

Connie Maxwell MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2023 | www.ConnieMaxwell.com



Connie Maxwell
CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



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Dear Connie Maxwell Dreamers,

The greatest achievement was at first and for a time a *Dream*...

The oak sleeps in the acorn...
The bird waits in the egg...
And in the highest vision of the soul
A waking angel stirs...

A *Dream* is the seed of a new day... a new reality.

As I ran across these inspired words by James Allen, I remembered when I first read Proverbs 29:18 as a child. *"Where there is no vision, the people perish."* Somehow deep in my heart I knew then what I know even better now.

Dreams are what life is all about...

This edition of the *Connie Maxwell Magazine* features the unfolding of our *"Decade of Dreams."* The strong momentum of our For the Dreams of Children campaign, the planning and development of the Healing Center, the new logo and exciting plans at Maxwell Farms, the new campus in Charleston, the Faulkenberry Family Homes, the Corn Maze and Bluegrass Concert in October, the Max Fit renovations, on and on and on...

As you fumble through these pages, **dream** with us and ask, "What can I do to help make the dreams of children and families come true?"

Please come visit us on campus — we would love to show you firsthand our progress. Thanks for your gifts, prayers and support. God bless you!

Running with the Horses,



William D. Nicholson II, Ph.D.
President



Connie Maxwell
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Connie Maxwell MAGAZINE

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MISSION

Connie Maxwell Children's Ministries exists to restore the Faith, Family and Future of vulnerable children and families through Christian services that emphasize ministry and healing.

VISION

To become a national leader in Christian ministries of healing for vulnerable children and families.

The *Connie Maxwell Magazine* is sent to alumni, donors and friends of the ministry. Send address changes or cancellation requests to Jill Bryant at jillbryant@conniemaxwell.com or call 864-942-1427.

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CONNIEMAXWELL.COM





Left to right: Philip Turner, Jay Boyd, Danny Nicholson, Jerry Anne Faulkenberry, Larry Faulkenberry, Eric Taylor, Chris Beckham

On Thursday, May 4, 2023, Connie Maxwell Children's Ministries (CMCM) held the grand opening and dedication service of the newly renovated Faulkenberry Family Care Homes. The home has four apartments and will house four new families in our Family Care program. Larry and Jerry Anne Faulkenberry of Eastover, S.C., funded the renovation through a significant donation.

The Faulkenberry Family Care Home was built in 1915. It is the second oldest building on the CMCM campus. Jesse C. Eason, also from Eastover and the first settler there, bequeathed \$75,000 to Connie Maxwell orphanage in Greenwood upon his death in 1914. That would have been over \$2.2 million in today's economy. He left specific instructions to build a new cottage for orphans. In October 1915, the Eason Cottage opened and was immediately filled by children in need.

On May 4, we built off that history with the Faulkenberry family gift and saw the dreams of children and families throughout South Carolina come true. Eason laid the foundation 108 years ago, and now, with the Faulkenberry family's donation, we can continue to serve for another century.

Danny Nicholson, CMCM President, shared, "Our dreams connect us. Our Decade of Dreams strategic plan emerges from the history of our 130-year-old ministry. Mr. Eason dreamed of providing a home for orphans, and because of his dream, a new one emerged. The Faulkenberry family is now leaving their mark on our ministry and helping change the lives of children and families that will live here."

"It is not hard for someone to make a mark in the world today, but the true test of a person is the mark they leave behind when they are gone," says Faulkenberry, "and I'm just getting started."

The Family Care Ministry is a two-year program that equips single parents with the support they need to focus on resolving their crises and temporary family instability. No two stories are the same; each family care plan is personalized to the individual and what they need to achieve independence.

Strengthening our capacity to grow our Family Care Program is an important strategic initiative in our A Decade of Dreams plan. This Faulkenberry leadership gift as a part of A Campaign: For the Dreams of Children helps us move closer toward this most important goal.



A SUMMER OF

Our kids had fun in the sun at Discovery Island in Simpsonville.



Forty-eight of our kids attended a week-long Fuge Camp at Southern Wesleyan.



The girls from Turner Cottage took a day trip to Brevard.



Addison brushed Cimarron at Maxwell Farms.



Kayla and the girls from Stahn Cottage enjoyed a day at Lake Greenwood.

