



Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry

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aldersgatespecialneedsministry.org

OFFICERS

Chair: Susan Kovas

Vice Chair: Suzette Catoe

Secretary: Mike Simpson

Treasurer: W.C. Hammett

Executive Director: Elaine Mathis

Admin. Assistant: Linda Gifford

OUR HOMES

**Aldersgate Columbia
Builders Care Home (CBCH)
Columbia**

Administrator: Rosemary Ray-Hill

**Aldersgate at The Oaks
Orangeburg**

Administrator: LaVeda Jenkins

**Aldersgate Florence
"Rick's House"
Florence**

Residential Manager: Victoria Maple

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Chairwoman's Letter



Susan Kovas

We are not alone! These words ring through our meetings as we continue to build a coalition of advocates who desire housing for adults with special needs. We are finding parents, providers, pastors, church members, legislators, lawyers and citizens who are recognizing the desperate need and near-crisis situation in our state and nation. There is a lack of housing for special needs individuals. The cry of parents, which began many years ago, has still not been answered. "What happens to my child when I can no longer care for them?"

The numbers are staggering. According to the 2019 Annual Disability Statistics Compendium (disabilitycompendium.org), among adults in South Carolina with disabilities:

- 1,763 do not have a complete kitchen
- 2,760 lack complete plumbing
- 11,504 live in overcrowded homes
- 100,126 find their housing cost a burden
- 44,154 live in poor housing

As a ministry of the S.C. Conference of The United Methodist Church, one of our goals is to form a grassroots coalition in each of the S.C. Conference's 12 districts. A coordinator at the district level and a representative in each church – all striving to help meet the needs of individuals with special needs, both those in the pew beside you and those who find themselves homeless a few blocks down the street. This is our ministry and our mission. Won't you help us? Contact our office today and say, "Yes! I would like to help!"

*Peace and Grace,
Susan H. Kovas, Chair*

**Do we have your
email address?
If not, please send
it to Linda at
giffordl401@att.net.
This helps the
ministry save on
mailing costs.**

**Donating has never
been easier!**

**Visit our website to
make a one-time or
recurring donation.**

aldersgatespecialneedsministry.org

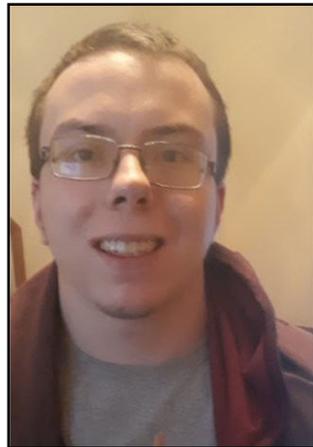
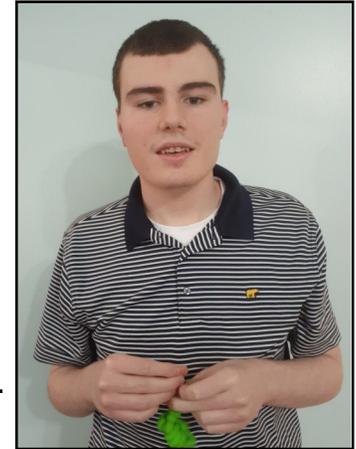
**“My people will
live in peaceful
dwelling places,
in secure homes,
in undisturbed
places of rest.”**

– Isaiah 32:18

Meet our newest residents

James (Jim) Esslinger is an active 19-year-old who came to Aldersgate on March 24, 2021. He has adjusted well and enjoys living at Aldersgate at the Oaks. Jim is thriving and is becoming more independent in several of his daily living activities.

He is learning how to identify medications and coins. He enjoys being by himself and taking walks on campus. Most of all, Jim enjoys eating.



Cameron G. Martin is a bright 21-year-old who became part of the Aldersgate family on June 12, 2021. His goal is to earn his Computer Networking certification and to work as an IT Technician. Cameron is in the process of enrolling at Orangeburg County Technical College. He is learning about his medications and money management.

His hobbies include reading different genres of books, playing on his Xbox, shopping, spending time with friends and family, as well as participating in activities with his housemates.

Thanks for your support!

We appreciate your ongoing support. By praying for the ministry, providing needed supplies from our wish list, and making financial donations, you help make it possible for us to provide quality care for our residents and plan for the future.

**God continues to bless this
ministry, and we are grateful.**



Columbia residents helped promote Aldersgate Sunday at Mt. Horeb UMC in Lexington.

Residents enjoyed fall activities



Damon and Kevin danced the night away at the Bliss Ball, held for people who may not have had an opportunity to attend a high school prom.



The ladies took advantage of a beautiful day on the Columbia Riverwalk.

Ministry's new respite program will support caregivers

Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry is starting a drop-in style respite program for adults with developmental disabilities. Aldersgate in the Morning (AIM) will be hosted by Grace United Methodist Church in Columbia. The program will provide caregivers a short-term break. Respite helps caregivers relax, relieve stress and maintain their own physical and emotional well-being.



Ebony Dawson-Mack

AIM will operate on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Staff and trained volunteers will provide supervision and meaningful activities for the participants.

Program Director Ebony Dawson-Mack will oversee the program opening in early 2022. Ebony holds several degrees including a bachelor's degree in English and a master's degree in counseling. She has worked in the special needs industry since 1999.

"I look forward to starting the respite program at Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry," Ebony said. "As a longtime advocate for people with disabilities and special needs, I truly believe in the person-centered approach and focusing on each person's abilities."

To learn more about AIM including volunteer opportunities, please contact Ebony at respitateasm@att.net.

Mission Statement

Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry provides Christian homes with the highest quality of life and greatest level of independence for adults with special needs.



Visit our website:

aldersgatespecialneedsministry.org

Facebook birthday fundraisers are fun and easy

Facebook birthday fundraisers have been effective in raising money for nonprofits since 2017, and 100% of donations go directly to the organization being supported. Are you ready to support Aldersgate through a birthday fundraiser? Here's how:

1. Log in to Facebook
2. Select "Fundraisers" on the left side
3. Click "Select nonprofit"
4. Search for a nonprofit to support
5. Select the nonprofit you want to raise money for
6. Under "Details" enter:
 - How much money you want to raise
 - Select currency
 - The date you want the fundraiser to end
 - Modify or use the suggested title for your fundraiser
 - Modify or use the suggested "Why are you raising money."
7. Click "Create"

A message will appear congratulating you on creating your fundraiser. From there, you can invite your friends to donate, share your fundraiser in your News Feed, or donate to the fundraiser yourself.

Staff Spotlight



Administrator and Team Leader LaVeda Jenkins joined Aldersgate at the Oaks in 2009. She has worked in the disabilities and special needs industry for 34 years. LaVeda doesn't consider what she does a job, simply taking care of her family.

"LaVeda has a true servant's heart," said Executive Director Elaine Mathis. "With her solid faith and compassionate nature, LaVeda is an asset to the ministry."

LaVeda enjoys learning all that she can to ensure the ministry is compliant with regulatory standards. Her hobbies include spending time with loved ones, singing, crocheting, cooking for everyone, trying new recipes and traveling.

"I enjoy working for Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry because it is a faith-based organization in which love is exhibited everyday and in every way," said LaVeda. "Aldersgate upholds our mission to provide the highest quality of life and greatest level of independence in Christian homes for adults with special needs. This mission statement not only addresses the individuals we serve, but the staff as well."

