

2016 FALL STATED MEETING
PRESBYTERY OF ST. AUGUSTINE

COMBINED APPENDICES

Presbytery of St. Augustine MAKING THE CULTURE SHIFT

Making the Culture Shift

From:



To:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Belief that the Presbytery is a place | Widespread belief that the Presbytery is all of us |
| Hierarchical structure | More flexible, loose structure |
| Reactive to crisis | Proactive approach |
| Emphasis on decency and in order | Relational |
| Limited use of technology | More robust use of all forms of technology (e.g., video conferencing, social media, cell phones) |
| Connections by accident | Intentional methods and approaches for networking |

Presbytery of St. Augustine
 Asking Budget Detail
 For the Year Ending December 31, 2017

| | 2016 Budget | 2017 Asking Budget |
|--|----------------|--------------------|
| REVENUES | | |
| Acceptances | | |
| <u>Unified Giving</u> | | |
| Unified Giving | 540,000 | 535,000 |
| Total Unified Giving | 540,000 | 535,000 |
| | | |
| <u>Selected Giving</u> | | |
| Selected General Assembly | 40,000 | 40,000 |
| Selected Presbytery | 5,000 | 2,500 |
| Total Selected Giving | 45,000 | 42,500 |
| Total Acceptances | 585,000 | 577,500 |
| | | |
| Other Receipts | | |
| Investment Income (See Footnote 1) | 36,000 | 60,000 |
| Other Income | 3,000 | 0 |
| Foundation Earnings | 2,300 | 1,000 |
| Undesignated Reserve Usage | 0 | |
| Total Other Receipts | 41,300 | 61,000 |
| | | |
| Other Funds Used | | |
| TIM Community Development Transfer | 5,000 | 0 |
| Total Other Funds Used | 5,000 | 0 |
| TOTAL REVENUES | 631,300 | 638,500 |
| | | |
| EXPENSES | | |
| Congregational Ministry/Missional Community | | |
| <u>Crisis and Misconduct Response Teams</u> | | |
| Crisis Response Training and Expenses | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| Support for Churches in Crisis | 0 | 0 |
| Misconduct Response Mileage | 500 | 500 |
| A/C Expense -Fleming Island | 0 | 0 |
| Translation Services | 1,500 | 1,000 |
| Restricted Income toward NCD mortgage -Armistead | (8,000) | (8,000) |
| Mortgage Principal Pmts | 24,147 | 24,000 |
| Interest -Fleming Island | 29,789 | 29,000 |
| Total Congregational Ministries/Missional Commun. | 48,936 | 47,500 |
| | | |
| Leadership Ministries | | |
| <u>Candidates and Inquirers</u> | | |
| Candidate Financial Support | 1,500 | 4,500 |
| Career Counseling Center | 1,750 | 2,000 |
| Consultations and Final Assessment | 3,500 | 3,500 |
| CPM Supplies/manuals | 500 | 500 |
| | | |
| <u>Pastoral Support</u> | | |
| Pastoral Support Groups | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| Clergy Retreats | 7,000 | 5,000 |

Presbytery of St. Augustine
 Asking Budget Detail
 For the Year Ending December 31, 2017

