

SUMMER 2015

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Rea of Hopeline

SPOTLIGHT ON

BRITTANY L., STEPHANIE S., LISA G., STEPHANIE SE., AND ANGIE T.

BY ELAINE SECRIST

We are thrilled to have five more graduates from Rea of Hope sharing the spotlight this quarter. Brittany L, Stephanie S., Lisa G., Stephanie Se., and Angie T. all came to us with different stories but one desperate desire. Fortunately this desire was to learn to live a sober and meaningful life. Drug addiction and alcoholism rob us of everything that is important: family, self esteem, self-worth, jobs, education, health and homes (just to name a few), but living and working the 12 steps of recovery restores all of these things “one day at a time”. These ladies certainly agree recovery is not easy but neither is the life of addiction.

Brittany L. arrived here in an orange jumpsuit with nothing but a determination to learn a new way of life. She was one of the easiest going and compliant residents we have ever had. Even though her age was very young, her life experience was that of a much older woman. Brittany was hungry for instruction on living a sober life and followed every suggestion made to her. The benefit of her willingness has led to reunification with her precious son; living her dream in New Life Apartments.



Stephanie S. had a desire to be the mother to her 2 precious boys that she knew she could be. Not one to be idle, Stephanie immediately got a job and a sponsor and began working on changing her life. Her smile began to be real; hope of a sober life was becoming a reality. These changes led to her success at Rea of Hope and her move to New Life Apartments with her children back in her life!

Lisa G. came to us stating the simple truth that she had no one and nowhere to go; she might as well give this “sober stuff” a try! Being older than the other residents, Lisa kept her head down and tried to be alone in a house full of women. This ploy did not work too well for Lisa; she started working the steps with her sponsor and before long Lisa become not only a part of the group; she was a role model for all. As Lisa’s self-esteem raised so did her head. At her graduation, I teased Lisa that I never knew what her face looked like because she never looked up the first couple of months she was here. Today, recovery is the reason for the huge smile always on her face!



Stephanie Se. arrived at Rea of Hope with the idea that she was just going to breeze right on through her six months here, graduate and be on her merry way. Well...needless to say, that attitude was not conducive to recovery, especially at Rea of Hope. Stephanie believed she knew a softer road to recovery; the only thing she needed to do was quit abusing drugs/alcohol. Let’s just say that her six months turned into ten months. This was Stephanie’s first attempt at recovery and what a difference these 10 months have made! Recovery radiates from Stephanie today; she knows that recovery” works if you work it!

Angie T. came to us knowing she had reached her all time low in her addiction. The courts were going to take her two children away permanently if she did not change her life. Soon after Angie arrived she found out she was pregnant. Instead of letting this overwhelm her she embraced the decision to finally give recovery an honest try. Angie got a job, a sponsor, worked the steps, worked with CPS and realized how much she was beginning to enjoy sober living. Angie’s graduation day turned into her delivery day! With her beautiful new daughter, Angie was returning to her home to reunite with her other children.



Today, three of these women moved into our “New Life Apartments” and the other two are living in their own apartments/houses. Congratulations to Brittany, Stephanie S. and Angie T. for regaining custody or reunification with their children. God is great and He continues to bless us all. These women have chosen to be willing to work the program at all costs and are great inspirations to us all. Ladies, we are very proud of you and wish you the best on your individual journeys.

DEAR REA OF HOPE SUPPORTERS

I would like to thank everyone who made our Miracle on Lee Street Dinner and 10 Year Anniversary so successful. It was a sellout and the speakers were wonderful; sharing their heartfelt appreciation for the new life they have today and representing change and hope for those still addicted. WE CAN AND DO RECOVER! Brad Ritchie, Federal Home Loan Bank Board Member and Summit Bank President gave an impassioned and moving speech about what he has learned about addiction through his professional relationship with Rea of Hope over the last 12 years. We raised over \$51,000 due to your investment in us. It was a very special night for all who attended. I also wanted to thank Sarah Holroyd and Young Floral for the beautiful center-pieces.

