

SPRING 2018

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Rea of Hopeline

SPOTLIGHT ON KRISTEN C., LAKEN C., BEVERLY S., AMY J., AND TINA A. BY Heather Darr

This quarter we are celebrating five graduates! We have been blessed to have been a part of their journey in recovery. We are proud of the strides that each of them has made towards self-sufficiency and sustained recovery. We pray that they continue to use the skills they have learned here and through their 12 step programs so that they may lead happy and fulfilling lives.

Kristen C. came to us directly from prison. She had spent the last four years of her life in and out of institutions and apart from her daughter. Kristen was ready and willing to change. She wanted help learning how to live “life on life’s terms”. She followed our suggestions and was an active participant in her own recovery. Upon graduation she returned home, and has been reunited with her daughter!



Laken C. returned to the Rea of Hope for her second time. Eleven months after leaving, Laken asked for another chance. She returned with a new attitude and newfound desire for recovery. The willingness Laken now had to go to any length to change her life was apparent. She was more motivated and invested in her recovery than ever. Laken moved to our New Life Apartments.

BEVERLY S., AMY J., AND TINA A. CHOSE TO EXPRESS IN THEIR OWN WORDS WHAT THE REA OF HOPE HAS DONE FOR THEM.



Beverly S. “I came to the Rea of Hope still very closed off and unsure of myself. I was not sure I could be responsible and independent. Transitioning from treatment to sober living was hard at first. I quickly realized I was surrounded by loving, supportive people who wanted nothing more than for me to succeed.

As my time here progressed, I learned a lot about myself. Through the structure I learned discipline. I had been full of guilt, regret, fear, and blame. I have learned forgiveness, faith, and accountability. I’m filled with gratitude for the opportunity for growth that the Rea of Hope has given me and for the continued support I will receive in New Life Apartments.”

Amy J. “I want to thank the Rea of Hope for giving me the opportunity to have a chance at life again. The Rea has given me a home filled with love and has taught me to be self-sufficient, dependable, employable, and to love myself again. I have built awesome relationships and true friendships here. I am able to be in my kids’ lives again and will soon have guardianship of my youngest. I am truly blessed for Marie and Elaine to open the doors and give me a foundation to build on. I have learned how to live again, sober! I owe it all to the Rea of Hope.” Amy is continuing her journey at New Life Apartments.



Tina A. “I would like to thank the Rea of Hope for helping me get my life back. Since being here, I’ve built a strong foundation for my recovery. I’ve built an amazing relationship and bond with my children. I’ve gotten my driver’s license back. I have been able to buy a car. I am going home with eight months sober!” Tina returned home to Huntington, West Virginia.

DEAR REA OF HOPE SUPPORTERS

Rea of Hope residents and children were blessed this Christmas and we were overwhelmed with the generosity of so many. A board member generously provided gifts for the children at NLA, as well as a double stroller for our mother with two small children. Christopher Mazelon (son of board member Tony Mazelon) selected the kids at Rea for his community service project for the BETA club at John Adams Middle School, providing coats and gifts for each child living at New Life Apartments. The Rea of Hope Board members donated the money to buy each resident a mall gift card. We are always impressed by the spirit of giving and the love that is extended to our women and children, not just during the Holiday's, but year round.

Sincerely,
Marie Beaver



A Special Thanks

goes to **Young's Floral** and their designer, Christie Spangler, for decorating our tree for the **BB&T Foundation's** Christmas tree contest. We appreciate the gift of time and creativity that went into designing the beautiful tree for us. We won first place with a prize of \$5,000!

DON'T FORGET OUR ANNUAL MIRACLES ON LEE STREET DINNER & SILENT AUCTION, May 3, 2018 at The Clay Center 6:00 p.m.

Special thanks to our event sponsors: **AGENT PIPELINE, FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK OF PITTSBURGH, LOC INVESTMENT ADVISORS, and our Platinum Plus Sponsor, Unicare Healthplan of WV, Inc. for making this possible.**



THE REA OF HOPE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

hosted their annual Christmas party for staff and residents. There was lots of food and laughter, as the residents were in charge of entertainment and performed their version of HOPE, what it meant in active addiction and what it means today. Felisha blessed us with a beautiful solo of "Where Are You Christmas". It was an opportunity for all to get to know each other and the residents each wrote a letter of thanks to a particular board member and presented it at the party. Our exiting board members were presented with plaques in appreciation for their service. We thank our very dedicated board and their families for all their support. Special thanks to Elaine Secrist, Associate Director for making homemade lasagna and Beth Robey, Book-keeper for preparing the salad for the 80 plus group.



