRER



Trudy Cathy White

Around 200 people gathered at Connie Maxwell Baptist Church on Saturday, August 14, to hear Trudy Cathy White. Her parents Jeannette and S. Truett Cathy, were founders of the now-famous restaurant known as Chick-fil-A. That evening was an experience of fellowship and a chance to learn more about the legacy and journey of the Cathy family

From the pages of her latest book, *A Quiet Strength*, Trudy shared the life and legacy of her mother. She revealed her mother's life lessons for a firm foundation and the dedication it took to raise their family.

Trudy described each foundation that her mother lived by and how she inspired many others throughout her life.

“The choices you are making now, you are building your legacy. The legacy you are going to leave is the life you are living right now.**”**

- Trudy Cathy White

An analogy used by Trudy herself was that when you look at a tree, you do not see the roots themselves; however, without them, the tree would not be able to stand. Therefore foundations are what determine the roots of your life. “The choices you are making now, you are building your legacy. The legacy you are going to leave is the life you are living right now,” she said.

Trudy shared as she delivered a powerful message on how attitude, determination, and discernment are all

“Sometimes you have to set things aside and walk away to focus on what is important, such as time with the Lord.**”**

- Trudy Cathy White

groundwork for a life well-lived. First, she spoke about how attitude determines your outlook on life. Seeing your surroundings as positive can have a significant impact on not only yourself but the people who surround you. Determination was the second essential foundation mentioned, emphasizing her mother's saying to “never, never give up.” Lastly, Trudy described how discernment is an important part of living life. She spoke about how saying ‘no’ is part of having a balanced life. “Sometimes you have to set things aside and walk away to focus on what is important, such as time with the Lord,” she said.

Trudy spoke about her family's strength through their strong relationship with the Lord and how that has positively impacted their family.

Earlier in the afternoon, the Connie Maxwell DreamMakers had a private meeting with Trudy Cathy White. This is a group of women who seek to glorify God and further His kingdom by nurturing healing, enhancing beauty, and instilling hope throughout our ministry. They support and partner with Connie Maxwell and its mission and vision through volunteer and philanthropic efforts for the dreams of children.

During that time, Trudy presented Dreammaker co-chairs Debra Nicholson and Polly Davis with a special recognition award for their service and impact at Connie Maxwell and their work with DreamMakers.

To learn more about Connie Maxwell DreamMakers and how you can join, please visit our website at www.ConnieMaxwell.com.

1. Trudy Cathy White presents a special award to DreamMaker co-chairs Debra Nicholson, and Polly Davis. 2. Wanda Jones, Polly Green, and Linda Hite with Trudy. 3. Representatives from Trudy's company are all smiles in the lobby. 4. From left, Beth Alexander, Mary Ashley Alexander and Amie Shuman with Trudy. 5. Ann Hancock, center, speaks with Trudy after the DreamMaker meeting. 6. Debbie McDowell with Trudy.



Connie Maxwell alum has ties to key moments in US history

BY JULIA BELL

Danny Brooks was adopted the week before his 13th birthday. He had lived at Connie Maxwell since the age of five, when he arrived at the Eastern Star Cottage wearing simple overalls, no shoes, and with no other belongings. He fondly recalls Dr. Sam Smith's gentle and loving spirit and Ms. Davis, a matron who cared for the 16 boys who lived in her cottage. He'd never seen or been inside a church before attending the worship services at Connie Maxwell Baptist Church.

"I have good memories of Connie Maxwell. It's where I learned to go to church and where my work ethic and organizational skills were taught to me. I learned all the life lessons that parents teach their children to help them be ready for the outside world. If it hadn't been for Connie Maxwell, there is no telling what would have happened to me," he says.

Those life skills and lessons were introduced through daily chores and working in the field and dairy. For Christmas one year, he asked for a wagon "to pull down the sidewalk to be able to carry the groceries back from the Commissary. I used my brain!" Other happy memories include his love of water, such as swimming in a nearby pond and becoming the first lifeguard at the newly installed Connie Maxwell pool at the age of 12.

Quite simply, Connie Maxwell was his home and its people, his family. So, when a loving couple from West Columbia arrived to adopt Danny and his little sister, he remembers hiding from them because he didn't want to leave. His new family gave him a new name, and, at that moment in July 1958, Rick Rivers' new life began.

