

MARCH 2015

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Rea of Hopeline

SPOTLIGHT ON

GWEN W., HEIDI R., AMANDA A., BROOKE B., CATINA S., AND ALISHA P.

By Elaine Secrist

Marie Beaver, our Executive Director, reminds me "Time for the newsletter again, please have it ready by the end of February". My response "OK...no problem"! As I started to gather information for the "Spotlight" my reaction "I am boring; I need to change something to spice it up". Writing was neither my major in college nor my minor- just a disclaimer as my ability to "literally entertain" may not be my best skill. Self-doubt began to creep in and I found myself experiencing writer's block. Well, you have to BE a writer to have writer's block I laughed and immediately realized that this is not about ME! My writing skills are not important; the content is the message.

I have been writing this section of our newsletter since 2005. Thinking back to our first graduate and how Rea of Hope has evolved I was completely humbled. Here we are, 132 graduates later and everyone has a different story. Many women came to us from jail/prison, most women have regrets from the past regarding children but all women experience shame, regret, and remorse for who they have become in active addiction. Time after time, the tears fall, failure and self-loathing set in and hopelessness abounds. I understand completely and am blessed to share the message that there is a "Rea of Hope"!

Gwen W. came to us with silent determination to change her life. This was Gwen's first attempt at sobriety; certainly she had attempted not using many times on her own but had never entered in recovery programs. Leaving a life of heart break and broken dreams was not a hard decision on Gwen's part; she was sick and tired of being sick and tired! Gwen has since held the same job, moved into NLA and is truly happy today!



Heidi R. came to us with willingness to change and the sweetest smile I have ever seen! Her desire was to be a good mother to her precious six year old son and live a sober life with him. At first, Heidi struggled with a few of our suggestions but she listened and tried it our way instead of her way. I did not think her smile could get any brighter but it did the day she went home to live with her son! Another Mother and child reunified; recovery certainly has the best rewards.

Amanda A. came to us with the threat of losing her three beautiful daughters permanently. Substance abuse robs us of everything near and dear to us; only a few are fortunate enough to adhere to the warning that this is really your last chance! Amanda heard this loud and clear; she has focused on her recovery and followed suggestions from staff, her sponsor and the legal system. She moved into our New Life Apartments and is awaiting the day she will celebrate reunification with her girls.



Brooke B. arrived here with a history of homelessness and incarceration, desperate for understanding of how to successfully overcome her addiction. Brooke realized she wanted to live and everything she had been doing was leading her to her death. Brooke immediately became employed, obtained a sponsor and began to work the steps. Watching Brooke grow in her recovery has been amazing; she practices what she has been taught. She moved into NLA and is working hard to maintain her sobriety.

Catina S. arrived here with the attitude that she wanted the pain to stop. Catina had held the same job for many years which led her to believe she could control her drinking. Eventually, the disease takes over completely and our lives fall apart; exactly what happened to Catina. Losing her job seemed bad enough, but adding the possibility of losing her three sons was enough to get her attention. Determined to change the outcome of her CPS case, Catina came here more than determined to get sober and remain sober. She moved into NLA and is working towards a future with her sons in her life.



Alisha P. came here to "try one more time". Shelters and treatment centers seemed to be a way of life for Alisha; her addiction had robbed her of so much; specifically her two children. Many times legally having our children removed from our lives validates a mother never getting sober. They think 'what is the point now, I have lost my children and I no longer care'. Not the case for Alisha; she wants sobriety so that she can have a meaningful life with the hope that one day her children will want to see her. Without recovery there is no chance of a promising future but with recovery there is always HOPE!

Congratulations ladies! The road to recovery is hard but well worth it; you will be amazed as your life changes and God's blessings unfold. We love you all and wish you the best!

