

Volume 6, Number 3
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www.reaofhope.org

Rea of Hopeline

Spotlight on

Bonnie C., Paula P., Samantha K., Elizabeth Y., Elly A., Jenny R., and Angie W.

By Elaine Secrist

This is the first time I have had the pleasure of bragging on 7 amazing Rea of Hope graduates! This group of ladies has been motivated and focused since the day they arrived and all can attest to the fact that recovery is not easy and nobody can give it to you. Hopelessness, despair, loss of family/friends, homelessness, unemployable...these are a few descriptions of how these ladies felt when they arrived at Rea of Hope. So, upon their arrival to Rea we welcome them with a hug and a promise that life can and will get better if they simply follow our suggestions. That sounds easy but with change comes fear. "The devil you know" seems to be the common denominator for continuing to make poor choices; change is scary for most even though it is for the best. Rea of Hope offers a safe home-like environment to begin the journey of change and recovery.

Bonnie C. came to us with very little hope and a matter of fact attitude that she was different and could not follow our suggestions. Bonnie kept to herself and had every intention of keeping others at a distance; but her wariness began to change as she attended meetings and began to work the 12 steps. Slowly but surely, Bonnie began to trust the other residents and before we knew it, Bonnie was making jokes and actually smiling! Although reluctant to change, Bonnie was willing to try and this willingness led to her success at Rea of Hope.

Paula P. came to us with a strong desire to change and have her 3 children back in her life. Paula was very soft spoken and had very little if any self-esteem. Years of emotional and physical abuse as a child stemmed into drug addiction. Addiction led to poor choices for companionship resulting in years of domestic abuse which further lead to Paula's inability to hold her head up and even to smile. Although Paula has lived a difficult life, her willingness to change and live a sober life outweighed her daunting past. Paula moved into our New Life Apartments and continues to work on having her beautiful children in her life. Today, Paula smiles and holds her head high!

Samantha K. came to Rea of Hope with a mission to accomplish. Samantha surprised me with her insight into her addiction accepting total responsibility for her past and was determined to be a "winner". Samantha obtained a sponsor and works the 12 steps on a daily basis, attends lots of meetings, became involved in her recovery and has never looked back. As a mother, she realizes that she has to live the life of recovery as suggested so that she may one day be reunited with her precious son. Samantha is an amazing young lady and has also moved into our New Life Apartments.

Elly came to Rea of Hope full of desperation and questions. Willing to do 'whatever it takes' and follow any of our suggestions, Elly jumped into her recovery with both feet. As Elly began to find some serenity in sobriety, her high speed nature morphed from overwhelming to refreshing. Elly's desire to be reunified with her beautiful girls and be the mother she so desperately wanted to be was validated in her daily actions. Her decision to move into our New Life Apartments upon graduation from ROH thrilled us! She gives 100% to everything she does and is a role model for new residents. We look forward to continuing to be a part of her journey in recovery and anticipate the day soon to come when we can embrace her daughters into our familial community on a full time basis! Congratulations Elly!



Dear Rea of Hope Supporters,

As summer comes to a close we are happy to be celebrating the completion of our expansion over the last year. Rea of Hope II and New Life II allow us the opportunity to serve more women and children and have been 100% occupied since the day each opened. Please come and join us for a tour of the new homes September 18th. Last month we tried something a little different and had a recipient of our services write a letter and we received such a positive response, we decided to have a newly graduated resident write about what the program has done for her. I hope you enjoy reading her heartfelt letter and know that each of you helped make it possible for her to be at Rea of Hope and to receive the structured support needed to become successful in her recovery.

Sincerely,
Marie Beaver
Executive Director

I arrived at Rea of Hope in shackles, transported in a Department of Corrections van, broken and hopeless. Staff and residents opened their hearts and shared their experiences with me and gave me hope. I have learned not only how to be a woman in recovery but the true meaning of love, hope and faith. Through learning to be completely honest, open minded and willing, I have the chance to restart my life. The women at ROH have taught me to be the mother that my 2 daughters deserve. With the help of the God of my understanding, I will regain custody of my daughters Sept. 4, 2012. My relationship with my family is better than I can ever remember. Learning to be responsible and accountable for my own actions has helped me keep full time employment, as well as advance in my job. My gratitude towards Rea of Hope is indescribable and I thank God everyday that I found ROH, they saved my life.

