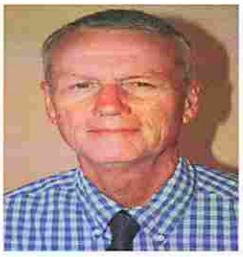
Covenant Children's Home



A HISTORIAL PERSPECTIVE

The Beginning of a Dream

by: Dr. Keeth Staton



In 1994, my wife and I moved to Dunnellon to help plant Springs Presbyterian Church. As the church family began to grow, it became apparent the Lord was bringing together a special group of people who had a common interest in the welfare of children in our area who were in need of foster care.

We purchased 28 acres which was large enough to accommodate both the church and the children's home. After we completed the church, we started to take those steps required to make our dream of a home for foster children become a reality. We named it "Covenant Children's Home" as it reflected the level of commitment we knew would be required to truly make a difference in the lives of these young people. We wanted them to know that we are unconditionally committed to them.

The formal organizational meeting for the CCH corporation took place on August 25, 2002. For a time, things progressed very slowly. A major milestone was reached when the first residence was completed in 2009 and called "Faith House." A second residence called "Hope House" is now under construction.

The Dream Takes Shape: by Dick and Karen Errett, Our First Executive Directors

A Place to Call Home



A Place to call home has always been what Covenant Children's Home was intended to be. A sanctuary for good kids who found themselves in a bad situation. A place where brothers and sisters could live together in a non-institutional, family friendly environment. A place where the model of a Christ centered lifestyle would be lived out in their presence and where they would feel the sense of belonging and unconditional love that the Heavenly Father has for his children.

It was just a dream, or a vision or perhaps a divine calling that prompted a group of committed folks from Springs Presbyterian Church to devote themselves to building just such a place. So, in 2006 construction of the first home was begun, and in two short years the building was completed. Furnished, and fully paid for. Over the next few years it became home to nine teenage girls who benefited from the skillful guidance of our first house parents. Over the last ten years many more children have benefited from the nurture, instruction, and loving care of this wonderful ministry.

Building, maintaining, and operating a ministry such as this is expensive, complicated, and challenging in many ways. It is perhaps one of the most difficult endeavors a community of believers could undertake. But thanks to the dedication and commitment of those involved, the continued support of all those who believe every child should be well cared for regardless of their circumstances and most importantly the Grace of God, the dream of providing children in need with a place to call home has become a reality. Many thanks to those who, over the last ten years, have helped it to become a reality and also those who will be making it possible to serve our children for the next ten.

The Dream Continues

By: Pastor Martin Hoffman



I had the privilege of serving at CCH from 2010 to 2014. During my tenure we were able obtain our initial licensing from the state, and establish a private school for CCH children to attend. They were busy days but by God's Grace they were fruitful ones. The greatest blessing was to see our first resident adopted in a loving, forever home. We continue to remain in contact and have been blessed to see the impact CCH made on his life.

Dreams Do Come True

By: Jody and Debbie Davis



Wow! Has it been ten years already? Debbie and I came to CCH way back before the doors even opened! We started out putting the finishing touches on the house and after a long hot summer, had the privilege of becoming the first ever house parents. We took in four young ladies at the first of the year in 2010, and then unfortunately had to leave to pursue our Master's Degrees. We were so excited to get back in June 2013. Since then we have continued to serve as house parents and eventually took on the role of directors. We have seen a lot of children come through the doors and hopefully have made a difference in their lives: they have sure made a difference in ours! Debbie continues to serve here but due to health concerns, I had to leave in June of last year. I will always be grateful to the board and staff of CCH for allowing me to be a part of their ministry. God Bless you all, and here's to another ten years more. God Bless!



The Dream Continues to Soar

By: Ken Habedank

I have been involved with Covenant Children's Home (CCH) for more than ten years and was one of many who served on the board of directors. I was also one of several from CCH who attended training at Eagle Ranch near Atlanta, GA on how to build a Christian program which would be able to really help children become great Americans. All of us involved with CCH had no desire to be one more group home that simply warehoused children. We wanted a home which provided a Christian family atmosphere capable of encouraging and nurturing foster children during this challenging season of their lives while at the same time challenging and helping them excel in school. This has led to our current structure with individual family homes, full time house parents and no more than six children in each home. It has also led to developing a team of volunteer tutors to help the house parents provide one -on -one educational assistance. Counseling is also provided as required. I was recently asked to serve as interim executive director until such time as we can hire an individual to serve in this position. I am humbled to serve our experienced and highly qualified staff as we do our best to nurture the precious children placed in our care.

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