

# Johnny Williamson Good Shepherd Foundation

A Legacy of Love in Action



April 19, 1935 - June 30, 2013

## Our Vision - 2016

1. We recognized early in our formation of The Foundation that there are many needs in addition to food, i.e., clothing, gas, heating/cooling, medical, jobs, handicap ramps, daycare, housing, etc. This is why the Operations Board was created for The Little Closet Food Pantry - to get it established and strong in serving the primary need for food. Once this is in place and operating smoothly, we can then expand our services.
2. We are not an emergency organization. Setting designated days to open to the public should deter and negate the need for emergencies. However, should a need present itself on days other than designated opened days, we would accommodate.
3. Our primary focus area is the Samantha community. It is the nucleus of our circle. We have served folks as far as Jasper and will continue to do that when necessary, but our primary focus is the Samantha community. We are currently serving Northwest Tuscaloosa and Southern Fayette County and other surrounding counties but our focus is our own community of Samantha.
4. The Foundation is two-pronged. In addition to meeting the basic daily essentials we want to build up our community with encouragement and promote good will and relationship with our neighbors. The purpose of the concerts and parties we host on Shepherd Hill is not just to raise money to fund The Foundation and The Little Closet but to also encourage, provide folks something to do, buildup and strengthen relationships in the Samantha and surrounding communities. That's how we come to find out each other's needs, through relationships. Communities grow stronger when folks regularly and persistently do a variety of simple things together that give them chances to connect with others, build trust and get involved in doing things together. Relationships grow from people sharing food, helping others, listening to music under the stars, and just joining together. It serves the purposes of connecting people, building trust, and involving people with each another. What matters to the quality of community life is the number of people who regularly connect and mix it up with one another. There is more to overcoming social inclusion and social needs than taking actions like these, but these are good practices to build a stronger, foundation for our common life.
5. Sharing the love of Jesus is at the very heart of anything and everything we do. We have the desire to meet our neighbors social needs/daily essentials (food, clothing, housing, heat, etc.) because we have experienced His love and our Daddy demonstrated this for us. (Galatians 6:10). However, we don't want to socialize the gospel. We want to gospelize the social - So that the gospel addresses every social condition that we ever encounter. We are not just a humanitarian organization addressing temporal needs. We are concerned with the eternal. We want to share the good news. (John 3:16). We envision Shepherd Hill as a place for all needs not just a place for the needy. We don't often think of daily essentials including our emotional and spiritual needs but we all have those needs. It's not just food and clothing. We are responsible for our neighbor's physical AND spiritual wellbeing.

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Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those of the household of faith. Galatians 6:10