

ALABAMA CENTRAL

EXPRESS



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION, ALABAMA CENTRAL DISTRICT NO. 1

Volume XXXXVIII SPRING 2018 Number 3

Judith A. Pike, Governor Emily Hodges, Editor

Welcome Hearts of Horizons Civitans!

Congratulations and welcome to new members of the Hearts of Horizons Civitan Club. The Hearts of Horizons Civitan Club chartered on Thursday March 15, 2018. The club chartered with 31 members. The members are all students and faculty at The Horizons School in Birmingham, Alabama. The Horizons School provides continued education opportunities for young adults with learning and/or developmental disabilities.

Club members are excited to be a part of Civitan International and will continue to do many projects in the community. Their largest project right now is supplying and maintaining the wagons utilized by the Children's Hospital downtown. The club was sponsored by the Birmingham Civitan Club. Attending the charter celebration were several district dignitaries including Birmingham Club President Dee Hustler, Birmingham members Past International President Mike and Joanie Brown, 2017-2018 Alabama Central Governor Judith Pike, Alabama Central Governor Elect Jerry LeVert, and Civitan International Staff members Scarlet Thompson, Meredith Binkley, Louis Stephens, and Terry Schrimscher. Club Charter number is 4195. This is the third notice of a new club reported to Civitan International and second for Alabama Central District for 2017-2018.



Left: Governor Judith Pike is shown with Club Charter President as she presents the official club charter.



The Servant's Heart Award

Is a ready made project presented to you by Civitan International!

The purpose of this program is to recognize the unsung heroes in our community who support people with



Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities on a daily basis. You can throw a reception for paraprofessionals at your local ARC or UCP, or have a black tie reception for the special education teachers at your elementary school.

MAKE THIS PROJECT YOUR OWN! For all the tools you'll need, check out http://civitan.org/servants-heart-award/



Above photo: Members are shown during the installation ceremony. Club members and staff prepared the meal for the evening

Hello Civitans:



Judith Pike Governor

Hard to believe that we are more than half-way through the 2017-2018 Civitan year. The first half has seen the creation of three new clubs, one Junior and two Senior. Congratulations to our hometown hero Club Builders especially the first timers. The Alabama Central District is down in total members but we can turn that around by holding membership drives, getting our name out into the community, inviting our friends, relatives and business associates to join and holding service projects that spotlight all that we do as Champions of Service. As we begin our second century, Civitan is seeking to involve the next generation of volunteers especially to all our causes including the intellectually and developmentally disabled and of course, the Civitan Research Center.

Civitan International has introduced a new community incentive, the Servant's Heart Award. This is a service project that your club can easily perform because all the hard

work has already been done for you. Please see the article in this edition of the Alabama Central Express detailing how the project works and the resources available online to honor our people in your community who are serving the needy.

The Spring Meeting is right around the corner and I hope that you plan on attending to hear the latest Civitan news going on at the International, District and Club levels and plans for the remainder of the year and a few surprises.

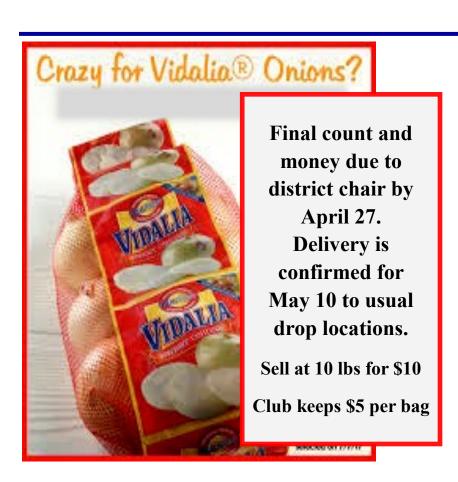
Thank you to all my fellow Civitans and the amazing things that you accomplish!

Judith H. Pike

(205) 807-2872

Jpike62@yahoo.com







Brent Civitans spent a day helping with the Bibb County Special Olympics. Above members are shown presenting their monetary assistance.

Greetings, Civitan Friends,

To begin with, I'd like to take a moment to recognize and thank Scarlet Thompson, International Executive Vice-President, and the team she has put together. Scarlet brings with her a wealth of experience and fresh ideas. Her team consists of new faces and energy, as well as familiar, loyal and experienced ones. There have been changes for the good, and many more to come, to bring Civitan back to the prominence, recognition and membership it once was.

