

FALL 2020



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# Rea of Hopeline

## SPOTLIGHT ON

**MEGAN S., AMANDA B., BROOKE H., TARA S., SAVANNAH D., ISABELLA H.**

By Heather Darr

We are thrilled to report 6 graduates this quarter: Megan S., Amanda B., Brooke H., Tara S., Savannah D., Isabella H. All of these women came here suffering from the consequences of the disease of addiction. They were broken spiritually, financially, physically, mentally and emotionally. Their willingness to change and try a new way of life while working the twelve steps has led to restoration in many areas of their lives, including reunification with their children (all 6 had lost custody of their children due to their disease). The structure and support from our program has enabled them to reclaim the lives they were meant to lead. Five of these graduates have chosen to continue their recoveries in our New Life Apartments, with plans for 7 of their children joining them. These women have expressed in their own words what the Rea of Hope has done for them.



### Megan S.

“When I got to the front door of the Rea of Hope, I was fearful of the unknown but determined to do things differently. I got a sponsor and finally started working the 12 steps. This is where I found my freedom. I would tell a new person, stick it out. It’s worth it. I’ve found my self-worth again, I’m not numb. I’m learning how to let myself feel things. I have renewed relationships with my children and the unwavering support of my family.”

### Amanda B.

“I had learned about the disease of addiction before coming here, but I never learned how to live. That’s what the Rea of Hope has taught me. How to live and how to love myself. I have worth again. I’m worth it. The fellowship of women I have met here and in the rooms have been my God send. Connection to people is what I lacked, and it has now been restored.”



### Brooke H.

“The most important thing I’ve learned at the Rea of Hope is to not let my past define me. For years I’ve allowed what happened to me, rule me. Now I love myself. I have done what works: working, meetings, steps, repeat. I am in my boys lives and am closing the gap to reunification. I will move into New Life Apartments where my children can join me again.”

### Tara S.

“When I got to the Rea of Hope, I wasn’t scared of the structure or the environment, I was afraid of messing up the chance to be here. I knew that it was the best program for what I needed and I wanted to change. I’ve learned I don’t have to do everything today. I can take one day at a time. I’ve also learned I can take care of myself and things will get better, as long as I do the next right thing.”



## SPOTLIGHT CONTINUED



### Savannah D.

"I was scared to come to the Rea of Hope, but I was more scared of what would happen if I didn't. I was just full of fear. It didn't take long for me to find my place. I got a job, made friends, started seeing my kids more, got a sponsor and kept moving through the steps. With the help of the women at the Rea of Hope keeping me on the right track and making positive changes every day, I now have a renewed relationship with my children. I have learned how to slow down and take my time and how to make decisions that will continue to better my life. I take suggestions and have a peace and calm about me that can only come through the promises of recovery. I've learned to take absolutely nothing for granted. Life is precious, time is precious."

### Isabella H.

"When I arrived at the Rea of Hope, I didn't want to be here, I just wanted my daughter back. Then things changed in my first few days at the Rea of Hope. Slowly, I found my footing and started feeling better. I found a sponsor, found a job, fell into a routine and found myself laughing again. I've learned it's ok to feel emotions; to laugh and grieve. I've learned I don't have to do this alone. Not unless I choose to."



**We are sad to say goodbye to our friend, coworker, and Program Director, Amanda Deitz; however, we wish her the best in her next chapter. We will miss her kindness, smile, and genuine love for women and mothers in recovery. Amanda will always be a part of the Rea of Hope and we are forever grateful for her!**

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The Rea of Hope continues to be blessed with the help of generous individuals and organizations. Their support of our program enables us to focus on our mission and have a greater impact on our community. The investment in our program from volunteers, their compassion for women in recovery from addiction, and the reunification of families are all powerful reminders of how many lives are positively impacted when one person becomes sober.

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church blessed the women at the Rea of Hope for their annual "Christmas in July" giving event. These amazing folks have gone above and beyond, providing throughout the year for our graduates, and during this annual event. Donations included vacuum cleaners, coffee pots, pillows, bath towels, laundry baskets, silverware, and cleaning products. They also took the time to put together Bath & Body works gift bags for each resident including a \$25 gift card to the Dollar General. Other gifts included \$400 in Kroger gift cards and a check for \$1,100 to be used for the purchase of a new washer and dryer. Thank you to each and every one who participated, and a special thank you to Robin Snyder who organized and coordinated it all!

We would like to take a moment to recognize long time Rea of Hope supporter, former board member, and forever friend, Jeff Joseck, for volunteering to hang new window blinds at Sandy's House (Rea of Hope 2). Through the years, Jeff has never hesitated to lend a helping hand any time he is called upon. He always shows up with a smile on his face, has a HUGE heart, and gives his personal time to help us. Thank you so much Jeff, for your generosity and kindness.

Mr. Grant Fisher, a local young man, chose to rehab our children's nursery for his Eagle Scout project. He went above and beyond to renovate the entire space with new furniture, electronics, games, and even included a year subscription to Disney Plus. He started with the basics by clearing out the nursery and having it professionally steam cleaned. He installed a baby changing station in the nearby bathroom. Grant was able to enlist many volunteers to assist in this project and raised a total of \$3,253.02. He spent \$2,916.81 on the renovation and donated the remaining \$336.21 to the Rea of Hope. Our mothers and children are truly grateful for your hard work and generosity!

Kathy Holstein is another supportive community member to boast about. Kathy donated towels for our July 31st Girls Night Out pool party and also donated pizzas, chicken sandwiches, Krispy Kreme donuts, pies, soda, and toiletries to the Rea of Hope women.