DEAR REA OF HOPE SUPPORTERS

It is hard to believe we are getting ready to celebrate TEN years of serving women and their families. Rea of Hope has grown from 1 to 4 facilities, from 10 beds to 14 beds and 9 apartments and from 1 employee to 10. We have no debt and accumulated assets of over 1.2 million. Our annual operating budget has grown from \$120,000 to \$572,000. I would love to take the credit for our growth but it has been a group effort with Divine guidance. There have been 51 board members who have donated countless hours to ensuring the success of Rea of Hope. Several board members have served multiple terms and some have left and come back. All have been dedicated to the mission and we have been blessed with their service. Since opening our doors May 1, 2005, we have had 295 admissions and while this sounds like a large number it represents approximately 26% of the women who were seeking admission. We have enjoyed many successes over the years; healthy babies born, Rea graduates graduating from colleges with 2 & 4 year degrees, GED's completed, mothers regaining custody of their children and 100% employment of all admissions at Rea 30 days or longer to name a few. We have been blessed with the financial support of the community through state and federal grants, private foundations, churches, service organizations and individuals. Rea has also prided itself on ensuring our mission of self-sufficiency by receiving program fees of over \$100,000 annually and creating revenue producing opportunities like the Rea of Hope Guidebook. Our first fundraiser was the Bunny Hop Walk and Run at Kanawha State Forest and we made \$2000, last year we made \$54,000 at our Miracle on Lee Street Dinner and Silent Auction. We continue to build on our success and learn from our mistakes, but most importantly we want to always ensure that we are EFFECTIVE; not just when the residents are with us but after they leave and put into action the lessons learned while at Rea. We have enjoyed a 70% completion rate for the last few years, with 70% staying clean and sober, working, living in a safe place and reporting no legal problems at 1 year post discharge and if they transition into New Life apartments, 90% are clean and sober, working, living in a safe place and reporting no legal problems at 1 year post discharge. I hope to see many of you at our celebration, April 30.

Sincerely,
Marie Beaver

THE REA OF HOPE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

hosted their annual Christmas party for staff and residents. There was lots of food and laughter, as the residents were in charge of entertainment and performed their version of The Twelve Days of Christmas. It was an opportunity for all to get to know each other and the residents each wrote a letter of thanks to a particular board member and presented it at the party. We thank our very dedicated board and their families for all their support.



RESIDENT'S SOBRIETY ACHIEVEMENTS:

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

Other goals met:

Employment	100%
AA/NA Sponsors	100%
Graduates	6

MONTHLY NEEDS LIST:

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

Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh proudly sponsors
**REA OF HOPE'S ANNUAL
MIRACLES ON LEE STREET
DINNER & SILENT AUCTION
THURSDAY, April 30, 2015
6:00 PM**

EDGEWOOD COUNTRY CLUB

Celebrating 135 successful graduates and our 10 year anniversary of serving women

**Tickets are \$85 per person, tables are \$850
(ALL PROCEEDS GO TO REA OF HOPE, INC)**

SPONSORS to DATE

**Platinum Sponsor: UniCare Healthplan of WV, Inc.,
LOC Investment Advisors,
Silver Sponsor: Brickstreet Insurance, Larry & Shirley Hyatt,
Harvit & Schwartz L.C., Putnam County Bank
Bronze Sponsor: Ramsey Insurance, Rick & Alison Wolford,
Huntington Bank**

Silent Auction Donors to Date

Edgewood Country Club	Sleepy Hollow Golf Club	Ace Raft
Pugh Furniture	Robin Demarchi/Spa Bliss	Tammy Jones/Massage
Coach "Doc" Holliday	Laura Jennings/Lia Sophia	Toni Garrett
Stewart & Thaxton	J Q Dickinson Salt-Works	House of Luxe
Mary Kerns	Brickstreet Insurance	Lakeview Golf Resort
Laura Jennings	Better Foods, Inc.	Capitol Car Wash
Valley Gardens	Duffy's Dry Cleaners	Embassy Suites
Stone Art Studio	One Stop	

Our love, thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of Mary O'Sullivan Selinger, who passed away -- much too soon -- on February 2, 2015. Mary was an exceptional person who helped and generously shared her experience, strength and hope with countless others. She had a love of life that was contagious and was a special friend to the women and staff of the Rea of Hope. Mary served as a board member for the Rea on two different occasions, for a total of 8 years. She believed in our mission and her family graciously requested that donations be made to Rea of Hope in lieu of flowers. In honor of Mary we have received over \$2,600, which will be used to establish the "Mary Selinger Fund." This fund will assist Rea of Hope in covering utility costs for our graduates and their minor children living in New Life Apartments.

BOARD NEWS

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to personally thank Joan Baldwin, Vicki Cunningham, Tammy Harper and Kelly Cielensky for their service and contribution of time to the Board of Rea of Hope. This organization could not be such a success without the help of all of you and your energy, enthusiasm, and dedication to the mission of Rea of Hope. You will be missed - thanks for all the hard work you have done!