That being said, Civitan International is happy to announce our new community initiative, the Servant's Heart Awards. This ready-made service project is designed to help your club recognize the unsung heroes in your community serving people with intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD). The Servant's Heart Award holds true to the mission of Civitan International, which has served the I/DD community in so many ways over the decades. Participating clubs should plan an award event in April to coincide with Civitan Awareness Month or as soon thereafter as possible.



Jerry LeVert Governor-Elect

To help you plan and prepare your event, Civitan International has prepared media toolkits. Your Club Presidents should have received this information via email. If you have any questions or if you need assistance, email Terry Schrimscher at **pr@civitan.org**.

Just a little reminder...we are our brothers and sisters keeper, whether as a service club or individual.

"Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.' (Matthew 25: 37-40)

Thank you to each and every one of you for all you do. Keep up the good work.

Respectfully,

Jerry Le Vert

(205) 310-4356

jlevert@adssecurity.com



Civitan International Stresses People First Language

Civitan International's flagship project is supporting the Civitan International Research Center. The CIRC is one of the leading facilities in the world for research on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Many of our clubs also do great work in their community with projects that focus on assisting the same population. However, as great as all of our work is, many Civitans fail in using the proper language when discussing the people we serve in our clubs. Membership Specialist Megan Mendel encourages us to focus on



"PEOPLE FIRST LANGUAGE" - how do we talk about our projects and the people they impact. Mendel gives us pointers on ways we can be proactive in promoting proper project language to our public.

SPEAK UP! When talking about the people we serve in our community there is an important concept to remember - **DISABILITIES ARE NOUNS NOT ADJECTIVES.** The idea is this; a disability is a thing someone has, not who they are. It is the difference between me saying, "I have blonde hair" and "I'm blonde." Mendel suggests a few phrases to utilize when we talk about our projects in our newsletters, award applications, social media posts, and when recruiting potential new club members: Just a few examples of proper statements we should use.

- Our project served adults and children who have an Intellectual and/or Developmental Disability.
- An individual who uses a wheelchair.
- The child has Autism

THE PRINT TO

Junior Civitans ~ Lisa Abercrombie, Junior Chair

Junior Civitan Major Emphasis Project

District Representative Lorelei Macfiggen and three other Junior Civitans attended the 2018 **Dance-a-thon** in Myrtle Beach, S.C. on March 9-12. Lorelei and other Alabama Central participants joined dozens of Junior Civitans from across the U.S. and Canada to "dance for a cure" benefitting the second major emphasis fundraiser by the Junior Civitan organization for the Civitan International Research Center at UAB in Birmingham. Macfiggen exceed her goal of \$1500 and each of the other three attending raised \$500 each. Overall the event has raised \$51,568 for the Center.

Donations can still be made for Sno DO and Dance-a-thon and mailed to Civitan International, P.O. Box 130744, Birmingham, AL 35213-0744 (Attn. Bobby Farley). Mailed donations should be noted "for Alabama Central representative" for the desired event.)

Junior Civitan Leaders for 2017-2018

Governor: Gracie Kelley

Deputy Governor: Lexi Garrett

Lt. Governor: Lorelei Macfiggen

Secretary: Susy Naler



The Junior Civitan year is about to come to an end. Our district is still working hard to make a huge push to finish strong. We know we still have time to make this happen. In January Gracie Kelley, District Governor, attended the Sno Do - Governor's Update in Barrie, Ontario, Canada. Governor Gracie was able to get some great ideas for clubs and the district. I am pleased to announce that she raised a total of \$2425.00 of which \$500 was outside Civitan money and she was awarded a Round Tuit Award. This event raised a total of \$65,521.00. On behalf of Gracie and myself, we would like to extend a heart felt thank you to everyone, individuals and clubs, that made this possible with their donations. **Dance-A-Thon** is another fundraiser that Junior Civitan International does to help benefit the Civitan International Research Center. Lorelei Macfiggen was our district representative and she raised \$1850.00. We also had three additional participants, Gracie Kelley, raised \$500, Lexi Garrett, raised \$598, and Susy Naler, raised \$500, and all three of them were awarded a Round Tuit Award. These girls danced 12 hours and changed into several different costumes from, super hero, pajama, sport team, and many others. They also enjoyed a day at the beach for a cook out and enjoyed the competition of beach games. They ended their weekend with a wonderful banquet. This event raised a total of \$51,568. On behalf of Lorelei and myself, we thank you so much for your wonderful support and donations to help her achieve her goal. I want to send kudos to these Junior Civitans for collecting donations to help the Civitan International Research Center. They raised a total of \$5873. This would not have been possible without the support of the district, clubs, and individuals. Thank you!!