| | 2016 Budget | 2017 Asking Budget |
|---|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Pastor Counseling Center | 5,400 | 5,400 |
| Counseling Scholarships | 2,100 | 2,100 |
| Counseling Endowment -Jacksonville | (7,500) | (7,500) |
| <u>Leadership Training</u> | | |
| Officer Training | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| Enrichment | 3,500 | 3,500 |
| New Resources | 1,000 | 0 |
| <u>Youth and Youth Leadership</u> | | |
| Youth Professionals | 1,500 | 1,500 |
| Triennium | 2,400 | 3,000 |
| <u>Total Leadership Ministries</u> | 24,650 | 25,500 |
| <u>Montgomery Conference Center Contribution</u> | | |
| Montgomery Center Contribution | 65,000 | 65,000 |
| Montgomery Center Shortfall Contribution | 0 | 20,000 |
| <u>Total Montgomery Center Contribution</u> | 65,000 | 85,000 |
| | | |
| <u>PRESBYTERY COUNCIL</u> | | |
| <u>Personnel Committee</u> | | |
| Total Presbytery Leadership and Other Admin Staff | 198,799 | 156,793 |
| <u>Financial Secretary</u> | | |
| Salary | 47,459 | 47,459 |
| Benefits Package | 16,611 | 14,500 |
| FICA | 3,631 | 3,631 |
| <u>Total Financial Secretary</u> | 67,701 | 65,590 |
| <u>Summer/Seasonal Staff</u> | | |
| Salaries | 50,000 | 50,000 |
| FICA-Fees | 3,825 | 3,825 |
| Payroll Processing Fees | 1,175 | 1,175 |
| <u>Total Summer/Seasonal Staff</u> | 55,000 | 55,000 |
| <u>Meeting and Worship Planning</u> | | |
| Meeting Expenses | 1,000 | 2,000 |
| Minutes | 200 | 200 |
| Speakers' Honoraria and Expenses | 1,000 | 500 |
| <u>Review and Evaluation</u> | | |
| Annual Report | 100 | 62 |
| Discernment and Design | 0 | 0 |
| <u>Total Presbytery Council</u> | 323,800 | 280,145 |
| <u>Governing Body Expenses</u> | | |
| <u>General Assembly and Synod</u> | | |
| OGA and Mid-Council Meetings Expense | 5,000 | 5,000 |
| General Assembly United | 17,000 | 17,000 |
| General Assembly Selected | 40,000 | 40,000 |
| Per Capita paid, not collected | 0 | 0 |
| Synod of South Atlantic Mission | 7,000 | 7,000 |
| Synod of South Atlantic Per Capita | 20,000 | 20,000 |

Presbytery of St. Augustine

Asking Budget Detail

For the Year Ending December 31, 2017

Presbytery

Clergy/Educator Meal Expenses
 Committee/Commission Meals
 Conference Calls
 Disaster Assistance Commission (Salary Contribution)
 Dues and Subscriptions
 General Operating Expenses
 Legal Expenses
 Permanent Judicial Commission expenses
 Administrative Commission Expense
 Mileage Reimbursement
 Moderator's Expenses
 Presbytery Consultant
 Montgomery Consultant
Total Governing Body Expenses

Administrative Expenses

Audit
 Building -Major Repair Fund
 Building Maintenance
 Computer Program/Monthly Maintenance
 Computer/Printer/Equipment
 Copy Machine
 Electricity
 Grounds
 Insurance
 Interest due MPCC on Loan Proceeds
 Internet Access
 Janitorial
 Loan Amortization
 Office Equipment
 Office Equipment Repair and Maintenance
 Office Supplies
 Payroll Processing
 Postage
 Software
 Telephone
 Water and Sewer
Total Administration and Finance

TOTAL EXPENSES

NET CASH SURPLUS (SHORTFALL)