We also held our annual Christmas party for our residents. Associate Director Elaine Secrist prepared heavy appetizers and made Grinch Punch for our women. The party is always a good time of fun and fellowship. Our residents were all presented with filled stockings and giftcards. The party is also a time of reflection and gratitude. We sit in a circle and each woman shares about her last Christmas in active addiction, and then shares about what she is grateful for this year. The stories are moving and empowering and always very emotional. The toll addiction takes on our lives and our family's lives can be devastating; however, there is HOPE and healing to be found in recovery. It is a blessing to be on this journey and share our lives together.

GIRLS NIGHT OUT

By Heather Darr

Girls Night Out is always something we look forward to. In January, we went bowling and then ate dinner at the China Buffet. It is amazing to witness women who often come to us broken and hurting, laughing and enjoying life again. Good times, love, and laughter are just a few of the rewards recovery. It is important for us to teach our women that we can experience joy and good times again, in spite of life's difficulties.

In February, we attended the Cedar Lakes Roundup. It is several of the women's first AA conference and is always invigorating. The fellowship and recovery atmosphere is always enjoyed by all.

Thanks to all who help us continue to have our "Girls Night Out"!



BOARD NEWS

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to personally thank Mary Elisabeth Eckerson, Laura Ellis, Shirley Hyatt, Wayne Hypes, Randy Richardson and Sharon Iskra for their commitment, service, and contribution of time. This organization could not be such a success without the help of all of you and your energy, enthusiasm, and dedication to the mission of Rea of Hope. You will be missed - thanks for all the hard work you have done! A special thanks to Brad Sorrells who is now Immediate Past President for his devoted services to Rea of Hope.

Welcome new board members Leigh Anne Strahler, Scott Elswick, Jennifer Willits, Betsy Willis, Jarrod Furgason, Vic Mays and Ellen Cappellanti.

Sincerely,

Mitch Collins, Board President



On January 12, 2018, we had a board luncheon welcoming our new members. It was a time of sharing and planning. We are excited to see what our new board members have to offer as they have a multitude of gifts and abilities that they are bringing with them.

We would like to thank Brad Sorrells, Immediate Past President for making sure all of our residents received chocolate covered strawberries for Valentine's Day.



BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS 2018

Mitch Collins, President
 Dave Williams, Vice President
 Dee Dee Younis, Secretary
 Tony Mazelon, Treasurer
 Brad Sorrells, Immediate Past President

Scott Elswick
 Jennifer Willits
 Paula Vineyard
 Jarrod Furgason
 Webster J. Arceneaux, III
 Leigh Anne Strahler
 Vic Mays
 Jack Rossi
 Ellen Cappallanti
 Della Spencer
 Sally Holliday
 Brad Henry, M.D.
 Betsy Willis
 Richard Wolford, Emeritus

Congratulations to our Rea of Hope grads on their sobriety anniversaries and financial accomplishments:

- Rea of Hope residents received training in the following this quarter: Codependency, Recovery Yoga, Domestic Violence, and Budgeting.
- Amanda D. ('08) on 10 years continuous sobriety.
- Stacy B. ('10) on 8 years continuous sobriety.
- Ashleigh S. ('11) and Elly A. ('12) on 7 years continuous sobriety.
- Kim G. ('12) and Jenny R. ('12) on 6 years continuous sobriety.
- Kristen C. ('17) on 2 years continuous sobriety.
- Beverly S. ('18), Shatarra S. ('18), and Areena M. on 1 year continuous sobriety.

WAY TO GO, WE ARE VERY PROUD OF YOU!!

MONTHLY NEEDS LIST:

Bath towels (white)
 Dishwasher Detergent
 Hand towels (white)
 Single bed sheets (white)
 Lysol Kitchen-Aide
 Toilet Paper
 Paper Towels
 Bleach
 White kitchen trash bags
 Small umbrellas

RESIDENT'S SOBRIETY ACHIEVEMENTS:

1 year or more	2
9 months-one year	0
6-9 months	5
3-6 months	6
30 days-90 days	1

Other goals met:
Employment 100%
AA/NA Sponsors 100%
Graduates 1

% based on residents of at least 30 days



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SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT:

- CC Dickinson Family Giving Circle for the \$41,000 donation to ensure Rea of Hope is able to continue serving women in recovery.
- Community Works for the grant in the amount of \$8,500 for capacity building.
- The Daywood Foundation for their continued support and gift of \$6,000.
- Wolfcreek Gallery for donating \$5,500 worth of clothing for our residents.
- The H.B. Wehrle Foundation for their ongoing support and gift of \$5,000.
- The CRC Foundation for their gift of \$1000 and ongoing support.
- The Homebuilder’s Association of Greater Charleston and President Greg Paxton for selecting Rea of Hope for their charity this year and presenting us with a gift of \$1,000
- Oodles Gift Shop in Hurricane and owner Lesa Bostic for donating over \$680 worth of items for the residents.
- WSAZ Children’s Charities for the grant in the amount of \$500.00.
- Mardi Gras Casino and Resort for allowing us to participate in their Annual Beignet eating contest!



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