



"The test of the morality of a society is what it does for it's children."

2011 AGAPE BENEFIT DINNER

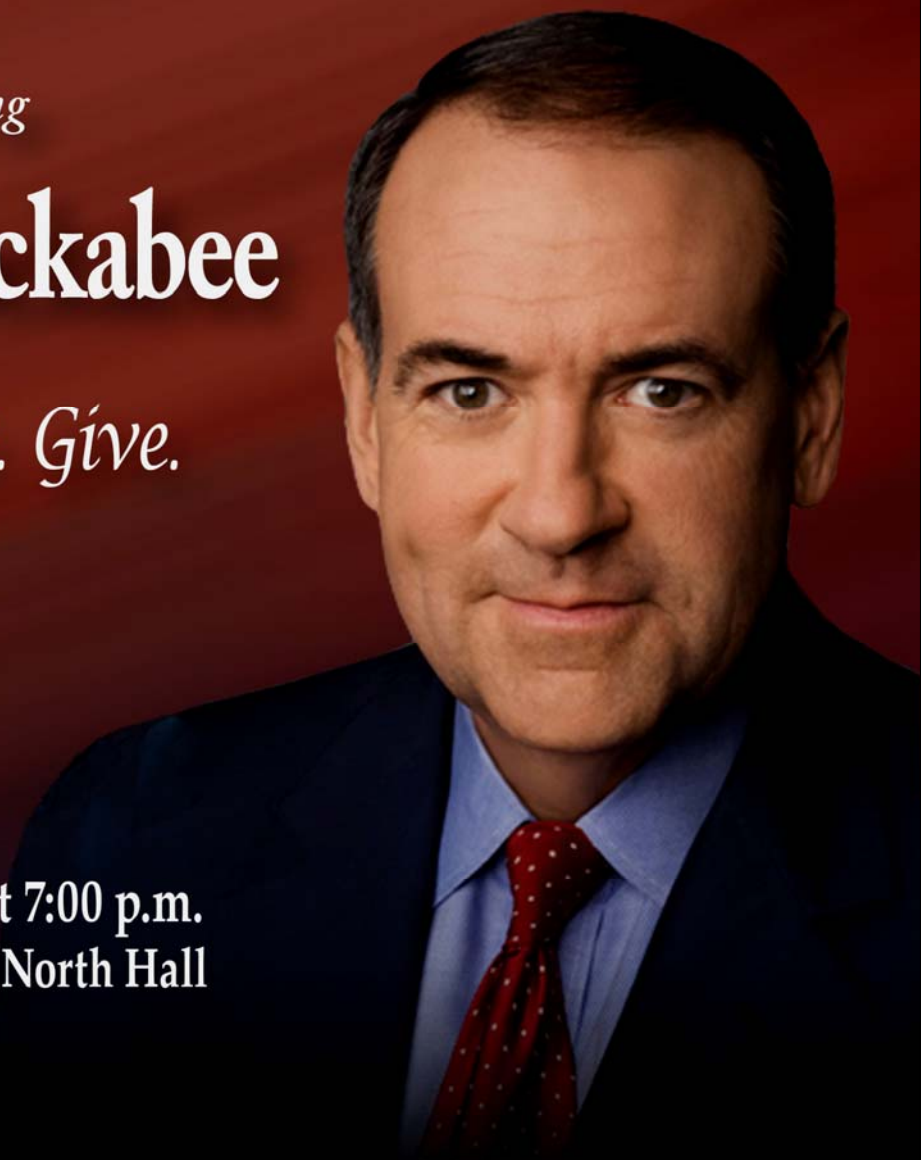
featuring

Mike Huckabee

Live. Love. Give.

March 22, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.
Von Braun Center North Hall

Please see page 3 for more details!





Happy Birthday!