| | 2016 Budget | 2017 Asking Budget |
|--|----------------|--------------------|
| | | |
| Clergy/Educator Meal Expenses | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| Committee/Commission Meals | 2,000 | 2,400 |
| Conference Calls | 1,000 | 2,000 |
| Disaster Assistance Commission (Salary Contribution) | 6,000 | 6,000 |
| Dues and Subscriptions | 200 | 60 |
| General Operating Expenses | 2,500 | 2,500 |
| Legal Expenses | 3,000 | 3,000 |
| Permanent Judicial Commission expenses | 200 | 200 |
| Administrative Commission Expense | 1,000 | 5,000 |
| Mileage Reimbursement | 750 | 750 |
| Moderator's Expenses | 2,500 | 2,500 |
| Presbytery Consultant | 0 | |
| Montgomery Consultant | 0 | |
| Total Governing Body Expenses | 109,150 | 114,410 |
| | | |
| Administrative Expenses | | |
| Audit | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| Building -Major Repair Fund | 0 | 4,800 |
| Building Maintenance | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| Computer Program/Monthly Maintenance | 2,000 | 3,500 |
| Computer/Printer/Equipment | 1,000 | 1,500 |
| Copy Machine | 3,500 | 4,800 |
| Electricity | 3,000 | 3,000 |
| Grounds | 1,400 | 1,400 |
| Insurance | 11,000 | 11,000 |
| Interest due MPCC on Loan Proceeds | 4,000 | 0 |
| Internet Access | 2,500 | 2,500 |
| Janitorial | 1,400 | 1,400 |
| Loan Amortization | | 225 |
| Office Equipment | 500 | 500 |
| Office Equipment Repair and Maintenance | 250 | 500 |
| Office Supplies | 3,000 | 3,000 |
| Payroll Processing | 2,400 | 2,400 |
| Postage | 2,500 | 2,000 |
| Software | 500 | 500 |
| Telephone | 7,000 | 6,000 |
| Water and Sewer | 1,200 | 1,200 |
| Total Administration and Finance | 59,150 | 62,225 |
| | | |
| <u>TOTAL EXPENSES</u> | 630,686 | 614,780 |
| | | |
| NET CASH SURPLUS (SHORTFALL) | 614 | 23,720 |

Footnote:

(1) - Investment income projection is based on adoption of new investment policy to be proposed at the Winter 2017 Stated Meeting

Presbytery of St. Augustine
 Asking Budget Detail
 For the Year Ending December 31, 2017

| 2016 Budget | 2017 Asking Budget |
|-------------|--------------------|
|-------------|--------------------|

The following other expenditures are anticipated but the amounts are unknown - estimates have been used

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Fleming Island - Operating and Building Mortgage | 150,000 |
| Legal Fees and Expenses | 20,000 |
| Normandy Operating | 8,000 |
| Highlands Gainesville Operating | ??? |
| Presbytery Consultant | ??? |
| Total Contingent Cash Expenditures (Revenues) | 178,000 |
| Net Cash Surplus (Shortfall) after contingencies | (154,280) |

APPENDIX G-1

Nominating and Representation Committees

The Presbytery Council nominates the following individuals to the Nominating Committee, Class of 2019:

Darren Bess (WMTE) – First Ocala

Alan Cummings (WMTE) – Silver Springs Shores

Ruthanne Reiss (WFRE) – First Ocala

The Presbytery Council nominates the following individuals to the Representation Committee:

[to be provided]

APPENDIX H

Administrative Commission Report Fleming Island Presbyterian Church 2016 Fall Stated Presbytery Meeting

The Administrative Commission (AC) was established at a called special meeting of the presbytery held on December 8, 2015. The commissioners continue to work, serve and pray with the congregation of the Fleming Island Presbyterian Church during this very difficult time in the life of this congregation that was chartered in 2005. The AC assumed original jurisdiction of the session of the church in June 2016.

Worship services have continued at the church each Sunday morning, with the Rev. Dr. Tom Borland continuing to serve in a temporary part-time pastoral role. The congregation has also come together for fellowship and town hall discussions. Individuals have been added to the membership rolls, and others have asked to be removed. The AC members have attended worship at the church as often as they could.

In July, the congregation voted to lower the quorum for a congregational meeting, and it also elected a nominating committee that would identify individuals to serve as ruling elders when the time was right to reconstitute a session of the congregation. The committee has not been able to identify an adequate number of individuals to serve.

The “Fifth Quarter” ministry of the church has continued this fall, using designated funds that have been donated. This ministry provides space and hospitality for young people to gather after Friday night football games.