We were not able to do a workday at the Ronald McDonald House because of lack of communication with the new program person. I will make sure all pop tabs are taken to the house and all schools, clubs, and district get the credit.

Congratulations to our newest club, PCHS, for their membership drive which they gained 21 new members. Waiting on paperwork and checks.

We have our district convention coming up at the end of this month. We are making plans for a fun filled weekend. Governor-Elect Jerry LeVert will be the installing officer.

The Junior Civitan International Convention will be in Tupelo, MS, June 21st-24th, hosted by the Mississippi North District.

Our ACD Junior Civitans, District Governor, and the District Board and Team along with myself would like to thank you for your continued support.

Respectfully.





Club News

Hoover: The club is busy selling Vidalia Onions and serving as interview coaches for the ARC of Shelby County. We have recently added 2 new members from the business community and we are actively seeking new members. The club meets at the First Watch in Riverchase on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays from 11:30 to 1:00 PM. Please join us for lunch.

Montevallo: Recruitment Social at member Kate Vogel's home on May 14, bring a dish that goes with hot dogs and your friends. Sponsoring two students to Youth Leadership Seminar at Harding in June. Collected needed items for the Wildlife Center (toilet paper to line baby bird nests). Members Peggy Czerw and Melinda Nix worked along with other Civitans for the ACD Spring Clean-up at Camp ASCCA

Phenix City: A St. Patrick's Day Dance for Happy Valley Daycare (adults with disabilities) was held on March 8, 2018. Clergy Appreciation Night was held. Four members attended the Region One Meeting in Decatur Al on March 2-3. Smoked hams were sold as a fundraiser. The club is participating in the Vidalia Onions Sales. A representative from the Autism Hope Center spoke at a regular meeting in April. Officers have been elected and will remain the same for next year.

Tuskegee: All officers have completed their training. During Christmas holiday, the club collected and distributed socks and other needed items for a mental health group the area. A membership drive is scheduled April 20.

Opelika: They will be participating in the Relay for Life as a team

Auburn: Set up US Flag display downtown Auburn: 1/15 Martin Luther King Day and 2/19 Presidents Day, sponsored snacks at the Special Education Class Valentine Party at Auburn High School on February 9, Honored local clergy Wren Aaron on February 20. They provided snacks for Special Olympics Bowling on March 5& 6. Sold concessions at the Annual Auburn Easter Egg Hunt March 31 and raised around \$800. A membership recruitment event on May 15th.

Research: Recently holding their third Tuesday SCI-Café at John's Café, they invited all to come learn how you can join with professional researchers to study Alabama wildlife – from turtles to Chimney Swifts. Presenters were Ansel

Payne and Andy Coleman of the Birmingham Audubon Society. The festivities start early, followed with food, and knowledge-proliferation with Trivia Titan Alia Carter.

Pell City: Preparing for annual \$10,000 Giveaway and steak dinner coming on April 27th - They are selling 200 Tickets at \$135 for 2 persons. Selling Vidalia Onions and preparing for Prom for special needs students. Organizing a membership event on the Coosa Queen riverboat on June 9th. Planning to send students to Youth Leadership Seminar at Harding University in June.

Center Point: Supplied 4 Special Ed classes with paper products, kitchen supplies for cooking classes. (*See photo to right*) Collecting supplies for Veteran's home Recruitment amping up with new chair, Rae Coates.

Crestwood: Members organized an Easter Egg Hunt for the community.

CENTER POINT CIVITAN CLUB

Center Point Civitans organize their collection for local Special Ed classes.

Tri County: Selling Vidalia onions and preparing to send student to

Harding Leadership Forum in June. Have plans to attend the international convention in Reno and have a golfer participating in the fundraising for the international golf benefit. Attended the Camp ASCCA workday in March..

Hearts of Horizons: Our newest Civitan club in Alabama Central, the Hearts of Horizons Civitan Club took part in a fundraiser called Healthy Hearts for Horizons to benefit their Horizons School in Birmingham. This event took place in partnership with Jeff State and featured a theme of healthy tailgate foods!

