

APPLETON FAMILY MINISTRIES

Throughout its history, the heart of Appleton Family Ministries has been the care and nurture of young people. In addition to providing love and basic care, the mission of AFM has been to encourage students to believe in themselves, develop stronger life skills, and become productive members of the greater community.

Appleton was created to care for children and has continued in this vein in various capacities for 140 years. It was first founded as an orphanage to care for orphaned children of Confederate soldiers. It then evolved into a self-sustaining community in which young women residents could provide for themselves by farming, canning, and sewing their own clothes. The need changed once again in the 1960s, and Appleton was transformed to assist young women who were victims of family violence. These young women needed a much deeper level of professional counseling than could be provided in a large institutional setting, so the Bishop and Board again refocused the mission. Appleton bought land in rural Jones County and created Appleton School, built by the students and administered by well-qualified teachers. Family counseling services became an integral part of this program and the name changed to Appleton Family Ministries. *(Parts of the history text are by Marty Banks and Bruce Bridges.)*

Currently, AFM funds a year-round program working with at-risk children. The well-rounded program assists children with homework and school projects, feeds them nutritiously, and encourages them not only in their school work but also in modifying their behavior in dealing with each other and in doing well in school. The program has also provided a mentoring program for parents.

Appleton Family Ministries has provided funding for special projects, including tutoring, family nutrition, health and wellness, a community garden, a clothes closet, and occasional assistance with utility bills.

This year the AFM board has been in discernment to explore ways to expand its program in caring for children. Please keep the board in your prayers. If you have suggestions, please offer them to the board.

Canon 24 regulates the only diocesan funding (Thanksgiving offering) for AFM:

Section 1. Every minister in charge of any Church in this Diocese shall take a special offering for the Appleton Family Ministries for Children and Youth at Risk on Thanksgiving Day or between the Sundays preceding and following Thanksgiving Day, both inclusive.

Section 2. Every such minister shall report annually to the Council as to said offering and if any be not taken, shall state in the Parochial Report the cause of such omission.

For further information, please contact Anna Haslbauer, Chair, Board of Governors of Appleton Family Ministries, at hasl@bellsouth.net or at 706-485-4090.

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