"My adopted father was one of 11 children. I never had parents or the love that parents give you, and it was a shock to immediately have so many cousins,

aunts, and uncles. They all accepted me. Not one of them ever asked me anything [about my story] until I was ready to share. They accepted me as one of their own. I couldn't have

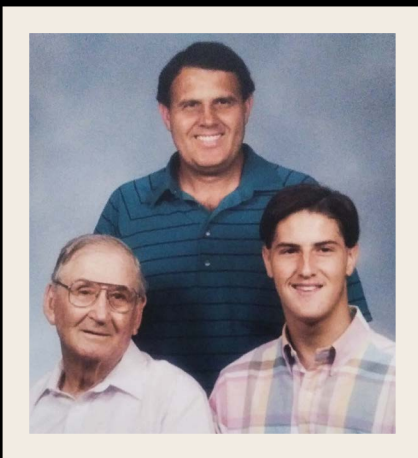
“ I have good memories of Connie Maxwell. It's where I learned to go to church and where my work ethic and organizational skills were taught to me. I learned all the life lessons that parents teach their children to help them be ready for the outside world. If it hadn't been for Connie Maxwell, there is no telling what would have happened to me. ”

-Rick Rivers
Connie Maxwell Alum

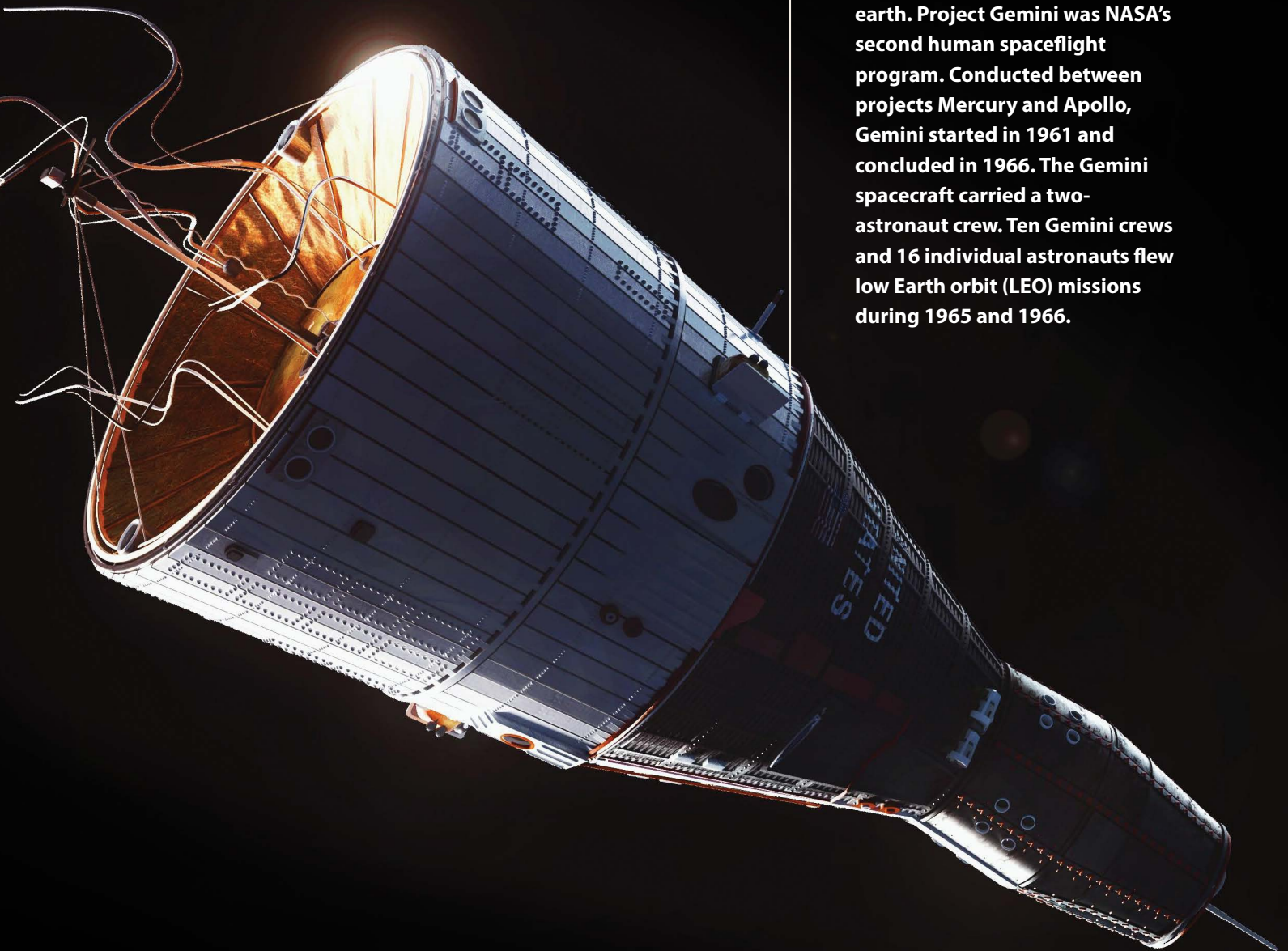
asked for a better Christian family to adopt me,” Rick recalls.