Jonathan Criswell
Jean Davis
Mary Ann Mercer
Katherine Burton
Jerry Logan
Peggy Bell
Jerry Whilhoite
Linda Hopewell
Bill Phillips
Murray Warren
 Mayfair Bridge Builders Class

Mary Bailey
 "Happy 90th Birthday!"
 Jim & Irma Steelman
Emma Kennedy
 "Happy 90th Birthday!"
 Jim & Irma Steelman
Louell Maples
 "Happy 93rd Birthday!"
 David & Martha Stanbrough
Howard Smith
 "Happy 80th Birthday!"
 William & Paulette Brown
Cynthia Twitty
 "Happy Birthday!"
 Candi Holliday



In Honor

AGAPE Children
 James & Nelda Hiley
Joshua & Lauren Balentine
 Rejetta Balentine
Ray & Lee Carlisle
 Teri Shelledy
Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Jamison
 Mary Martin
Taleiya Lovejoy
 Gwen Crim
Ernest & Edna Petty
 Victor & Diane Petty
Kathleen Pierce
 George & Jackie Warren
Jerry & Mildred Smelser
 Dr. & Mrs. Smelser
Jim & Irma Steelman
 Ted Cannon
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Vann
 Mary Martin

DON'T TELL ME I'M BURNING THE CANDLE AT BOTH ENDS... JUST TELL ME WHERE TO GET MORE WAX.



New Year's Day. Resolutions.
 Bowl games. National championships.
 Snow. Snow days. Snow angels.
 Tax documents and giving statements.



Did I mention the snow?

It's only January 19th and, honestly, to be this far behind, it should be at least mid-July. What an incredibly short first two weeks it's been at AGAPE!

After coming home from Texas on January 3rd—we were there to watch the Red Raiders win the inaugural Ticket City Bowl—I was hit with a case of what my family calls "the creeping crud." I was congested and running a fever, so I was forced to stay home to avoid infecting the AGAPE staff.

By the 9th, I'd cleared up and was anxious to get back to work at just about the same time "the great blizzard of 2011" decided to hit. *Did I mention snow?* On Monday morning, I woke up snowed in by 8" of the white stuff. Same story on Tuesday and Wednesday. By Thursday, my family was stir-crazy, so what did we do? We inched our way to the AGAPE office (my home-away-from-home) and spent a few hours playing "catch up". Several other staff members were here as well, doing the same thing. It wasn't until Friday that things finally got back to semi-normal.

By that time, though, our schedule was completely out of whack and, as noted above, I was already needing more wax to burn and 2011 had only started.

Over the next few very busy months, **a number of exciting events will be taking place, and I want to make sure that you know you're invited.**

March 22nd: **AGAPE's 2011 Benefit Dinner**
 May 23rd: **AGAPE's "Golf Classic" at Hampton Cove**
 July 21st: **AGAPE's Fundraising Dinner and Auction**
 August 27th: **AGAPE's Baby and Family Fair**

This doesn't even include our **Annual Supporters' Dinner** (October 20th), Foster Family Retreat, or summer and holiday activities with our foster kids and their foster families, etc. Mix in participation at a good number of promotional events (e.g., church appearances, college lectureships) as well as professional trainings and you can see how things might get busy at AGAPE.

When things get busy, it's easy for us to "miss the forest for the trees." It's easy for us to forget that the things we do, event-wise at AGAPE, aren't done for the sake of the event but for the sakes of the precious children we serve.

This year, as you participate with us in our events, I ask that you not "miss the forest for the trees." Remember, when you support AGAPE, you're in fact supporting God's children, His children, AGAPE's children, your children.

Executive Director

Live. Love. Give.

2011 AGAPE Benefit Dinner

"Every child deserves the opportunity to discover and use his God-given gifts and talents." -Mike Huckabee

After last year's fantastic benefit dinner with *The Blind Side's* Sean Tuohy, we wondered how we could ever improve upon such a perfect evening. Your generous giving, your presence at the event, and your prayers helped us in establishing our dinner as a new annual fundraiser--and it was the biggest we have had yet!

But this year is different. The bar is higher. The stakes are greater. The opportunities are endless. AGAPE is thrilled that Mike Huckabee is coming to Huntsville. Yes, he has penned seven books, hosted his own show on Fox News, and run for president of our country, but that is not why we are thrilled. We are thrilled because we feel that Mike Huckabee is the perfect voice to use in gathering supporters of our cause, for he is a children's advocate, a "firm believer in the value of the sanctity of life," one who contends that "every human being deserves to be treated with the same dignity and respect."

