



For Immediate Release

Contact: Lorain Crowl,
Communications Director
864.938.2713
lcrowl@thornwell.org

Thornwell Board of Visitors Present Awards for Distinguished Benefactor and Distinguished Service

May 4, 2010 – Clinton, SC – During their annual banquet on April 29, 2010, the Board of Visitors of Thornwell Home for Children bestowed honors for outstanding service to the Bailey Foundation of Clinton and to staff members, Jim and Becky Brown.

Chairman John Anderson of Lexington, SC recognized the Bailey Foundation as Thornwell's Distinguished Benefactor of 2010. He traced the life and example of Mercer Silas Bailey and his great legacy of community support. Anderson said that through the Bailey Foundation, "the shadow of Mercer Silas Bailey continues to be cast across this area in a remarkable way, and especially across the Thornwell campus and into the lives of the hundreds of children who have called this campus home." The Foundation's first gift to Thornwell was made in 1953, and for 49 consecutive years the Bailey Foundation has continued to support the ministry. George Cornelson accepted the award on behalf of the Bailey Foundation trustees.

Family Teachers, Jim and Becky Brown, were honored with the Board of Visitors' 2010 Distinguished Service Award. The Browns have served at Thornwell for 13 years in Stewart Cottage, Thornwell's home dedicated to children ages 2 to 6 years old. Their outstanding work with pre-school aged children in residential care led to the collaboration of a published curriculum for teaching social skills to young children. In 2008, the Browns were awarded the Lonnie and Elaine Phillips Award by the Teaching Family Association and were recognized as the association's Practitioners of the Year. Lovingly called "Mommy and Daddy Brown" by more than 100 children over their 13 year careers, Chairman Anderson recognized the Browns for their "faithful and exemplary service to Thornwell and to the Teaching Family Association."

Thornwell's Board of Visitors is composed of 82 advocates from Georgia, Florida and South Carolina who serve as ambassadors on behalf of the home's ministry.

Thornwell Home for Children, a ministry of the Presbyterian Church (USA), is a joyful Christian community offering hope and wholeness to children and families.

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