The years ahead would hold surprising twists and turns, with most traced back to Rick's decision to join the Navy Reserves as a student at Brookland-Cayce High School. Boot camp followed graduation, and 17-year-old Rick soon found himself aboard a Navy destroyer headed to the Bay of Pigs during the Cuban Missile Crisis. For two weeks, his crew waited for orders to strike using plans sent by President Kennedy. Rick admits, "it didn't register until years later the scope and depth of that time."

Rick had completed underwater demolition training by the time he was 19 years old and became a member of Seal Teams Three and Four. These elite teams were charged with dangerous missions, including having their boat hit by mortar fire and retrieving a three-story bomb from underwater. In December 1965, Rick completed two weeks of training to retrieve Nasa's Gemini VI and VII mission space crafts upon their return to earth. His team was assigned to Gemini VII, manned by Frank Borman and Jim Lovell, who had spent 14 days in space.



From left, Rick's adopted father the late S.W. Rivers, Rick, and his son, Dan.



Below is a rendering of Gemini VII as it was in orbit over the earth. Project Gemini was NASA's second human spaceflight program. Conducted between projects Mercury and Apollo, Gemini started in 1961 and concluded in 1966. The Gemini spacecraft carried a two-astronaut crew. Ten Gemini crews and 16 individual astronauts flew low Earth orbit (LEO) missions during 1965 and 1966.

Gemini VII astronauts James A. Lovell, left, and Frank Borman. On July 1, 1965, NASA selected Frank Borman as the command pilot and James A. Lovell as the pilot for the 14-day Gemini VII endurance flight.





“ I saw three parachutes coming down, and we met them after they hit the water. We put a flotation around the capsule to keep it from sinking. It was cold and rough that day in the Atlantic, and six-foot waves made them bob like a cork. The capsule door was welded shut from reentry, so the astronauts had to blow the hatch off from the inside. We hooked a cable from a helicopter to the capsule to prevent it from sinking. They were seasick after bobbing in the ocean but couldn't remove their helmets because they had to decontaminate first. ”

-Rick Rivers

Connie Maxwell Alum



These images capture the moment that both astronauts were hoisted onto the Navy helicopter and taken to the USS WASP. Rick Rivers is one of the two Navy Seals featured in these photos.



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One photo exists of Rick helping Borman and Lovell emerge from the capsule, something he saw only years later as photos were not taken during most Seal Team missions. Rick says the next season of his life was darker and filled with experiences too raw to share, even today. From 1966-67 Rick served 30 combat missions in Vietnam.

"I turned 21 three months before I was discharged from the military. I couldn't vote or buy beer, even if I'd wanted to, but I could fight for my country. Yet I'd do it again if I was called and able," he says, humbly mentioning having been awarded the Bronze Star Medal for bravery in action.

Rick returned to build a life outside of his military service alongside his wife Jean in Lexington, South Carolina. Following a 29-year career with Delta, Rick enrolled in the police academy and served as a deputy sheriff for Richland County for ten years. He continued serving in the community as a bus driver and in a maintenance role at a local elementary school. Rick and Jean have two adult children, four grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and count a young "adopted" neighbor family as their own – a capacity to love that Rick credits having learned from his roots at Connie Maxwell.

Rick's support of Connie Maxwell has included monthly donations for the last 25 years, participating in a Midlands alumni group that has maintained special relationships and accomplished critical campus projects together and through service as a trustee and alumni board member. He is also a vocal supporter in the community when given a chance, including sharing his military experiences.

"I credit Connie Maxwell with my character today," Rick says.



The photos above show were taken from the USS WASP and show the moment that the astronauts arrived on-board.

Photo Credits: NASA, Spaceline, Inc.

www.ConnieMaxwell.com

Annual Picnic provides visitors with a glimpse of 'A Decade of Dreams'

Several hundred guests attended Connie Maxwell's Annual Picnic held on Thursday, August 7 at noon. The luncheon followed the quarterly board meeting and guests included trustees, former board members, alumni board members, community leaders, and other Connie Maxwell supporters.

Each attendee received a copy of the new strategic plan, *A Decade of Dreams*. In addition, a new video was shown that featured interviews from alumni Mack Baltzegar, John and Sue Sheriff, Connie Maxwell Pastor Emeritus Doug Kauffmann and Sally Kauffmann, and Jeannie Mitchell, daughter of Dr. Sam Smith.

Towards the end of the video, current President William D. Nicholson II provided a glimpse of future dreams.

"Now we embark upon a new future, a new dream deeply rooted in the shadow of a long, enduring history," he said. "Resting on this stage of history, we boldly envision the creation of a healing center that will carry our ministry to an unprecedented level of excellence, defining Connie Maxwell as a national leader in healing trauma and brokenness. For the dreams of children, we envision Maxwell Farms becoming a South Carolina destination that would minister to our children and families, but also create alternative revenue sources to build our budget and strengthen our capacity to help more children."



