

Happy Valentine's Day!

# The Brantwood Brag

Issue 2 February 2015

## HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Our children had a very meaningful and joyous holiday season thanks to our Christmas sponsors along with our Christmas morning sponsors, volunteers, mentors, and members of the community who gifted our children with presents above and beyond our expectations. This sense of family is what creates a feeling of love and acceptance for the children of Brantwood and our loyal supporters are *family*.

One cheery and brown eyed ten year old boy particularly felt his need of acceptance was filled this Christmas by spending the holiday with his mentors and their children. He was asked to describe the overall meaning of Christmas to him in 2014; his sentiments were reflective of the original Christmas story in which Mary and Joseph could not find a room at the inn, "and she gave birth of her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them" (Luke 2:7). Just like Mary and Joseph, this loving boy felt his story was not in being turned away but rather being taken in. He said **"being with my mentors for Christmas meant I was taken in, like Mary and Joseph. I was exactly where I needed to be. I was happy to spend the day with them. I am still happy about it."** Special mentors and supporters of Brantwood help our children feel they are where they need to be, not just on holidays, but year-round, as demonstrated through various activities and acts of kindness we received.

Brantwood is so proud and humbled to provide our children with nostalgic memories of holidays past. The holidays are the template to what our children should feel every day of the calendar year, *love and acceptance*. Your gifts make that possible.

## THANK YOU

We would like to extend our gratitude to everyone who donated their time to drop by Brantwood and visit our children and those that sponsored our children by blessing them with Christmas presents or stockings. The fruits of your giving were apparent as 100% of our children had both a Christmas sponsor and Christmas morning sponsor which allows our children to receive gifts from Santa that they wanted, but also gifts they needed.

A special thanks to Connie Johnson, registrar of The Montgomery Academy for organizing the efforts of their HEART (Helping Eagles All Right There) Club in their 6th year of donating Christmas gifts to Brantwood. The presents donated by the HEART Club are the gifts our children open on Christmas morning. Club member Mary Braden Hendon said of the experience: "our presents are their Christmas morning. When we walk into Brantwood there is nothing under the tree, but when we leave they have presents all under the tree and it's amazing."

Gifts Brantwood received monetarily or otherwise are a testament to the goodwill of the community, which has enabled us to serve such precious entities for the past 98 years. On behalf of our children, we thank you.

## CONGRATULATIONS



Board President, Delbert Madison, 3rd from the left, receives Humanitarian Achievement Award.

Brantwood's own board president, Delbert Madison, was one of the recipients of the Humanitarian Achievement Award presented by InMontgomery Media Group and BMW Montgomery on

December 18th.

We would like to congratulate Mr. Madison on this huge accomplishment. We thank him for the service he provides not just with our children, but with the entire Montgomery Community.



Congratulations are also in order for our cherished board member, Ron Simmons on his promotion within the Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce. He will now serve as the Vice President of Business Development; what a prestigious honor!

We are so blessed to have such strong pillars of character as part of our board.



Looking for a free & easy way to give? Do your shopping from the sofa, by visiting [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com). You can select Brantwood under our legal name: *Children's Protective Association* and a percentage of your purchase will directly benefit Brantwood, at no extra cost to you!

Thank you  
 ...to some of our  
 special partners!



along with  
 Crosby Electric Company  
 Jack Ingram Motors, Inc.  
 Montgomery County Commissioners

## GIVE, GROW, LOVE

### ONE BIG TRUCK, FOR ALL THE LITTLE ENGINES THAT COULD



Brantwood Children's Home invites you to our 26th annual Truck Raffle to be held on April 30th from 5:00-6:30 p.m. atop the hill at the Brantwood campus. This is one of the most storied and anticipated events for the Brantwood community. For a \$100, you can dine-in with a guest on a delicious barbeque plate while enjoying the live music, under a canopy of blooming trees and a majestic Alabama sunset as you await the drawing of this year's truck winner. Dinner plates are also available for carry-out for two and you still remain eligible to win. This truly is such an enjoyable evening of giving back. Our goal is not to just give away a truck but to allow the night to be a token of our appreciation for all that you do. For ticket purchase information or questions, please call 334-265-0784 today!

