FORWARD

rooted in faith.
for generations to come.

covechurch


Let's
Dream

A Message from John

Dear Cove Church Family,



As we have prayed and dreamed about the future of Cove Church, I keep coming back to one word: legacy.

What kind of church do we want to leave for those who come after us?

I want us to leave them a church that is deeply committed to helping people discover hope, develop faith, and demonstrate love by following the way of Jesus. I want us to leave them a church with the financial freedom to follow wherever God leads. And I want us to leave them a church that doesn't exist only for itself, but continually looks beyond its walls to seek the good of our community.

The projects described in this guide are important, but they are not the ultimate goal. The goal is people: children growing up knowing Jesus, families finding hope and healing, foster children experiencing the security of a loving home, young adults being given a chance to flourish, and our church having greater freedom to pursue its mission for generations to come.

Now we each have an opportunity to ask a simple question: What part is God inviting me to play?

My hope is that every person who calls Cove home will pray about that question and respond as God leads. This isn't about equal gifts; it's about each of us faithfully doing our part.

Thirty years from now, most of us won't know all the stories that grew from what we did in this moment. But I believe there will be people whose lives are different because this generation chose to move Forward in faith.

I'm grateful to be on this journey with you.

John Tanner
Founding and Lead Pastor

Cove Church exists to help people discover hope, develop faith, and demonstrate love by following the way of Jesus.

Where We're Going

Forward is not a collection of separate projects happening on the same campus. We see God weaving all of this together, creating a place where ministry, care, and community intersect.

As we look to the future, we see a campus that creates space for everyone.

This is what Forward is about.

Philippians 3:13-14

"Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."





Forward in Freedom

Debt Elimination - $2 million

Debt Elimination

Each generation has sacrificially invested to expand the reach of our ministries. These investments have allowed us to purchase our property, construct buildings, and preserve Cove's future through disaffiliation.

The result is a significant ministry asset that continues to support the work of Cove Church Ministries today. Cove Church and River Hills Church's combined debt is just over $2.5 million, with Cove carrying approximately $2 million of that debt.

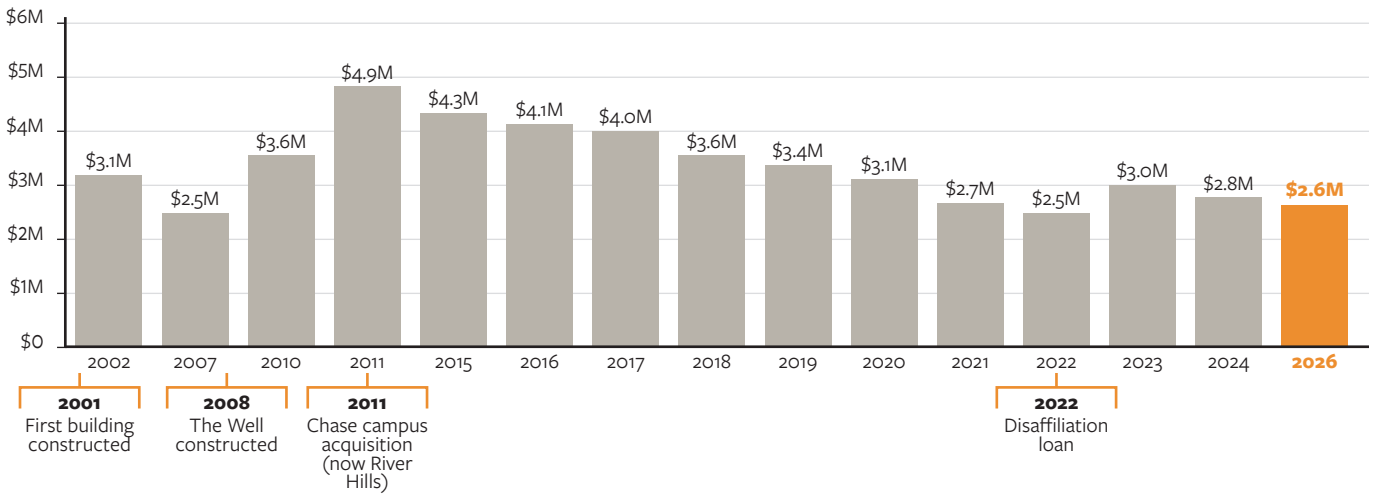
Cove Church debt $2 million

This debt was acquired through the development of our current property, the acquisition of what is now River Hills Church, and disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church.