Liliana reading her letter with Danny.

Perhaps the biggest highlight of the luncheon came from a little girl named Liliana from the Brookland Campus. She bravely read a simple letter to the audience with Danny by her side:

Good morning, my name is Lili, and I want to tell you about my life here at Connie Maxwell. Being here has taught me how to love others even when it's hard. I have been here for four years now, and I

am grateful for everything they do for me. I'm happy that I get to be here with my sisters and brother. The cottage parents are really good cooks. I love their tacos. I love my cottage parents and all of the staff. I love that I have the privilege to go to a great school and to live here. Connie Maxwell has saved my life, and I thank God for being here every day. And I want to thank all of you for your support. I love you all.

To learn more about *A Decade of Dreams*, visit our website at www.ConnieMaxwell.com



Connie Maxwell President Emeritus Dr. Ben Davis welcomed the audience and introduced the visiting elected officials.



SC Senator Billy Garrett, left, and SC House of Representative member John R. McCravy III below, attended the luncheon.





Attendees enjoyed learning more about the future plans of the ministry.



Retired staff member Joe Mahon, above left, speaks with alumni board member Dr. Ernest Mackins. Martha Bagby, center, speaks with a friend in the background.

Shelton and Martha Lackey, left, speak with former trustee Linda Hite. Alumna Kaye Webb is pictured in the background, far right.



Connie Maxwell Baptist Church Pastor Emeritus Doug Kauffmann, below right, speaks with Wealth Management Senior Vice President at UBS Financial Bert Arrowwood.



Longtime Connie Maxwell supporter Dr. Jack Parham is all smiles after the luncheon.



THE QUEST FOR



DEEPER HEALING

**Connie Maxwell explores new ways to heal
trauma through 'Circle of Healing'**

Leadership at Connie Maxwell is taking intentional steps to begin a new era of healing for the children and families in its care. If you read the new strategic plan, *A Decade of Dreams*, you might have heard mention of the 'Circle of Healing.' But what is that exactly?

Vice President for Programs and Services Tim Duncan describes the Circle of Healing as a new holistic approach to care. "What is the experience our children and families have when they go to church, the gym, or even the farm?" Duncan said. "We are looking at all of these interactions to make sure we are not only coordinated but providing the best individualized environment for healing that we can."

Individualized care is not a new concept for Connie Maxwell. As early as 1916, Dr. A.T. Jamison was passionate about evaluating and developing a personalized approach to care for children in the orphanage during those times.

Since then, however, there have been several new advancements in understanding trauma and how the brain works. As a result, Connie Maxwell's leadership has a renewed focus on the latest research and exploring new ways for children and families to experience deeper healing than ever before.

Maxwell Farms is a good example of how the Circle of Healing is working. For decades, the farm has provided an environment that has comforted thousands of children with its natural beauty and unforgettable animals. Now, it's a place where children can experience a new kind of therapy.

In January, two staff members, Equine Director Lauren Jones and Transition to Independent Living & Higher Education Programs Counselor Lauren Tucker, completed an intensive EAGALA training.

EAGALA (Equine Assisted Growth And Learning Association) sessions are facilitated by a licensed counselor and an equine specialist. They typically take place in a horse arena or pasture with 3 or 4 horses present.

Lauren Tucker explains that this type of therapy can be effective with children who are old enough to allow one thing, such as a horse, to stand for another thing, such as anxiety, a parent they are having a hard time with, or even God.

"It is really difficult to put into words exactly how it works and how powerful these sessions can be when participants start seeing things in their lives play out in the arena," Tucker said. "It really opens their eyes to see things from a new perspective and helps them discover how they can move forward effectively."

Since becoming certified in January, Tucker and Jones have had the opportunity to work with several children to provide this unique therapy.

“What is the experience our children and families have when they go to church, the gym, or even the farm? We are looking at all these interactions to make sure we are not only coordinated but providing the best individualized environment for healing that we can.”

- Tim Duncan

Vice President for Programs and Services



Members of the Executive Leadership Team get a hands-on demonstration of EAGALA at Maxwell Farms.

"It's wonderful to have this new equine therapy available for our children and families to work through their emotions, relationship building, and traumas they have experienced," Duncan said.



Dr. Bruce Perry

Another program Connie Maxwell is exploring is the Neurosequential Model (NM), developed by Dr. Bruce D. Perry, a world-renowned psychiatrist currently serving as the Senior Fellow of the Child Trauma Academy in Houston, Texas.

On Monday, March 15, representatives from Connie Maxwell Children's Ministries consulted with Dr. Bruce D. Perry and Dr. Megan Zappitelli, head of the psychiatry training program at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine.

