



# OPEN ARMS SHELTER

## Changing Lives

November 2010

Volume 1 Issue 20



### Our Christmas Wish: For you to be a part of the future of the Open Arms Shelter as construction on long-term wing begins

The shelter began 25 years ago in a house on 4th street when members of the Lonoke County Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect recognized a need to have a temporary place for children in need to go until a permanent place could be found for them. These children came for many different reasons, some were runaways and many were taken out of their home for abuse or neglect. The name Open Arms was adopted because it embraced the idea of the shelter having loving people with arms open wide ready to accept these children from all different walks of life.



Over the years, the need to grow and expand became apparent. Hence, the Open Arms Shelter today on Navajo Trail went from dream to reality, housing up to 12 kids and offering them a cozy, caring place to stay. Now the shelter faces a new challenge. Being an emergency shelter, children are only allowed to stay there for 45 days while permanent residence is found for them through the court system either with family members, foster care, or long-term facilities in other areas. But in some cases, full-time residence is hard to find. There is often not enough options to meet the demand of housing these children.

We think of Open Arms as more than a shelter, but a home, and the need for long-term care is growing consistently in our state and taxing the current foster-care system. The vision of the Board of Directors is to build a new wing on the shelter that offers long-term care for up to 12 children. While keeping the existing emergency care program intact, OAS would also provide long-term care allowing kids to stay in a safe, stable environment until they reach 18. In particular, the new long-term program could take in older teens who are often hard to place due to their age. In this critical period of their lives, teens could receive life skills to help lay the foundation for productive adult lives. Through counseling and mentors, OAS could help these children to develop a support base that would be there for them even after they leave the shelter.

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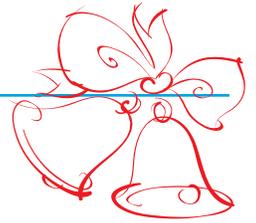
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#### Planned Expansion Wing

The proposed expansion is designed at 7338 square feet connecting to the existing structure at the current dining room. It will have 6 bedrooms, a staff residence room, a "safe room", computer room, utility room, classroom, donation center, and counseling rooms. In addition, the new wing  
(continued on page 2)

**"Serving abused and neglected children for 25 years"**

# OPEN ARMS SHELTER



## Planned Expansion Wing (Continued from page 1)

would expand the existing dining area and provide additional food storage including walk-in refrigerated and freezer space. Plans are also being explored for some level of security fencing for the entire facility. Projected cost for the new expansion is approximately \$1.1 million. Financing has been secured through USDA for \$700,000, leaving \$400,000 in costs to be covered by other sources, such as fundraisers, grants, and current OAS funds.

## AEDC Grant to help Fund Expansion

Working with Amanda Merrill, Community Services Specialist for the Central Arkansas Planning and Development District, and the city of Lonoke, OAS was awarded a \$215,000 grant from the Arkansas Economic Development Commission (AEDC) to help fund the expansion for long-term care. Pat Hagge, Pat Beaverson, and Amanda Merrill were presented with a check at an award ceremony October 5th.

“The AEDC looks for innovative ways to help the people of Arkansas and felt the expansion of the Open Arms Shelter was the best way to use this money to help the most Arkansas citizens,” says Amanda Merrill.



Pictured from left to right: First row, Pat Beaverson, Amanda Merrill, Amanda Leigh (AEDC), Rep. Walls McCrary; Second row, Pat Hagge, Lindsey Sherrin (AEDC), Gov. Mike Beebe, Sen. Bobby Glover

## How You Can Help

Even with the AEDC grant, OAS needs your financial support to help create a new future for abused and neglected children through our new long-term care program and the expanding facilities. Additional grants and donations are sought from corporations and individuals, and gifts of any size will be greatly appreciated. Naming rights are available for the wing itself, for individual rooms, and/or for the host of other equipment and furnishings needed for the children. Donations of any amount are appreciated and will be used to make a positive difference in a child’s life.

## Pledge Your Gift for Open Arms Expansion

Open Arms Shelter, 1500 Navajo Trail, Lonoke, AR 72086

Please help us serve abused and neglected children in Arkansas with your special gift.

\$25     \$100     \$200     \$300     \$500     \$1000     Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to make a monthly donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ months.  
(# of months)

Enclosed is my check payable to Open Arms Shelter.

Open Arms has full 501-(c)3 status. Your gift is tax deductible.

For large gifts and naming rights, please contact the shelter at 676-6166.

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## New Director Leads OAS Into Future

The Board of Directors is pleased to introduce Pat Beaverson as the new Executive Director of the shelter after Susan Bransford retired from 25 years of giving and dedicating her time and skills to the shelter.