Becoming debt-free will allow us to redirect approximately $200,000 each year from debt service directly into ministry opportunities such as future staffing, young adult ministry, a residency program, and other new opportunities in the years ahead.

Eliminating our debt builds a stronger financial foundation for the generations that follow us, continuing the legacy of faithful investment that has shaped Cove for the past 30 years.

Debt through the Years





Forward in Faith

Kids Cove Renovation - $1 million

Kids Cove Renovation

Reimagining Kids Cove

Children are one of the fastest-growing demographics in our community, and each weekend more families trust us with the spiritual formation of their children. As we welcome new families, we want Kids Cove to be a place where every child feels known, loved, included, and supported as they learn what it means to follow Jesus.

Forward gives us the opportunity to thoughtfully reimagine and renovate the Kids Cove wing, making better use of the space we already have, increasing capacity where we need it most, and preparing for continued growth.

Easier for Families

The renovation will improve check-in, accessibility, and traffic flow, making arrival and pickup simpler, more efficient, and more welcoming for families each week.

Making Room Where We Need It Most

We can create additional capacity by using our existing spaces more effectively. The Infant Nursery will move closer to the Worship Center, easing the transition for parents of our youngest children. This will also open up our two largest nursery rooms for our growing population of one- to three-year-olds.

The current Toddler Room will then become a dedicated Five-Year-Old Transition Room. These changes will help relieve one of our greatest capacity challenges in the preschool years (three to six years old) and allow us to welcome more children as Cove continues to grow.

A Place for Every Child

We want every child to be able to participate fully in Kids Cove. Inclusion will remain our goal, with a dedicated sensory room providing a safe, calming environment when a child becomes overwhelmed or needs additional support.

Fresh, Welcoming Environments

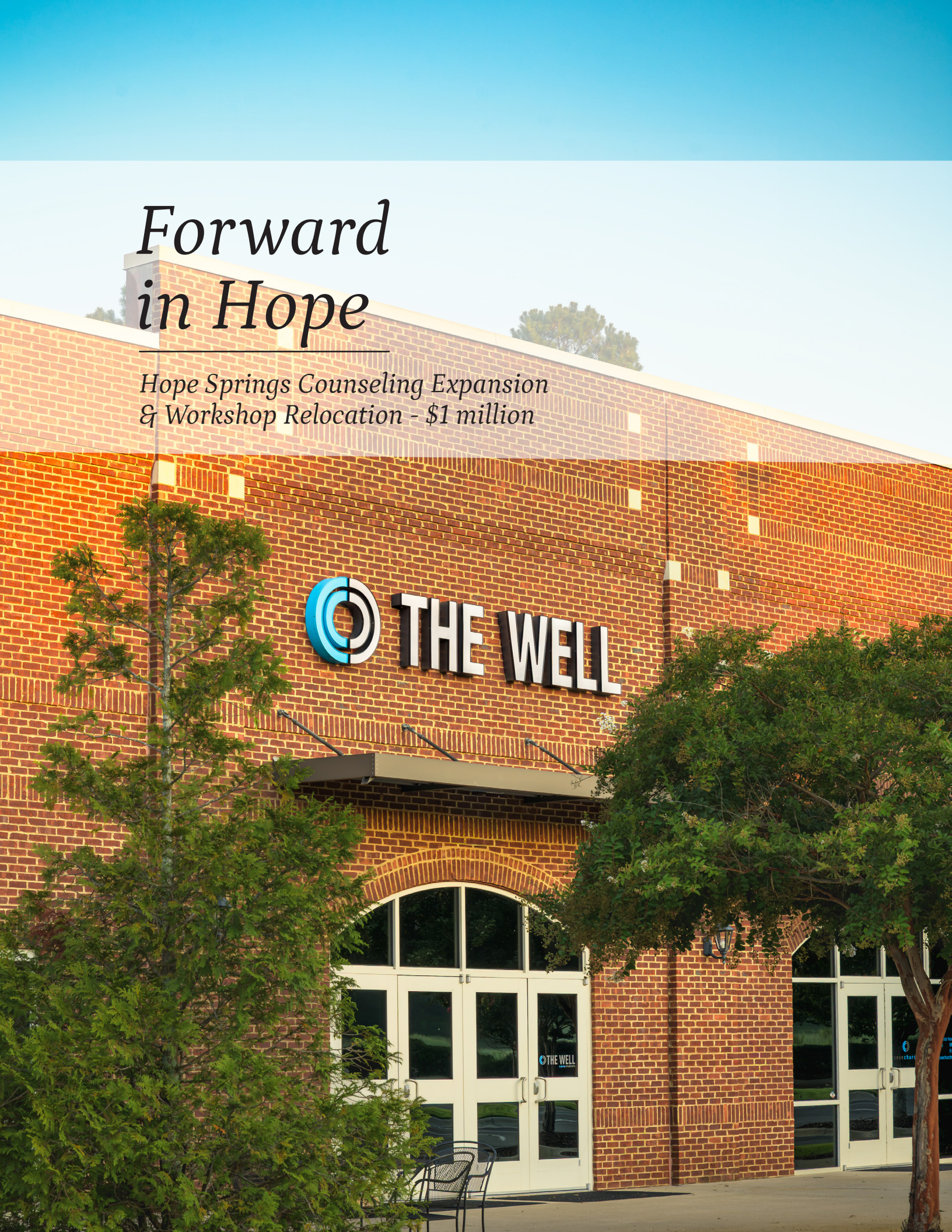
Updated finishes and refreshed learning spaces throughout the wing will create warmer, more engaging environments thoughtfully designed for our children, families, and CREW.