The Neurosequential Model (NM) is used by hundreds of clinical organizations and thousands of clinicians in over thirty countries. This evidence-based approach to clinical problem solving continues to provide critical data about the impact of experience—good and bad—on the developing child.

Dr. Perry believes this model can be particularly effective in residential settings.

"The advantage of a residential setting is that this approach tries to engage everybody in the child's life so that they can all be on the same page about understanding the child, and then put together a well-integrated treatment approach," said Dr. Perry. "The fundamental perspective we have is that therapeutic change is something that happens moment by moment, in real interactions with the people in a person's life, not just a therapy office."

Dr. Perry's model illustrates the importance of relationships and how those can be a catalyst for healing brokenness and trauma. He provided examples of the impact a minister, a coach, a teacher, or a residential staff member who had the ability to be present, patient, and supportive in a child's life could have.

"So, there's this moment where there is learning, there

“

The advantage of a residential setting is that this approach tries to engage everybody in the child's life so that they can all be on the same page about understanding the child, then put together a well-integrated treatment approach. ”

- Dr. Bruce Perry

Senior Fellow of the Child Trauma Academy

is healing, and there is development all happening at the same time," said Dr. Perry. "The little doses of this that take place throughout the day are provided by people who understand the issues and are willing to be present and patient, and care for the child."

Connie Maxwell President William D. Nicholson II believes Dr. Perry's research is confirmation that we are on the right track with the Circle of Healing. "His research shows us the importance of relationships for healing trauma," Nicholson says. "The Circle of Healing is the framework that is being built to gain a broader understanding of those relationships and how they can play a larger role in healing our children and families. Individualized attention helps strengthen the quality of those relationships."

“

The Circle of Healing is the framework that is being built to gain a broader understanding of those relationships and how they can play a larger role in healing our children and families. ”

- William D. Nicholson II, Ph.D

Connie Maxwell President

Sally Kauffmann, former minister of music and education at Connie Maxwell Baptist Church also understands the critical role relationships can play in healing—particularly staff. In a recent *Decade of Dreams* video, she spoke about staff saying, "They have been called by God to minister, to serve in this special ministry with children and families. They have been called by God to be agents of change. And so we know that we have the challenges to try and help heal and change the way their life has led them."

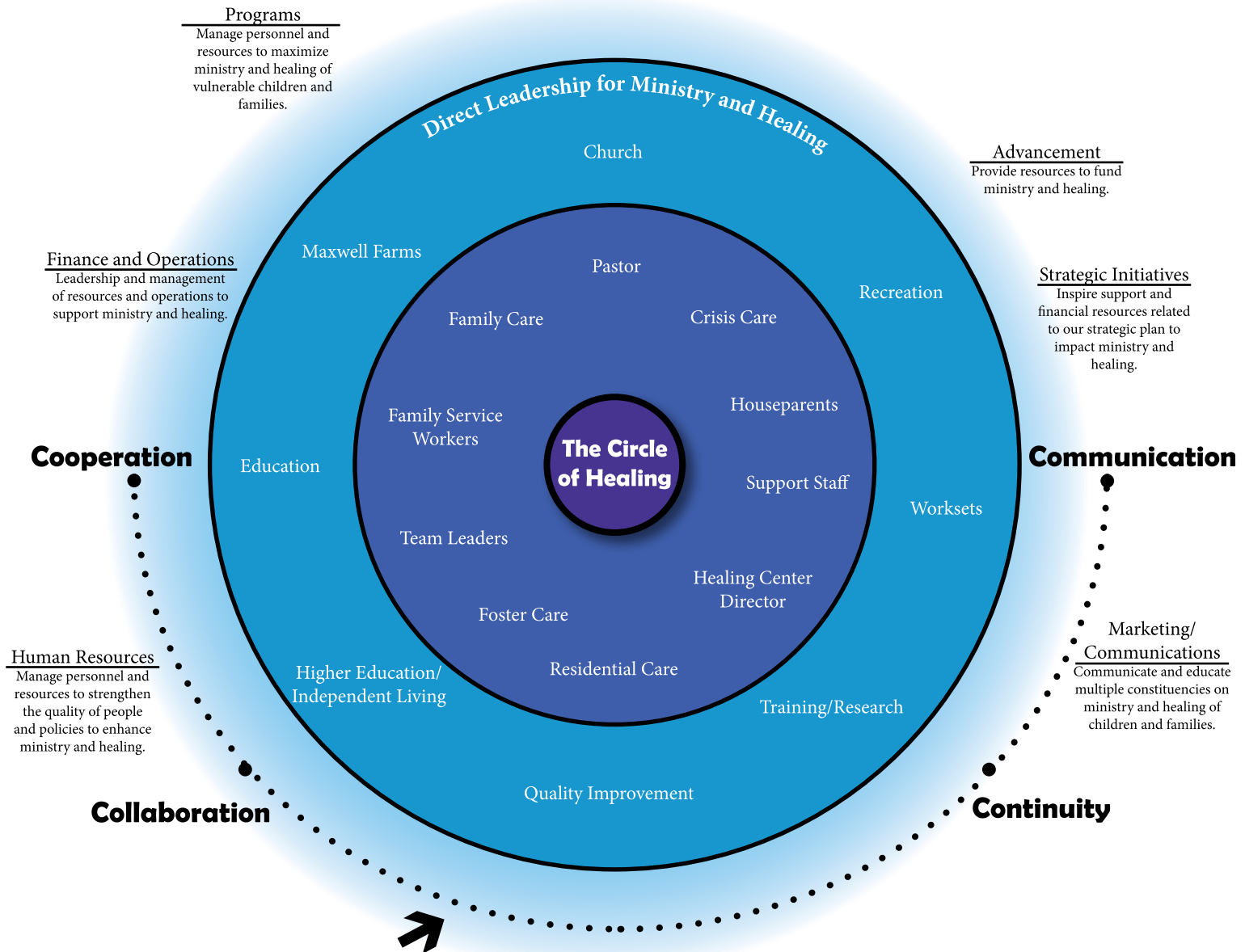
Since March, the Executive Council at Connie Maxwell has continued to have conversations with Dr. Megan Zappitelli to explore this model in more detail and the possibility of integrating a new assessment tool they offer into our current care model.