"Susan has put a big part of herself into the shelter and worked tirelessly to help abused and neglected children have a loving, safe place to come. Much of what the shelter is today is due to her vision and determination to make a difference in the lives of children. The Board and staff will always be grateful to Susan, and although we hate to see her go, we wish her the best as she retires and starts new adventures in her life," says Merritt Holman, Board Vice President. "We are also glad to have a new Executive Director who is qualified to lead the shelter into the future and its expansion program for long-term care."

Pat Beaverson has a masters degree in Social Work and has worked in many areas of Arkansas, Oklahoma and Missouri to improve the lives of children and adults. He has directed a mental health center, was Executive Director of Ozark Area Care and Counseling, was program director of a geriatric psychiatric program, and was program director of Centers for Youth and Families in Jacksonville. He has also been involved in Lions Clubs, the Masons and Shriners. Beaverson has two sons. One son is married with two children and lives in Little Rock, the other is attending U of A in Fayetteville.

Beaverson says, "I am excited and pleased to be learning a new area of helping children and developing programs to better serve them. I am also very proud of the staff and care given at Open Arms. I want to thank Susan for her years of giving to the shelter, the community and children of the state of Arkansas. It is a pleasure to take over a program that has such a good staff and reputation both locally and statewide."



New Executive Director Pat Beaverson



Some of the staff at shelter are from left to right: Tiffany Parker, Kathleen Swaim, Virginia Ramirez, Gayle Tanner and Pat Beaverson.

### Memorials and Honorariums from June 2010 to present:

#### In Memory of:

##### **Michael Hardke**, by

Bransford Family Ltd. Ptn  
Dick and Johnnie Bransford  
Neil, Caroline, & Marthann Bennett  
Betty O'Cain  
Rick and Susan Bransford  
Kevin McCormack  
William Horner  
Susi Wallace  
Jean McFarlin  
Ruth Johnson  
Gil & Carol Plant  
Tommy & Rosa Hignight  
Emily & Jeff Roberts  
Margurite Johnson  
Barbara Elmore  
Mr & Mrs Duane Nisbett  
Pinnacle Bank—staff  
First State Bank  
Amelia & Dick Muse  
Woody & Sherylan Mason  
Mr & Mrs Joe Melton, Jr.  
Hatcher Agency  
Leon & Charlotte Hill  
Ron & Debbie Burks  
Michael & Betty Wilson  
Gene Eagle  
Wilks & Susannah Marshall  
Dr & Mrs Claude Gillette  
Rick, Tamara & Luke Debord  
Charlotte, David & Tara Bennett  
Joe & Nina Gasaway  
Bob & Naomi Hart  
J.L. & Paula Griffin

Ronald & Sheree Wallace  
Christopher & Patricia Aycock  
Greenbriar Hunting Lodge LLC  
Lonoke Girls of 1974  
Janice & Bob McCall  
Wade & Karen Ruckle  
Lyons Drug Store  
Mr & Mrs Will S Green  
Mike & Susie Stormes  
Sarabelle Inman  
Robert & Kathy Millard  
Jim & Doretta Malone  
Jim & Louise Malone  
Bobby & Beverly Jones  
Mrs Fred C. Inman, Jr.  
Sara M Hunt  
Mark Inman

##### **Hugh Keller, III**, by

Barbara Elmore  
Bill & Shirley Beaumont  
Bill, Martha, & Kenny Dunlap  
Bobby & Beverly Jones  
Cabot United Methodist  
Carolyn McCrary  
Charles & Carolyn Horton  
D. McGee  
Danie & Dot Glover  
Debbie & Tommy Hill  
Dick & Johnnie Bransford  
Dorothy Hogue  
Evelyn Watson  
First Community Bank  
Kay Dillon  
First State Bank  
James & Lucille Nix  
James & Sue Waymack  
Jim & Doretta Malone  
Jim & Louise Malone  
Joe & Barbara Melton  
John & Sarah Shaw  
Knox Realty, Charles Knox

LHS Class of '57  
Mark & Ann Nicholson  
Michael & Betty Wilson  
Mr & Mrs J A McAlister  
Mr & Mrs Jerrell Boyette  
Mr & Mrs Joe Melton  
Mrs Boyettes  
Neil, Caroline, Marthann Bennett  
Polly & Laudies Brantley  
Ralph & Brenda Gentry  
Ray & Joyce Sullivan  
Richard & Karen Phelps  
Rick & Susan Bransford  
Ron & Joyce Underwood  
Ruby Gagliano  
Shannon E. Hamilton  
Shirley Beaumont  
Shirley Hardke  
Tressie Bryant  
Troy & Carolyn Evans  
W. P. Dortch  
Woody & Sherylan Mason  
**Doyle McGee**, by  
Jim & Doretta Malone  
Jim & Louise Malone  
Bobby & Beverly Jones

