ANNUAL REPORT 2018

Developmental Disabilities Ministries
Where hope lives
1 Thessalonians 5:18
“Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.”

“it was the best of times, it was the worst of times.” after 2016's fiscal challenges (net deficit of $129,000), the start of 2017 was no different. in fact, the fiscal trends pertaining to a continued downward trajectory forced ddm to make deeper cuts to our expenses, including additional, painful staffing cuts. without the support of many churches, our committed board of trustees, interim president bill neal, individual donors, volunteers, and our remaining committed staff, ddm would not have survived. with a united motivation of “ddm is too important to fail,” ddm remained committed to our mission and ministry. god often uses these periods of struggle for his good. and, looking back, it is clear that was god’s plan. after waiting for almost 2 years, the “promised and approved medicaid waiver rate increases” were finally implemented by the department of community health and the department of behavioral health and developmental disabilities in june 2017. god’s timing was impeccable. the new rate increases instantly gave ddm relief and some breathing room. even though the memories of pain and suffering from experiencing such a bleak financial situation remains, ddm is well on its path to long term stability. ddm is stronger, financially and organizationally sustainable, and well prepared for a long, bright future.

no matter what our financial position was during 2016 and 2017, no one lost sight of our purpose, a purpose that has been the foundation of ddm since the beginning. ddm is “where hope lives” and is an organization families and our “core team members” (i.e. residents) can trust.

2018 was a year of overwhelming blessings from god. our focus has been to invest in ddm’s residents, current homes and vehicles, reduction of “bad debt,” and to build a cash reserve. (see financial overview for details.) with an excellent reputation, the demand for ddm services was extremely high in 2018. ddm was able to make 8 new friends who chose to live in one of our 18 residential homes. we currently serve 66 residents. each “core team member” has his/her own story. these stories range from aging family members who are no longer able to provide the care for their loved one, individuals overcoming homelessness, or a person with a developmental disability ready to start the next phase of his/her adult life, as most of us do as we get older.

at the end of 2018, we only had 3 available residential placements statewide. we also have a waiting list for services that continues to grow. we are extremely excited about the future of ddm. moving forward, we will continue to thank god for all our circumstances, seek god’s will, answer his calling, and invest in ddm. after much prayer and strategic planning, we feel god is calling us to focus on two major initiatives. one is to open new homes - homes that will bring hope and answer prayers for people with developmental disabilities and their families. the second is to expand our navigation services to be a lifelong partner for people with developmental disabilities and their families, assisting them to access resources, services, and plan for their futures. we invite you to share with, participate, and invest in ddm’s ministry. in doing so, we express our care and love in the name of christ. please help us to continue to make a difference.

ryan whitmire

the year in review: 2017-2018

because all persons are beloved, we practice these core values:

gratitude - believing that all persons have unique and beautiful gifts to share, we work, serve and live thankfully and gratefully.

dignity - affirming that every person is created in god’s image, all have worth, value and dignity.

respect - interacting with all with honesty, truthfulness, and fairness.

responsibility - modeling trust and embracing accountability, we value prompt, courteous, and timely responses.

partnership - working with others, we can accomplish our mission.

excellence – believing that all things should be done well and in good order, every task large and small is approached with excellence and quality.

guiding principle:

our ministry is built upon the christian ethic of valuing all persons as beloved children of god who deserve love, respect, and a meaningful life.
Mission Statement

To provide residential, family support services, and Christian ministry for people with developmental disabilities and their families to achieve their highest level of social, physical, emotional, and spiritual maturity.

Vision Statement

To be a lifelong resource and navigational partner for people with disabilities and their families as they transition through all aspects and phases of life.