Nicholson believes that our ministry might soon be in a position where we can understand our children better than we ever have before.

"We are doing a lot of different initiatives, but healing is our central focus over the next ten years," said Nicholson. "There are too many broken children. We have to find better ways to get inside their lives and ask God to use us and what we have learned to go deeper. We are on a mission along with the gospel to minister and love our children and families into wholeness."

A Decade of Dreams

“An Era of Healing”



The 4C's will be encouraged and supported by monthly and weekly meetings that will enhance and strengthen ministry and healing at Connie Maxwell.

Mission: Connie Maxwell Children's Ministries exist to restore the Faith, Family, and Future of vulnerable children and families through Christian services that emphasize ministry and healing.

Vision: A national leader in Christian ministries of healing for vulnerable children and families.

20th Anniversary Connie Maxwell Christmas Kick-off Concert Featuring

Colton Dixon

GIVING TUESDAY
NOVEMBER | 30 | 7:00 PM

Colton Dixon quickly became a household name in 2012 when he was voted a fan favorite and made it to the top seven on Season 11 of Fox's hit show AMERICAN IDOL. His career as a Christian artist has been on the fast track ever since, now boasting over 100 million streams across all platforms.

Doors open at 6:15 PM

General Admission Seating

Connie Maxwell Baptist Church

Tickets \$20



Connie Maxwell
CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Scan me!



OR PURCHASE TICKETS AT:

events.idonate.com/ColtonDixon

or visit our events page at conniemaxwell.com



2021

class of

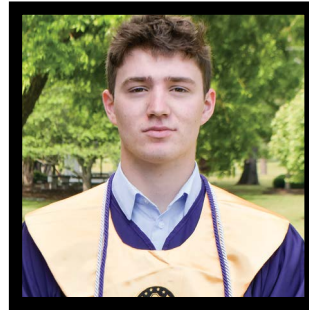
CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!



Paul Clark
Emerald High School
Greenwood Campus



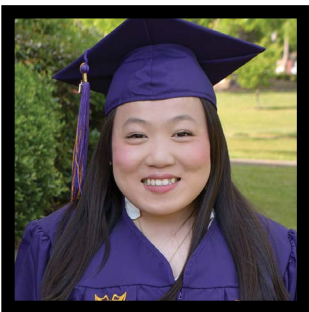
Sarah Darrah
Emerald High School
Daughter of Brian and
Elizabeth Darrah



Alex Duncan
Emerald High School
Son of Tim and Rebecca Duncan



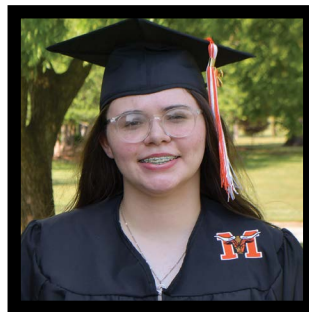
Jason Lopez
Emerald High School
Greenwood Campus



Emily Nation
Emerald High School
Greenwood Campus



Olivia Pullen
Emerald High School
Greenwood Campus



Kaylee Randall
Mauldin High School
Marie Younts Campus



Arianna Sager
Emerald High School
Greenwood Campus

Not Pictured:

Terrence Clark
Emerald High School
Greenwood Campus

Andrew Higginbotham
Lander University
Son of Tim and Stacy Higginbotham

Logan Miner
Greenwood Christian School
Son of Greg and Julie Miner

Breiana Thurman
Emerald High School
Greenwood Campus

Breaunna Williams
Emerald High School
Greenwood Campus

Save the Date

June 10th-12th

2022 Alumni Reunion



www.ConnieMaxwell.com • +1 (800) 868-2624 •



STAY CONNECTED!

