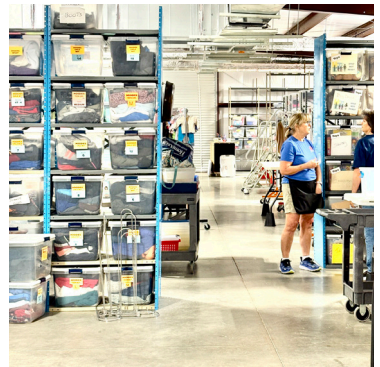
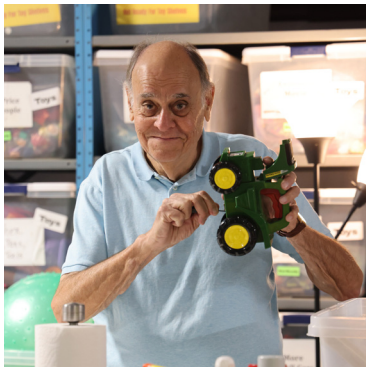
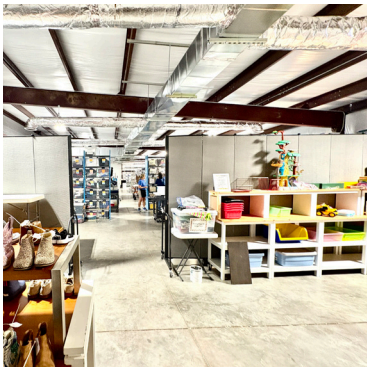




# KIDS CONNECTION'S NEW HOME

By **Ben Hale**  
Evangelism & Missions Pastor



In 2011, Dawson Memorial Baptist Church launched a new ministry, Kids Connection. Little did we know this new children's resource center would grow into our largest local mission effort. Since its founding, the ministry has provided both physical and spiritual resources to thousands of children and teens in the Birmingham Metro area.

In the fall of 2025, in a renewed effort to focus the ministry on Dawson's Mission's statement: "To become and help others become faithful servants of Jesus Christ," almost every aspect of the ministry expanded and improved.

These changes were set in motion when serious problems developed with our rented facility on Green Springs Highway that began to negatively impact our ability to do ministry. As a result, we found ourselves in a situation where we needed to relocate and renovate a new facility, and we only had three months to get it done. The call went out, and like many times in the past, our church family stepped forward and accepted the challenge to help.

Within weeks, a new location and facility were identified. Renovation plans that improved both the ministry's efficiency and volunteer workspace were drawn. Dawson Builders volunteers began building donation worktables and retail clothing displays. Volunteers designed and constructed the interior warehouse space required to organize over 1,000 inventory storage bins. Donation laundry capacity was doubled. Dawson's Facility Staff designed and installed updated electrical outlets and a new warehouse HVAC system. Dawson's Communications Team designed both interior and exterior signage for the new facility.

After two months of hectic preparation, moving day finally arrived. Kids Connection volunteers packed up the ministry's supplies, displays, and clothing inventory. Moving trucks were rented, and Dawson groups including Young Professionals, Student Ministry, and College Ministry pitched in and loaded and unloaded the trucks.

Within days of the move, the doors to the new Kids Connection facility were opened and over a hundred people came to an Open House to help celebrate what had taken place. It truly is a "new" day at Kids Connection! We are blessed to have a great place that we can use to minister to children for years to come. Here is a snapshot of the results of the move:



### **NEW MINISTRY LOCATION**

Kids Connection relocated to a vastly improved facility located at **105 Citation Court - Suite B**, in Homewood. The move improved ability to process and store inventory as well as enhance our clients' experience as we serve them.

### **IMPROVED CLIENT-FOCUSED STRATEGY**

Our clients have always been our number one priority, but we now make sure our clients are the focus of everything we do. Our prayer counseling rooms are now better equipped to serve our clients. The new space makes shopping easier and allows us to display more items for clients to select.

### **MORE EFFICIENT DONATIONS PROCESSING**

Our donation area is now organized to continually and more efficiently provide items to display for our clients.

### **EXPANDED SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES**

Our new facility has given us the opportunity to schedule group service projects. Since the opening of the new facility, Dawson Life Groups, student groups, children's groups, and even outside organizations have served at Kids Connection.

### **NEW LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE**

A larger leadership team was required when the ministry was expanded. The new leadership team has spent countless hours organizing and monitoring every area of the ministry. This has resulted in a more effective use of our financial and volunteer resources.

### **NEW VOLUNTEERS**

Since our move to the new facility, we have seen an increase in the number of volunteers in almost all areas of the ministry. However, we still have some critical areas where new volunteers are needed. If you are interested in learning how you might become a member of the Kids Connection volunteer team, contact Ben Hale at **bhale@dawsonchurch.org**. You will be surprised by the number and flexibility of the opportunities to serve.



**Ben Hale**, Dawson's Evangelism & Missions Pastor since 2000, is married to Lindy. They have three adult children and four grandchildren. Ben is passionate about providing people opportunities to serve beyond the walls of our church buildings.