Our dinner will be held at Huntsville's Von Braun Center North Hall on Tuesday, March 22. For those who purchase premium seats, the evening will begin with a reception and photo session with Governor Huckabee at 5:00 pm. Beginning at 7:00 pm, all ticket holders will enjoy a three-course dinner and a presentation by Governor Huckabee themed "Live. Love. Give."--a presentation that will remind us all what is truly important in this life. All ticket sales will conclude March 16th.

We want to thank our local radio stations that have already invested their air time in supporting this event: WDRM (102.1), The River (100.3), WBHP (106.5), WTAK (106.1), and the Rick and Bubba Morning Show. Be on the lookout for billboards going up in Huntsville and TV commercials that will be airing on Fox 54!

An empty ballroom sits waiting on us, and it is now up to you to make this AGAPE's biggest and best event yet. Mike Huckabee once explained that "we ought to be people of compassion. And being people of compassion means we deny ourselves and our self-centeredness." Filling these 1176 seats is not about numbers, politics, or status; it is about being people of compassion, people who are moved by the needs of children--children without homes, children without Christ.

By purchasing tickets, spreading the word about this event, and praying for its success, you will be demonstrating the very compassion that Christ embodied. Please visit our website, agapecares.org, soon to see our different sponsorship levels and to purchase tickets. We look forward to working with you to make this a special night, a night that will provide unbelievable opportunities for our children.



Director of Development

In Continued Memory

Emily Dover Clark
Kathryn Robinson
Bob & Linda Baccus
Kenneth Evans
Delores Evans
Mr. & Mrs. Dewey Harrison
Eugene & Peggy Harrison
Ralph Higgins
Ann Higgins
Lynn & Mildred McLellan
Curtis & Joan McLellan
Walter & Eunice Plum
Bob & Edna Southard
Mr. & Mrs. Lonnie Randolph
Eugene & Peggy Harrison
Dan T. Reed
Kay Reed

In Memory

Chelsea Barnes
Dr. & Mrs. Michael Brown
Zack Batey
Glenn & Tommie Jamison
Lee & Madge Beaty
Bobby & Martha Beaty
Steven Bennett
Dr. & Mrs. Michael Brown
James Bevel
Douglas & Beverly Reed
Charlie Mae Bietz
Gary & Colene Webster
Barbara Binford
Clyde & Georgine Jones
Clint Bingham
Glenn & Lisa Weeks
John Boseck
Ruth Boseck
Myrl Bowling
Jean Parker
Alyne H. Bradford
Roger Bradford
Willie Bradford, Jr.
Jim & Irma Steelman
Toni Brocato
Teri Shelledy
Norene Brock
Dr. & Mrs. Michael Brown
Joe Brockway
Jerry & Peggy Wallace
Raymond Brown
Virginia Pope
Katherine Fowler
Mary Frizzell
Dorothy Spencer
David & Louise Mellburg

In Memory

Edna Bryan

Dorothy Spencer
David & Louise Mellburg

Jimmy Butler

Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Weeks

Lois Cargile

Curtis & Joan McLellan

Elaine Caudle

Dr. & Mrs. Michael Brown

Vivian Chaffin

James & Joyce Turner

D.L. Chandler

Paul & Ruth King
Jim & Irma Steelman

John Charles

Carl & Lynn Smith

Emily Dover Clark

Kathryn Robinson
Bob & Linda Baccus

Keith Coates

Glenn & Tommie Jamison

Evelyn Cole

Maxine BURGREEN

Wilma Cook

Ralph & Kathy Johnson

Louise Cooper

Jim & Irma Steelman

Joe Craig

Nellie Corlew

Veron Curd

Christa Babe

Mary Daniel

Mayfair Church of Christ

Mike Davis

Johnny & Judy Graves

Velva Cathryn Davis

John & Gladys Branch
Danny & Amy Holmes
AGAPE Staff

Raymond Doggett

Dr. & Mrs. Michael Brown

Baby Dozier

Lisa Jones

Lamar Farmer

Dr. & Mrs. Michael Brown

Jim Ferguson

Danny & Amy Holmes
Claudette Rives
Chase Park Church of Christ
Eddie & Kaye Albright
Dick & Dian Smith
Paul & Ruth King

Peggy Frazier

Dr. & Mrs. Michael Brown

Lenora Gattis

Mike & Judith Davis
Virginia Montgomery

Kevin Gentry

Dr. & Mrs. Michael Brown

Alabama Celebrates 676 Adoptions!

