

**Volume 2, Number 1  
Spring 2009**

[www.reaofhope.org](http://www.reaofhope.org)

# Rea of HOpeline

## **Spotlight on Tonya M.**

*By Elaine Secrist*

Tonya M. is the last but certainly not the least of our “group of ten” to graduate. As I mentioned in the last newsletter we were blessed to have an exceptional group of ten women and all ten of them graduated from Rea of Hope.

Tonya is one of the most spiritual women I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. She came to us broken, yet there was a spark of HOPE in her eyes. Tonya truly believed that this was her last chance to have the opportunity to learn to live a sober life; her faith in God motivated her to try one more time. Her children had been taken away from her, she had lost all self respect, and felt as though she had truly hit “her bottom”.

Tonya worked the program diligently by attending meetings, participating in the AA/NA community functions, working the 12 steps with her sponsor, and following all of our suggestions. As she grew in recovery, so did her spirits and her faith in God. Tonya suffered many disappointments regarding her visitation with her children. She would be so excited to see her children, and time after time the children were not there as the custodial parents refused to show up. I personally admired her strength in practicing the 12 steps and not giving in to these disappointments. She handled it with grace and proved to be a wonderful role model for the other



residents. Her graduation ceremony was very tearful as each resident expressed to Tonya how much she meant to them. Her mother wrote a beautiful poem to Tonya expressing her love and support.

Tonya continues to call me and is doing great. Her visitations are finally consistent and she is looking forward to hopefully regaining custody in the near future. She is a true inspiration for all women in recovery and especially to the other mothers. Tonya set a goal and utilized the recovery process to reach it.

God bless you Tonya and we are very proud of all you have and continue to accomplish.

## **Alumni News . . .**

### **Congratulations to:**

**Lois S.** (Nov. 2005) was honored by the YWCA and received the Empowerment Award and on 4 years of sobriety.

**Amanda D.** (Sept 2008) celebrated 1 year of sobriety and regained full custody of her children.

**Carrie B.** (Dec. 2005) will be celebrating four years of sobriety in March 2009.

**Kendra R.** (Dec. 2006) continues to recover from her car accident and is walking with minimal assistance and celebrates 3 years of sobriety in April 2009.

**Janet R.** (Nov. 2006) celebrated 1 year of sobriety in Jan. 2009 after a stumble.

## **Thoughts and Prayers**

Billie Bennington and family  
on the sudden loss of her  
brother in law

Pam T., a resident, whose father  
is battling lung cancer.

## Dear Rea of Hope Supporters

How many times and ways are there to say “Thank You”, keeping it sincere and heartfelt? Everyday I continue to be amazed by the generosity of time, resources and spirit given to Rea of Hope Fellowship Home by its board members, community, staff, neighbors, residents and even strangers. Since the staff began wearing name badges I have been stopped in stores or on the street and told, “my ex wife was at Rea of Hope and it made her a better mother”, “my daughter died from alcoholism, I am glad Rea of Hope is there so another mother’s daughter may live”, “you have the big beautiful house on the East End” and many more messages of hope and gratitude. How many of us can say that our jobs bring us this much pleasure and hope. Many times over the 22 years I have worked with addicts and alcoholics, people would say, “isn’t your job depressing?”; my answer has always been an emphatic no. Yes, we see many who do not make it, but we see many who do. If only one person over the last 22 years of my career was able to change their life and the lives of their children and on and on, how can that one not make it all worthwhile. Fortunately, I am surrounded by success stories and their children and seeing the difference a “Rea of Hope” can make in the lives of so many, I am thrilled to say a heartfelt and sincere Thank You for allowing me to be of service to this home, community and board.

Sincerely,  
Marie Beaver

## Board Changes



The Rea of Hope Board has been blessed with the service of Therese Cox for the last 4 years. Therese has brought wisdom, skill, and abundant support to the work of Rea of Hope. Her commitment to Rea began long ago in the dreaming stages and we look forward to our continued association with her in other capacities in the years ahead. Thank you Therese for all you have given. Also for the last 2 ½ years Nancy Daughtery has served as Secretary of the Board. We have been exceedingly grateful for her careful detailing of our meetings. Although Nancy will continue to serve on the Board she has retired as Secretary. Thank you Nancy for your service. Many thanks to Liz Underwood for stepping in to the Secretary roll! We also welcome Nancy Adkins to the Rea of Hope Board, she began her board service in December 2008. Nancy is a Nurse Practitioner, former state Medicaid Director and chair of National State Medicaid Directors, educator, and health policy analyst with over 38 years of experience. We look forward to all that she will bring to the work of Rea of Hope.

