

66 Academy Lane McIntosh, Alabama 36553 251-829-6507 thefriendscenter.com

Dear Friends,

The past year has certainly presented several unexpected challenges. It has also left many people in need. Here at The Friends Center, we are blessed to have been able to meet some of those needs.

While much of our progress since our newsletter dated May 28, 2020, has been to repair the property, our end goal has been and always will be providing assistance to the community while preaching the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.



None of the following could have been done without your support. To this end, we extend our deepest gratitude. Currently, The Friends Center has multiple programs in operation.



The Friends Center's food pantry has expanded our supply of food, toiletries, clothing, and household items to our community. In addition to individual requests which may be made anytime during the month, **Foodbox & Friends** hosts a drive-thru distribution on the third Tuesday of every month.

Since June 2020, we have distributed 48,000 pounds of food, baskets of toiletries and cleaning supplies, closets full of clothing, and tubs of school supplies to community residents.

Academy Lane has been repaired, leveled, and graveled to add ease of access to people in need.

The Lodge, dedicated to the first ambassadors of this MOWA community, houses **Bridgett & Friends**, a 6-month transitory program for local women. This building has undergone a complete interior restoration and can house up to eighteen ladies in the process of building a better life.





The school is a multipurpose building that has been used for community functions and Youth Camps. Since June 2021, **Shelter with Friends** also uses this building to quietly work with local agencies to provide temporary, emergency shelter for battered or homeless women and children.

Friends helping Friends is a flexible program that utilized volunteers and the residents of the lodge to deliver food and supplies to homebound or homeless individuals. This home delivery service is performed in conjunction with Foodbox & Friends and also separately on the fourth Tuesday of every month.

Other significant improvements to the property have also been made. The mobile home has undergone extensive repairs and restorations. We have added a roof to the Director's House patio and made considerable landscape changes.

These improvements enable us to minister to the needs of the Sanktown community, but many repairs are waiting to be done. Here are the most urgent. Hurricane Zeta destroyed part of the aged, estate fence. This fence has been repaired but is sorely in need of replacement. The lodge needs power washing, partial roof replacement, and painting. The School exterior needs sandblasting and painting. The interior needs new paint and flooring and all exterior wood doors have signs of rot. Several trees on the property have been damaged by recent storms and need removal before damage is done to nearby buildings. These maintenance projects will be completed as funding becomes available.

The Friends Center supplies many needs of the community. However, we need your support to continue. Please consider sending a one-time financial gift for repairs and maintenance, or schedule monthly contributions to support one of our community relief programs. Feel free to specify which program you'd like your support directed to.

Mail delivery has been inconsistent and problematic for our Post Office Box. Therefore, we have installed a secure mailbox at our physical address. Please consider mailing correspondence to The Friends Center, 66 Academy Lane, McIntosh, Alabama 36553.

Thank you for continuing to support the people of Sanktown, Alabama.

Budgett Henson /Resident Director





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