Sylacauga: Planning annual Autism Walk on May 5. Hoping that Vidalia Onion Sales lead to a great Onion Palooza, Brian Dix is collecting suggestions for this event. On March 17 they helped with the Century Ride to benefit the Kymulga Grist Mill which raised \$7000 for maintenance on the Mill. Members enjoyed the mix matched socks at meeting on March 21st in observance of World Downs Day. Club continues with a busy schedule.

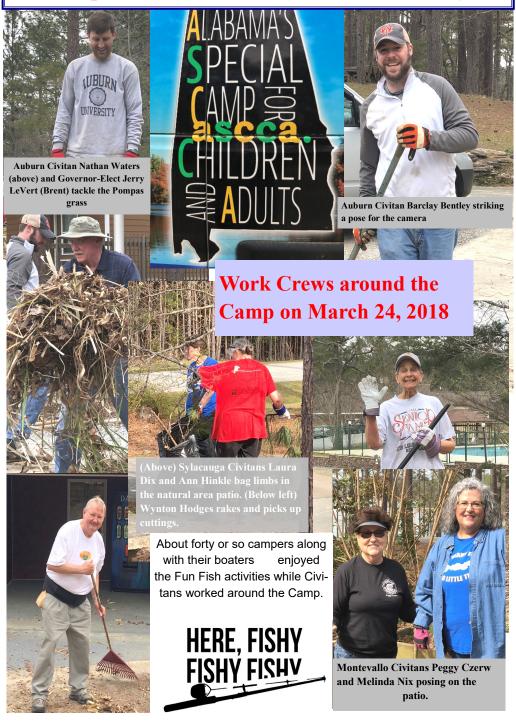
Alabama Central District Membership (04/01/18)

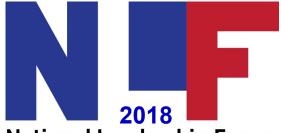
Club # Mem	bership
ACTION*	49
Alpha I (Selma)	15
Auburn	27
Birmingham	19
Brent	23
Center Point	11
Crestwood	6
Irondale	7
Fairfield	14
Gardendale	23
Greater St. Clair Co.	23
Greater Titusville*	46
Hearts of Horizons*	31
Hoover	9
Montevallo	21
Northport	14
Opelika	7
Pell City	18
Perimeter	10
Phenix City	14
Research*	34
Selma	11
Sylacauga	21
Tri-County	10
Trussville	3
Tuscaloosa	26
Tuskegee	20
Vestavia*	40
West Jefferson	11
Westside	11
Wilsonville	14
Associate Members	18
Total Members	606
Total Active Clubs:	31
Golden Circle Clubs*	5





Camp ASCCA Fun Fish and Civitan Workday





Harding University June 3 - 8, 2018

National Leadership Forum

Plan now for your club to send delegates to the Youth Leadership Forum. Cost per student will be \$325, which includes registration cost to Harding, chartered bus transportation, sleeping accommodations in dorm setting, meals and program materials. If your club or you as an individual wish to sponsor a student and have no contacts, we will assist in recruiting a student to represent your club.

Registration forms due to District Chairs Wynton and Emily Hodges by April 20.

If you need assistance or forms, email us at wehodges@aol.com

People First Language (Continued from page 3)

Language is Evolving: The language we use has changed progressively over the many years we have been so heavily involved in the works and studies of I/DD and it will always be evolving as we learn and study in this field. Don't feel bad if you did not know about people first language. How-

ever, now that you do know, here are a few phrases that should NEVER be used when describing the population of individuals we serve in our clubs and through the Civitan International Research Center:

- Mentally retarded
- Developmentally disabled
- Wheelchair bound
- Handicapped people

If you are ever not sure, please ask! Megan will be happy help with any publications you want to post or share.

Spread the word to end the word! We are asking all Civitans to take the pledge! **Spread the Word to End the** Word is a campaign designed to end use of the "R" word in daily vernacular. Spread the Word to End the Word Day was celebrated on March 7, 2018 - but if you missed it, you are not too late. Go to www.r-word.org and take the pledge today. Be a builder of good citizenship by helping shape the way people see and discuss disabilities

From articles by Megan Mindle, Membership Specialist, Civitan International

- Autistic



Members from Perimeter and Birmingham Civitan Clubs joined with members from ACTION Club to build a wheelchair ramp for the gentleman in the wheelchair.



