

WINTER 2014

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# Rea of Hopeline

## SPOTLIGHT ON

## KARA W., HEATHER L., BEVERLY H., AND LEANNA N.

By Elaine Secrist

We have four more wonderful miracles to share the spotlight this quarter: Kara W., Heather L., Beverly H., and LeAnna N. One's race, religion, age, occupation or economic status matters NOT to the disease of addiction; this disease has no prejudice as it will destroy the lives of all in active addiction and anyone who cares about the addict. The disease of addiction/alcoholism robs of us of all that is dear to us... family, relationships, employment and health.

**Kara W.** came to us very humbled. She had experienced 2 years of continuous sobriety and even worked in the addiction field; so to come here and admit she needed help was a remarkable admission for her to make. Kara knew why she relapsed – she stopped going to meetings and working the steps with a sponsor. Her desire to stay sober outweighed her pride. She made some positive changes and left here determined to continue her sobriety and not take working a 12 step program for granted!



**Heather L.** came to us ready for the challenge of recovery. She had a sweet disposition and never gave us one ounce of trouble. She had hope in her eyes and a determination to change her life in order to live a sober life. Heather set goals for herself and achieved them by sticking with the “winners” in the program of recovery. Marie and I had the privilege of witnessing her graduation from Drug Court. After graduation from Rea of Hope, Heather moved into her own apartment.

**Beverly H.** came to us with a little hope and a lot of doubt! Beverly stated she had “hit bottom” and was determined to change her life. She was a little reluctant to join in the group at first but she began to work the 12 steps with her sponsor and her reluctance changed to willingness. Instead of remaining a follower, Beverly began to be a leader! We are thrilled she moved into our New Life Apartments.



**LeAnna N.** came to us for a second time with a determination to finally get this program! She had lost just about everything including her life to her addiction; she had graduated from our program several years ago and truly believed that coming back to Rea of Hope was her best chance of recovery. Marie and I visited LeAnna in the hospital this year as she was recovering from open heart surgery due to her addiction. As a 25 year old having this kind of surgery, I believe LeAnna finally realized that her addiction was literally killing her! LeAnna was a different person this time and truly gave 100% to working on her recovery. She is a true role model to all women in recovery.

Today, these ladies are living a joyous life they had only dreamed of. Employment, regaining the trust of their families, co-workers, and friends, and becoming responsible members of society are only a few of the goals they have reached. As always, God continues to bless me with witnessing miracles first hand. We are very proud of you all and wish you the best on your individual journeys.



## DEAR REA OF HOPE SUPPORTERS

Getting ready for the holidays can be a stressful time of year even under the best circumstances; add being newly clean and sober and it can become a difficult season. It can also be the most blessed holidays in a long while by giving the most precious gift of being alcohol and drug free to your families. It is when most people stop and count their blessings, no matter how big or small. Gratitude and Faith are two blessings I can identify with strongly. I plan to celebrate 30 years of continuous recovery in February 2015 and I hope I never forget the last Christmas I ruined for my family in 1984. Being a typical self-centered addict/alcoholic I wasn't concerned with anyone but myself. I was at my mothers with big plans for Christmas morning with other family members, so of course I had to go out and "see everyone who was in town for the holidays" and they just happened to be at the local bar. I ended up staying up all night doing cocaine and feeling sorry for myself when the sun was coming up and as I walked off to bed, the rest of the family was getting up to celebrate the joy of Christmas. My mother was heartbroken and the rest of my family was fed up. A few weeks later, I hit my bottom and fell to my knees asking God for help because I had tried everything I knew how to do and nothing was working. Drugs and alcohol were ruining my life and the lives of those who loved me. As a result, my family received the miracle of recovery that year. No I did not see a "Burning Bush" but I was transformed through a course of treatment, half-way house placement, sponsorship, 12 step meetings and step work over months and years. God answered my desperate prayer; saved me, gave me another chance and allowed me to use the darkest moments of my life to help others. My heartbroken mother lived for years to celebrate many clean and sober Christmases with me; she never forgot my sobriety date and in her last days, she opened her eyes on February 12th and said "19 years today, what a blessing". My fed up siblings are proud of me today and share in my joy of recovery and the life that was saved. So especially at this time of year I say "Believe in miracles, I am one". My wish to you is if someone you love is suffering from the disease of addiction/alcoholism there is hope; not only for them but for the family. Seek your own recovery and the burden of keeping "the secret" will be lifted. I would like to wish you all a heartfelt Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