This renovation is about much more than improving classrooms. It's about making room for more children to encounter Jesus, supporting families, equipping our volunteers to serve well, and creating environments where a foundation of faith can be laid for generations to come.



Forward in Hope

Hope Springs Counseling Expansion & Workshop Relocation - $1 million



Hope Springs Counseling Expansion

HOPE SPRINGS
COUNSELING

Nearly **1 in 5** adults in the U.S. is experiencing some form of mental illness. [1]

Madison County's suicide rate is **19.4%** higher than the national average, based on 2024 data from the CDC and Alabama Department of Public Health.

56% of 95,764 children entering foster or institutional care had a psychiatric diagnosis within one year. [2]

The need for accessible mental health care reaches across every age and stage of life.

Hope Springs Counseling is responding with a model built around the whole person. Pastoral, clinical, and psychiatric providers can work together around the needs of an individual, helping people find the right kind of support at the right time rather than navigating fragmented care on their own.

Since 2012, Hope Springs has served North Alabama as a nonprofit counseling ministry grounded in the hope of Jesus. It aims to cultivate a community where individuals and families can experience hope, develop greater emotional and relational well-being, and move toward greater wholeness through evidence-informed care that honors the person God created them to be.

Hope Springs serves people across the community, while retaining a heart for those who spend their lives serving others, including missionaries, first responders, foster and adoptive parents, ministers, law enforcement officers, military personnel, and similar populations.

[1] SAMHSA, 2025 NSDUH annual report (adult illness, treatment, youth MDE).

[2] 2026 foster / institutional care cohort, PMID 41720711.

Accessible, compassionate care for the whole person.

Hope Springs is currently utilizing space within Cove's Prayer Room as it serves clients and continues to grow. Forward will repurpose approximately 2,300 square feet of existing workshop and storage space in the back of The Well into a new headquarters for Hope Springs Counseling.

This new space will include:

