

Winter 2013

www.reaofhope.org

Rea of Hopeline

Spotlight on

Ali W., Sara M., Brittany G., Hollie J., Najah M., Cassie A., and Lisa H.

By Elaine Secrist



Seven graduates in one quarter validates even more that God is still in the miracle business! These ladies come here suffering in every aspect of their life- financial, spiritual, physical, mental and emotional. Addiction coupled with low self-esteem, hopelessness, insecurity and fear creates a miserable existence. As we all know there are only three ends to addiction/alcoholism: jails, institutions and death. The good news is recovery is attainable and there is a "Rea of Hope"! We are very proud of our program as it not only provides structure and support in recovery, it also promotes self-sufficiency. All of our graduates are employed, working with a sponsor, working the 12 steps, and becoming responsible members of society.

Ali W. arrived here with a very bad attitude and declared she did not really have a problem with drugs. Our simple question to her was "then why are you here?" This question seemed to help her look at her life in a different aspect. Ali struggled with "being willing" to try things a different way but she stayed and began to follow a few suggestions. One day at a time Ali completed our program and views recovery in a new light!

Sara M. charged into our office on a mission to remain sober and regain custody of her three precious girls. Sara was tired of the life she was living stemming from addiction; she had lost everything important to her. Today, Sara has 2 of her 3 girls living with her at New Life Apartments, a wonderful relationship with the third daughter, and a great job. Sara is a prime example of what we can regain in recovery.

Brittany G. is a mother of two precious boys and was on the verge of losing them due to her addiction. Brittany was very soft spoken and seemed shy but shyness was not the case when it came to re-

gaining custody of her boys. She followed our program rules, worked, obtained a sponsor, attended meetings and never looked back. She was determined to be the mother, daughter, sister and friend she had once been and her determination paid off.

Hollie J. arrived here ready to change her life. With a history of legal troubles, Hollie realized she could not stay sober on her own. Hollie did not have to be convinced that she was an addict; she accepted this fact and was anxious to work the 12 steps of recovery. Hollie's vigor and enthusiasm for life served her well on her path to recovery. After graduation, Hollie moved into her own apartment and keeps in touch.

Najah M. returned to Rea of Hope for her second time. The first time she was simply not ready to make necessary changes in her life. After leaving here, Najah soon realized her addiction had the upper hand. Najah ended up in jail and began writing letters to come back to Rea of Hope. Najah returned here with a new attitude and never looked back. She has been motivated and willing to go to any lengths this time. Najah is a role model for other residents as they all look to her for sound advice. She moved into our New Life Apartments and continues to blossom in her recovery.

Cassie A. was brought to us by her PO. Cassie had been incarcerated and was desperate to change her ways. She hated where her addiction had taken her and all that her addiction had taken from her. Cassie is a mother of 2 lovely young girls but had not been in contact with them or her parents for many years. As in most cases, the family ends up raising our children for us and Cassie's parents were doing just that.



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SPOTLIGHT

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Sobriety has given Cassie to the opportunity to have contact with her daughters; her parents began to see some positive changes in Cassie and agreed to bring her girls for a weekend. Cassie continues to work a great program and will soon move into our apartments.

Lisa H. is last but certainly not least of our 7 graduates. Lisa has a wonderful attitude: always willing to listen and make changes in her life. She too is a mother and has worked hard at reunification with her family. Lisa always has a smile and is always willing to jump in and help others. Legal problems also cloud Lisa's past; her final hearing will be in December. Hopefully, the judge will realize how well Lisa is doing and allow her the opportunity to continue in our program at New Life Apartments.

We are very blessed to be a part of these ladies' journeys and wish them the best as they continue of their individual paths.

Dear Rea of Hope Supporters,

The Rea of Hope Board of Directors and the Executive Director, Marie Beaver, met for a first ever "Board Retreat", under the guidance of Strategic Planning Consultant, Becky King. The following is an outline of our efforts prepared by Becky King.

Rea of Hope has been a key leader in helping women in the Charleston area achieve recovery from alcohol and or drug addiction since it opened its first home in May 2005. Over the past nine years, Rea of Hope has been recognized at the national and state levels as a model program, with over 100 graduates successfully completing the program.