FUN

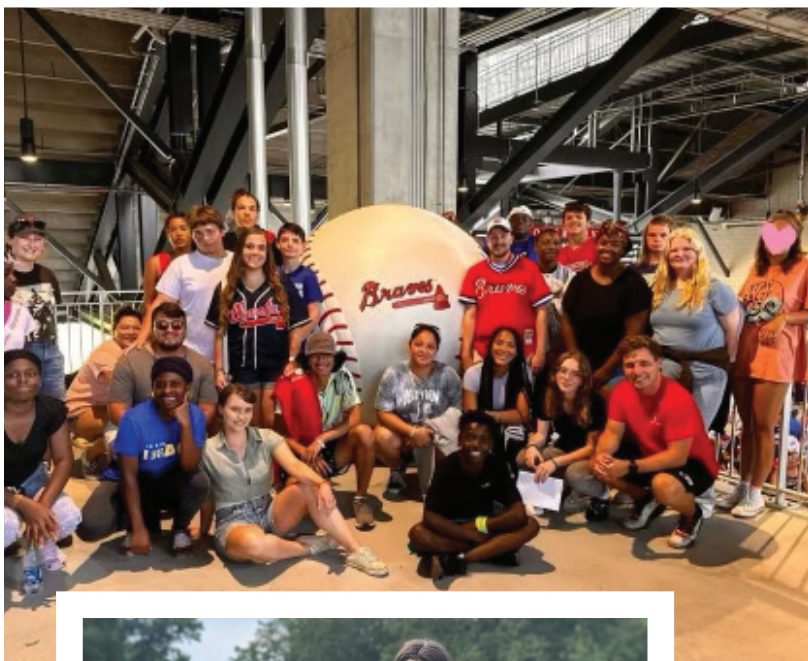
Zai won a squishmallow when the kids visited Frankie's Fun Park.



Tay brushed up on his soccer skills.



Some of our kids attended a Braves game in Atlanta, Georgia.



Kids participated in VBS at Connie Maxwell Baptist Church.



Ryleigh, Emily and Daysha posed for a photo with Remi, a calf at Maxwell Farms.



A Century of Support

The Lifelong Dedication
of Ms. Mary Ridgeway

Mary Ridgeway is Connie Maxwell Children's Ministry's (CMCM) oldest living donor. Her journey of helping the children of Connie Maxwell began when she was a child.

On May 14, she turned 101 years old, and while her memory may sometimes falter, she fondly recalls her time serving at Connie Maxwell.

She says, "When I say something about Connie Maxwell, I know who I'm talking about — a good place with good people. I couldn't ask for better."

Ms. Ridgeway was raised by her mother, Lula Jordan, and father, James Mack, and had two siblings, a twin sister and a brother.

Growing up, Ms. Ridgeway's father would donate some of his crops to CMCM. As a child, she would make this trip with him, dropping off goods from their farm in the Fork Shoals, S.C., area on Augusta Road and their neighbors' farms.

Ms. Ridgeway says, "I just know my daddy would do anything he could do to make us a better person and to help us in life. Whatever we needed, he was going to see that we got it."

Her father's love and generosity made an impression on her, and she has spent her life making sure the Connie Maxwell children feel the same way — loved.

She remembers visiting the campus as a little girl. "When I was younger, I liked what I saw and how I was treated, and so I wanted to keep on doing it."

And sure enough, Ms. Ridgeway continued to invest in the dreams of the Connie Maxwell children. Due to her generosity, Self Cottage, a girls' house on campus, was renovated, and she celebrated the progress by having dinner with the residents. She also funded the Mary Ridgeway Conference Room, an expansion to the Neb Cline Center, providing a private area for families to meet.

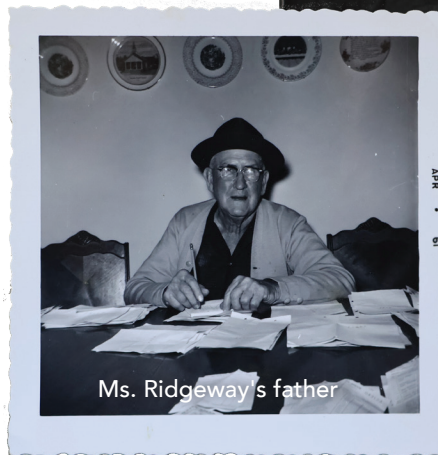
While championing the dreams of Connie Maxwell children, she chased her own. She worked for the Campbell Tile Company in Greenville, S.C., for 40 years. She began her career in bookkeeping and later advanced to Mr. Campbell's right-hand person. She served as Secretary-Treasurer and ended her career as part owner of the company.



