

# A Year of Firsts

## ORPHAN CARE MINISTRY UPDATE

By Carrie Mullis | Volunteer Leader

**O**ur heartfelt desire when Dawson's Orphan Care Ministry was launched last fall was to establish a culture in which every person in our church family can have a role to play. We have been called to care for the orphaned and vulnerable because we have been greatly cared for by Jesus. Because of the work of Jesus in our lives, we are compelled to work on behalf of others. Whether it be fostering, adoption, or supporting the families who are caring for the children, there are many opportunities for individuals to serve.

In an effort to encourage potential foster and adoptive parents, Dawson has partnered with local agencies to provide TIPS classes that are required for all foster and adoptive parents who adopt from the State of Alabama. Last fall, six individuals completed the 10-week course and are well on their way to becoming foster or adoptive parents. A new TIPS class began in January 2019 with 45 individuals participating.

As the foster and adoption community at Dawson continues to grow, there will be an ongoing need to support these families. Dawson's WRAP ministry started in December, and more than 30 volunteers have agreed to support foster and adoptive families

by praying for them, providing meals, speaking words of encouragement, supplying diapers, wipes, and other items, and providing acts of service when needed (mowing the lawn, running errands, helping with homework, etc.). Our goal is that each foster and adoptive family will feel supported and encouraged on their journey, which can often be a difficult one.

Families can also receive support through other Dawson ministries such as Kids Connection and the Dawson Library. Many times foster children arrive at their new home with very little of their own. Kids Connection has opened their doors on special days to assist foster families who may need additional clothing. In this way, Kids Connection has been a blessing to foster families all over the city. Additionally, Dawson's Library has an adoption and foster

care section with many helpful resources available to check out.

2 Corinthians 4:18 says: So we fix our eyes, not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. As the Orphan Care Ministry continues to grow, we are reminded that our eyes are fixed on Jesus and our focus is on leading others to a relationship with Him. If you would like to know more about Dawson's Orphan Care Ministry, please visit [dawsonchurch.org/OrphanCare](http://dawsonchurch.org/OrphanCare).



The Allphin Family celebrates the finalization of their adoption.

**KIDS**  
CONNECTION  
• a children's resource center •

Served 104 Foster  
Families with  
250 Children



Forever Families United  
Through DHR Adoption



124  
Free DMA  
Lessons



Foster Children & Youth  
for Christmas