The AC has been in frequent communication with the Committee on Ministry, the Administration and Finance Committee, and the Trustees of the Presbytery. The presbytery’s Financial Secretary has acted as bookkeeper for the church since the departure of members who did that work in the past. The presbytery has funded nearly all of the operations and expenses of the church since April, including mortgage payments of over \$10,000 per month. The Committee on Ministry was asked to study the issue and has reported that the church property is not necessary for the mission of the presbytery in the Fleming Island area. The Trustees have retained an appraiser to determine the value of the church property in preparation for the possible sale of the property, which is being recommended at the upcoming presbytery meeting. The AC has voted to request that the Board of Pensions grant a financial waiver for dues being charged on the vacant installed pastor position.

APPENDIX H

A congregational meeting has been called for Sunday, October 2, for the purpose of voting to approve the sale of the real property. At that meeting, the AC will continue the conversation with the congregation about the possibility of ceasing operations. The counseling center that uses space on the property has been given legal notice to vacate the property.

The AC recommends that the presbytery give the AC the specific authority to:

1. Continue to consult with the members of the congregation regarding the future of the congregation, including possible relocation, cessation of operations and/or dissolution of the congregation;
2. Determine the courses of action to be taken; and
3. Carry out all actions that are reasonable and necessary in connection with the courses of action to be taken.

This is a difficult time in the life of the congregation of the Fleming Island church (which began as a new church development in the early 2000s) and a sad time for the whole Presbytery of St. Augustine. Prayers are requested for all who are most deeply affected. We remember and give thanks that the Lord “heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.” (Psalm 147:3)

APPENDIX I

Minimum Terms of Call

The Committee on Ministry recommends an increase to the “total effective salary” (cash plus manse or housing allowance) portion of the minimum terms of call for full-time installed pastors serving our congregations. The increase is from \$42,000 to \$43,000. The minimum required expenses, benefits, vacation and study leave, and sabbatical time are in addition to the “total effective salary.” A new form showing the complete minimum terms of call will be posted on our presbytery website if the recommendation is adopted.

APPENDIX J

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION**THE PRESBYTERY OF ST. AUGUSTINE****In Memory of The Rev. Dr. Donald Lee Harris**

January 9, 1947 – April 28, 2016

Whereas, The Rev. Dr. Donald Lee Harris, born on January 9, 1947 to Robert and Jeanne Harris in Troy, Ohio, entered the eternal kingdom, on April 28, 2016 at Westminster Winter Park with Cornerstone Hospice, we, the Presbytery of St. Augustine, at the Fall Stated meeting at Montgomery Presbyterian Conference Center on this October 4, 2016, do resolve to hear and spread upon the minutes of this meeting the following Memorial:

The Rev. Dr. Donald Harris (Don) grew up in Arlington Heights, Illinois. After high school Don matriculated and graduated from Carroll College in Waukesha, Wisconsin with a B.S. in religion in 1969. He graduated from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary in 1972, followed by a Doctor of Ministry degree from McCormick Theological Seminary in 1979, where he later served on the Board of Trustees.

Don was pastor of three churches within twenty-three years and was described by a parishioner as “a man of deep and abiding faith who believed in the ability of the local church to be impactful both in the lives of its membership and in its community.”

Here in the Presbytery of St. Augustine we came to know Don first as the third called pastor of Highlands United beginning his ministry there in April of 1980. Don, his wife Brenda and two children, Tom and Jennifer, moved from Michigan and were soon deeply involved in the life and ministry of the Highlands faith community. During Don’s tenure Highlands began to form a new identity and purpose in the East Arlington community of Jacksonville. The congregation grew under Don’s care, and over his tenure Highlands would construct a new fellowship hall, renovate the sanctuary, build the Family Life Center, and enlarge the church offices.

Don’s leadership brought expansion in ministry as well. The LOGOS program, the Highlands Precious Gifts Preschool, the choral and handbell programs, Vacation Bible School and local mission all took shape in Don’s care. Don and local colleagues in ministry founded the Arlington Ministerial Fellowship, which led to Arlington Community Services, Jacksonville Campus Ministry, Meals on Wheels and other outreach programs.