Elizabeth Y.'s journey here was quite a winding one. Soon after her admittance we discovered that Elizabeth possessed some awesome qualities: responsibility, accountability and work ethics far beyond the norm. Elizabeth has been solid and



consistent throughout her stay; we were very excited when at the last minute, she chose to continue her journey in recovery at New Life Apartments! Sobriety has put a light in her eyes and a smile on her face that was absent in the early stages of her residency. Elizabeth now walks confidently and holds her head high! We are so happy to be a part of it all! Congratulations Elizabeth!

Jenny R. came through the doors of Rea of Hope at a full speed run. Jenny was scared, distraught and on the brink of disaster! She claimed she was ready to change her life. Expressing to us that she didn't always understand the reasoning behind certain rules or natural consequences, she was always flexible



and willing to take suggestions and to do whatever it takes to live a life of recovery. Unfortunately, one of sobriety's hardest lessons" life on life's terms" hit Jenny straight in the heart. Jenny suffered the shocking and tragic loss of a sibling. Staff and residents surrounded her with love and support as we witnessed Jenny put one foot in front of the other, fighting through the anguish to hold on to the most

important thing: her sobriety. Jenny's determination prevails as she moves to New Life Apartments and looks forward to her 3 year old son joining her.

Angie W. is not shy to admit that this is round two at Rea of Hope. Angie's first time here was to please others; the desire to be sober was lacking. Angie's 6 months at Rea of Hope have been pivotal and life changing!

Her eagerness to live her life clean/sober and get back to the basics shows in every step she takes. Angie's gentle, quiet and loving nature has been a pleasure to share. She is devoted to being a consistent presence in her children's lives.



Today, Angie is taking all necessary steps to be the kind of mom her boys deserve. Angie, too, suffered the devastating loss of a sibling recently and held steadfast to her life of recovery. Her aspirations to be clean and sober are confirmed by the footwork Angie does in this program. We all continue to be amazed at Angie's determination; she is a living example of a miracle in the making. Angie's decision to remain with us and move into New Life Apartments only confirms her appetite for serenity. Congratulations Angie!

Today, six of these seven women are residing at our "New Life Apartments". Statistically speaking, the longer you live in a sober setting working a program, the better your chances are of remaining sober. God's grace is truly amazing! These graduates have remained "willing to be willing" to make changes in all areas of their lives. Ladies, we are very proud of you and wish you the best on your paths of sobriety.

Resident's Sobriety Achievements:

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Over 1 year | 2 |
| 9 months -1 year | 1 |
| 6-9 months | 7 |
| 3-6 months | 3 |
| 30-90 days | 1 |

Monthly Needs List

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



President, Richard Wolford
Wayne Hypes, Secretary

Mary Skeens Roger Baird
Nancy Atkins Mary Elisabeth Eckerson
Sally Holliday Mitch Collins

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Associate Director, Elaine Secrist
Program Case Manager, Amanda Dietz
Program Admissions Assistant, Haley Herron
Part-time Bookkeeper, Beth Robey

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Laura Ellis, Treasurer

Jamie Tridico
Sarah Holroyd
Nick Casey, Ex Officio

House Tech, Sandy Fisher
House Tech, Tammy Atkins
House Tech, Rachel Williams
House Tech, Holly Tonkin
Part Time Office Assistant, Cassie Whaling

Girl's Night Out

By Elaine Secrist



In June, we spent a day of fun and sun at Waterways Water Park. This outing brought out the kid in all of us as we ran to the top of the stairs and then screamed with excitement as we raced down the slides. Whether you wanted to relax in the lazy river or dare the water slides everyone found something they could enjoy. Hearing the laughter and seeing the smiles on the ladies faces was priceless.



In July, after weeks of planning and looking forward to the Putnam County Fair; everyone was momentarily disappointed when at the last minute, the trip was rained out! However, showing true flexibility and gratitude for togetherness residents and staff rallied together and chose dinner and movie as an alternative. Let's face it! Life is all



about how you handle PLAN 'B' and it couldn't have worked out better! The night was full of laughs and unity! Another successful GNO, only proving that it's not about where you are but who you are with that matter!

In August, 29 ladies graced Rio Grande with our presence, laughter and endless chatter. When we finished our wonderful meal, we walked over to Park Place Cinemas and watched "Sparkle". The movie was bittersweet as it certainly hit home with all of us as the reality of what addiction does to us and our families was a major emphasis



in this movie.

Thanks to all who support our "Girls Night Out". It continues to make a positive impact on our residents experiencing "fun" in sobriety!

Rea of Hope was fortunate enough to be nominated as a CHASE CHARITY AND TO PARTICIPATE IN A NATIONAL VOTING CAMPAIGN FOR YOUR FAVORITE CHARITY.

