



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Central Alabama Community Foundation Awards Surprise Grant to Mercy House

MONTGOMERY – The Central Alabama Community Foundation (CACF) announced Wednesday that Mercy House is the recipient of their eighteenth surprise grant in the amount of \$3,000.

During 2017, the CACF is celebrating 30 years of service. To commemorate the 30th anniversary, CACF is awarding 30 surprise grants to local nonprofit organizations over the course of the year.

“Mercy House and its founder, Pastor Ken Austin of the New Walk of Life Church, are perfect examples of what serving your community and motivating others to serve looks like,” said CACF President Burton Ward. “Ken has dedicated his life to service and continues to give back to his neighbors through Mercy House.”

Mercy House aides the Washington Park neighborhood with basic needs and distributes hot meals in our community to the elderly and homeless and creates food availability for latchkey kids after school each day. The house has two full bathrooms with showers available for the homeless and those in need. Washing machines and dryers are also available. A clothes closet is available with the intent to help those in need of proper attire for job interviews, work or school attendance. There is also access to computers with Wi-Fi and printers for school needs, job searches and online business needs.

In 2016, Mercy House served more than 1,500 nutritional boxes of food to families with emergency food needs. Each box contained enough food for an average family of five members to provide breakfast, snacks and dinner for a week. In addition, they served five families each week through the Montgomery Public School Backpack Program.

To donate to the CACF surprise grants and help celebrate CACF's 30th anniversary, visit www.cacfinfo.org or send a check to CACF, 35 S. Court Street, Montgomery, AL 36104. For more information, contact CACF Development Officer Whitney Griswold Califf at (334) 264-6223 or whitney.griswold@cacfinfo.org.

CACF was founded in 1987 and has grown to hold more than \$60 million in charitable assets while distributing more than \$50 million to organizations that serve the community. CACF serves several counties including Autauga, Coffee, Dale, Elmore, Geneva, Henry, Houston, Lowndes, Macon and Montgomery.

Through its more than 200 funds, CACF addresses a wide variety of concerns, supporting projects and programs in education, health, human services, cultural arts, recreation, historic preservation and other civic concerns. Each year, the foundation distributes more than \$3 million through hundreds of grants and scholarships.

Link to Video: <https://www.facebook.com/cacfinfo/videos/10155683699193767/>

Photo caption: CACF President Burton Ward with Mercy House Founder Pastor Ken Austin.

###

Central Alabama Community Foundation can be reached at (334) 264-6223 or whitney.griswold@cacfinfo.org.