DDM Service Locations

Appalachee Home - Statham, Georgia
Briarlake Home - Decatur, Georgia
J. Howard Chatham Home - Milton, Georgia
Cherokee Home - Canton, Georgia
Corbit Walker Home - Manchester, Georgia
Cecil B. Day Home - Forsyth, Georgia
Drew Home - Augusta, Georgia
L. Don Duvall Home - Bainbridge, Georgia
High Hope Home - Fayetteville, Georgia
Griffith Home - Jasper, Georgia
Johnson Home - Lithonia, Georgia
Paul Home - Rome, Georgia
Pedigo Home - Augusta, Georgia
Samaria Home - Norcross, Georgia
Snapfinger Home - Lithonia, Georgia
Jason Sundy Home-Avondale Estates, Georgia
Mary Frances Stokes Home - Decatur, Georgia
Wooten Road Home - Roswell, Georgia
Increase (Decrease) 4

DDM is very appreciative of the support from these many foundations that have consistently given to this ministry.

replacement of several HVAC/furnace units; and normal furnishings (sheets, towels, cookware, dishes, photo frames); kitchen remodel; new home requiring expensive repairs; seven (7) newer Honda Odyssey vans to replace older one. Home maintenance and repairs included: three (3) new roofs; parking lot, which was causing hazardous conditions.

DDM ended the fiscal year with more revenue than expenses. All debt was paid (approximately $200,000, which included 2 vehicle loans and a line of credit) except for the Central Office and Jasper Home mortgages.

The Central Office required major repairs ($75,585) to fix foundation issues and settling of the back of the building and parking lot, which was causing hazardous conditions.

Home maintenance and repairs included: three (3) new roofs; seven (7) newer Honda Odyssey vans to replace older ones requiring expensive repairs; kitchen remodel; new home furnishings (sheets, towels, cookware, dishes, photo frames); replacement of several HVAC/furnace units; and normal maintenance required of homeowners - pumping septic tanks, critter removal, water lines and wells, new flooring, and appliance replacement.

DDM was awarded a Medical Grant for 2017-2018. This assisted with the expenses of residents’ prescriptions, hearing aids, dental work, eye glasses, bed alarms for fall risk residents, medic alert bracelets, CPR/First Aid teaching tools, and a nutritionist for healthier residents and staff.

DDM started a cash reserve account funded by church and individual donations, as well as from overall operations for emergency expenses.

DDM implements Day-to-Day Living Agreements, where the cost of living in a particular home is the same for each resident. Many residents do not have adequate funds to cover this expense. DDM was able, through church and individual donations, to provide the assistance necessary for those residents. To date, the assistance provided is in excess of $70,000 annually.

DDM is currently at 98 percent capacity for 18 group homes. As listed elsewhere in this report, there are many individual patrons, supporting churches, and various organizations and foundations that have consistently given to this ministry.

DDM is very appreciative of the support from these many friends.
The Beginning

The Developmental Disabilities Ministries story began in the minds and hearts of several families in 1975. These families—who had adult sons and daughters with developmental disabilities—approached the Georgia Baptist Convention with a united concern: “When we parents are no longer able to care and provide for our sons and daughters because of age, infirmity, or death, what will happen to them?” The families, led by Rev. Charles Ivey, also expressed their desires to have their adult children’s future provided in a Christian value-oriented environment. Their concern struck the cords of compassion and response.

Under the auspices of the Georgia Baptist Children’s Home, two group homes were opened in Augusta in 1981, serving eight men and women with developmental disabilities. Jane Hill was the first resident in the Developmental Disabilities Ministries program, and she continues to live in the Augusta home today.

Over the years, DDM has continued to grow. We have been able to add homes through a variety of partnerships. In many cases, churches decided that they would lead the initiative to raise funds for a home in their local communities. Some were started with partnerships from organizations with a mission to provide residential housing to people with developmental disabilities and charge DDM a reduced monthly rental rate or maintenance fee for the homes. Some were started by churches donating property and/or homes that were no longer being used by the congregation. And some were started by individual donations from people that God has blessed with means and a passion for helping people with developmental disabilities. After all these years, it is incredible to see how much impact these churches, partnerships, and individuals have had on so many people’s lives.

A New Beginning

In July of 1999, DDM separated from the Georgia Baptist Children’s Home and became a new agency: Georgia Baptist Developmental Disabilities Ministries, Inc. The central office was opened in Duluth, Georgia in January of 2000.

An historic milestone was accomplished in September 2002, when the maximum three-year accreditation was awarded to Georgia Baptist Developmental Disabilities, Inc. by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). CARF accreditation signifies that the DDM program is of the highest quality, measurable and accountable. DDM has now achieved re-accreditation, achieving the maximum three-year accreditation five times since 2002.

