



JULY MISSION OF THE MONTH THORNWELL HOME AND BUILDING FAMILIES

Founded as a Presbyterian ministry in 1875, Thornwell Home for Children is a joyful Christian community, offering hope and wholeness to children and families. Its goals are to provide loving homes for abused, abandoned and neglected children, to offer an opportunity for healing by providing proper healthcare and mental health counseling for every Thornwell child, and to offer Thornwell's children hope for a successful future by providing educational support and teaching self-advocacy.

July 22 is Thornwell Sunday. The Rev. Dr. Elliott Smith will preach at both worship services to help us better understand the mission of Thornwell and its impact in the lives of children and families. **Family Specialist Elizabeth Ogorek will present a workshop during the Sunday school hour entitled "Parenting in the Digital Age".** All are invited and encouraged to attend!

In addition to supporting Thornwell Home, Spring Valley Presbyterian Church is the first Midlands area host to Thornwell's Building Families Program. This joint ministry began in 2013. The Building Families Program is a community-based, intensive in-home program designed to address the needs of families in crisis. The Program provides services that build upon the existing strengths of families to reduce the stressors interfering with healthy family functioning. Goals are to stabilize families, equip them with the skills necessary to ensure safety of the children, reduce or eliminate the need for out-of-home placement of the children, and keep families together.

Building Families creates impactful change and emotional strength in families by using researched and proven treatment methods in a personalized way. Parents learn how to set age-appropriate boundaries and maintain discipline without anger or violence. Thornwell Family Specialists use positive reinforcement, modeling, role playing, and other methods to teach lasting, concrete parenting and communication skills. Our Family Specialist, Elizabeth Ogorek, has assisted eighteen families since the beginning of 2017 and currently has 2 open cases and 2 in the referral process. Elizabeth has had more 'self-referred' families this year than ever before – parents/caregivers who hear about the program and inquire about services for their own household. Spring Valley's continued support of the Building Families Program allows families to find the help and support that they are seeking in order to build happy, healthy families.

SVPC supports Building Families in many ways. New needs, whether they are in-kind items or volunteer time, are posted in your bulletin, hot topics, and updated on the website under the Building Families tab. Our congregation has always responded generously to these needs. If you have any questions or ideas to help build the program or assist families please feel free to contact Elizabeth at the church or by email at elizabeth.ogorek@thornwell.org.