### SHE'S GOT THE POWER

**Congratulations to the River Region Living Magazine\* Citizen of the Year, Leslie Sanders!** Sanders has served on Brantwood's Board of Directors; she is a passionate community activist as well as the Vice President for Alabama Power's Southern Division. Sanders' core philosophy and dedication to mentoring children personally speaks to the mission of Brantwood as well as the community: "I believe that when you have the opportunity to do good, you should do it." Such was the case when Mrs. Sanders facilitated the move of a teenage boy in a desperate situation to seek refuge at Brantwood. By giving this young man the opportunity of a lifetime at Brantwood, she gave him hope and reintroduced a sense of trust. This selfless act no doubt reflects her own role models, her parents who "blessed me with a strong foundation to carry into adulthood." Like Brantwood, Sanders believes a strong foundation begins with an education that gives students the essential tools to be trained in career and vocation opportunities. She is actively planning the Region Workforce Training Center, to open in the previous Montgomery Mall; it is a program that pairs public schools with Trenholm State Technical College to prepare students for a fruitful career in their trade. This will "change a whole family," Sanders said. This especially resonates at Brantwood with our Onsite Educational Program designed to enable our children with the skill-set needed for management positions in the workforce. Thank you Mrs. Sanders for making such a substantial impact not only at Brantwood, but in the community!

### A BETTER TOMORROW, TODAY

In these cold winter months it can be difficult to imagine the blossoming of seeds and the sunshine-induced fruits of our philanthropy. However, there are up to 36 seedlings at Brantwood who need nurturing year round as they continuously bloom into the inspired and successful adults they were meant to be. Your monthly gift of \$100 or outright gift of \$1200 to our **Sponsor-a-Child Program** is planting a seed for a better tomorrow, *today*. You are providing the opportunity for a child to engage in extracurricular activities such as sports and music lessons. You are creating a sense of normalcy and family as your gift allows our children to visit relatives during the holidays, open a birthday present and blow out candles on their cake. By investing in our children not only are you demonstrating the power of philanthropy, but you are also establishing firm roots of opportunity for the children that will always call Brantwood "home." Please call Brantwood today to plant the seed for a better tomorrow.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Brantwood Children's Home will celebrate our 98th birthday in 2015! We are humbled and honored to be a pillar of service and strength in the Montgomery community for nearly 100 years. If you haven't seen our beautiful and historical campus, schedule your tour today!

### CALANDER OF EVENTS

**Love Run 5k:**  
February 14th, 8:30 a.m.  
Paterson Field Lot

**Truck Raffle:**  
April 30th 5:00-6:30 p.m.  
Brantwood Campus

## FROM BRANTWOOD'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

#### Board of Directors:

Delbert Madison-President  
Tonda West-Vice President  
Jason Nickles-Treasurer  
Archie Grubb  
Ellen Hamilton  
Boyd Busby  
Joe Seawell Moore  
Ron Simmons  
Jeannine Birmingham  
Grant Sullivan  
Charles James, II  
Golson Foshee  
Dr. Ben Bruce  
Kim Littlefield  
Dorothy Johnson  
Paul Blake

After enjoying a wonderful time of worship on Sunday, I was blessed with an unexpected hug while leaving the worship center. To my pleasant surprise, it was one of our precious Brantwood youth. The sweet twelve year old led me by the hand, through the crowded pathway, to where her ten year old brother was waiting. We all enjoyed a group hug, celebrating the fun they were having on a Sunday with their new mentor, Lindsey. Not only did the day include going to Sunday school and worship, but lunch and roller skating were also on the agenda! The kids were so happy to enjoy a special day out with Lindsey and her daughter. The laughter and smiles from the children made Lindsey beam with joy as she shared their plans for the day; their happiness was undeniable and the excitement in their voices was energizing. The cause for it all was simple; they had a special friend, a *mentor* who had been approved to spend time with the children off Brantwood's campus and out in the community. We have several me youth that would like to enjoy the friendship of a mentor. If you are interested in learning about the process of becoming a mentor, please contact our office. Thank you Lindsey for being a mentor and making a difference in the lives of two of our youth.

Sincerely,

*Kim Herbert*

kherbert@brantwoodchildrenshome.org