Thank you to all members of the Board for their continued commitment to the mission and development of Rea of Hope and New Life Apartments.

The Rev. Cheryl Winter  
Board President

### Residents' Sobriety Achievements

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

### Other Goals Met

Employment	100%
AA/NA Sponsors	100%
Graduates	6

### Monthly Needs List

Bath towels (white)	Dishwasher Detergent
Hand towels (white)	Air Freshener
Wash cloths (white)	Lysol Kitchen-Aide
Toilet Paper	Swifter pads
Paper Towels	Swifter Hardwood
Bleach	Floor Cleaner
Pine Sol	Mops
Furniture Polish	Washing Powder
	Dryer Sheets



### Board Members & Officers

<b>Rev. Cheryl Winter, President</b>	<b>Barbara Koster, Vice President</b>	
<b>Liz Underwood, Secretary</b>	<b>Rick Wolford, Treasurer</b>	
Sarah Holroyd	Laura Davis Ellis	Sally Holliday
Nancy Adkins	Rev Dana Holter	Kitty Haviland
Mary Selinger	John Maier	Jim Weimer
Jeff Joseck	Nancy Daughtery	John Barry
Nick Casey, Legal Advisor		
Staff: Executive Director, Marie Beaver		
Program Coordinator, Elaine Secrist		
Program Assistant, Amanda Deitz		
Part-time Bookkeeper, Billie Bennington		



# Girls Night Out

By Elaine Secrist

“Girls Night Out” should be mandatory for all women! I truly believe that the simple things in life bring the most pleasure. Friendships are made and strengthened, memories are shared, and laughter is abundant at these monthly events.

December’s “GNO” was actually a “girls night in” as we celebrated Christmas with the ladies at Rea of Hope. Marie prepared her legendary “Chicken Divan”(our Mother’s recipe), Billie added the infamous “Asian Coleslaw” and I started us off with my addicting “Touchdown Taco Dip”! And of course, we had to have desserts which were donated by Ronnie Tonkin who has continued to support us with her endless donations of sweets!

This year we had 17 residents- this includes both Rea of Hope and our New Life Apartments-, 5 children of the New Life Apartments, and 3 staff members. The ladies really enjoyed watching Marie, Billie, and I prepare dinner, set the table, and (most of all) clean up. After our award winning dinner, we moved onto the most important part of the evening- opening gifts! As usual, Marie and I were in our element as we shopped for 17 women. I might add, we do have this shopping thing down to a fine art.

Before opening gifts, Marie had everyone share how they spent their last Christmas- reminding all that every Christmas could be this wonderful if they continue on the road to recovery.

After the opening of the presents, we had the 5 children sit in the middle of the floor to open theirs. BB&T Carson Insurance filled all the children’s stockings, Brickstreet donated all of the gifts for Chad, Emma, Emilea, and Anna while Bruce and Libby Dunlop and Bill Snyder and Debbie Burnette donated all of the gifts for Mady. These children experienced their first Christmas with sober Moms and surrounded by people who truly love them. These donors went all out with the gift buying- I have never seen so many gifts! The children and their moms were overwhelmed with gratitude. Thank you so much for taking the time and love to demonstrate the true meaning of Christmas .

The February GNO was the Cedar Lakes AA retreat. Of course, many of the residents balked at the idea, but were willing to go. Upon their return from Cedar Lakes, they were all appreciative and grateful they went. They had a great time and enjoyed the entire weekend.

As always, thanks to all of you who continue to help make these monthly events possible.



NLA Christmas



NLA Kids Christmas



ROH Christmas



Cedar Lakes



1429 Lee Street, East  
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### Special Thanks to the following for their generous support:

- **Church of God MPGT** for their generous donation
- **WVAWC** for their donation and to **Kelley Gillenwater** and **Kaylee Bayes** for taking the time to visit ROH
- **The Daywood Foundation** for their generous donation.
- **The Division on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse** for their continued support as our largest single contributor.
- **Vandalia Rotary** for their continued support and making baskets for New Life residents, full of cleaning supplies and paper products.
- **The Episcopal Diocese** awarded Rea of Hope a grant for \$2000 to assist with resident's needs.



(Top) WVAWC  
(Below) Church of God MGT



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 344-5363 for more information.

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 One Time Gift \_\_\_\_\_ Annual \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

#### LEVEL OF GIVING

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