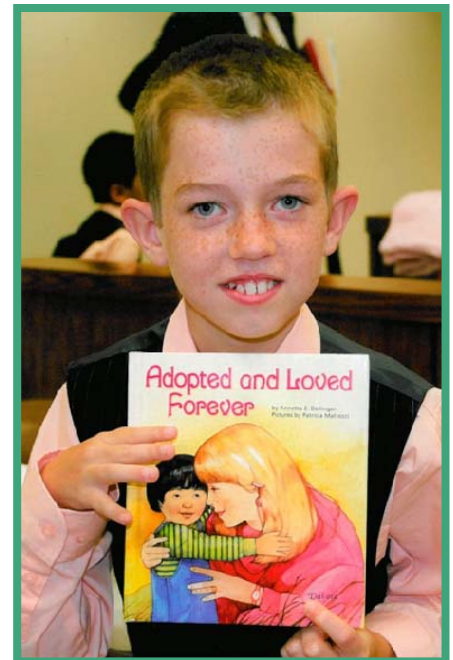
AGAPE of North Alabama joins former Governor Bob Riley in congratulating Alabama for efforts in the 2009-2010 fiscal year to secure permanency for our foster children! Last year in Alabama, **676** children were adopted through the Department of Human Resources. This wonderful achievement



earned the fifth largest adoption incentive award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, totaling \$1.5 million. The state plans to use the award money to support adoption finalizations and help recruit additional foster and adoptive families to continue this wonderful trend.

AGAPE plays an active role in recruiting foster and adoptive homes for DHR and helping to ensure that each child eligible for adoption finds a loving, forever family. In the 2009-2010 fiscal year, 10 adoptions were finalized to AGAPE's foster and adoptive homes, and we have several more children currently in the adoption process. DHR and AGAPE are committed to reducing the amount of time that each child spends in the foster care system. When it is determined that a foster child will not be able to return home to his or her family, AGAPE partners with DHR in locating a permanent, stable adoptive home for each child. Although foster care is designed to provide temporary care for children, our AGAPE foster parents often choose to adopt the foster children in their home, eliminating yet another move to a new home.

There are currently thousands of children in foster care in Alabama. Would you open your heart and your home to Alabama's most vulnerable population? Please contact the AGAPE of North Alabama offices for more information on becoming a foster or adoptive parent. You can make the difference in the life of a child and ensure that he or she is adopted and loved forever!



Leah B'smith

Assistant Director of Social Services

Breakfast with Santa 2010

Among the many events planned by the Social Workers at AGAPE, the annual "Breakfast with Santa" is one we all anticipate. Though December is a very busy month for our foster families, many of them make it a priority to attend this annual event. Events such as this give the foster families a chance to fellowship with each other as well as foster families who are new to AGAPE.

This year, about 80 parents and children came together to enjoy a delicious breakfast prepared by the wonderful ladies of ALANA. We appreciate the time and energy these ladies give each year to help make this day a success. Before Santa made his appearance, the children created paper reindeer and received their personalized Christmas ornaments. Santa was, of course, the main attraction, and we were so happy to see the children's faces light up when he appeared. He was kind enough to give individualized attention to children and adults alike! Each child was given time to talk to Santa and have his/her picture made with him.

This is always a fun event to share with our AGAPE families!



On behalf of AGAPE's children and families, we would like to thank those of you who sponsored a foster child's Christmas list or those of you who donated monetarily toward our Christmas program. With your help, every child's Christmas list was sponsored and the "Breakfast with Santa" event was a success.

We are encouraged by your support and reminded of God's provision for His children.

