



ATCHAFALAYA CHATS

City of Patterson Monthly Newsletter

April 2017



Adullam - A Place of Safety For Kids

The Adullam Household of Faith Children's Home in Patterson began with a visit and a vision. The word Adullam was taken from the bible, and represents the cave where David fled for his life to find safety and shelter from King Saul who was pursuing him. Its translation means a ***"safe place."*** It is a home for children of incarcerated women who are in need of a safe, stable and nurturing place of shelter to call home until they are reunited with their mothers or some other suitable guardian or family member. Adullam Household of Faith is non-profit and dependent upon individual volunteers, groups and organizations for its sustenance. The Adullam House in Patterson does not accept state funding, but welcomes donations from individuals and organizations; and they will also accept monies from grants.

For many years, the men of Bethel Pentecostal Church would travel to Wetumpka, Alabama to assist with the construction and building of its Adullam House. Once the Adullam House in Alabama was operational, the female members of Bethel would travel to Alabama in the Summer to relieve its staff of their full duties for a week to provide them with a much needed vacation. Kelly Williamson, a St. Mary Parish elementary school teacher, was one of the women who had the opportunity to participate in the Alabama relief mission. After a few visits, it wasn't long before she knew that she felt the call to play an integral role in such a worthy endeavor. In 2010 when she returned home from an Alabama visit, she spoke with her Pastor, Marty Harden, and told him, ***"I believe there's an Adullam House in my future."*** He also shared her vision of one day sponsoring an Adullam House locally and encouraged her to continue to pray about it, and vowed that he would do so as well.

Adullam Household of Faith of Patterson, modeled after the facility in Alabama, is available to children of incarcerated women, and they are accepted into the program on a case by case basis. The ladies of the church regularly visit women's penal institutions and speak with inmates who have children and those who are soon to deliver who do not know what is to become of their children.

The goal is to provide a safe and loving place for children of incarcerated mothers to call home until they are ultimately reunited with their mothers. Adullam also has partnerships with places and programs with whom they can make contact where the mom can be placed upon her release to further acclimate her to life outside of prison. Adullam is committed to keeping families together and will accommodate kids until their mothers' release, depending on individual circumstances. They encourage maintaining relationships between children and their moms. However, it depends on what the restrictions are for each inmate. If they are allowed visitation with the kids, Adullam staff will take them to visit with their mothers. In some of the facilities mothers are not allowed visitation with their children.

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Adullam Household of Faith - Patterson, Louisiana

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Photos of children's quilts, playrooms and one of the nurseries. All items are donated.

Adullam - A Place of Safety For Kids, cont'd

When a child is accepted into the "House," everything that is needed is provided for it; including volunteer grandmothers and nannies. Inmate mothers grant temporary provisional custody of their children to Adullam to allow the staff to enroll them in school, and to be able to secure medical care for them as needed. Temporary provisional custody is revocable by the mother if she chooses. ***"The name of it is a safe place and that's what we envision for it. It's a place where kids can come. We're not trying to take the place of mom. But we want them to feel like this is home. We don't want it to feel like it's a facility; like it's an institution. We want to provide a place where they can have some stability,"*** Kelly Williamson said.

In 2013, the vision came to fruition when construction of the Adullam Household of Faith in Patterson began on property that was owned by Bethel, with Kelly and Matthew Williamson slated as co-directors. Although it is the same concept, the "House" in Patterson is an independent entity, and not a franchise of the Adullam House in Alabama. Kelly is a devoted teacher, and said, ***"I can see myself doing this. I love teaching; but this is the only thing that would take me away from teaching."*** However, she is currently able to do both of the things she loves.

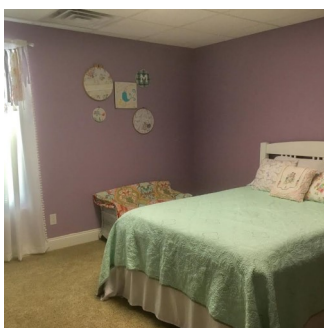
In the building process, many churches came together to help to build the Adullam Household of Faith. Organizations such as Jr. Auxiliary (a women's organization in St. Mary Parish that helps children) donated the dining room table and chairs, and helped by painting. Teachers from Hattie Watts Elementary also helped with the painting. Matthew 25 (a missions organization who overseas a children's home in Peru) played a key role in the building process, and the Industrial Arts class of Morgan City High School constructed and donated the end tables for the bedrooms. Other individuals and charitable organizations donated the furnishings in the House.

The Adullam Household of Faith is one of three in the nation. They are eagerly awaiting the opportunity to serve the children of incarcerated women from wherever they may come. The facility is complete with 12 furnished bedrooms (six girls and six boys); playrooms and nurseries to accommodate 30 babies or toddlers; separate girls and boys bathrooms; and a large commons room equipped with big screen TV, piano, and play table; a large industrial kitchen, and a conference room.

For more information please contact them at 985-412-6634 or visit their Facebook page, Adullam Household of Faith.



Family/Commons Room



Girl's Bedroom



Industrial Kitchen

Patterson Mayor, Council, City officials & well wishers gather to break ground on their new state of the art water plant.



Patterson Officials Break Ground For New Water Plant

On April 11, 2017 Patterson city officials broke ground for their new water plant. The 1.5 mgd plant is state-of-the-art and will be constructed by Lemoine Company, LLC for a cost of \$4,541,000. The total cost of \$4,991,000 includes design, O&M, and project performance fees of \$350,000 by PEEK Design Company and inspection services fee of \$100,000 from Providence.

The new plant will have the Actiflo System and the Chlorine Dioxide system with the capability of expanding to a 3.0 mgd water plant system.

The bond issue for the new water plant will cost the taxpayers 14 mills, which is a reduction of 2 mills as a result of city officials' decision to reassess tax millages at a lower rate.

Contact Us

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CHATS ARE POSTED ON THE WEB**

J-Turn Construction Work Continues



The \$15 million J-turn work on US 90 is progressing on schedule and is completing its fourth month of the year long construction from Calumet to Berwick. Local drivers are exposed to 17 unfamiliar turns along the stretch of road from the Calumet bridge to the Patterson Civic Center and are asked to exercise caution by Patterson Police Department.

Chief of Police, Patrick LaSalle, stated that the J-turn construction is having a significant impact on traffic on US 90. ***“We have increased traffic enforcement because of an increase in accidents and an increase in speed violations due to the speed limit change.”*** Motorists are asked to pay attention to road signs and to workers when driving through the construction area.

“I am looking forward to the completion of the J-turn work along US 90. It will make traveling through Patterson a much better experience,” the Chief said.