In 2011, the Board of Directors and staff participated in a strategic planning process that focused on growth and internal development. Under the leadership of the Executive Director and Board of Directors many of the strategies in the past plan were accomplished, including expansion of the program to include Rea of Hope II, and New Life Apartments II. In addition, groundwork for replication of the model was completed through publication of the Rea of Hope Program Guidebook.

Given its history of success and accomplishments, the Board

of Directors and Executive Director underwent a follow-up strategic planning process in October 2013 to shape new directions for the organization with a focus on taking the program to new levels.

At the heart of the 2014-2016 plan are **four strategic priorities** that are aligned with broad goals and strategies in the areas of programming, awareness and visibility, financial sustainability and governance. A vision for the future, defined by core values and a revised mission statement will also guide operations and decision-making.

The plan will be launched in January 2014, with an active committee structure in place. The board of directors will prioritize annual strategies and monitor the plan on a quarterly basis. Strategies will be adjusted as needed in response to an ever-changing environment.

Key **strengths** associated with Rea of Hope include its solid reputation and positive image in the community, strong leadership of the executive director and board of directors, dedicated staff, and successful fundraising and public outreach efforts. These strengths have led to many accomplishments over the past several years including program graduates who serve as ambassadors of success, expansion of core programs, proven outcome data, and financial stability.

Developing additional recovery support services for residents, along with a continued focus on financial

sustainability and staff and board development were identified as **opportunities** for the future.

Rea of Hope's updated strategic plan is framed by a shared vision for the future, a revised mission, and core values to guide decision-making and operations.

Vision

Rea of Hope graduates and their families will be missionaries in helping others to break the cycle of addiction through their faith, experiences and success.

Mission

The mission of Rea of Hope is to provide safe, affordable housing for West Virginia women in a positive homelike environment that is focused on recovery from alcohol and/or drug addiction and the development of self-sufficiency.

Core Values

At Rea of Hope we believe in...

Respecting and treating our residents with dignity and compassion

Empowering women to be self-sufficient

Accountability and adherence to a twelve-step abstinence based treatment model

Opportunity for success

Fostering hope

Holistic recovery

Obligation and commitment

Personal responsibility

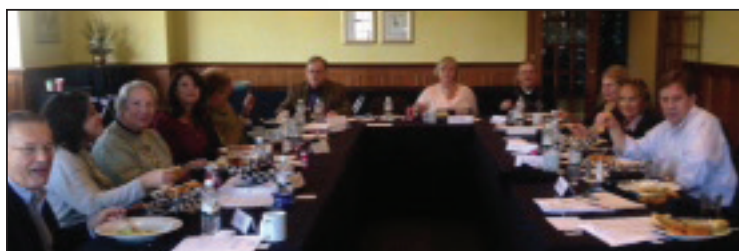
Expecting the best in all that we do

We are very excited about our future and look forward to putting our plan into effect. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Marie Beaver

Executive Director



Resident's Sobriety Achievements

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

Other Goals Met

Employment	100%
AA/NA sponsors	100%
Graduates	7

Monthly Needs List:

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

Board Members and Officers 2013

President, Richard Wolford **Vice President, Brad Sorrells**
Wayne Hypes, Secretary **Laura Ellis, Treasurer**

Mary Elisabeth Eckerson
Mitch Collins
Roger Baird
Nick Casey, Ex Officio

Jennifer Harper
Kelly Cielensky
Ruth Joseck

Sarah Holroyd
Tammy Harper
Ann Urling

Sally Holliday
Vickie Cunningham
Joan Baldwin

Staff: Executive Director, Marie Beaver
Associate Director, Elaine Secrist
Program Case Manager, Amanda Dietz
Program Admissions Assistant, Haley Herron
Part-time Bookkeeper, Beth Robey
Office & Finance Manager, Julia Gonzales

House Tech, Sandy Fisher
House Tech, Holly Tonkin
House Tech, Jessie Hixon
House Tech, Kim Polling
House Tech, Amy Vance



Girls Night Out

By Elaine Secrist

Girls Night Out seems to get bigger and bigger in number. We look forward to these fun nights and are thrilled when past graduates join us.