##### **Francis Sims**, by

Ann Bishop  
Scott Products  
Bobby & Ann Turner  
Judy Thurman  
Carole Ann McDonald  
Sarah & Kenneth Orlicek  
Geneva Brantley  
Darrell & Bobbie Henderson  
Royce & Glenna Shumate  
Terrie & Tim Collins  
Charles & Christie Gerren  
Carma Waymack—  
Christ Worship Center, Cabot

Norman & Laverne Polk  
Bill & Phyllis Foster  
Annie Bishop  
Brenda Gunde  
**Gladys Cates**, by  
Ron & Debbie Burks

#### In Honor of:

**Kaye & Neal Anderson**, by  
Mr & Mrs Max Foster  
**Sherry & Bill Sandage**, by  
Mr & Mrs Max Foster  
**Laudies & Polly Brantley**, by  
Mr & Mrs Max Foster  
**Laverne Polk**, by  
Mr & Mrs Max Foster  
**Judy & Don Compton**, by  
Mr & Mrs Max Foster  
**Sandra Hill**, by  
Mr & Mrs Max Foster  
**Mr & Mrs Thurman Woodworth**, by  
Mr & Mrs Max Foster  
**Debbie & Neil Compton**, by  
Mr & Mrs Max Foster

Please forgive us if any names are missing from this list of memorials and honorariums. We have had a turn over in staff and are training current staff in our bookkeeping systems. Thank you for your patience. Please contact our staff if you notice anything missing so we can include it in our next newsletter.



Changing Hearts

Open Arms Shelter  
P.O. Box 161  
Lonoke, Arkansas  
72086

Phone:  
(501) 676-6166

Fax:  
(501) 676-6174

Email:  
info@openarmsshelter.o

## The Open Arms Shelter Team

### 2010 Board of Directors

<b>England</b>	<b>Cabot</b>
Pam Foster, <i>Advisor</i>	Leann Hanshaw
Sherry Sandage	Rhonda Harps
Gary Canada, Jr.	Rhonda House
<b>Lonoke</b>	Pat Hagge, <i>Chairman</i>
Peggy Anderson	<b>Carlisle</b>
Merritt Holman, <i>V.C.</i>	Shelby Hillman
Kaye Anderson	Kathy Millard, <i>Sec.</i>
Betty Wilson	David Woods, <i>Treas</i>

**Members at Large**  
LuAnn Ashley, Sherwood

### OAS Staff

Pat Beaverson, Executive Director  
Matty Cooksey, Weekend Supervisor  
Tammy Donahue, Resident Manager  
Tiffany Parker, Case Coordinator  
Kathleen Swaim, Bookkeeper  
Shantonda McClain, Relief Worker II  
Virginia Ramirez, Relief Worker II  
Gayle Tanner, Relief Worker I  
Nora Cooney, Relief Worker I  
Mattie Williams, Relief Worker I  
Joyce Butler, Cook

### 2010 Advisory Board

<b>England</b>	<b>Cabot</b>	<b>Lonoke</b>
Ben Foster	Jennie Gates	Jamie Anderson
Amy Brantley	Holly Huckabae	Carrie Holt
<b>Carlisle</b>	Karen Marlatt	Gina DeBerry
Kristel Petrus, <i>Tr.</i>	Jana Hagge	<b>Little Rock</b>
		Katie Anderson, <i>Ch.</i>

### Open Arms Shelter Needs and Wish List

#### Food items

Bell Peppers  
Bread  
Canned Fruit  
Cereal  
Chili  
Corn  
Cornbread Mix  
Crackers  
Garlic Powder  
Hamburger Helper  
Honey  
Hot Sauce  
Instant Potatoes  
Ketchup  
Lettuce  
Mixed Veggies  
Onion  
Pickles  
Pork-n-beans  
Ravioli  
Seasoning Salt  
Spaghetti noodles  
Taco shells  
Tomatoes  
Tomato Soup  
Tuna  
White Vinegar

#### Misc. Items

Aluminum Pie Pans  
Axe Body Spray  
Bath soap (bars)  
Bleach  
Composition notebooks  
Copy Paper

Deodorant  
Dividers  
Gallon Ziploc bags  
Graphing paper  
Laundry soap (liq)  
Lotion  
Maxi pads  
Paper cups  
Paper plates  
Paper towels  
Pine-sol  
Pull-ups (S-XL)  
Rubbing alcohol  
Sandwich bags  
Shampoo  
Tampons  
Toilet Paper  
White out  
White trash bags

#### Medications

Benedryl  
Cough drops  
Cough syrup  
Ibuprofen

#### Wish List

Kids clothes (all sizes)  
Kids shoes (all sizes)  
Toys  
White face and bath towels  
Commercial Washer/Dryer  
Playstation games  
Wii games  
XBox 360

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

My donation in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed, and is in honor/  
memory (circle one) of \_\_\_\_\_

Send notification of gift to: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please contact me about other opportunities to assist OAS

Open Arms Shelter  
P.O. Box 161  
Lonoke, Arkansas