In Memory

Shannon Gifford

Carolynn McBride

Jayna Gillespie

Dr. & Mrs. Michael Brown

Ronnie Hall

Dr. & Mrs. Michael Brown

Doug Hughes

Stanley & Shirley Plattenburg

Gin Pope

David & Louise Mellburg

Helen Stringer

John Hurst Hyde

David & Janice Moore

Denton & Martha Kimbrough

Ken & Merry Barfield

Greg & Paige Kemp

Van Ingram

Paul & Rebecca Click

Gloria Ingram

Warren & Clovis Smith

Lois Jenerick

Dr. & Mrs. Michael Brown

Jerry Jenklins

Jim & Irma Steelman

Carolyn Jennings

Jim & Irma Steelman

Bob & Linda Baccus

John & Gladys Branch

Denton & Martha Kimbrough

Lin & Joy Turner

Sarah Cristina Johnson

Sarah McBride

Devonia Kilpatrick

William & Paulette Brown

Mack & Jeanette Williamson

William & Barcia Campbell

Lavonia Kilpatrick

Hazel Kraus

Susie Lewter

Dora Landers

Bob & Linda Baccus

Dr. & Mrs. Michael Brown

Mary Lucille King

Candi Holliday

Barry LeFan

Joe & DeLoris LeFan

Carl & Joallen Davis

George & Linda Smith

Joshua Ian Lyle

Charles & Helen Stringer

Jim & Irma Steelman

Ken McGill

Alfred & Betty Craft

John McLeroy

Glenn & Lisa Weeks

Kyle McWhorter

Ruth Boseck

Nancy Meeks

Dr. & Mrs. Michael Brown

In Memory

Nell Mercer

Dr. & Mrs. Michael Brown

Jonathan Mitchell

Dr. & Mrs. Michael Brown

Glenns Moore

Ruth Boseck

Verna Fay Myers

Don & Jan Perkinson
Charles & Edna Hallum
Virginia Montgomery
Dr. & Mrs. Michael Brown

Lloyd Ogle

Jim & Evelyn Harris
Dr. & Mrs. Michael Brown

Ahmed H. Omar

Ernest & Shirley Hargrave

Mary Pate

Barney & Glenda Powell
Joe & DeLoris LeFan
Bob & Linda Baccus
Dr. & Mrs. Michael Brown

Bessie Payne

Mike & Kay Brown

Larry Phillips

Dr. & Mrs. Michael Brown

Alice Pierce

Danny & Amy Holmes

Bill Pierce

George & Jackie Warren

Lorraine Pirtle

Gene & Ruby Zahnd
Nick & Jenny Zahnd & Family
Glen & Lisa Imlay & Family

Louise Pitts

Greg & Paige Kemp
Dr. & Mrs. Michael Brown

Lawson Pope

William & Janice Greenleaf

Mary Porterfield

Don & Janice Perkinson

William Posey

James & Susie Lewter
Jim & Anna Ossip & Hannah

Dorothy Prater

Curtis & Joan McLellan

Terris Prince

George & Linda Smith

Doyle Ramey

Plainview Church of Christ

Jo Randolph

Polly Baker

Dan T. Reed

Douglas & Beverly Reed

Horace Romine

Larry, Bill, Ruby, Royce, Brenda
& Wanda Burchelle & Families

Florrie M. Ryals

Bob & Lillian James

Celebrating the Life of Jim Ferguson

February 3, 1945 - November 25, 2010

AGAPE mourns the loss of one of our dearest friends and foster parents. Jim Ferguson lived his life full of hope for himself and others, always wanting the best for anyone he came in contact with from day to day. Jim obeyed the Gospel as a young teen and then went on to join the Army at the age of 18. He spent his tour of duty in Pennsylvania as a medic because he couldn't stand the thought of carrying a gun or hurting anyone. He received awards for good conduct, exemplary behavior, efficiency, and fidelity. He went on to participate in a medical research volunteer program, and then was honorably discharged in 1971. Jim went on several mission trips to Mexico in 1980, where he met his wife, Martha. After waiting for six long years for her to say "Yes" to his marriage proposal, they were married in July of 1986. They have one child, Michael, and have been loving and committed foster parents since 1988. Jim and Martha received the Foster Parents of the Year award from AGAPE in 2009, and then, in 2010, they received the award from the state of Alabama Association of Child Care Agencies. Jim was a blessing to all who knew him and will be greatly missed.