In 2005 Georgia Baptist Developmental Disabilities Ministries, Inc. became Developmental Disabilities Ministries, Inc. We are proud of our Baptist heritage and its genesis in the ministries of the Georgia Baptist Convention and the Georgia Baptist Children’s Home and Family Ministries, Inc. Since 2005, we have been a mission society made up of an association of churches. Our association is comprised of many different denominations with a common ideology - Christian churches that have a passion for answering God’s calling for helping people with developmental disabilities and their families.

There are now 15 group homes, 2 community living homes, and 1 community living apartment. We are at capacity or almost to capacity in each of our homes. The demand for services and people seeking to answer the same question as our founding families continues today. Our need to partner with churches, individual donors, and community organizations remains a key priority for DDM to continue the excellent work of the past and expand our mission in the future.

The Continuing Story

The DDM story will continue to be told...stories about the residents of DDM, the dynamic programs, and the dedicated staff who are committed to making DDM “where hope lives.”

We invite you to partner with us to share and participate with those with a developmental disability. In doing so, we express care and love in the name of Christ. We have a story to tell. Help us to continue to make a difference.

Ryan Whitmire
President/CEO
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Margaret Schutte, Gainesville  
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**Friends of DDM**

George & Marla Anthony, Loganville  
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Allan Beeber, Orlando, FL  
James and Judith Bland, Reidsville  
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Bobby and Celestia Wright, Clarkston  
Robert Wright, Tucker  
William and Jane Wright, Stone Mountain  
Charles and Susan Wyche, Pine Mountain  
Alvin and Hettie Young, Jasper
### Top Ten Contributors

- Dunwoody Baptist, Dunwoody
- Johns Creek Baptist, Alpharetta
- Pinecrest Baptist, Cordele
- Smoke Rise Baptist, Stone Mountain
- Scott Boulevard Baptist, Decatur
- McDonough Road Baptist, Fayetteville
- Valley Brook Baptist, Decatur
- First Baptist, Tucker
- Braelake Baptist, Decatur
- First Baptist of Albany, Leesburg

### Contributing Churches

- Antioch Baptist, Stephens
- Arlington Baptist, Arlington
- Bethel Baptist, Sardis
- Bluffton Baptist, Bluffton
- Braelake Baptist, Decatur
- Center Hill Baptist, Monroe
- Church of the Good Shepherd, Augusta
- Cooperville Baptist, Milledgeville
- Dunwoody Baptist, Dunwoody
- Eastside Baptist, Dalton
- Excelsior Baptist, Metter
- Faith Baptist, Americus
- Faith Baptist, Cherry Avenue, Macon
- Faith Baptist, Jeffersonville Rd, Macon
- First Baptist of Albany, Leesburg
- First Baptist, Bainbridge
- First Baptist, Decatur
- First Baptist, Fayetteville
- First Baptist, Jesup
- First Baptist, Lithia Springs
- First Baptist, Manchester

### Church Groups

- Augusta Association of Baptist Churches
- Discovery Class, Smoke Rise Baptist
- Progressive Class, Johns Creek Baptist, Alpharetta
- Seekers SS Class, Smoke Rise Baptist, Stone Mountain
- Truthseekers SS Class, Oak Grove Baptist, Cumming

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![Church Groups](image-url)
2018 IN MEMORY OF

Aunt Eunice & Uncle Ernest
Charles & Lou Anne Storey

Jean Barker
Sharon Deason

Billy, Tommy, & Terry
Charles & Lou Anne Storey

Faye Cadwell
Carolyn Tidwell

Vera Callaway
Cynthia Marshall

Ruby Carver
John & Joyce Morgan

Kevin Cawley
Complete Truck Bodies, Inc.

