

Thornwelllife

BUILDING TOMORROW'S FAMILIES | 2024 VOL 2

The **POWER** of Childlike **Faith**

You're inspiring the next generation of world changers! Because you helped, youth are inspired to achieve their dreams...and MORE!

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Blazing a New Trail

At 17, Blair found herself standing at the crossroads of her life. The road she'd traveled was one of trauma, pain, and uncertainty. It wreaked havoc on her schoolwork, her relationships, and her self-worth. She desperately wanted to find change, relief, and hope.

Because you gave your loving support, Blair found that lifeline at Thornwell this past summer.

Blair has always had big dreams, especially with her education. She didn't have the confidence to believe in the power of those dreams until she was enrolled in **Read Right**, Thornwell's reading empowerment program.

YOU'RE INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION TO ACHIEVE THEIR DREAMS!



It helps turn poor readers into excellent readers in a short amount of time. As she and her tutor poured over the pages with different techniques to better connect to the story, Blair experienced a change in both her abilities and belief in herself.

Because you believe all children deserve a bright future through academic success, Blair is making incredible progress! You are helping create foundations of hope for youth every day!

Today, Blair tackles her schoolwork with unwavering dedication. She's soon to graduate from the Read Right program three full grade levels from where she started. Her next stop? Reaching her ultimate goal of earning a high school diploma!

Your generosity makes Blair's healing possible. Through your generous support, you're telling Blair that she is worthy of love, an education, and a future beyond her wildest dreams!

THANK YOU!

The Power of Childlike Faith



Portrait believed to be of a young Willie Anderson.

Thornwell's legacy was built upon the simple, easy faith of a child more than 150 years ago. As the story goes, 10-year-old Willie Anderson listened intently to the vision God had placed on Thornwell's would-be founder, Dr. William Plumer Jacobs to build a home for orphaned children. Willie felt God's call to give all he had – a fifty-cent piece – to see this vision become a reality. **That small yet mighty gift caused a ripple effect that has allowed Thornwell to serve hundreds of thousands of children and families for nearly 150 years because wonderful, generous people like you care!**

Perhaps this is why God recently called another 10-year-old boy to carry on Willie's powerful legacy.

"I think Willie is looking down and saying, "This ten-year-old boy is looking to carry on Thornwell in the future to help kids," explained Hampton Hall, a Columbia, South Carolina 4th grader with a self-proclaimed obsession for Nerf tag.

When you speak to Hampton, you might forget his young age until you see that his feet do not quite reach the floor from the oversized chair in which he's sitting. He speaks with the wisdom and confidence of an adult who knows the plans God has for him – and it's because he does.

"I was sleeping one night, and I heard a voice," said Hampton. "I thought it was God talking to me. He said, "Hampton, you are going to be a great missionary someday and you're going to help people ...and [get] whatever they need to help them."

And that was all Hampton needed to go forward and change lives. He'd learned about Thornwell's ministry through his church, Spring Valley Presbyterian, which also houses one of Thornwell's Building Families Specialists, Elizabeth Ogorek - one of Hampton's inspirations. Soon, he was off to the bank with his grandmother, "Mimi", where she had started Hampton a savings account.



"I just went through the numbers in my head what to give to Thornwell. And I was like, "Let's see, I get twenty dollars from A's, B's, or gold stars. Then I just thought twenty isn't enough. Some people need school supplies, books to read and learn, and food to eat," Hampton explained. "Then I just said, "It's a hundred!"

YOU'RE INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION OF WORLD CHANGERS!

One HUNDRED dollars – a HUGE gift from a little boy with an even bigger heart. His parents can't help but smile and get inspired.

“It's a great story - children helping other children just because that's just what they want to do. It's just normal for them. The world we live in now isn't always like that where we want to look and help other people and help our peers,” said Hampton's mom, Kellie Hall. *“It really makes me proud knowing that he's the next generation already thinking about how he can help others.”*



Hampton recently toured Thornwell's campus for the first time to learn more about the place, the programs, and the people he's helping across three states. **He learned about remarkable people like YOU who join him in generously supporting Thornwell's mission and how it takes all of us to come together in aiding vulnerable children and families!** The same boy who got wildly excited by the ducks on LushAcres Farm is the same boy who left us all with something profound to think about.