Moving into summer, Rea of Hope is busy as ever with a full house, 23 women and 9 children; never a dull moment. The need remains great and we are so blessed to be able to help as many women and children as we do, thanks to your generosity. Have a wonderful and safe summer.

Sincerely,
Marie Beaver

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Congratulations to our staff and Lifebridge members who completed Recovery Coach training to assist them in being better addiction professionals:

- Sandy Fisher, Certified Peer Recovery Coach
- Amanda Datson, Certified Peer Recovery Coach
- Melissa Thompson, Certified Peer Recovery Coach
- Kim Poling, Certified Peer Recovery Coach
- Breanna Matchett, Peer Recovery Coach
- Heather Darr, Peer Recovery Coach
- Chasity Whitingham, Peer Recovery Coach



Thank you to all who have signed up their Kroger Cards, Rea of hope received a check for the second quarter in the amount of \$964....Keep up the good work!!!

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

INNOVATIVE WAY 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 to enroll. Once enrolled, you must update every year and reselect your organization of choice! Just another way to help us, help our residents!

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RESIDENT'S SOBRIETY ACHIEVEMENTS:

1 year or more	2
9-1 year	2
6-9 months	2
3-6 months	4
30-90 days	4

Other goals met:

Employment	100%
AA/NA Sponsors	100%
Graduates	5

MONTHLY NEEDS LIST:

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

STAFF:

Executive Director, Marie Beaver
Associate Director, Elaine Secrist
Program Case Manager, Haley Herron ('09)
Administrative Assistant, Heather Darr
Bookkeeper, Beth Robey
House Tech, Sandy Fisher
House Tech, Melissa Thompson ('14)
House Tech, Kim Polling ('13)

Lifebridge AmeriCorps Members
Amanda Datson ('14)
Breanna Matchett ('13)

GIRLS NIGHT OUT

Elaine Secrist

Thanks to those of you who sponsor our "Girls Night Out". We all need to escape, have fun, laugh and bond with our girlfriends! Recovery is not all about dealing with the past; it teaches us to stay in today and enjoying life should certainly be a daily occurrence.

March's GNO was pizza and the Chinese Circus presented by Charleston Community Music. As always, the girls had a great time and a big shout out to Rick and Alison Wolford for continuing to sponsor these nights!

April's GNO was hosted/sponsored by Cathy Nutter, Nancy Daugherty, and Paula Vineyard. The girls were treated to a great cookout at Coonskin Park by these amazing ladies. Food and fun! No better combination. Thank you Cathy, Nancy and Paula for your continued support of our girls.

Most of our ladies have not experienced healthy outings in a long time. Thank you for opening your heart and wallet to make these monthly events possible.



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

- Brecken B. ('09) and Haley H. ('09) on 6 years of continuous sobriety
- Melissa T. ('13) on 3 years "clean and sober"
- Amanda D. ('14) on 2 years "clean and sober"
- Amanda A. ('15) and Stephanie S. ('15) on 1 year of sobriety
- Haley H-W and her husband Arron ('09) on the birth of their son Christian Wayne on April 26, 2015. 6lb. 14oz., 19.5 inches
- Angela T. ('15) on the birth of her daughter Paisley on May 19, 2015. 6lb. 13oz., 19 inches
- Rea of Hope residents received training in the following this quarter;

3 classes on Nutrition and food handling

Health Right in-service and description of services

2 classes on Budgeting and Banking

2 classes on Spiritual Yoga

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





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SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT:



- *First Bank of Charleston* for collecting and donating paper products and cleaning supplies.
- *The McDonough Foundation* for their continued support and the donation of \$10,000.
- *First Presbyterian Church of Charleston* for their generous grant of \$5000.
- *Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church* for their donation of \$2700 to purchase area rugs and other needed items.
- *St Mathews Episcopal Church* for their donations of paper products and detergents.
- *Ethel Ruppert and Alpha Theta Chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa* for donating the awesome Easter baskets for all New Life Children.



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.

If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically, please visit our website and follow the directions to subscribe.

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