

## Foster Care in State of Crisis with Low Adoption Rate

Children's Home Society will receive support from a long-term ally to help scale up proven programs to battle North Carolina's foster care crisis. Among a growing list of concerned organizations and individuals, The Duke Endowment announced a 4-year, \$3.7-million grant to expand foster care, early intervention, and prevention services across the state. "James B. Duke set a course for his philanthropy to enrich lives in a multitude of ways across North and South Carolina," said Phil Redmond, Jr., Director of The Duke Endowment's Child Care program area. "Today, we continue our journey together with Children's Home Society of North Carolina to help vulnerable children lead more successful lives."

According to Brian Maness, President and CEO of Children's Home Society of North Carolina, foster care is in a state of crisis, increasing every month in 2016 compared to the same period in the prior year. At the end of 2016, there were 10,524 children in foster care with about 2,400 children eligible for adoption.

"Last year, we were able to place only 12 percent of the children referred to us," said Maness. "We need to increase public awareness of the foster care crisis and expand our capacity of adoptive and foster homes for children."

Committed to reversing these negative trends, the leadership and board of Children's Home Society - North Carolina's largest provider of foster care and adoption services - launched the Promise of Family campaign, teaming resources from foundations, companies, organizations, families and individuals to expand and accelerate proven programs for vulnerable children. "A child without a family is unacceptable," said Maness. "Every child deserves a loving, safe, and permanent home."

According to Maness, the relationship between the Duke family and Children's Home Society of North Carolina goes back to 1902, when Benjamin Duke, the brother of James Buchanan Duke, founder of The Duke Endowment, was on the founding CHS board.

"One hundred fifteen years later," said Maness, "Children's Home Society's core mission of promoting a loving, safe, and permanent family for every child has not changed. Founded in 1902, Children's Home Society serves over 20,000 children and families in all 100 counties in North Carolina with adoption, foster care, parenting education, family preservation, and teen pregnancy prevention services. More than 15,000 children have been adopted through Children's Home Society North Carolina. More information is available at [www.CHSNC.org](http://www.CHSNC.org) or 800-632-1400.

### 'Ask An Expert' Resource Available

Anson County residents now have the expertise of all of the nation's land-grant universities at their fingertips, thanks to a web tool offered by the Anson County Center of NC Cooperative Extension. With this Extension resource, called Ask an Expert, county residents can submit questions, via the county Extension web site, at any time of day or night. They can get timely answers by email from Extension faculty from NC State University, NC A&T State University, and other land-grant institutions.

For over a century, Cooperative Extension has been providing unbiased, research-based information on a wide range of topics. Now, Ask an Expert allows you to access that information with greater convenience.

Using a short online form, residents can submit questions about agriculture and food, health and nutrition, lawn and garden, youth development and 4-H, and a host of other topics.

To access Ask an Expert, anyone can visit the Anson County Extension web site at [anson.ces.ncsu.edu](http://anson.ces.ncsu.edu) and click the Ask an Expert links at the top right or on the left panel of each page. Simply enter questions and email addresses in the spaces provided, and submit them. Questions will be directed to Extension faculty members who have the appropriate expertise to provide accurate and timely responses. Users also can attach photos to their questions.

The Ask an Expert resource also is available at [extension.org](http://extension.org), a nationwide web site that offers an interactive learning environment. The site delivers the best, most researched knowledge from the smartest land-grant university minds across America. The site connects knowledge consumers with knowledge providers. The extension.org site also offers a searchable database of answers provided in response to questions submitted by other users.

Of course, residents who need information still are welcome to call or visit the Anson County Extension center during business hours. The online resource just adds another avenue to available information and provides convenient access to Extension experts.

The Anson County Center of NC Cooperative Extension extends to county residents the educational resources of NC State University and NC A&T State University. Both universities commit themselves to positive action to secure equal opportunity regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, sex, age, or disability. In addition, the two Universities welcome all persons without regard to sexual orientation.

## Free Groceries for Families in Need March 1

For families in need, free groceries will be available. The Mobile Food Pantry and CHS Mobile Health Unit will be at Marshville First Baptist Church, located at 1636 Old Highway 74, on Wednesday, March 1, from 9 to 10:30 a.m.

• Be sure to bring your own bags, boxes or carts to carry your food. • Arrive between 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. to be sure you can receive food. • If it is raining the day of or before the delivery, contact Anson Crisis Ministry for a recorded message to know if it is cancelled: 704-694-2445. • If you have not yet done so, bring proof of your income to register. • You can only pick up food for yourself and one other registered household.

This event is sponsored by Anson Crisis Ministry and local United Methodist and Baptist Churches. Interested in volunteering? Call Susan Rackcliff at 704-904-2969 or Rev. Cindy Lunsford at (828) 891-2753.



**Roger Franklin Thomas**

On Monday, February 13, 2017, the quiet, humble spirit of Roger Franklin Thomas went to join his Lord and Savior.

Funeral Services will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 16, 2017, at Rocky River Baptist Church. Rev. Dennis Stegall will officiate. Interment will follow in the church cemetery. The family will receive friends from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m. on

Wednesday evening, February 15, 2017, at Rocky River Baptist Church, located at 297 Rocky River Church Road, Polkton, NC 28135.

Roger was born June 17, 1944, in Anson County. He was preceded in death by his loving Mother and Father, Maude and Clifford Thomas; his brothers, Cecil and Steve; his sister Margaret Curran; and nephew, Paul Chaney.

He retired as Supervisor of Anson County Waste Management with 30 years of service. He was a member of Rocky River Baptist Church.

Roger was a devoted son, brother, husband, father and uncle.

He is survived by the love of his life, wife of 52 years Ella Shinn Thomas and his loving daughter and son-in-law, Amy and Chris Turner. He also left behind his nieces, Carol Barnhill (Ronnie), Cindy Capps (Wayland), Debra Eudy (Ricky), Cathy Hooks (Jimmy), Sandy McLeod (Alex), Crystal Metz (Clark), Donna Scoot (Denny), Sherri Teeter (Hoyt), Wendy Stroupe (Torben), Billie Ann Tyson (Jimmy) and Suzette Whitley (Mike); his nephews, Frank Curran, Mitchell Chaney and Kenny Page; and special great niece Charlotte Metz and great nephew, Will Metz; and other great nieces and nephews. Also the young man whom he thought of as a grandson, Brandon Biles; his special friends who were considered his sons at heart, Landric Reid (Cassandra), Ronnie Baucom (Claudia), Garry Allen (Emily), Robert Allen (Sherri), William Allen (Roxane), John Allen (Colleen) and also Charlie Biles who preceded him in death.

His little blue truck was a staple in his beloved Burnsville Community. He will surely be missed by the many people he touched and helped without thought of praise or compensation. He had a loving heart for children and never saw color, only people on whom he loved and had compassion. He always had time for those who were blessed enough to cross his path. He only wanted Christ's love to be what they were left remembering.

Memorials may be made to Rocky River Baptist Church, 297 Rocky River Church Road, Polkton, NC 28135.

Online condolences may be made at [edwardsfuneralhomes.com](http://edwardsfuneralhomes.com).

# Your Child Deserves a Choice!



## The North Carolina Opportunity Scholarship is **GIVING** you another choice in Education!

You may qualify to send your school-age children to **TABERNACLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL** for almost **FREE**. This is a golden opportunity for families that would love to have their children receive a superior education in a distinctively Christian atmosphere. Visit [www.TCSmonroe.com](http://www.TCSmonroe.com) for the details about how to apply for this great opportunity for your child. **The Deadline for applications is March 01, 2017.**

**(704) 283-4395**

*Call Today for Help!*