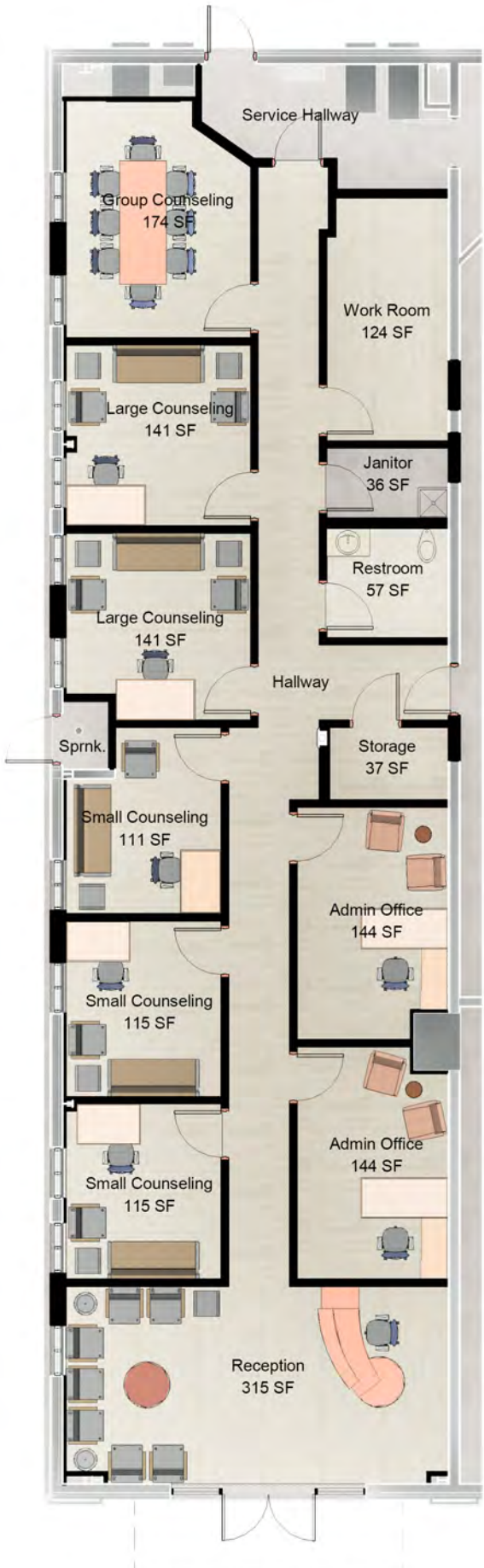
- Multiple private therapy rooms
- Reception and administrative offices
- Space for additional licensed counselors as the ministry grows
- Flexible therapy rooms that can also provide small-group space for Cove Students on Sundays, while confidential records and administrative areas remain securely separated

The expansion will create greater capacity for Hope Springs to serve individuals and families throughout our community while laying the groundwork for an integrated center of care that can bring together counseling, pastoral care, support groups, educational opportunities, and community partnerships.

More space.
More counselors.
Greater access to care.

Workshop Relocation

The workshop and storage areas currently located in The Well remain essential to the day-to-day ministry and operations of Cove Church. To make room for the Hope Springs expansion, Forward will help construct a new facilities workshop and storage building on our campus.





RECEPTION



COUNSELING ROOM



COUNSELING ROOM



GROUP COUNSELING



Forward in Love

The Village at Cove - $2 million

The Village at Cove

A Place of Hope, Healing, and Hospitality

For more than 30 years, God has entrusted Cove Church with the people, resources, and opportunities to fulfill our mission. Among those gifts is our 36-acre property, which offers possibilities far beyond our current ministry needs.

As we began considering how to steward this land for the future, a question emerged: *What if we could use this property not only to serve our growing church, but also to meet some of the greatest needs in our city?*

That question gave birth to The Village at Cove.

What began as a conversation about making better use of our land has grown into a vision for a community where Cove Church and like-minded ministry partners can work together to bring hope, healing, and practical support to vulnerable children, young adults, and families.

Through partnerships with Kids to Love and Make It Matter, along with shared spaces for gathering, recreation, and connection, we envision a place where people can experience the love of Jesus in tangible ways.

Forward will help lay the foundation for this vision by preparing the land and investing in essential infrastructure and shared spaces as funding and partnerships develop.

The Village at Cove is an opportunity to use what God has entrusted to us to bless our community for generations to come.



Make It Matter

MAKE IT MATTER

31%–46%

According to research from Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago, at the age of 26, **between 31 and 46 percent** of youth who have exited foster care will have experienced at least one episode of homelessness.

Make It Matter believes in a future where every young person aging out of foster care is surrounded by belonging, opportunity, and home, not left to navigate adulthood alone.

Each year, thousands of young people leave foster care without a solid support system, leaving them disproportionately vulnerable to homelessness, incarceration, early parenthood, exploitation, and human trafficking.

Make It Matter is working to address those realities at the root and help break generational cycles of child welfare involvement. Through its 614 Initiative, the organization will provide young adults aging out of foster care with the stability, relationships, and practical support they need to build a future for themselves.

A Pathway to Independence

At The Village at Cove, Make It Matter will operate a three-story apartment community designed to serve 32 local young adults transitioning out of foster care.

Participants will typically spend about two years in the program as they take steps toward independence.

Participation is voluntary, but the program is structured with clear expectations and responsibilities. Young adults will be surrounded by caring mentors, resources, and a consistent support system as they pursue education, employment, financial stability, and other goals for their future.

Cove Church will have opportunities to rally around this community through mentoring, spiritual encouragement, facilities support, and other practical needs. Local business owners can also play an important role by providing safe, supportive places for these young adults to work, learn, and grow.