The winners receive \$10,000-\$500,000. Please visit us on Facebook or our website for detailed instructions, your votes count. The National Program Voting Period begins on September 6, 2012 at 12:00:01 a.m. ET and ends at 11:59:59 p.m. ET on September 19, 2012 ("Voting Period"). Chase customers with an online Chase account and Facebook users can vote for their favorite charity ("Eligible Voters").

There are two (2) ways to vote:

- 1.) www.ChaseGiving.com
- 2.) Facebook

REA OF HOPE RIBBON CUTTING & OPEN HOUSE TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2012 at 4:00 PM 204 & 206 BEAUREGARD STREET, CHARLESTON, WV

PLEASE JOIN REA OF HOPE FOR AN OPEN HOUSE TO CELEBRATE THE ADDITION OF TWO NEW BEAUTIFUL PROPERTIES THAT ARE HELPING TO FULFILL OUR MISSION OF PROVIDING SAFE AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR WV WOMEN IN RECOVERY FROM DRUG AND/OR ALCOHOL ADDICTION

PARTNERS

THE FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK OF PITTSBURGH
THE WV HOUSING DEVELOPMENT FUND
BB&T CARSON INSURANCE
THE WV DHHR, BHHF, DIVISION ON ALCOHOLISM & DRUG ABUSE

THE WV HOUSING TRUST FUND
HILLIARD LYONS
CAPITOL RESOURCEAGENCY

Residents and Alumni: WAY TO GO, WE ARE VERY PROUD OF YOU!!

- ***Debbie R.** (June 09) Maggie celebrating her 5th birthday and starting kindergarten. Lexi celebrating her 3rd birthday
- ***Stacy B.** (October 10) son Marlon celebrating his 5th birthday. Stacy also successfully completed 22 months at New Life Apartments moving into her own apartment with her children Marlon and Talia
- ***Ashleigh S.** (November 11) Congratulations on her new bundle of joy Raiah Light born, August 7, 2012 at 11:08 p.m. 7lbs 4 oz.
- ***Kristen S.** (March 09) starting Kanawha Valley Community Technical College (KVCTC) and majoring in Nuclear Medicine
- ***Beth M.** (August 10) starting KVCTC and majoring in Nursing
- ***Kristy K.** (November 11) regaining custody back of her son Cody
- ***Holly T.** (September 08) celebrating 5 years of continuous sobriety
- ***Glory F.** (April 08) celebrating 5 years of continuous sobriety





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Special Thanks to the following for their generous financial support:

- *The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation* for their continued support and grant award of \$20,000.
- *The Department of Justice* for the grant award of \$25,000. (Top Right)
- *The BB&T Foundation* for their gift of \$3,000.
- *The West Virginia Housing Trust Fund* for the grant of \$37,500 for our newest projects and capacity building. (Bottom Right)
- *Cache Clothing Company, Town Center Mall* or the donation of clothing valued at \$1,308
- *United Methodist Temple, Beckley*, for their continued support and check for \$750.
- *St Timothy in the Valley Episcopal Church and Blessed Sacrament* for their faithful giving to Rea and supporting our mission.



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.

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| <p>Donor's Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>Phone _____</p> <p>E-Mail _____</p> <p>One Time Gift _____ Annual _____ Other _____</p> | <p>LEVEL OF GIVING _____</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td>FRIEND of Rea of Hope</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$50</td> <td style="text-align: right;">plus</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SUSTAINING</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$500</td> <td style="text-align: right;">plus</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SPONSOR</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$1,000</td> <td style="text-align: right;">plus</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MEDALLION</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$2,500</td> <td style="text-align: right;">plus</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ANGEL</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$5,000</td> <td style="text-align: right;">plus</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ELITE SPONSOR</td> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: right;">\$1,000 for 5 years</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ELITE PARTNER</td> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: right;">\$500 for 5 years</td> </tr> </table> | FRIEND of Rea of Hope | \$50 | plus | SUSTAINING | \$500 | plus | SPONSOR | \$1,000 | plus | MEDALLION | \$2,500 | plus | ANGEL | \$5,000 | plus | ELITE SPONSOR | \$1,000 for 5 years | | ELITE PARTNER | \$500 for 5 years | |
| FRIEND of Rea of Hope | \$50 | plus | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SUSTAINING | \$500 | plus | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SPONSOR | \$1,000 | plus | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| MEDALLION | \$2,500 | plus | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ANGEL | \$5,000 | plus | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ELITE SPONSOR | \$1,000 for 5 years | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ELITE PARTNER | \$500 for 5 years | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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