In September, we returned to Galaxy Lanes where we are well known now! The owners love for us to come as we liven up the place! Imagine that... people used to beg us to leave and now they look forward to seeing us arrive!

After we bowled, we once again raided the Chinese Buffet. Lots of laughter with no complaints equals a successful night!

In October, we ordered pizza and then visited the Haunted Barn. It was scary and very exciting, especially when in a thrilling part of the Haunted Barn, Lisa's glasses ended up on the floor. The "Zombie" had to stop and turn on the lights to find her glasses.

What a fun time we had!! Also, the New Life Apartment kids had a great time Trick or Treating in their awesome costumes. The kids were all very excited and thrilled that they had their "Mummies" to take them this year!

In November, we rolled into "Mi Cocina de Amor" for some great Mexican cuisine. Our new bookkeeper, Julia, and her husband are the owners so we thought we would introduce our residents to true Mexican food. The food and atmosphere were amazing and we felt right at home. Then we all went to hear Amy V. give her lead at St. John's.

Who says you can't have fun in sobriety? Well, we know it is more fun to experience life sober and prove it every month!! Thanks to all who help us continue to have our "Girls Night Out"!



"100 Graduates"

Thanks to all who attended our "100 Graduates" celebration; we had a great turnout and loved seeing several alumni, past and current board members and supporters of Rea. We have a come along way and it was great to see the enthusiasm and support the community continues to give to our program. We would especially like to thank **Unicare Health Plan of WV** for sponsoring the event.



A big "Thank You" to Beth Robey; you will be missed...

Beth came to Rea of Hope in January of 2011 as our Part Time Bookkeeper and quickly became much more. Beth has graced the office with her wonderful sense of humor, kindness and compassion. Beth new very little about the day to day operations of Rea of Hope and the lives that Rea touches daily. Being in the front office, Beth witnessed many miracles and got to work with several graduates. We have all been blessed by her presence and will miss her sorely. Thank you Beth for your hard work and dedication for the women of Rea of Hope, you will not be forgotten.



Welcome

Julia Gonzales to the Rea of Hope staff. Julia is a Charleston native and comes to Rea with many years of experience.

She is filling a new position, due to our growth, of Office/Finance

Manager. Her job duties will include those of office manager, bookkeeper and human resources. We are thrilled to have Julia join us.

Residents and Alumni:

Debbie R. '09, on 5 years continuous sobriety and for pursuing her education; Debbie is scheduled to graduate in the spring of 2014 with a degree in Community Behavioral Health with a specialization in Addictions.

Ashleigh S. '03, on 3 years continuous sobriety and for pursuing her continuing education.

Charlie H. '13 and Amy V. '13 on celebrating 1 year of continuous sobriety.

Sara M. '13 on regaining custody of her beautiful daughters.

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



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United Way Day of Caring:

Rea of Hope was partnered with the United Way's Board of Directors for a day of volunteerism sponsored by the United Way. Rea of Hope has participated for the last several years and has received great benefits from the volunteers who provide their expertise. This year we had several board members paint one of our New Life Apartments to help get it ready for the next Rea graduate. It was a lot of fun and we sincerely appreciate their time and efforts on our behalf.



9-11 Day of Labor:

Rea of Hope was once again the proud and grateful recipients of a "Day of Labor" by Mr. Handyman of Kanawha Valley in honor of the men and women who lost their lives on 9-11. This year Mr. Handyman employees replaced the porch railings and added handrails to 204 Beauregard. We are very grateful for our relationship with Greg and Nancy Paxton, owners of Mr. Handyman and all that they do in support of our mission.



Special Thanks to the following for their generous financial support:

- **DHHR, Behavioral Health and Health Facilities, Bureau on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse** for their continued support as our single biggest funder and the grant in the amount of \$125,000.
- **Jacobson Foundation** for their continued support and the grant of \$10,000 to in support of our programs.
- **St Paul Lutheran Church** for their donation of \$250 to be used for resident's needs, and Blessed Sacrament for their faithful tithing of \$100 a month.
- **United Methodist Temple, Beckley** for their continued contributions of \$750 to be used to support Rea of Hope in providing safe housing for WV women and their minor children.
- **Debbie Dodd of Dodd Upholstery** for donating her time and talents in mending our sofa cushions.

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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