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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NICHOLSON TO BECOME 10TH PRESIDENT OF CONNIE MAXWELL CHILDREN'S HOME

Board of Trustees Approves William D. Nicholson II at July Meeting

GREENWOOD, S.C., 07.26.17 —William D. Nicholson II, Ph.D., will officially take the reins as the 10th president of Connie Maxwell Children's Home September 1. A search committee established by the board in February 2017 presented Nicholson as their candidate during their July 27 board meeting. The board of trustees formally approved his nomination.

Chairman of the President Search Committee, B.M. Cave, said in a letter to trustees announcing their recommendation, "References confirmed the committee's opinion of the gifts and talents Dr. Nicholson would bring to Connie Maxwell. The references also affirmed his strong relational skills, commitment to God in all things, and professional qualifications and experience for being President."

Nicholson has been involved in higher education since 1984, most recently serving as Special Assistant to the President of Winthrop University. In a letter to the president search committee, Nicholson wrote, "I have dedicated my career to serving the needs of young people in higher education. Working for ten presidents, my journey has led me to experience various leadership styles, cultures, and to become more sensitive to a president's ability to listen, act with integrity, and bring a community together towards one common goal—the needs of students."

Born in Hartsville, South Carolina to a young couple out of wedlock, Nicholson was left at the hospital for several months, until Billy and Mary Nicholson adopted him and carried him home. "This was the beginning of my adoption journey and the testimony of God's faithfulness to me," Nicholson wrote.

Nicholson served as a Connie Maxwell Trustee from 1995-2000. During this five-year term, he held various roles including board member, vice chair, and chair of the board. Nicholson wrote, "It was during these years that a seed was planted in my heart and my love for this tender ministry grew and flourished."

Nicholson has been married for 33 years to his wife Debra, and they have two sons: Bryson (23) and Taylor (27). He has been active in music ministry and produced four original albums sold to support mission projects. He is currently a member of First Baptist Church, Rock Hill.

Nicholson will begin his official role at Connie Maxwell on September 1, replacing Interim President James Wright Jr. Wright served as an ex-officio on the search committee and said, “I believe God has uniquely prepared Dr. Nicholson from his adoption, to education and work experience, to serve as President of Connie Maxwell Children's Home.”

About Connie Maxwell Children's Home

For 125 years, Connie Maxwell Children's Home has provided hope for South Carolina's children and families in need. Established in 1892 as a ministry of the South Carolina Baptist Convention, Connie Maxwell has positively impacted more than 17,000 children and families throughout the years. Connie Maxwell has five campus locations across SC, and is accredited by the Council on Accreditation (COA). Each year, more than 200 children and their families participate in one of our core programs: residential care, crisis care, family care and foster care. For more information about Connie Maxwell, please visit our website: www.conniemaxwell.com or call (864) 942-1400.