Sincerely,  
Marie Beaver  
Executive Director

### RESIDENT'S SOBRIETY ACHIEVEMENTS:

1 year or more	1
9 months-one year	0
6-9 months	5
3-6 months	8
1-3 months	0

#### Other goals met:

Employment	93%
AA/NA Sponsors	100%
Graduates	4

% based on residents of at least 30 days

### MONTHLY NEEDS LIST:

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

Look for Rea of Hope in the January issue of South Hills Living magazine due out in December 2014

The Rea of Hope Graduate Scholarship Fund was begun with generous donations from Dave Wallace and Scott Miller in an effort to assist the graduates in becoming self-reliant. The fund has distributed \$4795 to graduates. The monies can be used for deposits on apartments, furniture, down payment on cars, TV, etc. The guidelines for requesting funds are as follows;

- must have successfully completed 6 months at New Life Apartments or remained successful in their recovery for 6 months after graduation
- demonstrated fiscal responsibility
- documented effort to make financial amends

The application process is a letter written by the graduate with the following information;

- Amount requested and purpose
- What the graduate has independently accomplished financially
- Plans to make future donations to the fund so it will be there for others.

**One recipient, Bree M.**, has paid over \$1600 in legal restitution and been released from probation, paid another \$1000 in fines to get her driver's license back, paid \$700 in taxes for 2013 and paid off \$400 left on student loan; all while at Rea of Hope and New Life Apartments. She was granted a matching \$1500 grant to purchase a car and she had also saved money for 6 months of car insurance. She is currently donating \$50 every two weeks for the Scholarship Fund.

**Amanda D.** pays \$855 a month in rent, groceries and utilities and sends her mother \$200-400 monthly to help with the costs of raising Amanda's son. Her request was granted for \$1431 to pay off fines in Mercer County and Bluefield City so she could regain a driver's license. Amanda is donating to the Fund through payroll deduction twice a month.

**Melissa T.** asked for and received \$664 to pay off fines so she too could regain her driver's license. Melissa has successfully donated back 100% of what she received.

**Charlie H.** paid off back child support of \$4564, \$820 in fines, and \$480 for a DUI class and saved \$700 for insurance and registration for a car. She received \$1200 from the Fund for a down payment on a car.

What is so impressive is these women were able to make these financial accomplishments while working in fast food, waitressing and as hotel cleaners. They demonstrate the mission of Rea of Hope which is to become self-sufficient. We applaud their dedication to saving, working extra shifts and prioritizing their needs verses wants. It is wonderful to have the opportunity to assist these hard working women financially through the Scholarship Fund.



### BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS 2014

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House Tech, Kim Polling ('13)



## GIRLS NIGHT OUT

Elaine Secrist

Sobriety is very difficult as we deal with the wreckage of our past: laughter, happiness and fun are not synonymous with recovery. Eventually we do start feeling better, but guilt seems to be the dominant feeling in early recovery. Of course, we must deal with our past but we must also learn balance. Of course we should feel bad about our actions and deal with the choices we made but we cannot stay in that mode; we must also learn to love ourselves again. Girls Night Out is a way to enjoy our new way of life and realize that fun is a healing component in recovery.

**In September,** Rick and Alison Wolford treated the ladies to “Live From Nashville” at University of Charleston. Community Music Live provides Charleston with quality entertainment and this show certainly validated their mission. The girls loved the show, especially the past American Idol finalist and the 90’s country segment. Thanks again to the Wolfords for continuing to support our GNO!

**In October,** we were blessed to have two GNO’s. First, Baptist Temple treated our girls to a trip to “The Pottery Place”. It was a huge success. They were so excited and proud of the pottery they created. Several girls told me they were going back to make more pottery; they truly loved the ladies hosting the night and were amazed that members of the Baptist Temple truly care. Thanks to Baptist Temple for the love you expressed to our girls through this memorable night.