In 1985, Highlands gave a new name to its educational building. “Harris Hall” was named in honor of Don who had encouraged and overseen the purpose and construction of the building. Today a newly renovated “Harris Hall” continues to serve Highlands, but now in memory of this beloved pastor.

Don, feeling God’s call once again, moved on to another work for which he is not only well known to us in the Presbytery of St. Augustine, but throughout Florida. Don took his considerable administrative skills to his latest call with Westminster Communities of Florida where he came to serve as Vice President of Foundation Services and also held the position of Director of the Office of Church Relations. In his capacity with Westminster Communities Don would happily greet us in the hospitality room at Presbytery meetings engaging us and greeting us with genuine concern and care for our ministries and for those of our congregations in need of assistance in later life.

Don described himself as an “administrator with a pastor’s heart.” He will be remembered as both. He loved the church and its people. He preached and taught, he offered care and compassion, and he shared a vision with people dedicated to being the church. He was a friend, a pastor, a minister.

Don is survived by his spouse Brenda to whom he was married for 47 years; his son Tom, (Michelle) Harris; his daughter Jennifer (Adam) Meyer; his brothers Jay (Judy) Harris and Steve Harris; his grandchildren Baylee Harris and Lucas, Ethan, Gavin and Timothy Meyer; his Aunt Barbara (Jim) Stoneman and his nieces, nephews and cousins. May God continue to bless Don’s loving family and his legacy of faithfulness to the Church of Jesus Christ.

Don was a man of God, a colleague in ministry, and friend to all. May God bless the legacy and memory of our brother in Christ, The Rev. Dr. Donald Lee Harris.

APPENDIX K

Retirement Resolution(s)

UPON THE HONERABLE RETIREMENT OF PEYTON HOPKINS

Sixteen years ago, after many years as a minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and having served for a year as Director of Missions and Evangelism at Community Presbyterian Church, and after the acceptance of his credentials into this Presbytery, the Rev. J. Peyton Hopkins was interviewed by our search committee for the position of Associate Pastor.

“Would you share your sense of calling with us?” he was asked. We had already learned over the previous year that Peyton never uses prose when poetry will serve as well. Thus his answer:

I've never heard speech from a burning bush;
Nor felt some angel's firm but gentle push;
Been swallowed by a whale because I've sinned;
Nor heard God speak from out the whirling wind;
But I have Faith to share for Jesus sake—
And Hope for those who've come to doubt His plan—
And Love to share among my fellow man.
Until the day God sends some further word,
I'll try to act on all the call I've heard.
I hear my call where lonely widows cry;
Where broken bodies, souls or spirits die;
Where those who need Christ's succor sit and sigh;
Where truth yet takes a second place to lie.
Until the Day God sends some further word,
I'll try to act on all the call I've heard!

(Peyton Hopkins)

The members and staff of the Community Presbyterian Church can testify that, as the associate pastor of Community Presbyterian Church, Director of “Our Father's Housewares” furniture ministry, preacher, teacher, community activist, leader, counselor, and friend to all who have needed him, Peyton has kept his promise to us and answered his call to Christ's ministry.

Be it therefore resolved, that the Rev. J. Peyton Hopkins be granted Honorable Retirement by the Presbytery of St. Augustine and that this resolution be spread upon the pages of the minutes of our meeting.