Is Foster Care for You?



In the United States, there are over 500,000 children in foster care. Each year, thousands of children are removed from their homes because of abuse and neglect by their families. We at AGAPE provide temporary and permanent homes for many of these children in the State of Alabama.

AGAPE's foster parents play a special role in bringing hope to our foster children as they work toward reunification with their family. Not only do foster parents provide the basic essentials of life in a loving and stable home, but they are also able to share Jesus with these children who are desperately needing hope.

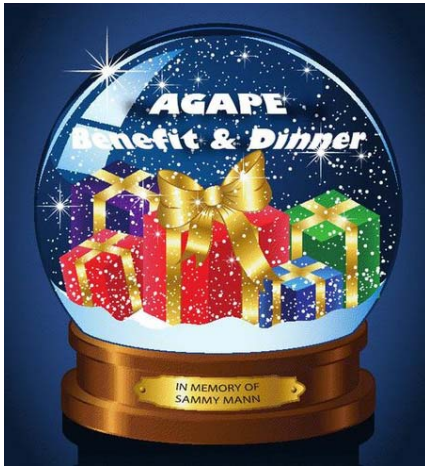
An AGAPE foster home is a single adult or married couple who provides stability, security, Christian love, and is licensed through the State of Alabama. Our professionally trained social workers will guide you through this process.

Will you open your heart and your home to God's children?

For more information about becoming a foster parent, contact Leah, Britney, or Marci at our Huntsville office (256-859-4481) or Mandy at our Florence office (256-767-1084).

SAM MANN TRIBUTE

On Friday, December 10, 2010, a benefit dinner honoring the life of Sam Mann was held at Highland Park Church of Christ in Muscle Shoals. Sam and his wife, Cayron, adopted their son, Cameron, through AGAPE and have a special connection to the mission of AGAPE. This past summer, Sam was involved in a car accident coming home from Maywood Christian Camp, and he later died from complications from his injuries. The Mann family holds such a special place in so many people's hearts that a benefit was put together to honor his memory. The dinner included, a flag ceremony and silent auction, with the proceeds benefiting AGAPE. Josh Willingham, a professional baseball player, spoke and entertainment was provided by Bobby Denton and the Shoals Kids Choir. The benefit raised \$5,817.57 for AGAPE'S children. Since the benefit was such a huge success, there's talk of making this special occasion an annual event. If so, we will keep you posted so you can make plans to attend this event in 2011.



ALANA NEWS

On Saturday, January 15, 2011, thirteen ladies braved the snow and cold temperatures to meet at the Chase Park Church of Christ building for the winter ALANA meeting. After enjoying a time of fellowship and a delicious brunch provided by the Chase Park ladies, Ruth King presented the devotional. Reports were given from the various officers and AGAPE Board members. The ALANA Ladies voted to give money to the foster parents for spring outfits again this year. The spring ALANA meeting will be held on Saturday, April 16, at 10 a.m. at the Plainview Church of Christ. At that meeting, ALANA will kick off the Spring Avon Fundraiser and the Belk's Fundraiser. All ladies (young and old) who are interested in helping foster children are invited to join us at the next meeting!

In Memory

Bill Schade
Bob & Linda Baccus
Dr. & Mrs. Michael Brown
Ken & Merry Barfield

David Schrader
Bill & Brenda Chandler

George & Louise Selvage
Ralph & Kathy Johnson

David Shipman
Carl & Betty Jo Harris
Jim & Irma Steelman
John & Teresa Brumlow
Margaret Rieder
Mayfair Church of Christ
Luke Spears
Bill & Brenda Chandler
Bill & Lois Brumlow
J.R. Brooks
Glen & Tommie Jamison
Bob & Linda Baccus
Dr. & Mrs. Michael Brown
Kathleen Tate
Huntsville City
Board of Education
Dr. James Waters
Ms. Marcie Stewart
Paul & Susan Kelly
Byron, Dana, Robyn
& Stacie Terry
David & Janice Moore
Danny & Amy Holmes
AGAPE Staff
Ken & Merry Barfield
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Dravecky