Alumni Board Officers

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Ernest Mackins
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eemackins@yahoo.com

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Dale Kline
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Shirely McCoy Weese
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Tim Wines
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William D. Nicholson II, Ph.D.
Ex-Officio

Alumni Board of Directors

Carie Lee McClendon
Chairperson
mcclendoncarie@gmail.com

Outdoor pavilion gets new updates thanks to Alumni Board

BY SARAH JANE SCHEIRER

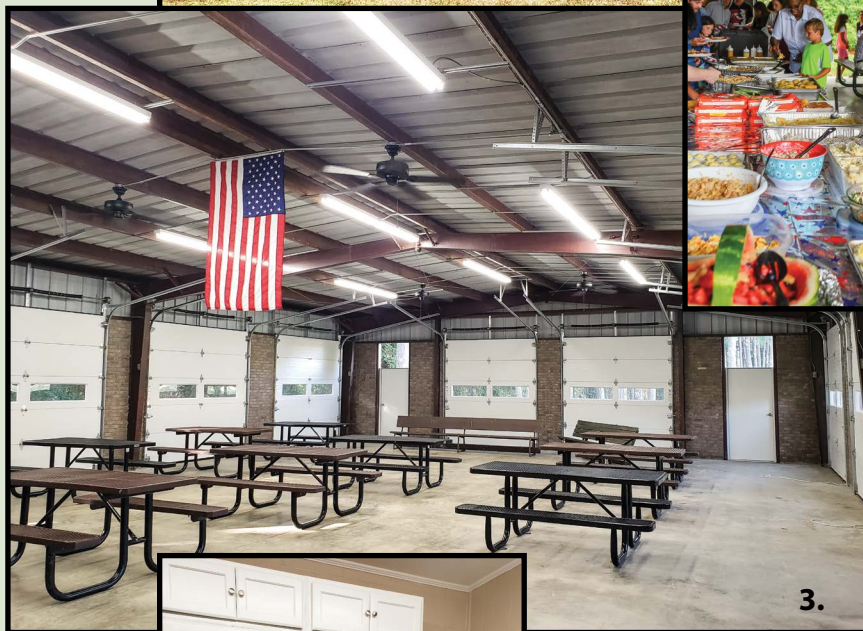
New and exciting updates have been happening here at Connie Maxwell! Our children and staff often utilize the Greenwood campus pavilion for cookouts, events, and more. While this is a popular place for gatherings, it was time for a refreshing update. Thanks to Connie Maxwell's Alumni Board, and other alumni supporters, they raised the necessary funds for a pavilion project! With determination, prayer, and hard work, this dream has become a reality.

Sparrow Swamp Baptist Church visited and stayed on our campus during the first week of April to help remodel the pavilion.

Updates included new paint, brickwork, windows, lighting, fans, remodeled bathrooms and kitchen, new appliances, and even sliding garage doors for an open or closed atmosphere. In addition, a storage building was constructed alongside the pavilion.

Sparrow Swamp Baptist Church, located in Timmonsville, South Carolina, has volunteered to help Connie Maxwell for the past six years. Each year a new project is selected for their missionaries to work on for our campus. Our ministry greatly appreciates their hard work and dedication. Pastor Stan Sullivan has helped to organize all of their missions for Connie Maxwell.

Though the project is not yet complete, it has been used for an independence day cookout and was a massive hit for our children, staff, and families.



1. New garage doors will allow the pavilion to be used during other times of the year.
2. A 4th of July celebration dinner in the updated pavilion was enjoyed by all!
3. Upgrades also included new lighting and fans inside the pavilion.
4. The kitchen received a fresh new update, as well as the bathrooms. A new storage closet was added in the kitchen area, as well as the backside of the pavilion.

Connie Maxwell announces partnership with Christian Adoption Services

Connie Maxwell Children's Ministries announced a newly formed partnership with Christian Adoption Services. Christian Adoption Services is a ministry of Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina and provides Foster-to-Adopt services, domestic and international adoption services.

On a recent visit to the Connie Maxwell Greenwood campus, leaders from both organizations reflected on how this might be one of the first partnerships between Baptist ministries across state lines.

"It's a good symbolic way of saying we are all one body, we are all one spirit," said Connie Maxwell President William D. Nicholson II. "I like the word compassion more than competition. In the future, we may do this ourselves, but for right now, this is perfect. We get to help children together."