St. Augustine Mutual Mission
Hearts and Hands Across the Sea

Adult Partnership Experience in Jamaica

February 17-22, 2017

Join with our JEMM partners to:

- Learn about our current partnership activities
- Explore what it means to be equal partners in the mission field
- Identify partnership opportunities for your congregation with our Jamaican friends

For more information or to apply,
please contact:
Diane Watkins
dswatkins326@gmail.com

Deposit of \$175 due on November 15, 2016
Payment of \$275 due on December 15, 2016
Balance due on January 15, 2017





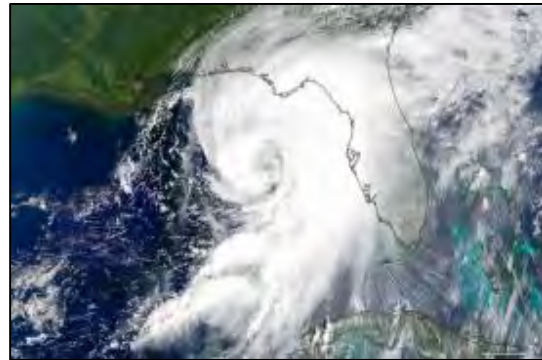
September 2016

FLAPDAN Responds...

FLAPDAN has come a long way since its inception after the 2004-05 hurricanes. We have had several smaller disasters over the years including tornados, floods, tropical storms, fires, a horrific mass shooting, and now the first land falling hurricane in more than ten years – all to which FLAPDAN has responded. Working through our presbyteries, Florida Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) and local Long Term Recovery Groups, FLAPDAN and the PCUSA churches have made a considerable difference in the recovery of Florida communities affected by these disasters. FLAPDAN has worked closely with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to coordinate national response efforts when needed and has worked with Long Term Recovery Groups and local presbyteries to write grant proposals for PDA funding support of local disaster recovery. Because of these efforts, PDA grants to impacted churches and presbyteries as well as local Florida recovery groups (to help rebuild homes in our own communities) have totaled \$57,500 just within the past 15 months.

Hurricane Hermine...

The first hurricane to hit Florida since 2005 brought wind, rain, storm surge and flooding to residents on the west coast and across north Florida. Two churches in the Presbytery of Tampa Bay were damaged by this massive storm and the area of Pasco County where we have been supporting recovery from the flooding in 2015 was severely flooded again. Working with State Emergency Management and FEMA, voluntary agencies are helping to muck out homes and conduct damage assessments. Volunteer teams may be needed here in Florida for long term recovery projects. Over the past year, Presbyterian and United Methodist churches assembled over 500 flood clean up buckets, which have been stored in The Salvation Army warehouses across Florida. These kits of cleaning supplies were available for immediate distribution to families impacted by Hurricane Hermine. Thank you to the presbyteries and churches for contributing to this project!



Pulse Nightclub Shooting...

Kathy Broyard along with two other PDA National Response Team members responded to this human-caused tragedy in Central Florida Presbytery. Meeting with presbytery staff and pastors, attending worship, memorial services and an interfaith dinner at the Islamic Center, FLAPDAN and PDA provided a ministry of presence and helped to debrief and provide spiritual care. It is unfortunate that frequent mass shootings have become part of

our landscape. There are some great resources to help guide congregations in preparing for such an event. More information at <https://www.fema.gov/faith-resources> .

Louisiana Flooding...

Kathy was also part of a team deployed by PDA to Baton Rouge to help the Presbytery of South Louisiana integrate with local long term recovery. Mission teams are needed there to continue muck outs and begin rebuilding homes. If you can help, please contact PDA at PDA.CallCenter@pcusa.org .



Because of the work of FLAPDAN, many churches within our presbyteries are much better prepared for disasters than they were 12 years ago and are working with community leaders to better serve their communities when disaster strikes. Through FLAPDAN, our presbyteries and churches are connected with our state and local emergency management, community and faith-based partners. Churches are sending work teams to assist with disaster recovery in our own communities and beyond. They are actively assisting with disaster preparedness through church and community planning and the donation of funding, flood buckets and other kits for disaster survivors. It is through ongoing partnerships such as these that we can continually improve our readiness and coordinate efficient response and recovery.

IS YOUR CHURCH...

