

Thornwelllife

BUILDING TOMORROW'S FAMILIES | 2026 VOL 2



***When Thornwell
foster parents
make room in
their hearts and
homes, lives are
transformed!***

*Real Stories of Family, Healing, and Hope—
Made Possible by **YOUR Love.***



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CHARITY NAVIGATOR
★★★★ Four Star Charity

A Ripple That Reaches Across Generations

By Rev. Myron Wilkins, President & CEO

Recently, I had the privilege of worshipping with a small church in Central Florida that reminded me, in the most powerful way, how lasting impact begins.

The congregation (who wishes to remain anonymous) gathered to honor four remarkable women in their 90s who, decades ago, first introduced Thornwell to their church family. What began as a simple act of sharing a ministry they believed in has grown into generations of faithful support. Across the church, people shared how they helped their mothers sew clothes for children living on campus, wrote letters to encourage our children in their daily lives, and sent pocket money, little by little, in envelopes to support the cause. Finally, in celebration of Thornwell's 150th anniversary, and in honor of these women's enduring witness, the church presented a \$150,000 gift to further our mission.

It was a humbling and holy moment.

After a short program and the showing of our 150th anniversary documentary, we gathered in the fellowship hall for refreshments. There, I experienced something I won't soon forget. My wife, Anna, and I sat with one of the honorees, joined by her daughter, daughter-in-law, and granddaughter. The granddaughter, now a teacher working with children who have special needs, spoke about learning about Thornwell through stories shared at home. She described her own students. These are children who, without the right support, could easily fall through the cracks. She reflected on how much more meaningful Thornwell's work feels to her because of those early lessons.

It was, quite literally, a three-generation conversation about faithfulness.

Moments like that remind me that Thornwell's impact extends well beyond our Clinton campus. While we are rooted in South Carolina, our reach also spans Georgia and Florida. We already have therapists serving families in Georgia and Florida, and we look for meaningful ways to expand our reach. Yet even before a program ever crosses a state line, the compassion of God's people already has.

Any child in harm's way, whether in South Carolina, Florida, or Georgia, is our shared responsibility. State boundaries do not determine the value of a life or the possibility of transformation.

Those four women planted seeds of generosity and hope many years ago. Today, we are witnessing the harvest, not just in a generous gift, but in lives shaped, stories shared, and a legacy of love that continues to ripple outward.

And for that, we give thanks.



Love Makes Room

When a child enters foster care, everything changes fast. A new house. A new bed. New routines. New rules. In the midst of that upheaval, brothers and sisters are often the only familiar thread left—shared stories, shared culture, shared understanding of where they came from. **Yet nationally, 65–75% of siblings who enter foster care are placed separately.** Many don't know where their siblings are or when they'll see them again.

Because of YOU, Thornwell works to ensure that even when siblings cannot live under one roof, they remain meaningfully connected.

When a sibling group of three recently entered care, no single foster home had the space to welcome them all. Their age differences and bed availability made it impossible. But what could have been a story of separation became one of collaboration.

The Garcia and Baker families—neighbors, both licensed through Thornwell—had each prayerfully discerned their capacity. The Bakers were licensed for younger children; the Garcias for school-aged children. A few miles away, the Brown family had room for a teenager. Individually, they could not say yes to all three. **Together, they could.**

Each family welcomed one child and made a shared commitment: these siblings would not lose each other.

“Getting to know the other family has been great. I feel like I've gained a new friend. It is very beneficial because if they want to see each other, it's just a walk across the street,” shared Angie, one of the foster moms.



YOU MAKE CONNECTION POSSIBLE!



Your generosity makes this kind of creativity possible. These siblings now receive individualized attention tailored to their ages and needs while still having consistent access to one another.

In the Midlands, a similar story unfolded. When two foster families in the same community, the Taylors and the Parkers, were both open for placement, Thornwell was able to thoughtfully place a sibling group across their two homes. Because of shared trust and collaboration, the children remained closely connected.