When new families reach out to Connie Maxwell to inquire about adoption services, they will be referred to a Christian Adoption Services representative located in South Carolina. Likewise, when families in South Carolina decide they want to foster, Christian Adoption Services will refer those families to Connie Maxwell.

Christian Adoption Services Sr. Director of Adoptions Kevin Qualls explained, "Families who come into the program may initially say that they want to foster and end up adopting, or they may say they want to adopt and end up fostering. Either way, we see this partnership as a win-win for both ministries since it provides a continuum of care for the children."

Adoption is a subject that is very close to Nicholson's heart. He never misses a moment to share his gratitude for his parents, who adopted him when he was abandoned at a hospital after birth.

"Adoption saved my life," said Nicholson. "Where would I be today if I wouldn't have received the nurturing and love in my life that my parents provided? I have a deep appreciation for the fact that somebody adopted me and gave me a home."

Nicholson is thankful that we can connect more people with the opportunity to adopt through this new



From left, Christian Adoption Services Sr. Director of Adoptions Kevin Qualls, Connie Maxwell President William D. Nicholson II, and Baptist Children's Homes Chief Operating Officer J. Keith Henry.

“It’s a good symbolic way of saying we are all one body, we are all one spirit. I like the word compassion more than competition. In the future, we may do this ourselves, but for right now, this is perfect. We get to help children together.”

- William D. Nicholson II
Connie Maxwell President

partnership. “In the end, a kid gets a home. It doesn’t matter how,” said Nicholson.

Christian Adoption Services Director of Development Mike Blackwood agreed, saying, “I’m really excited about South Carolina and what can happen over the next few years. I’m thrilled about the opportunity to connect with Connie Maxwell and serve both of our ministries together.”

DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT ON #GI♥INGTUESDAY

Help our children and families *Dare to Dream* this #GivingTuesday! On **Tuesday, November 30**, people around the world are coming together to support causes they believe in. Our goal is to raise **\$250,000 in 24 hours** to help provide a *place to call home* for children and families in need across South Carolina. A group of generous donors have pledged *to match every gift made up to \$250,000!* \$25 becomes \$50, \$50 becomes \$100, and so on! For more information on how to give, visit our website at www.ConnieMaxwell.com.

#Forthe**Dreams**ofChildren



**ALL GIFTS
MATCHED!**

Connie Maxwell accredited by National Financial Accountability Organization



The ECFA (Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability) announced today the accreditation of Connie Maxwell Children's Ministries of Greenwood, SC.

ECFA accreditation is based on the ECFA Seven Standards of Responsible Stewardship™, including financial accountability, transparency, soundboard governance, and ethical fundraising.

Connie Maxwell Children's Ministries joins a growing number of Christ-centered churches and ministries across America, supported by over 14.6 million donors that

have earned the right to display the ECFA seal. When an organization is accredited by ECFA, it demonstrates its willingness to follow the model of biblical accountability.

"We are pleased to accredit a ministry committed to provide spiritual nourishment, shelter, food, medical, and educational needs," said Michael Martin, president of ECFA.

ECFA, founded in 1979, provides accreditation to leading Christian nonprofit organizations that faithfully demonstrate compliance with the ECFA Standards pertaining to financial accountability, fundraising, and board governance. For more information about ECFA, including information about accreditation and a listing of ECFA-accredited members, visit www.ECFA.org or call 1-800-323-9473.

Connie Maxwell says farewell to summer missionaries



We would like to say a huge thank you to our summer missionaries provided to us from the South Carolina Baptist Convention and BCMGo. Mary Garcia, Lindsey Collins, Madison Lynch, and Morgan Hynds sacrificed their summer to come and serve with our church and kids! Thank you ladies for giving of your time to serve the kids at Connie Maxwell and King Jesus! You made an eternal difference!

THE BEST HEROES

BY DOUG KAUFFMANN

ILLUSTRATIONS

**BY CHERRY
SMITH**



Follow along as a young boy gets to experience one of his greatest adventures — a New York Giants football game! After reflecting on his experience, he realizes the important truth that not all heroes wear shoulder pads.

“This children’s book is more than a creative offering—it represents a lifetime of compassion to children,” said Connie Maxwell President William D. Nicholson II. “From this tender story with his father and his service as pastor, Doug Kauffmann’s life has been a testimony to thousands of children by beautifully illustrating not only his father’s love for him but the love of Christ to all Connie Maxwell children through the years.”

All of the book’s profits will continue that legacy of love by helping children and families at Connie Maxwell.

**ALL PROCEEDS
SUPPORT
CONNIE
MAXWELL**

PURCHASE YOUR COPY ONLINE:

www.conniemaxwell.com/heroes





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