The second was on Halloween when we ordered pizza and then visited the Haunted Barn, sponsored by Shirley Hyatt, a Rea of Hope Board Member. It was scary and very exciting, especially when “The Texas Chainsaw” man started his chainsaw and ran towards the girls. Shervin plowed over several residents, the fence, and the guy with the chainsaw. Needless to say, when the hysterics died down, we checked on Shervin. Did I mention that this was before we even entered the Haunted Barn? .What a fun time we had!! Also, the New Life Apartment kids had a great time Trick or Treating with their “Mummies”!!

Thanks to all who support our Girls Night Out!! If you would like to sponsor a night, please give me a call. Simple pleasures are the best!!



**The United Way Day of Caring** was another successful day with volunteers from **Commercial Insurance**; the group was led by Paul White. The group painted the front and back porch floors at 1429 Lee Street and did some touch up painting indoors. This is our 10th year of participating and each year we are paired with a great group of volunteers who want to give back to their community. Thanks for all your hard work; we really enjoyed having COMMERCIAL INSURANCE at Rea of Hope.



**Rea of Hope is very excited to announce our first partnership with Lifebridge AmeriCorps** and happy to have two Rea graduates as AmeriCorps members volunteering at Rea of Hope. Not only is this a wonderful opportunity for Rea but for the grads as well. Both are excited about the opportunities through AmeriCorps to further their education.

Amanda Datson (\*14)

Breanna Matchett (\*13)

**Congratulations to our Rea of Hope grads and residents on their sobriety anniversaries and other accomplishments:**

- Katie D. (\*13)- 2 years continuous sobriety
- Debbie R. (\*09) – 6 years continuous sobriety
- Katie D. (\*13) – 2 years continuous sobriety
- Heather L. (\*14) – 1 year continuous sobriety
- Casey C. (\*14) – 1 year continuous sobriety
- Sara M. (\*13) – 2 years continuous sobriety
- NLA residents completed the First Time Home Buyers Education Course

• Rea of Hope residents received training in the following this quarter;

TB/Hepatitis C and HIV awareness and treatment

Job Etiquette

Affordable Health Care Act Education and sign up

Healthy Relationships – 6 weekly classes

Domestic Violence Group

Budgeting & Credit Counseling

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

**It is never too late to sign up, please share this information with your friends.**

### TWO GREAT INNOVATIVE WAYS TO DONATE

Rea of Hope, Inc. enrolled in a new program through Kroger called Community Rewards. This program gives back to the Rea of Hope based on a percentage of what you spend. All you have to do is enroll your Kroger Plus Card at the website listed below and select Rea of Hope, Inc. as your charitable organization. Then every time you go to Kroger, just slide your Kroger Plus Card at the time of your purchase and a portion of your total amount spent will be donated quarterly. It costs you nothing extra; just go to [www.kroger.com/communityrewards](http://www.kroger.com/communityrewards) to enroll. Once enrolled, you must update every year and reselect your organization of choice! Just another way to help us, help our residents!

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon that lets customers enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping features as on Amazon.com. The difference is that when customers shop on AmazonSmile ([smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)), the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organizations selected by customers. Please log on to your Amazon account and select Rea of Hope as your charity. Check out the link on our Facebook page and our website under “How to Donate”.



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

- *The John L. Dickinson Family* for their generous donation of \$10,000
- *The Jacobson Foundation* for their continued support and the donation of \$10,000
- *United Methodist Temple of Beckley* for their continued donations and the check for \$750
- *St Francis of Assisi Church Women's Club* for their donation of \$500, cleaning supplies and paper products
- *Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church* for their donation of paper products and cleaning supplies.
- *Alpha Theta Chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa and The Kanawha District of Alpha Delta Kappa Sororities* for their donation of cleaning products, paper products, storage containers and personal hygiene supplies.
- *The Newcomers Club of Teays Valley* for inviting Rea of Hope to provide speakers for their luncheon and the donation of supplies.
- *New Life Graduate Shervin G.* donated her \$100 security deposit back to Rea of Hope in gratitude for what the program has done for her. She just completed her 1st semester of college, got a new apartment and a great job.



Rea of Hope was fortunate enough to receive WV Tax Credits through the Neighborhood Investment Program (NIP), WV Development Office, again this year. This is a fantastic program to encourage charitable giving and a way to get back up to 50% of your donation on your state; personal or business taxes. A minimum donation to receive CREDIT is \$500.

Please contact Marie Beaver 304- 344-5363 for more information.

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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