

Our Location:

The Good Shepherd Statue is located on Highway 43 North, in Samantha, Alabama between mile markers 216 and 217.

The Little Closet Community Food Pantry and Shepherd Hill Opry are over the hill behind The Good Shepherd Statue.

We are approximately 2 miles north of Northside High School. Approximately 20 miles North of Tuscaloosa. Approximately 4 hours south of Nashville, TN

Physical Address:
13222 Fondren Road
Northport, AL 35475

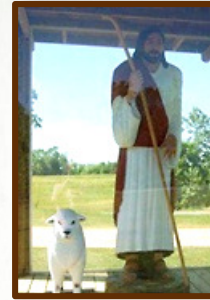
Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 83
Samantha, AL 35482

Email Address:
info@goodshepherdfound.org (205) 233-3794
info@thelittlecloset.org



A Legacy of Love in Action

Johnny Lewis Williamson
4/19/1935 - 6/30/2013



Johnny Williamson Good Shepherd Foundation

A Legacy of Love in Action

About Us

The Little Closet Community Food Pantry



Shepherd Hill Opry



Samantha, Alabama

Every family has a story...

Welcome

To Ours...

We come from a long line of love – a family of deep roots. And like redwood trees whose roots reach out and intertwine with each other in order to stand strong, we recognize that we need our neighbors and friends support to help make our community strong.

We believe God wants us to be like giant redwood trees supporting each other and planting shade trees for others to sit under. We invite you to join us.

It is our desire to always honor and glorify our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in all we do.

We look forward to seeing you on Shepherd Hill.

If you would like to partner with us or if you would like to have someone come speak to your group, church or organization, please call (205) 233-3794.

On the Web:

- www.goodshepherdfound.org
- facebook.com/TheGoodShepherdStatueatPawpawJohns
- www.thelittlecloset.org

To contact The Little Closet Community Food Pantry, call (205) 534-3104

Donations

Our funding comes from family donations and community support through individuals, businesses and local churches.

Donations can be made by credit card through our website at goodshepherdfound.org or by check. Please contact us if you would like to sponsor a family. Event sponsorships are available.

We believe your tithes belong to your local church. Your donations to our organization are received as offerings to support the needs of our community.

The Good Shepherd Foundation is a (501)(c)(3), Faith-Based, registered non-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible. EIN #46-3243772.

Good Shepherd Foundation

A 501(c)(3), Faith-Based Organization

Johnny Williamson was driven to help others and he practiced the act of giving daily. He was always prepared to provide a need for his neighbor, never asking for anything in return. It was out of his love for his Savior (The Good Shepherd) that he loved others. *Whoever is generous to the needy gives to the Lord.* Proverbs 19:17

Out of community need and requests from his friends after his death, his children started the Johnny Williamson Good Shepherd Foundation. It is our desire and prayer to fulfill this *legacy of love*.

Our Purpose:

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

Our Mission:

To continue the legacy of love for others by providing support and assistance of daily essentials to individuals and families in the Samantha and surrounding communities.

The Good Shepherd Statue

After the death of his mother, Pearlie Mae Williamson, Johnny Williamson was inspired to create a *representation* of the 23rd Psalm. It was her favorite scripture.

A cypress log was chosen for *The Good Shepherd Statue* because of the longstanding belief that the Cypress is the “gopher wood” (or kopher which is the Hebrew word for waterproof) that Noah used to build the ark. He worked alongside longtime friend and local artist/sculptor, Willie Logan (1940-2010), to carve the 6-1/2 foot statue of *The Good Shepherd*.

The best recognized example of a symbolic shepherd is in the Son of God, Jesus. In John 1:11, *Jesus spoke of himself, I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.*

Joshua 4 teaches us to set up memorials as reminders of what God has lead us through and to give us opportunity to teach our children about our spiritual heritage to glorify God. **The Good Shepherd Statue is intended to be such a memorial.** It is located on Highway 43 North, approximately 2 miles north of Northside High School.

We respectfully request that the statue be referred to as The Good Shepherd and not Jesus in a box!

Community Venue

We enjoy birthday parties and family gatherings on Shepherd Hill so much that we want to make it available to our community to use. Next time you are looking for an outdoor venue for your family reunion, birthday party, or simple country wedding, give us a call. Great porch sitting opportunities on The Little Closet Community Food Pantry porch, Shepherd Hill Opry stage for live music, picnic area and a stage for square dancing or clogging. Fun children's area with slide and swings. Or you might just want to have a game of checkers, dominoes or cards, share some stories and make memories with your family and friends and celebrate life. If so come on by.

We only ask a nominal donation to cover costs to use.