Ms. Mary Ridgeway



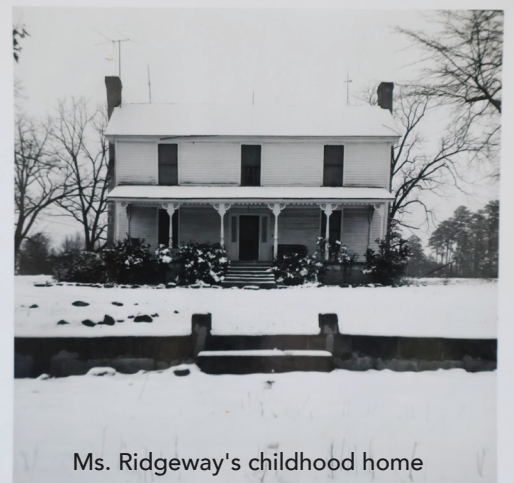
Ms. Ridgeway's parents



Ms. Ridgeway's father



Ms. Ridgeway serving the National Association of Women in Construction



Ms. Ridgeway's childhood home



Eric Taylor and Ms. Ridgeway at her 100th birthday party

As a female during that time, she impacted the corporate world. In the 1960s, she became one of the founding members of the Greenville Chapter of the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC), an association committed to supporting and providing advocacy for women in the construction field. She also served as president of the Greenville Chapter.

Throughout her life, she was a longtime member of Daventon Baptist Church in Pelzer, S.C., and is now a member of Northgate Baptist Church in Greenville.

She has served as a children's Sunday school teacher and has also been involved in the Woman's Missionary Union (WMU), an organization focused on training others to live on mission for Jesus and impact the world for the sake of the gospel.



Ms. Ridgeway with her Connie Maxwell quilt

Ms. Ridgeway never married or had children. "She considered the children at Connie Maxwell her own," says Eric Taylor, Vice President for Advancement and Campaign Director at CMCM.

He is also one of Ms. Ridgeway's dearest friends. "I have known Ms. Ridgeway since 1997 when I was called to serve at Connie Maxwell. We have visited together many, many times through the years."

Ms. Ridgeway's investment in children doesn't end at CMCM. She has also played a part in the lives of Eric's children as well.



Eric Taylor's daughters with Ms. Ridgeway

"Ms. Mary has been another 'grandmother' to my own two daughters who love her dearly and are now in their mid to late twenties. She still has all the little handwritten notes my girls scribbled to her when they were toddlers."

"Although many of my visits to Ms. Ridgeway are to express our thanks for her support, I always leave them feeling as though I am the one who has been blessed. In her own sweet way, Ms. Mary always ministers to me. Often she can sense a burden I am carrying. She smiles,

takes my hand, leans in and tells me to 'quit worrying about everything.' Once she did this from her own hospital bed while her life literally hung in the balance. Such a powerful example of her own faith and a lot of wisdom," says Eric.

"Don't worry — pray" has been the motto of Ms. Ridgeway's life. Not only has she been a prayer warrior for CMCM, she has played a large role in helping the dreams of Connie Maxwell children come true and has made a difference in the lives of those she's touched.

We are grateful to Ms. Ridgeway and her lifelong dedication to the dreams of Connie Maxwell children.

If you would like to donate to CMCM, visit conniemaxwell.com/give. Every donation is a step in making our children's dreams a reality.



Ms. Ridgeway's Connie Maxwell ornament tree

JOIN US FOR ONE OF OUR FREE FOSTER FAMILY EVENTS IN YOUR AREA!

September 14 | 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Taylors First Baptist Church

September 15 | 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Lake Murray Baptist Church

Wherever you are in your journey as a foster parent (currently fostering, have fostered in the past or considering becoming a foster parent), we would love to connect with you. Join us for dinner, fellowship and training.

This FREE event includes an excellent dinner, exciting door prizes, childcare provided by trained workers and foster care relicensing training hours!

Keynote Speaker maggie dunn

Maggie Dunn is a Michigan-born and bred lover of Jesus, wife, mother and therapist. She has worked in the child welfare system for twenty years and is a sought-after conference speaker on related issues. Maggie's goal is to help eradicate the idea of 'unadoptable' and 'aging out.' In 2012, Maggie and her husband founded House of Providence, a therapeutic residential facility for older foster youth languishing with little or no prospect for permanency.



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Maxwell Farms Gets a New Look

The logo for Maxwell Farms is the latest of exciting updates coming from our 10-year strategic plan, A Decade of Dreams.

This is our new identity to a holy entrepreneurial endeavor. As we begin to stir the dirt with updates to the farm, this logo will help those in the community identify Connie Maxwell Children's Ministry (CMCM) and our expanded vision.