Robert Sizemore
Margaret Darst

James Sims
Curtis & Joan McLellan

Buford Smith
David & Janice Moore
Ken & Merry Barfield
Greg & Paige Kemp

Hulan Smith
Mayfair Church of Christ

Marie Russell Snediker
Dianne Whitaker

Berdie Fanning Solberg
Dr. & Mrs. Michael Brown

Carol Spears
Cleo Strickland
Bob & Lillian James
Richard & Jerre Wright
Nada Martin
Mayfair Church of Christ
Bess Morton
Betty Curtis
Monrovia Church of Christ
Mike & JoAnn Ray

(continued)

In Memory

Jon &Carolyn Mattox
James & Joyce Turner
Jack & Reba Franklin
Clif & Dianne Kirby
Glenn & Tommie Jamison
Virginia Montgomery
Dr. & Mrs. Michael Brown

Emily Lacy Ashburn Starnes
Glen Gregory
Luke Spears

Pam Thompson
George & Linda Smith
Dr. & Mrs. Michael Brown

Wilma Thompson
Glenn & Tommie Jamison
Mayfair Bridge Builders Class

Clayton & Georgia Travis
Bobby & Martha Beaty

Leigh Ann Troup
Marie Troup

L.D. Tucker
Brooke & Amy Grubb

Gracie Turner
Nellie Corlew

Albert Uttz
George & Linda Smith

Zelma Gates Vogt
Mayfair Church of Christ

Loreen Walker †
Barbara Kilpatrick
Plainview Church of Christ

Mildred Wallace
Dr. & Mrs. Michael Brown

Marsha Walters
Dr. & Mrs. Michael Brown

J. Mack Whitaker
Dianne Whitaker

Doris White
Bob & Linda Baccus
Dr. & Mrs. Michael Brown

Odell White
Mayfair Church of Christ

Lucky Wiekamp
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Riddick

Charles Worley
Glenn & Tommie Jamison

George Wright
Dr. & Mrs. Michael Brown

Wilbur Wright
Dora Waters

Max Young
Curtis & Joan McLellan

As of 1/19/2011

Staff Members:

Danny Holmes

Executive Director

Robby Koester

Director of Development

Vicki Rhodes

Director of Social Services

Leah B'Smith

Asst. Director of Social Services

Marci Blackshear

Social Worker

Britney Shoemaker

Social Worker

Mandy Hollaway

Case Worker

Mona Madaras

Social Services Assistant

Alyse Taylor

Administrative Assistant

Shelley Sissom

Administrative Assistant

Board Members:

Sandra Shipman, Chair

Jay Dryden, Vice Chair

Carroll Roberson, Treasurer

Ruth King, Secretary

Jack Caudle

Don Champion

Craig Cheek

Mike Curtis

Kevin Gray

Ashley Jones

Billy Lenoir

Cheryle Luchini

Bennie Pinckley

Bob Rieder

Carroll Roberson

Barry Scott

Irma Steelman

Martha Washington

Belinda Williams

David Yielding



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WE NEED YOU...

to open your hearts and homes
to become foster and/or
adoptive parents today.

For more information, contact
Britney, Leah, or Marci in our
Huntsville office

256-859-4481

or **Mandy** in our Florence office
256-767-1084.



Upcoming Events

AGAPE Benefit Dinner

featuring **Mike Huckabee**

Tuesday, March 22, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

VBC North Hall

ALANA Meeting

Saturday, April 16, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.

Plainview Church of Christ

Annual Foster Family Retreat

April 1 -3, 2011

Joe Wheeler State Park

I would like to make a special gift to AGAPE

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

For: _____
(Any special occasion: Birthday, Anniversary, etc.)

Please send acknowledgement to:

Name: _____

Street: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

This gift is from:

Name: _____

Street: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Mail to: AGAPE of North Alabama, Inc.
P.O. Box 3887
Huntsville, AL 35810