Alice Edwards
Joan Jordan

Gene Edwards
Joan Jordan

Carl Hart
Cynthia Marshall

Brad Henderson
Dan & Diane Edwards

Albert Hopkins
Clayton Co. Solicitor General’s Office
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Stanley Hall
Jenny Hopkins
Lloyd & Cathy Humphrey
Leslie & Sandra Passmore
Vincent & Nancy Skilling

Robert Hulsebus
Lela Hulsebus

Chester Hyers
Joan Jordan

Calvin Hyers
James & Lisa Korslund
Mary Sanders

Tommy Mills
Cynthia Marshall

Naomi Pearson
Cynthia Marshall

Desmond Ridehalgh
Lloyd & Cathy Humphrey
William & Judy Neal
Pickens Co. Special Olympics
Mark & Beth Sanders
Alvin & Hettie Young

Gene Sullivan
Janene Sullivan

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Howard Tate
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Leroy & Delores Lashley
Larry McCranie

Carol Thornton
Marian Schliestett

James Trammell
Charles & Lou Anne Storey

Robin Vickers
Edward & Rhonda Ruffin

Carole White
Michael Brown

2018 IN HONOR OF

Connie Barker
Sharon Deason

Encouragers Bible Class, First Baptist of Tucker
Robert Wright

Jeff Geer
D. L. & Jane Cummins

Jon Godfrey
Leory & Delores Lashley

Colin Harris
Discovery Class, Smoke Rise Baptist Church
Joel & Susan Gilbert
C. R. Hearn
Carol Reddish
Jan Sloan
William & Jane Wright

Joan Jordan
Roger & Neomia Sandy

Mrs. W. T. Neal
Allen & Claire Burke

Sherry Oen and the Staff of Cherokee & Jasper Homes
Lloyd & Cathy Humphrey

Michael Paul
Fred & Barbara Paul

Amanda Pelot and the Staff of Corbit Walker, Day, & Duvall Homes
Lloyd & Cathy Humphrey

Doug Rowell
Wendell Satterfield

Mark Sanders VI
Sandra Sanders

Lisa Storey
Charles & Brenda Trammell

Roger & Neomia Sandy
Joan Jordan

Chris & Stacey Thurman
Nancy Thurman

Katherine Waters
Grady & Cindy Witcher

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wyche
Charles and Lou Anne Storey
Volunteers

Alex Best          June Johnson
Bobby Bowles       Joyce Johnson
Joe Brand          Mike Jones
John Bridges       Jimmy Lewis
Bruce Burt         Sandra Lewis
David Cawthon      Gail Lutz
Marty Cecil        Larry Lutz
Linda Clagg        Barbara Owens
Tim Clagg          Ronald Riggs
Jack Couch         Scott Roark
Dan Edwards        David Roberson
Logein Elsebaay    Jan Sloan
Barry Fortenberry  David Smith
Ed Friend          Lynne Unice
Tom Gavin          Ben Ward
Joel Gilbert       Bill Weeks
Joe Griggs         Cindy Weeks
Colin Harris       Craig Williamson
David Harris       Pam Woodson
Elaine Harris      Pat Woodson
William Henry      Nan Woodson

Gifts in Kind

First Baptist Church, Tucker

Foundations

First Baptist Church of Decatur Foundation
John and Mary Franklin Foundation
Leon and Voncile Lane Family Foundation
Rutland Foundation

Businesses

Complete Truck Bodies, Inc.
Thomco
Each year DDM honors employees that demonstrate excellent care with our residents. This award is named for Frances Stokes, who served many years as DDM’s Program Director.

Amanda Pelot received the Mary Frances Stokes Coordinator of the Year Award and Sally Johnson from the Paul Home in Rome received the Mary Frances Stokes Full-Time Direct Care Staff of the Year Award.

Each recipient received a gift card for her achievement.

First Baptist Church of Tucker received the Church of the Year Award for its outstanding support of DDM and its ministry. Pictured at left, l-r: Elaine Harris, DDM Trustee and Special Needs Program Director at First Baptist Church; Joe Sfameni, a member of FBC; and Dr. Jimmy Lewis, DDM Trustee and pastor of First Baptist Church.

Dr. Igwebuikie (Ike) Onyekaba received the Helping Hands Award for his dedicated attention to the medical needs of our residents. He is pictured at left with Residential Services Coordinator Joy McDonald.

At right, Ray Pelot received the Volunteer of the Year Award for giving generously of his time and talents to DDM.
2018 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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