Even the apartments themselves are being designed with belonging in mind. Auburn University's Interior Design program is helping create interiors that feel less like temporary housing and more like home.

"They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations."

Isaiah 61:4



Kids to Love

Nearly 6,000 children are in foster care in the state of Alabama.

426 children and families received trauma therapy, totaling **2,572** therapy hours through the Smith Family Wellness Center.

Kids to Love's Child Placing Agency served **89** children and families and provided **400** hours of foster-parent training in 2025.

Source: Kids to Love 2025 Annual Impact Report

For more than 22 years, Kids to Love has worked to meet the needs of children in foster care while they wait for permanent families. Through foster parent training, mental health services, and practical support, Kids to Love is helping vulnerable children and families find hope and stability.

"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress..." James 1:27

Five Homes for Foster Families

One of the greatest challenges in foster care is finding families who have both the willingness and the resources to welcome children into their homes. Some are ready to foster but lack the space to accommodate additional children, especially sibling groups.

Through The Village at Cove, Kids to Love plans to build and operate five homes designed specifically for foster families. Kids to Love will recruit, train, and license the families, with up to six foster children living in each home.

These homes will offer more than housing. They will provide a stable, supportive environment where children who have experienced trauma can receive the care, encouragement, and sense of belonging they need. Some children may live in one of these homes for a shorter season, while others may remain longer. Whenever possible, the goal is to help families heal and reunite.

Cove Church will have opportunities to come alongside these families through hospitality, tutoring, prayer, and practical support.

We can help create a place where vulnerable children are loved, families are strengthened, and hope is restored.



What Can I Do to Help?

We ask that you pray.

Pray for the children who will one day call The Village at Cove home, children we don't know by name yet, but God does. Pray for the young people aging out of foster care who may feel forgotten. Ask God to surround them with a genuine community whose commitment is unwavering.

Pray for the children and students of Cove Church, and for those who haven't yet walked through our doors. Pray for the mental health professionals who have committed their lives to helping people find hope, healing, and a way forward..

And pray about how God may want to use you through Forward. Ask Him to guide every decision and to use Cove Church in ways that will make a difference for generations to come.



Frequently Asked Questions

How long will the Forward campaign last?

Forward is a three-year capital campaign. Commitments may be fulfilled throughout the campaign period, allowing you to participate in the way that works best for you.

When will the Kids Cove renovation begin?

We are currently in the design phase of the Kids Cove renovation and plan to break ground as early as summer 2027 in accordance with the overall campaign progress.

Will Cove Church continue to own the land used by The Village at Cove?

Yes. Cove Church will retain ownership of the property while leasing it to the organizations that will operate and manage their respective programs.

What happens if we exceed our goal?

Funds raised will first be used to fully fund the projects outlined in Forward. If those projects are completed within current cost estimates, any funds raised beyond our $6 million will be set aside for the

Consider your gift.

3-Year Campaign Gift Chart

THREE-YEAR GIFT	MONTHLY FOR 36 MONTHS	GIFTS NEEDED
$1,000,000	$27,778	1
$500,000	$13,889	1
$250,000	$6,944	3
$150,000	$4,167	5
$100,000	$2,778	7
$75,000	$2,083	8
$50,000	$1,389	9
$25,000	$694	10
$20,000	$556	11
$15,000	$417	12
$10,000	$278	13
$5,000	$139	14
$2,500	$69	15
Less than $2,500	Varies	234

GOAL: $6,000,000

Every gift matters. We invite you to pray, listen, and respond faithfully to where God may be leading you.

To make a gift, you can contact the church office or give online at covechurch.com.



next phase of Cove Church's development.

Can I fulfill my commitment through multiple gifts over time?

Yes. Forward is designed as a three-year campaign, and gifts may be made weekly, monthly, annually, or on another schedule that is convenient for you.

Can I give assets other than cash?

Yes. Appreciated assets held for more than one year often provide some of the greatest giving opportunities. These may include publicly traded stocks, mutual fund shares, bonds, real estate, cryptocurrency, or even through a will or trust. Because tax and financial situations vary, we encourage you to consult your financial or tax adviser before making this type of gift.

Who can I talk with about a significant or non-cash gift?

If you are considering a significant gift, stock, property, or another type of asset, our team would be glad to help you explore the best way to give. Please contact Mike Brill at mike.brill@covechurch.com.

For more information, visit
covechurch.com/forward,
and please prayerfully
consider how God may be
leading you to participate.

FORWARD

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