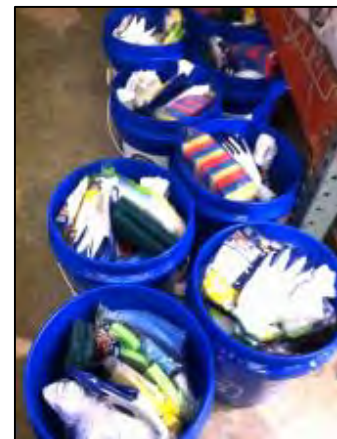
- **READY FOR DISASTER?**
- **CONNECTED FOR RESPONSE?**
- **INVOLVED IN RECOVERY?**

MORE INFO: FLA.PDAN@PCUSA.ORG

FLAPDAN values each presbytery and their churches and is truly grateful for the support you have provided over the years. It is our hope that through your support, FLAPDAN can continue to serve our communities and provide leadership within our state disaster networks. Thank you for your partnership.

In service,

Kathy Broyard
Executive Director / Emergency Management Specialist
Phone: 941-483-0675
Email: fla.pdan@pcusa.org



<http://pda.pcusa.org/page/kits/>

Florida Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Network, Inc.

Phone: 941-483-0675 Email: fla.pdan@pcusa.org
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 491279, Leesburg, FL 34749-1279

THORNWELL

Serving children & families since 1875



Safe, Loving Homes

Page 83 of 84



Hope for a Brighter Future



Wholeness & Healing



THE BASICS

- Founded in 1875, *Thornwell began as a Presbyterian ministry for orphans*. Today, Thornwell helps children and families throughout 3 states.
- Thornwell is a proud member of the **Teaching-Family Association**. All of our programs are rooted in the evidence-based **Teaching-Family Model**, which helps kids develop self-advocacy skills and a sense of personal responsibility.

NEW PROGRAMS IN 2016

- An *Early Head Start Program* for infants and toddlers in partnership with *SC First Steps* will open Fall 2016.
- A new Thornwell-based *Foster Care Program* is currently in development, with plans to launch in Fall 2016.

2015 IMPACT AT-A-GLANCE

Residential Group Homes
155 Children Served

Professional Counseling & Therapy
115 Children Served

Building Families Community Outreach
295 Children & Families Served across South Carolina, Georgia and Florida

Independent Living Program
8 Teens & Young Adults Served

Afterschool & Summer Learning Center
123 Children Served

Kindergarten Readiness Program
124 At-risk Children Served

TOTAL SERVED: 820!

In 2015...

Thornwell's impact
on children & families
grew by

80%

...and we're still growing!



- In 2015, our **4-year old Kindergarten Readiness Program** in Clinton, SC grew from two classrooms to four.
- Thornwell now maintains operations in **12 different locations** throughout the southeastern United States.
- Our **Building Families Program** has doubled in size since last year, expanding throughout SC, GA and FL.
- Thornwell’s staff has increased to nearly **130 professionals across three states.**



◆ - Indicates current locations of regional Building Families Program offices.



MEET BRETT

A Thornwell Success Story



Hopeless. Rejected. A Lost Cause.

When 12-year old Brett arrived on Thornwell’s campus six years ago, these are the very words that echoed through his aching young heart and mind.

After being removed from an abusive home at age 3, Brett spent the next decade of his life being shuffled from foster home to foster home, group home to group home. Thornwell was his 18th placement—and at Thornwell, Brett finally found a home.

Through the patient guidance of his Family Teachers, professional counseling and academic support, Brett finally began to heal from all the deep wounds of his past. He learned to control his explosive temper, and began to make successful progress in school. Most importantly, Brett learned about the life-changing power of unconditional love - something he had never known before.

This year, Brett became the first high school graduate in his entire family! He is currently in Thornwell’s Independent Living Program as he pursues a degree in Welding Technology.

HOPE FOR THE CHILDREN TOURS

The best way to learn about us is to attend a tour of our mission. For more information on tour times, dates and locations - or to host a virtual tour in your church or community - please contact Florida Mission Advancement Officer Jean Homrighausen by phone at 407.900.5743 or via email at Jean.Homrighausen@thornwell.org.