Our dream is for Maxwell Farms to produce creative alternative revenue sources to support the ministry and healing of children and families.

Maxwell Farms is the future site of the Barbara "Binky" Mead Amphitheatre, an area that will

draw thousands of people to campus to make an introduction to the mission of CMCM. Barbara Meade was a mentor to President Danny Nicholson and the godmother of his children. We hope people will come worship, enjoy music and dream with us.

Over the past two years, we have slowly been introducing concerts and events to gauge community interest.

This year at the farm, we will host our second annual corn maze and blue grass concert on Oct. 12-14. Learn more about the event and performance by the Grammy-nominated band, Appalachian Road Show, at conniemaxwell.com/cornmaze.



Putting Words into Action: The Ross' Story

It all started with a Google search. April Ross wanted to know how she and her church's youth group could lend a hand in the lives of foster children.

Now she and her husband, Ryan, are making a difference at both Connie Maxwell Children's Ministries (CMCM) and at their church, Sisk Memorial Baptist Church in Fort Mill, S.C.

April and Ryan became Maxwell Imagineers, a person who helps children and families pursue their dreams and imagine a brighter future.

In addition to becoming Maxwell Imagineers, April and Ryan give their time each month at a Service Day on campus.

"We both have big hearts for mission work, and we knew Connie Maxwell was placed on our hearts for a reason," April says.

Since then, they have recruited their friends to participate. Getting a group together started by

word-of-mouth. Now April reaches out by email and Facebook, inviting others to get involved by physically serving or by donating supplies. Their church has donated two trailers of clothes to the Connie Maxwell children.

They soon found others were eager to help but couldn't make the trip to the CMCM campus. So April and Ryan asked the question, "How do we help the local foster families in our area?"

After meeting with a team at CMCM to talk about the needs in their community, they decided to start a ministry in their church, Lean on We, based on 1 Thessalonians 5:11, "Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing." Lean on We is a group of volunteers that offer support for foster families registered with Connie Maxwell Children's Home and living in the Fort Mill area.

Through this ministry, they offer respite care and deliver care packages to families receiving new foster child placements. The care packages are different based on the child's age but usually include a Bible, blanket, shampoos, etc.

They also deliver homemade meals, gift cards and clothing items, allowing foster families to acclimate and meet the child's needs. Friends and family are invited to get involved by providing new clothing items like socks, pajamas and underwear.

Now the Rosses have a stockpile in their garage and are always ready to serve the next foster family in their area.

Ryan says, "It's something as simple as taking someone to get ice cream and something as big as being a foster parent."

In addition to meeting the needs of foster families and children, the Rosses also want the foster parents to know they're seen and cared for. On Mother's Day, a local florist made bouquets of flowers for them to deliver to the foster moms in their area. On Father's Day, they delivered baskets to both foster dads and single foster moms who take on both roles.

To the one wondering if their gift or time can impact the lives of Connie Maxwell children, April says, "If you are being called to it, do it. Too often, we think someone else will, or we don't have enough time or money. Our team gets hot, dirty, tired and sore. We drive a lot between home and Greenwood. We may miss a coffee date or extra meal out because we choose to donate supplies or sponsor children at Christmas. But we would've missed the best hugs,

thank-yous, laughs and friendships with Connie Maxwell's kids and staff."

Jules Thompson, Director of Volunteer Engagement at CMCM says, "Ryan and April Ross are the kinds of volunteers you dream about in this field. They are consistent and reliable, believe in the mission, and love to share with others about all that is happening at Connie Maxwell. Their love for the Lord radiates into their entire lives, and their friendship to me and my family, even outside of volunteer opportunities, has been a sweet gift."

"We say this started with a Google search," April says, "but God was preparing us for this collaboration before I typed 'children's homes' in that search bar. We thank Him daily for the support of our team, these children and those that support them, and, ultimately, for what He is allowing us to do to grow His kingdom. We have unquestionably been blessed."

Everyone can do something, and every gift makes an impact on the dreams of our children. Visit our website at conniemaxwell.com/imaginereers to learn how you can help our children imagine brighter futures and dream big.



BECOME A MAXWELL IMAGINEER

The children who come to Connie Maxwell are in the most painful and confusing times of their lives, harming their ability to dream and believe that a bright future is possible, and all this through no fault of their own. Your recurring support helps children pursue their dreams and imagine a brighter future! You can direct your support to the ministry and location of choice, while meeting the most critical needs our children will experience.