Legacy of Love Festival

The Legacy of Love Festival is a community celebration in memory of Johnny's birthday, April 19th. It is held on the 3rd Saturday of April each year on Shepherd Hill in Samantha, Alabama.

Live Music, Children's Activities, Food and of course Homemade Ice Cream and more.

This is a free event.

Shepherd Hill Opry

The outdoor Amphitheatre was built in memory of Johnny Williamson by his children on the property where he called home and created deep roots.

Johnny called family gatherings parties, which consisted of family, friends, food and music. He instructed his children to continue having parties on his property after he was gone. This site is intended to glorify God and continue Johnny's legacy in the community he loved so dearly with his multitude of friends. All net proceeds benefit the Johnny Williamson Good Shepherd Foundation.

Concerts are held throughout the year. Well-known Nashville artists Allen Frizzell, Marty Raybon, Lulu Roman, Clinton Gregory Bluegrass Band, Jennifer Brantley, Gerald Smith, and Addison Johnson have performed at Shepherd Hill Opry as well as Donnie Lee Strickland and Shannon Knight formerly with The Gaithers. It is a tradition that the last song is always *I Saw the Light* with all the crowd joining in.

This is an alcohol free venue.

Shepherd Hill Opry is a ministry of Johnny Williamson Good Shepherd Foundation, a 501(c)(3) Faith-Based organization.

Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. 1 Corin. 10:30

The Little Closet Community Food Pantry

Neighbors Helping Neighbors. The Little Closet Community Food Pantry is supported through a cooperative with the local churches and partnership with local businesses and individual support. It is governed by an Operations Board of volunteers who live in the Samantha and surrounding communities.

The story behind the name: The Little Closet.

Johnny's mother, Pearl Williamson, was an avid gardener like her son and worked feverishly to preserve the bounty of her labor so that she could share it with neighbors and all who entered her home. She called her pantry, the little closet. We can still hear the echoes of her saying "Hun, go in the little closet and get you some beans or whatever you want". She always kept the door open to this room. *A Legacy of Love in Action.*

The Little Closet Food Pantry offers this same "open door" welcome to anyone who needs a hand-up.

MISSION: The Little Closet Community Food Pantry is dedicated to providing for the needs of hungry people by collection and distributing food and grocery products, educating the community about hunger, and collaborating with others who address basic human needs.

The Little Closet Community Food Pantry is a ministry of Johnny Williamson Good Shepherd Foundation.

"Momma's Kitchen"

No gathering is complete without food. So we have begun work to build a little snack shack onto the back of the clogging stage.

Growing up, Momma (Doris Rebecca Williamson), spent many hours in the kitchen daily showing love to her family making each one their favorite dish. Sometimes cooking breakfast at three different times to accommodate everyone's schedule. The Williamson family gathered at the table every evening to share a meal together. And, although her devoted service was not fully appreciated then, the lessons she taught about the importance of having a family meal together are forever engrained in the hearts of her children. Jesus also left us many examples of fellowship with others by breaking bread with those He loved.

So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people.
Acts 2:46-47

Pearl-Frances Chapel

October 6, 2016 The charming, historic *New Lexington Voting House* was relocated from Highway 43 North across from Big Al's Restaurant in New Lexington, Alabama, to its new home on Shepherd Hill and will soon begin its transformation into *Pearl-Frances Chapel*. It was acquired from previous owners, John and Peggy Walker. Named for The Williamson Siblings' grandmothers, Pearl Williamson and Frances Keaton.

When complete, with steeple, cross and bell, the chapel will make a perfect venue for an intimate, country wedding, vow renewal, baby dedication or any special occasion with family and friends.

It is our hope *Pearl-Frances Chapel* will provide a place for our community to stop in for special prayer needs or to have a moment with The Lord and that it will serve to strengthen our community.

The Little Closet Operations Board

Anders, Kathy - Chair
Williamson, LaWanda - Co-Chair

Anders, Mike
Andrews, Terrance
Beams, Charles
Blumthall, Dane
Blumthall, Raye
Channell, LaRhonda
Childers, Jason
Childers, Ruth
Christian, Wanda
Dockery, Ashley
Dockery, Ed
Dockery, Susan
Gooch, Dee
Gooch, Jimmy
Hall, Wanda
Hollingsworth, Candy
Martin, Angela
Martin, Becky, Foundation Trustee
Martin, Benny
Norris, John
Nuckols, Ann
Sparks, Karen
Summerlin, Renae
Summerlin, Tim
Watts, Rita
Williamson, Danita
Williamson, Larry, Foundation Trustee
Williamson, Ricky, Foundation Trustee

Our Vision

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 opportunities 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 other. 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.

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.

Larry & Danita Williamson

Ricky & LaWanda Williamson

Benny & Becky Williamson-Martin