Sylacauga Civitans Brian and Laura Dix during March workday at Camp ASCCA

Alabama Central Civitan District 2017-2018 Proposed Calendar

April - Civitan Awareness month

- Deadline registration NYL Forum at Harding
- 20-21 ACD Junior Convention—Ft. Walton
- Vidalia Onion Orders and Money DUE

Mav

- Spring District Meeting and Camp ASCCA Basket auction, 4H Center- Columbiana
- 10 Vidalia Onions delivered

June

Youth Leadership Forum, Harding Univ. 21-24 Junior Civitan International Convention, Tupelo, MS

July

- FALL ACD **Express** deadline
- 14 Fourth ACD Board Meeting/ Awards Hoover—10am
- 22-25 CI Convention and Golf Benefit Reno/

August

Deadline room reservation District Conv.

September

- 5 Convention Registration
- Regional President/President-Elect Training, Birmingham, AL
- 14-15 District Convention Lake Guntersville State Park

All dates are current as proposed on publication

Greater Titusville: The annual Scholarship Hat Brunch was held on April 13 at the Daniel Payne Community Plaza. All ticket money goes to the GTCC Scholarship Fund. For first time ev-

er, this year's scholarship winner attended the brunch

along with her family. Chair-

person was Dee Nabors.

2018 Alabama Central District Convention

Governor Judith A. Pike and the 2017-2018 District Team

Invite all District Civitans to join us on the bluffs at



Lake Guntersville State Park 1155 Lodge Drive Guntersville, Alabama 35976

Save the Date:

September 15-16, 2018

Registration Cost: \$100



(All Civitan members, late and on-site registrations)

Non-Civitan Guests: \$100 (pre-registration only)

Deadline for registration: Friday, August 31, 2018

(No refunds on cancellations after this date, as food must be guaranteed with hotel)

Room Reservations and Rates:

Bluff Side (2 Queens): \$121.00 - Parking Lot Side (One Queen): \$104.00 (Rate is per night - add taxes and resort fee; up two (2) adults per room; additional persons per room add \$10 per person, maximum four (4) persons per room.) Check-in begins at 4:00 p.m. Room block available for Friday and Saturday nights.

For reservations call: 256-505-6631 Code: Alabama Central Civitan for our Civitan rate.

Deadline for room reservations at these rates is August 14, 2018.

Preliminary Agenda Overview: (Tentative)

Saturday -9/15: Registration - 9:30-10:00 a.m. Outside Camellia Room; Business(Camellia) -10:00 am-Noon; Lunch Program (Camellia) – 12:30-2:00 p.m. Installation Dinner/Entertainment (Camellia) – 6:30 p.m - til. Hospitality Room will be open when meeting not in session.

Note: There will NOT be a program or dinner on Friday Program highlights: 2017-2018 District officer elections; Area Director training with Governor-Elect, 2018-2019, Club Presidents meeting with Governor-Elect and installation at banquet; proposed workshops. Team meeting and orientation with 2018-2019 Governor designate. There will be a Silent Auction (for CIRC); door prizes (each person please **bring one)**, hospitality and most of all FELLOWSHIP!

	Registration De	eadline – August 31, 2018	
Club:			
Name:		Email:	
Name:		Email:	
Name:			
Name:		Email:	
# Civitans Attending	@ \$100.00 per person	Guests/Non-Civitans	@ 100.00 per person

District Officers 2017-2018

Governor	h Pike	
Governor-ElectJerry I	LeVert	
Immediate Past GovernorWendell H	arless	
SecretaryMary Po	utman	
TreasurerEdward Th	nomas	
Past Governor DirectorK. Dee H	lutsler	
Area Directors		
Area I Director	Vilson	
Area II DirectorDimple	Davis	
(Auburn, Opelika, Phenix City, Tuskegee) Area III DirectorPeggy C	Czerw	
(Montevallo, Sylacauga, Wilsonville) Area IV DirectorRichard	Coley	
(Gardendale, Hoover, Perimeter, Research, Vestavia)		

New District Web Site address will be effective soon.