It takes humility to say, “I don’t have room for all of them.” It takes love to add, “But I will help carry one.” Foster parents commit not only to a child, but to that child’s siblings through shared meals, car rides, open calendars, and steady communication.

Because of your commitment to Thornwell, children in foster care receive something secure and sacred: the assurance that they are still brothers and sisters, still connected, still family.



Living the Sermons We See

*Celebrating Sharon Bryant, 2026
United Way of the Midlands
Humanitarian of the Year*

When Thornwell Trustee, Sharon Bryant, learned she had been named the 2026 United Way of the Midlands Humanitarian of the Year, her first reaction was simple: “I am not a humanitarian.”

To her, the word felt lofty and reserved for someone else. But when she reflected on its true meaning - someone who seeks to promote human welfare - her perspective shifted.

“By that definition,” she said in her acceptance speech, “we are all called to contribute.”

That conviction is one Sharon brings to her service on Thornwell’s Board of Trustees. Since joining the board in 2025, she has served on the Education, Mission Advancement, and Governance Committees, offering the same thoughtful leadership that has defined her 42-year career in financial services. But titles and tenure don’t drive her.

“What drives me,” Sharon shared in a recent conversation, “is that Thornwell focuses on the family...one soul at a time, one child at a time.”

Her belief is both practical and deeply rooted in faith. Large-scale problems can feel overwhelming. Yet Sharon is convinced that transformation doesn’t happen in sweeping gestures; it happens in focused, faithful action.

United Way of the Midlands recognized that commitment when naming her its highest honor for philanthropic achievement. Over more than 30 years, she has helped lead record-setting campaigns, mentored others in giving, and championed causes that strengthen families and communities. But ask her what matters most, and she will tell you it’s not recognition—it’s responsibility.

In her remarks, Sharon posed a powerful question: What would our community look like without organizations like Thornwell? Without people willing to serve others over themselves?

Her answer was clear: it would be catastrophic.

That is why she challenges donors to reject the myth that generosity requires extraordinary wealth. “Every dollar counts,” she says. Faithful, consistent giving—sacrificing even small comforts for the sake of another—moves lives forward.

Sharon often quotes a line from a poem titled “Sermons We See” by Edgar Albert Guest. She discovered it in a mentor’s Bible: “One deed of kindness noticed is worth forty that are told.”

For her, philanthropy is not about speaking loudly; it is about living faithfully.

At Thornwell, that looks like strengthening children and families across generations. It looks like endurance through 150 years of service. And it looks like donors like you who are choosing to be the sermon others can see. For that, we are exceedingly grateful.

As Sharon reminds us, ordinary people can do extraordinary things. And when we work together, there is no limit to the good we can accomplish.



Pictured: Thornwell Former Board Chairman Craig Garner, Trustee Sharon Bryant, Thornwell First Lady Anna Wilkins, and Thornwell President and CEO Myron Wilkins.

SAVE THE DATE!

Join us for spring fun at LushAcres Farm's annual Spring Festival — a day full of family-friendly activities supporting Thornwell's mission!

Saturday, April 25, 2026
10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Bring your loved ones to enjoy farm animals, wagon rides, strawberry picking, artisan vendors, corn cannons, playground fun, **and more**—all while celebrating community and the impact you make possible!

All proceeds from the festival directly benefit individuals served in Thornwell programs.

We can't wait to see you there!



LushAcres Farm at Thornwell | 1875 West Maple St. Ext, Clinton, SC

Your life insurance 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 life insurance policy, you can name Thornwell as the beneficiary.



Tax ID 57-0314418



A gift of life insurance is an easy way to support and help children and families in need at a significant level – but at a fraction of the cost!

Want to know more about the benefits of giving your policy? Email or visit giftlegacy.thornwell.com

Thank you for considering a life insurance gift! You help can make a positive, lifelong impact on children and families in need. Scan the QR CODE or visit giftlegacy.thornwell.com for more information.

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