Carrie McClanahan delivered gift bags of "hope" for all our women and children! Each bag contains gift cards to Subway and lots of other goodies too! The adorable print even incorporates our logo! Thank you so much Carrie and WV Women Made.



## Congratulations to our Rea of Hope grads on their sobriety anniversaries and other achievements.

- Holly T. ('08) is celebrating 13 years of continuous sobriety.
- Glory F. ('08) on 13 years of continuous sobriety.
- Chasity W. ('14) celebrates 7 years of continuous sobriety.
- Brittany W. ('17) celebrates 4 years of sobriety!
- Tiffany L. ('18) celebrates 3 years sober.
- Erin M. ('19), Megan C.('18) and Tara R ('19) all celebrate 2 years sober.
- Ashley H. ('19) celebrates 1 year of continuous sobriety
- Rea of Hope residents received training in the following this quarter:  
Parenting, Blood Borne Pathogens, Credit Counseling, and Financial Literacy.

### Resident's Sobriety

| Achievements:   |   |
|-----------------|---|
| 9 months-1 year | 1 |
| 6-9 months      | 2 |
| 3-6 months      | 2 |
| 30 days-90 days | 3 |

### Other goals met:

|                |      |
|----------------|------|
| Employment     | 100% |
| AA/NA Sponsors | 100% |
| Graduates      | 6    |

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

## GIRLS NIGHT OUT

“Girls Night Out” is always a highlight during the month. Our residents get to experience having clean and sober fun, something many haven't done for a long time. Enjoying life and laughing are just some of the rewards of recovery that we get to share with our women; however, the pandemic has limited what we can do. Finding activities for the large number of women and children who reside at the Rea of Hope and New Life Apartments, that also provides enough space for social distancing has proven difficult. In July, we were able to have a day outdoors at the pool. We enjoyed being together as a group; watching our children play and having fun together was priceless. Mrs. West Virginia Allstar United States 2020, Sharlyn Schmitt, donated \$170 towards swim suits, sunscreen and admissions for our pool party. She also took one of our recently reunited families on a swimsuit shopping spree. We are so grateful for her generosity.



### Our Rea of Hope graduates are doing big things!

One of the many blessings of Rea of Hope is the opportunity to witness the reunification of families. Codi H. ('19) and Aubree are a wonderful example of hope, healing and faith in recovery. They have been reunited in our New Life Apartments! Erin M. celebrated 2 years of continuous abstinent sobriety. During this time, Erin has become a mother to a beautiful boy, been promoted at work, bought a car, and is currently in her final semester to become a certified Child Development Specialist. We are proud of all of her hard work and accomplishments while in our program. Erin is an inspiration!

After 17 years of driving suspension, Alyssa W. ('19) is officially a legally licensed driver with a vehicle she purchased herself! Tears were streaming down her cheeks when she told us the news; the gifts of sobriety continue to amaze us.



Tiffany L. ('18), who completed her High School Equivalency while in Phase 1, is now enrolled in her first semester of college at Bridge Valley Community and Technical College! She also recently obtained her driver's license and bought her first car. Tiffany continues to amaze us as we watch her grow into the new life sobriety has given her.

Ashley T. ('18) completed her High School Equivalency! She is a mother to three beautiful children who live in our apartments, holds a full time job, and demonstrates that with perseverance and dedication anything is possible.



Tiffany C. ('19) joined us as a full-time employee, and recently completed her certification as a Peer Support Specialist!

Rea of Hope was selected by Japanese television, to conduct interviews and provide education regarding our program's innovative response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Rea of Hope is INTERNATIONAL!

Our Executive Director, Marie Beaver, participated in a nationally aired zoom presentation with Senator Shelley Moore Capito's (R-WV) Senior Policy Adviser, Dana Richter; joining Voices for Non-Opioid Choices to discuss the NOPAIN Act, the opioid crisis amid the pandemic, and the latest on the next relief package. Senator Capito introduced the NOPAIN Act in the Senate and has been a long time champion on opioid-related issues. Marie Beaver, Executive Director has been a continuing advocate both locally and nationally for abstinence based recovery, Voices for Non-Opioid Choices, and the NOPAIN Act. We are excited to say we have expanded again, adding another 2-bedroom apartment to our Phase II program for women and children! The need is great and God keeps providing.





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**SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT:**

- *The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation for their grant in the amount of \$15,000 for the expansion project, rent, and utilities.*
- *The Pallottine Foundation for the \$10,000 grant for resident needs and household supplies.*
- *Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation for the gift of \$7,500 for the continued support of our mission to provide safe, affordable housing.*
- *Shady Grove United Methodist Church in honor of Pastor Jack Williamson Gibson for their continued support and donation of \$1,000.*

**OTHER WAYS TO HELP:**

Don't forget to like us on Facebook! PLEASE sign up for Amazon Smile and Kroger Community Rewards with the Rea of Hope as your chosen organization

**Monthly Needs List:**

white full size bath towels  
white bath mats

|  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Donor's Name _____                           | <b>LEVEL OF GIVING</b>           |
| Address _____                                | FRIEND of Rea of Hope \$50 plus  |
| _____  | SUSTAINING \$500 plus            |
| _____  | SPONSOR \$1000 plus              |
| Phone _____                                  | MEDALLION \$2500 plus            |
| E-Mail _____                                 | ANGEL \$5000 plus                |
| One Time Gift _____ Annual _____ Other _____ | ELITE SPONSOR \$1000 for 5 years |
|  | ELITE PARTNER \$500 for 5 years  |

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