HOW TO JOIN

Becoming a Maxwell Imagineer is easy! There are two ways you can join now:

- Scan the QR code to visit conniemaxwell.com/imaginereer or
- You can also call (864) 942-1400 to join!



All Maxwell Imagineers receive this exclusive t-shirt!



Fishtails

Each year, fishing enthusiasts gather at Lake Hartwell for the Connie Maxwell Children's Ministries (CMCM) Tournament.

This year's tournament, sponsored by Trent Smith, a realtor in Greenwood, and co-sponsored by Rusty Nickles was held on April 22. Eighty-nine boats participated in the third annual tournament, raising over \$8,000 for the Rusty Nickles and Trent Smith Outdoor Fund at CMCM and a box truckload of donations for the ministry.

On May 13, the same group of anglers gathered for the Take a Kid Fishing Tournament on Lake Russell, allowing CMCM kids to fish with the pros. The day was celebrated with a hot dog lunch, and prizes were awarded to kids with for the biggest catch.

Due of the generosity of so many, CMCM children are not only able to have their fishing dreams come true each year, but are also able to pursue their dreams in life.





Connie Maxwell

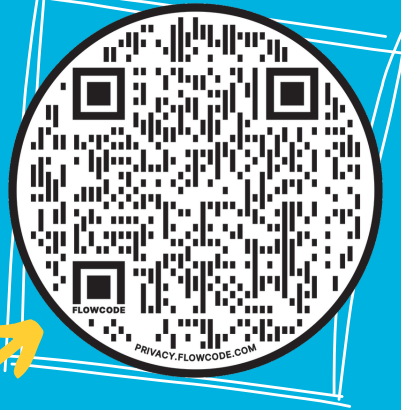
CORN MAZE AND BLUEGRASS CONCERT

OCTOBER 12-14, 2023

Connie Maxwell Children's Ministries is excited to host the 2nd Annual Corn Maze and Bluegrass Concert. This year we will feature the Grammy-nominated Appalachian Road Show on Saturday evening, Oct. 14 at Maxwell Farms.

**CORN MAZE | KID ZONE | FOOD TRUCKS | PHOTO BOOTH
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**BUY ONLINE
TODAY AND
SAVE!**



\$8 Online | \$10 Gate

\$25 Bluegrass Concert - Includes Corn Maze Pass

THURSDAY/FRIDAY, OCT. 12-13 | 4:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.

SATURDAY, OCT. 14 | 11 A.M. - 7:30 P.M.

THE BLUEGRASS CONCERT STARTS AT 5:30 P.M.



**THANK YOU TO OUR BLUEGRASS
CONCERT STAGE SPONSOR**



THE NEW CONNIE MAXWELL ONLINE STORE

The new Connie Maxwell online store offers a curated selection of meaningful gifts, apparel and accessories from Connie Maxwell Children's Ministries and Maxwell Farms. When you make a purchase, you directly contribute to children in need.

Get **15% off** your first purchase by using the code **CMCM15** at checkout! Shop the store by visiting conniemaxwellstore.com or by scanning the QR code.





Left to right: Bobbie Jean Hall, Shirley Gaines, Danny Nicholson, Joni Rabon (spouse of steering committee member Tim Rabon), Tim Rabon, Scott James, Doug Kauffmann, Chip Stockman, Roger Troutman, Dan Walters
Not pictured: Derrick Davenport, John Gallman

Running the Race

As part of pursuing our For the Dreams of Children campaign, the steering committee began meeting at the beginning of the year. The committee is an essential part of our ten-year plan, A Decade of Dreams. The committee assists in the overall strategy of the campaign as it unfolds across all phases, participates in cultivation and solicitation visits, and makes a personal gift at the leadership level. This group was prayerfully selected to take the steps necessary to meet our goals and make the dreams of every child possible.



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CONNIE MAXWELL
Christmas
DECEMBER 7-9, 2023

The Connie Maxwell Christmas celebration has become a popular tradition in Greenwood, S.C., and beyond for over twenty years. With beautiful lights adorning our campus, Connie Maxwell is the perfect place for families and friends to gather and celebrate the birth of Jesus.

In December 2023, our ministry will celebrate 22 years of hosting the Connie Maxwell Christmas Celebration. Thousands gather to experience the story of Jesus' birth through a live nativity. Visitors get to travel by wagon rides to view our decorated campus. Joyful volunteers and staff serve hot chocolate. In addition, visitors get to enjoy a petting zoo full of animals that our children have the opportunity to love daily.

Save the date to join us for our 2023 celebration on December 7-9. Follow our Facebook and Instagram accounts for more information as we get closer to the event!

