

Family Focus

WEST MIDLAND FAMILY CENTER

July 2024



In This Issue

THRIVING. GIVING. GROWING. TOGETHER.

50

1974-2024

West Midland
FAMILY CENTER

Celebrating 50 Years of Service!

Montgomery, Alabama, 1957. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. shares a poignant thought: "Life's most persistent question is 'what are you doing for others?'" This question drives many people throughout their lives in a quest to make an impact on others. It is a question worthy of reflection by each one of us from time to time.

West Midland Family Center (WMFC) is on a mission to enhance the quality of life for each generation by providing growth and achievement opportunities within a caring environment. Through educational and recreational opportunities and a wide range of human services, WMFC has been working diligently since 1974 to improve the lives of those living in western Midland County.

In the beginning, the *West Midland County Community Center* was established in a renovated schoolhouse to provide programming for local teens and a location for seniors to gather. In the last 50 years, however, that small organization has grown into a new facility (1989) and experienced



Through imaginative play children grow emotionally, socially, and physically. Creative experiences help them develop these skills, enabling them to share their feelings, thoughts, and ideas.

two major expansions (2001 and 2016). Through the gracious support of local foundations such as the *Midland Area Community Foundation, Charles J. Strosacker Foundation, Allen Foundation, The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation, Dow Company Foundation, and Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation*, as well as numerous civic groups and donors, WMFC has been able to grow along with the community.

Continually changing and adapting programming to meet the needs of the community, WMFC has been able to stand the test of time and not only remain in operation, but thrive along with the communities we serve!

As we all move forward together, it is important to remember Dr. King's question and consider what we are doing for others. WMFC will continue helping each community member TODAY to reach their full potential TOMORROW, and invite you to join us in doing so along with us!

Thriving,
Giving,
Growing...
Together

West Midland
FAMILY CENTER



College Opportunity Program students worked alongside WMFC staff to assist in flood relief efforts in 2020, helping to heal their own communities.

1974

The Greendale Happy Diners Club, part of the Midland County Senior Services, begins meeting at WMCCC for lunch

1976

First Preschool class is funded by Midland Preschool Inc.

1978

Construction begins on The Tridge landmark

1980

After federal funding for community centers is discontinued, the United Way of Midland County commits to help fund West Midland Community Center

1982



1984



Follow along the timeline to see just how an abandoned school became a place of hope and support for thousands of people in the community over the last 50 years!

Originally built in 1931, the old schoolhouse was renovated & became the West Midland County Community Center in 1974

Phyllis Breedlove retires as first Executive Director

First Family Focus Newsletter goes to print

Greg Dorrien joins WMCC as Associate Director

West Midland Community Center officially becomes a 501(c)3 non-profit organization

1992



1990



1988



1986

The first class of Dow College Opportunity Program students, formed in 1989, heads off to college

1994

WMFC receives first state funded preschool grant, offering greater service for families

Local foundations and businesses pledge \$1.8 million to build the new West Midland Family Center!

Local foundations once again pledge \$2.8 million to expand WMFC to include a second gym, computer lab, and pool!

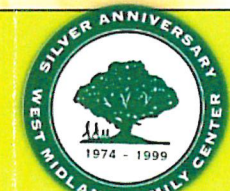
Mrs. Dorothy Arbury establishes WMFC endowment fund with \$100,000 gift

Teens in Training summer leadership program initiated

1996



1998



2000



2002



wmfc.org launches in cyberspace

Full-time Child Care Program begins

First Midland Area Community Foundation Access to Recreation project is completed at WMFC

Kiwanis Clubs build first picnic pavilion

Partnership formed with Gateway Martial Arts to provide free training for community

2004

WMFC unveils new logo



2012

2010



2008

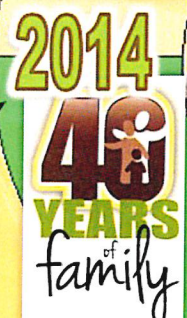


2006



WMFC purchases and converts building into a Food and Clothing Distribution Center

WMFC celebrates 40 years serving the community!



Legacy Society honors those recognizing WMFC in their estate plan

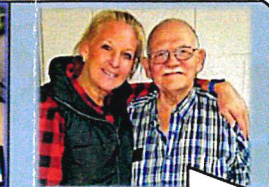
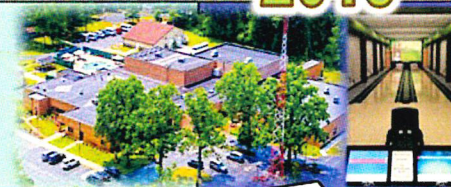
WMFC staff help those affected by flooding

WMFC partners with MSU Extension for first time on Family Garden project

The Gene Yehle Solar Project goes online thanks to support from the Charles J. Strosacker Foundation

2016

2018



2020

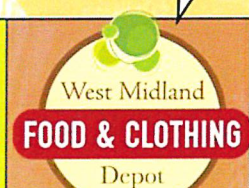


2022



\$3.5 million expansion adds preschool classrooms, bus maintenance facility, and bowling center!

After a patron suffers a heart attack, WMFC staff save a life with CPR and an AED until EMS arrive



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WMFC

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Everyone Invited to Golden Celebration Activities

The WMFC staff are putting together quite the celebration for our 50th anniversary coming up on **Thursday, July 25th**. Our hope is to have as many of our patrons and supporters join us in this milestone, gathering as a community to enjoy time together. A variety of activities have been planned for all ages to create a family atmosphere, although those attending without children will enjoy the experience just as much!

Festivities will commence at 4 p.m. Live music will be provided by *Mike Dorrien* from 4:45-5:15 p.m., followed by remarks from *WMFC Executive Director Greg Dorrien*. At 5:30 p.m., *Pure AM Gold—Your AM Radio Concert Experience* (better known as *Stone Street Revival*) will provide music, disk jockey narration, and throwback commercials until 7:30 p.m., so be sure to wear comfortable shoes for dancing in case the beat moves you.



Throughout the event, the activities will be open and free for all participants. *In-A-Snap Photobooths* will have a station for folks to get instant photos of the occasion, along with

Henna by Jenna and face painting. Bounce houses, the WMFC swimming pool (bring your swim suits and towels!), and kids crafting areas will be joined by the *Grace A. Dow Memorial Library* with reading activities and *Home Depot* hosting a woodworking craft. A balloon artist will be on hand, and lawn games will be available throughout the WMFC grounds. *Town's End Clydesdales & Carriage* will also be providing a petting zoo and wagon rides! We also hope the community will help us color a large mural that will be on display in the Center, and take advantage of the building tours happening throughout the event.

No WMFC event would be complete without the chance to have a meal together, and our 50th anniversary is no exception! Guests will have their choices between *Qdoba*, *Flying Trout Catering*, and good ol' pulled pork, hotdogs, and brats on the grill, provided by the *WMFC Board of Directors*. For those just interested in a snack, popsicles and popcorn will also be available as an extra treat. For the final surprise, five gift baskets will be given out to lucky winners from random drawings throughout the evening.

This celebration is our way to say **THANK YOU!** Whether you are coming alone or with a large family, plan to participate in all activities or just listen to the live music, everyone will enjoy the chance to be part of our incredible community.

July 25th