Our **NEW** address will be: *acdcivitan.org*

District Committee and Project Chairs

Growth & DevelopmentArea Directors
Newsletter Editor Emily Hodges
Webmaster
Fruit Cake/Vidalia Onions
Junior Civitan/Campus CivitanLisa Abercrombie
MeetingsEmily Hodges
Youth Leadership Forum Wynton and Emily Hodges
Foundation LiaisonWendell Harless
Judge Advocate/PoliciesMary Putman
Awards & FinanceWendell Harless
PR/Social Media Tony Ledbetter
Junior Civitan LiaisonEmily and Wynton Hodges

The Alabama Central Express is published 4 times a year and mailed to over 600 Civitans in the Alabama Central District to keep them informed of Civitan activities in their district and region. To have information about your club or activity included in this newsletter, contact:

Editor Alabama Central Express



Spring District Meeting
and Camp ASCCA Basket
Auction at

The Alabama 4-H Center near Columbiana, Alabama

Late Registration: \$35.00 after **April 4**



Meeting on site check –in begins at 9:30 a.m. Program begins at 10:00 a.m.

Make meeting reservations with: Meeting Coordinator, 205-999-2118



Bring a basket for auction -

Come to bid on a basket to take home.

Proceeds benefit Camp ASCCA Camperships.



Alabama Central Junior Civitan District



2018-2019 District Officers Installed, Outgoing Officer Recognized

On Saturday evening at the closing dinner program, Alabama Central Civitan 2017-2018 Governor-Elect Jerry LeVert installed the new Junior Civitan District officers. Available for the installation were 2018-2019 designated officers: Governor Lexie Garrett, Deputy Governor Madison Moncrief and Public Relations Coordinator Blair Dunn.

LeVert referenced a poem (to right) by Dr. Heartsill Wilson "A New Day" to instill in the officers values to proceed in their positions.

Junior Chair Lisa Abercrombie presented recognitions of appreciation to outgoing officers: Governor Gracie Kelley, Lt. Governor Lorilei MacFiggin, Deputy Governor Lexie Garrett and Secretary Susy Naler.



A New Day

This is the beginning of a new day.

God has given me this day to use as I will.

I can waste it or use it for good.

What I do today is important,
because I am exchanging a day of my life for it.

When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone forever,
leaving something in its place I have traded for it.

I want it to be a gain, not a loss;
good, not evil;
success, not failure—
in order that I shall not forget the price I paid for it.

Dr. Heartsill Wilson

Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant carried a copy of this poem in his wallet.

I dedicate myself to society and to my fellow man....

For our convention service project we chose a collection selection project to benefit the **Fresh Start for Children and Families**. Ms. Brittany Redmon, Education and Life Skills Manager for the charity presented an overview to tell us about the program at Fresh Start for Children and Adults. With a heart for helping others and a passion for local families in the community, Brittany has found her calling at Fresh Start For Children and Families. The Fresh Start venue is helping local homeless families get back on the road to self-sufficiency. Redmon grew up in the area, always spending her free time doing community service. She shared about Fresh Start, and the impact they have on the community. Convention attendees brought boxes of paper and cleaning products for the



Club Advisors and Chaperons recognized at Ft. Walton Convention

Shown are Emily Wellborn, ACMS Chaperone, Lynn McVey, Advisor BRHS; Sandy Woods and Crystal Wellborn, Advisors ACMS and Alice



2017-2018 Officer Recognized

Chair Lisa Abercrombie shown with 2017-2018 District Officers; (from right) Governor Gracie Kelley, Lt.Governor Lorilei MacFiggin, Deputy Governor Lexie Garrett and Secretary Susy Naler.



Ronald McDonald House - Pop Tabs

We are continuing to collect pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House in Birmingham. We have already collected many bags and containers from several of our adult Civitan Clubs. In addition several of our Junior clubs have turned in many pounds of pop tabs: Alabama Central Civitan Clubs – 160.2 lbs., ACMS - 475.6 lbs., BRHS - 353.4 lbs, Auburn HS—2.6 lbs. So just to give you an idea how collecting the tabs help...The Ronald McDonald House gets .70 cents per pound so with the pop tabs that have been collected. Our district and clubs have paid for several weeks for a family to stay.



Several clubs collected many different things to help their communities...ACMS Club did a can food drive for The Crisis Center and collected 720 canned goods, Pell City HS Girls Club collected over 300 items, coats, gloves, and blankets and gave them to families in need, and the Auburn HS Club collected and donated 65 pair of shoes for the Jean Dean RIF Shoes4books.

Crazy Socks for Autism
April is Autism Awareness
Month

38th Annual Junior Civitan International Convention in Tupelo, Mississippi

June 21-24, 2018

Ask your advisor today!