“I have a message that God wanted me to say. God said he loves everyone on Earth. Treat others the way you want to be treated and help families and children. [Help them with] whatever they need to give them supplies, a Bible, food, protection - they need it most.”

Thank you, Hampton. You are inspiring us ALL to joyfully give and serve!



A Full Circle Story of Love

When Jon and Heidi Sampson became Thornwell's second family to join its on-campus Foster Care Village in 2023, it was a full-circle moment dating back ten years. They moved to South Carolina in July 2014 to work as Thornwell Teaching Parents in Bryan Miller Mac Cottage. After adopting brothers living at Thornwell, they moved off-campus. Eventually, they became licensed foster parents devoted to providing loving care to little ones, and in early 2023, they joyfully adopted again.

For the Sampsons, foster care and adoption are Gospel work. Despite their larger family, they still felt called to serve as foster parents. They just didn't think it was feasible in their smaller home.

That's where YOU stepped in! Because YOU believe all children deserve a safe, loving, stable home where they can heal, the Sampsons moved back to Thornwell and into their on-campus home with room to care for FIVE additional children.



The idea of the village was born out of necessity and a desire to be good stewards of available resources. Federal legislation passed in 2018 restricts the length of stay for kids in residential care programs, desiring for youth to be placed in private foster homes. Still, there aren't enough foster homes in South Carolina willing or able to serve the youth needing them, especially teens and sibling groups. **Thanks to your loving support, Thornwell could answer the call through the Foster Care Village cottages to foster families like the Sampsons willing to love and serve! You made sure teens felt wanted, and sibling groups could stay together!**

“My capacity for love and chaos is bigger. My definitions of family and church are more expansive,” explains Heidi.

Now living in the spacious Anita-Nancy Cottage, the Sampson family is holding steadfast to their calling and passion to keep siblings together. **Their home and the hearts of everyone living inside are FULL thanks to YOU!**

Being a family of ten certainly isn't easy! Jon and Heidi work tirelessly to meet the children's needs. Luckily, they have the support of their Thornwell Family Specialist and access programs within our Continuum of Care, including the Child Development Center and Read Right. Some of their children attend Thornwell Charter School. For Heidi, fostering has taught her about focusing on a child's humanity and capacity to love and be loved, not solely about their circumstances.

“Foster care is so much more than providing food, clothes, and a bed for a child,” says Heidi. “Foster care is about working on yourself to expand the ways you give love for that child to truly feel seen.”

Thank YOU for stepping in and making Thornwell's Foster Care Village possible! Because you care, you are expanding the LOVE that we share with children, youth, and families impacted by Foster Care every day.

Dear Thornwell Family,

I am excited to join this incredible community that believes in and supports our mission. It is an honor to lead the Mission Advancement efforts as we seek to build and strengthen relationships with all our families, partners, and donors.

As I have learned about the history of Thornwell, I have been deeply inspired by Dr. Jacob's visionary work. He had tremendous faith that others would see the importance of this ministry, and he believed future generations would continue its legacy. I believe he would be proud to see Thornwell where it is today.

It is because of loyal donors like you, the commitment of our passionate staff, and dedicated leadership that we'll soon celebrate Thornwell's 150th year of service in 2025. This is a unique opportunity for all of us to renew our commitment to building tomorrow's families and carry out Dr. Jacob's long-ago vision to empower children and families to thrive.

I want to personally thank you for your support. I am beyond grateful for your generosity and commitment to our work and communities. I hope you are proud of the impact you have on the lives you help support. I also hope you are inspired to share the story of Thornwell with others - a story of philanthropy that began when 10-year-old Willie Anderson gave Reverend Jacobs that small but powerful gift of fifty cents to build Thornwell and continues today with your life-changing generosity.

With joy and gratitude,



Elizabeth Milhous
Vice President for
Mission Advancement



Your Donor Advised Fund gift can help save a child from neglect and abuse.



"If I only knew, I would have done this sooner!"

It's a statement we often hear. If you have a Donor Advised Fund, you can name Thornwell as the beneficiary.

Charitable giving with a donor-advised fund can be a tax-efficient way to build your charitable legacy.

When you contribute to your donor-advised fund, you may be eligible to claim an itemized tax deduction for federal and/or state income tax purposes.

Want to know more about the benefits of giving your policy?

Email Elizabeth Milhous, Vice President for Mission Advancement at emilhous@thornwell.org or visit giftlegacy.thornwell.com.

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