



The Bloom House

open doors campaign



adoption, foster, orphan care

Selma, Alabama

www.BloomHouse.org



Isaiah 58: Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings

BY KRISTEN JONES, FOUNDER

I have always known that the Lord commanded us to care for the vulnerable and fatherless, but on a particular day in late 2015, after a revelation on God's heart as a Father, I wondered why I had never been mobilized in orphan care if this is religion in its purest form. It was as if I lived with the assumption that if they truly needed me then maybe they would knock on my front door. Feeling an urgency to do something, I called the only person I knew that had adopted asking her if there was an orphan care ministry in town; she responded with what I already knew, "no." Since that didn't exist, I had to position my family in another way. I told my husband that I was thinking we should get our foster care license and instead of responding that I had lost my mind, he said, "I know. God already told me." The rest is just a story of God's abounding faithfulness as he carried us through the process with small boys of our own at home. During the licensing process, I realized that there was very little engagement between the local community and children in foster care specifically.

Then the stories began to roll in from people who said they always wanted to adopt, foster or do something for orphan care but they weren't ever sure how to get started so the desire began to go away. Knowing that we aren't all called to do the same thing, but we all can do something and inspired by the book of Isaiah Chapter 58, where it speaks of what will happen when we care for the oppressed, "The LORD will guide you continually, giving you water when you are dry and restoring your strength. You will be like a well-watered garden, like an ever-flowing spring. Some of you will rebuild the deserted ruins of your cities. Then you will be known as a rebuilders of walls and a restorer of homes." The Bloom House was born in early 2016 with a vision to see the body of Christ fully engaged in orphan care. I believe that when we care for the fatherless and bring justice to the orphan, not only will the child begin to flourish, but like the scripture says, we will also be restored; and our city too can be repaired.

ORPHAN  CARE

Pure and genuine

religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you. - James 1:27

Our goal is to positively impact the lives of foster, kinship care and adoptive youth and their families and to help these children acquire necessary skills to one day live independently within the knowledge of their identity in Christ. We seek to support and equip families to answer the call and care for the orphans both abroad and in our own neighborhoods.

The Bloom House, serving Central AL, improves the outcomes for these children and families through:

Art, Music, Cooking, Woodworking, and Life Skills
Birthday/Adoption Celebrations
Clothing Boutique, Hygiene Items
Meals for Foster Families
New to Care Duffel Bags
Embroidered Pillowcases
Prayer Support, Mentors, Discipleship

WE NEED YOU!

sponsor a room



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Will you consider sponsoring one of our fourteen rooms?

a gift of \$1,000 or more

1. Foyer/Welcoming Area

Here we will have books and information on orphan care, both in our own neighborhoods and abroad, and how we can all do our part to end this very fixable crisis. We can't all do the same thing, but as a part of the Body of Christ, we can and should all do something.

2. Family Room

The family room is a safe, comfortable, and happy space for foster children to play, sit and read while social workers or foster parents are in The Bloom House. Bible study/discipleship groups for foster and adoptive teens will be held here. Support groups for foster and adoptive parents can be held in this room. Informational meetings for all area churches and prospective foster and adoptive parents, as well as other community informational meetings on orphan care will be held in the family room.

3. Arts/ Music/ Create Space

Children in foster care, along with siblings of foster and adoptive children, and typical children in the community, will participate in art classes, creative workshops and music lessons in this room. These types of creative outlets are healing and teach important life lessons. We will regularly share the children's art and a short bio, as our way to bridge the gap between these children and our community.

4. Kitchen

Cooking and home economics classes will be held here for older youth and/or foster/adoptive/kinship care parents to learn new meal ideas and how to build a healthy lifestyle around food and fellowship. We will equip teens aging out of the foster care system to be able to prepare healthy meals for themselves when they are on their own.

Also, we will have prepared frozen meals on hand for families when they take in a new placement, have a hectic week with court hearings and/or visitations. We will also be a supplying agency with the Selma Area Food Bank.

5. Laundry Room

Here we will prepare the clothing for our boutique to be offered to these children after they have been taken in to custody. "Children in foster care have stains on the inside, they don't need to wear them on the outside."

6. Half Bath

This room will be turned in to the Birthday party closet for foster and adopted children.

7. Sun Porch

In this room will be the equipment to be used by children going in to foster care. When a child is placed, the foster family usually has much less than 12 hours to prepare for their arrival. We will have car seats, high chairs, toddler beds, etc. so that the foster family can focus on loving and caring, and not searching around for these items. These items will be returned when they are finished using them. Also, the New to Care Duffel Bags filled with toiletries and comfort items will be in this room.

8. Restroom

To be used by all of our Bloom participants. This is the only restroom on the main level.

9. Clothing Boutique

Seasonal, new or in very good condition clothing, pajamas, shoes, jewelry, formal dresses, business attire for older youth, new packages of underwear and socks for the children to shop for FREE. We tell the children that their Heavenly Father will provide for all of their needs and He is just using our hands to do it.

10. Outside storage house

Where we will have household items to help set up the home for a teen aging out of the foster care system. These teens need support now more than ever to get set up and feel loved as they start out on their own. No one should feel alone and without support to reach their full potential during this time.

Upstairs

11. Board Room

12. Office of the Director

13. Second bathroom

14. /15. Bedroom #3 and unfinished bathroom

Once finished, this will be the space for the on-site program manager/ house parent that will be available outside of normal office hours to serve these children and caseworkers when an emergency placement takes place; because families don't wait to fall apart during weekdays and normal office hours.

THANK YOU FOR BEING
A FRIEND TO BLOOM HOUSE

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