Welcome new board members Webster Jay Arceneaux, Dave Williams and Tony Mazellon. Brad Sorrells, Board president

BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS 2015

President, Brad Sorrells Vice President, Wayne Hypes
Secretary, Mary Elisabeth Eckerson Treasurer, Laura Ellis

Jennifer Harper	Sally Holliday	Mitch Collins	Dave Williams
Sarah Holroyd	Roger Baird	Ruth Joseck	Randy Richardson
Ann Urling	Sharon Iskra	Shirley Hyatt	Tony Mazellon
Webster Jay Arceneaux			

Emeritus:
Richard D. Wolford
Nick Casey

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

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)

GIRLS NIGHT OUT

Elaine Secrist

In December, once again the ever faithful Lakeview Christian Ladies, St. Mark's Methodist Church, and the Alpha Theta Chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa donated Christmas goody bags to every resident and supplied gifts for all of our children. Also, our amazing Board of Directors gave every resident a \$50 gift card. Our residents were overwhelmed with gratitude and humbleness; they find it hard to believe that people care about them and give so freely.

In January, Tommy Young of ZMM Architects and Engineers donated a memorable night at Sleepy Hollow Country Club. The evening began with a meal fit for a Queen and concluded with Dr. Melissa Pratt's inspirational speech on "Change" and rising above all odds as Paul did in the Bible. Thanks Tommy for an amazing Girls Night Out!

In February, the residents and staff attended the Annual Cedar Lakes Roundup. A weekend of spirituality, fellowship, great speakers and fun; everyone was refueled with gratefulness and hope. Thanks to all who continue to support this great night!! Every one of the ladies is very grateful and looks forward to these nights.

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



Thank you to all who have signed up their Kroger Cards, Rea of hope received a check for the first quarter in the amount of \$1061....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!

THANK YOU to Mark Hammack of South Hills Living magazine for the awesome article about Rea of Hope and for having it framed for us. We received a lot of positive responses from the article.



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

- Shervin G. ('14) for making the Dean's List at WV State University.
- Beverly H. ('14) on 1 year continuous sobriety.
- Amanda D. ('14), and Melissa T. ('13) on 2 years of continuous sobriety.
- Breanna M. ('13) on 2 years continuous sobriety on the birth of her beautiful son Vincent David Palzs, 6lbs, 14oz; 21 " on December 1, 2014.
- Kim P. ('12) and Jenny R. ('12) on 3 years continuous sobriety
- Ashleigh S. ('11) and Elly A. ('12) on 4 years continuous sobriety.
- Stacy B. ('10) on 5 years continuous sobriety.
- Amanda D. ('08) on 7 years continuous sobriety.
- Rea of Hope residents received training in the following this

quarter;

6 classes on Relationships (6 week series)

8 classes on Nutrition (8 week series)

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



We would like to welcome new staff member **Heather Darr** as our Administrative Assistant, a graduate of the University of Charleston class of 2000, with a degree in Psychology. Heather has been an excellent addition to our staff and we are thrilled to have her and her expertise.



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SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT:

- *The Home Builders Association of Greater Charleston for their generous donation of \$1000.*
- *The Wehrle Foundation for their continued support and the donation of \$5,000.*
- *St John United Methodist Church for selecting Rea of Hope to receive their Christmas Eve Services donation of \$5,847.30.*
- *The Daywood Foundation for their continued support and gift of \$6,000*
- *The CRC Foundation for their continued support and gift of \$1,000.*
- *Charleston Area Medical Center Human Affairs Council for their gift of \$2500 to assist residents and their children with transportation to doctor appointments, medicines, etc.*
- *New Life graduate Holly T. for her donation of \$250 with gratitude for what Rea has done for her.*
- *New Life Graduate Kim P. donated her \$100 security deposit back to Rea of Hope in gratitude for what the program has done for her.*
- *WSAZ Children's' Charities for their donation for \$500 to be used for the children at New Life Apartments.*
- *Cache clothing store for their donation of clothing valued at \$2,262.*



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.

<p>Donor's Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Phone _____</p> <p>E-Mail _____</p> <p>One Time Gift _____ Annual _____ Other _____</p>	<p>LEVEL OF GIVING</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>FRIEND of Rea of Hope</td> <td>\$50</td> <td>plus</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SUSTAINING</td> <td>\$500</td> <td>plus</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SPONSOR</td> <td>\$1000</td> <td>plus</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MEDALLION</td> <td>\$2500</td> <td>plus</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ANGEL</td> <td>\$5000</td> <td>plus</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ELITE SPONSOR</td> <td>\$1000</td> <td>for 5 years</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ELITE PARTNER</td> <td>\$500</td> <td>for 5 years</td> </tr> </table>	FRIEND of Rea of Hope	\$50	plus	SUSTAINING	\$500	plus	SPONSOR	\$1000	plus	MEDALLION	\$2500	plus	ANGEL	\$5000	plus	ELITE SPONSOR	\$1000	for 5 years	ELITE PARTNER	\$500	for 5 years
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