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

# Rea of Hopeline

## Spotlight on Melinda T., Jesse M., Shanae T., and Katie D.

By Elaine Secrist

Four more miracles to add to our ever increasing list of Rea of Hope graduates! God continues to bless Rea of Hope and I am so glad to be a small part of something so very big! We are very proud of these 4 ladies and all of their accomplishments. Sobriety is a difficult path; our family and friends say "just don't use" but not using is just the tip of the iceberg. As these ladies begin their journey of "living life on life's terms", abstaining from drugs and alcohol seems to be the less difficult part. The wreckage of our past haunts us for many years as we strive to straighten out our relationships with family, finances, legal, and medical problems; these struggles are why we must work the 12 steps with a sponsor, attend lots of meetings, and practice all of the principles of AA/NA in our daily affairs. These 4 ladies worked very hard on their recovery during their 6 months at Rea of Hope and I pray they continue to do so after leaving here.

**Melinda T.** triumphed over the odds as she was only 24 years old and this was her first effort to get sober. Melinda was extremely shy; she barely could look at you when spoken to. Her desire to get sober was evident as she struggled to follow our suggestions; no matter how uncomfortable Melinda felt, she kept doing the next right thing. Melinda has a beautiful little girl and demonstrated what a wonderful kind mother she is every time her daughter visited. Melinda worked on her steps with her sponsor, excelled at her job, studied diligently on her GED; she was very focused on her recovery the entire time she was here. Melinda became a great role model for other recovering mothers. We are very proud of Melinda for receiving her GED and regaining custody of her daughter.



**Jesse M.** came to us with a broken heart and a desire to just be able to "see" her children again. Jesse had been on the path of destruction for almost half of her life but having her children taken away from her seemed to be her rock bottom. The courts had already decided to terminate her parental rights and when I went with Jesse to this hearing, everyone involved was pleasantly surprised at the change in Jesse. After several more hearings, the result was Jesse's rights were not terminated; she has a chance to regain visitation this summer if she continues on the recovery path. Jesse is very motivated in her recovery and will also be receiving her GED this month. Way to go Jesse!



**Shanae T.** is a beautiful young mother who is extremely motivated in her recovery. Shanae's first attempt at Rea of Hope was not successful, she realized soon after she left here that her addiction had overpowered her decision making once again. Finally, Shanae called me and after many conversations, she came back to Rea of Hope. This time, I have personally watched Shanae have many spiritual awakenings and truly grow in her recovery. She has been motivated from day one obtaining a sponsor, working the steps, going to meetings, participating in her own recovery, and most of all adhering to every suggestion we made. The change in Shanae has been phenomenal; we are so blessed to see the results. Shanae has a very supportive family and the only amends they want is Shanae to remain sober. She is also working very hard on her relationship with her son and it is gratifying to observe. Shanae is a beautiful and caring young lady and truly on the road to recovery.

**Katie D.** came to Rea feeling all of the sadness and remorse that comes to us once we start on the recovery path. All of the things we once medicated and drowned in alcohol are now open wounds. Katie realized sobriety was not easy, but her desire to change and be the mother she wanted



to be was the motivation she needed to stay sober. Katie is very soft spoken but speaks volumes with her actions in following the road to recovery. She works full time, utilizes her sponsor, practices the 12 steps of recovery, follows our suggestions and maintains a great relationship with her 3 year old son. Katie is very excited to move back to her home with her son and be the wonderful mother she now can be. Katie's visits with her son have been few and far between due to transportation issues, but this has motivated her even more to be successful at Rea. She has contacted people in "the program" in her home town, found out the times of AA/NA meetings, obtained employment and is ready to continue her journey with her son. Great job Katie!

These ladies are regaining the trust and respect of their families, co-workers and friends. They have chosen to be willing to work the program at all costs and are great inspirations to all. As always, God continues to bless me with witnessing miracles first hand. We are very proud of you all and wish you the best on your individual journeys.

## Dear Rea of Hope Supporters,

The headlines are full of another tragic death due to the disease of addiction and the devastation on the family and the overwhelming feeling of sadness about what most consider a preventable death. I was also saddened to learn of another death by suicide in Charleston a couple of weeks before this one. I have seen this man walking the streets for years and knew him by name. I also know that both of these individuals had opportunities for treatment, self-help meetings, prayers of families and friends, etc.. one with money and a loving family, another with no money and no family support. Let's not fool ourselves, this disease kills and in many ways. It is frustrating, heartbreaking and maddening to watch those we love "do this to themselves". I have to remember that a lot of people do not recover but many do. I feel especially blessed to be able to see so many miracles happening daily, because believe me, it is a miracle when a drug addict and/or alcoholic is able to stay clean and sober, go to work everyday and pay their own bills; all things we consider part of a normal life. That is the key. There is nothing normal about the way addicts and alcoholics live prior to getting clean and sober. Their world is full of self-centeredness, delusions, blame and selfishness. If you have ever loved an addict/alcoholic or suffered from the disease yourself, you know this to be true. Rea of Hope is able to provide safe affordable housing to as many as 25 women and their minor children on a daily basis and give them the necessary skills to become successful in staying clean and sober and more importantly, self sufficient. I do not know why some get it and others don't. I just know that we have to keep giving them an opportunity to try. That is what we are able to do at Rea and I hope you will continue to support our efforts. During 2011, we had 12 women successfully complete our Phase I Program (6 months) and another 6 women completed our Long Term Program (additional 6 months minimum) and many were reunited with their children, received their GED's, paid off fines, regained their drivers license, received work promotions and stayed out of legal trouble. I know we are making a difference in the lives of many women of all ages and backgrounds. Thank you for the opportunity to serve our community.

Sincerely,

Marie Beaver, Executive Director

## Rea of Hope's Annual Miracles on Lee Street Dinner & Silent Auction

THURSDAY, MAY 10, 2012

6:00 PM

**EDGEWOOD COUNTRY CLUB**  
Celebrating 70 successful graduates and our 7 year anniversary of serving women

**Tickets are \$75 per person, tables available**  
(ALL PROCEEDS GO TO REA OF HOPE FELLOWSHIP HOME, INC)

### Hors d'oeuvres

Maryland Crab Dip with French Bread Rounds, Chicken Cordon Bleu Bites, Mediterranean Artichoke and Tomato Tartlets, Soft drinks, tea and coffee at the Bar

### Dinner

House Salad with assorted Dressings, Chicken Breast with Wild Mushroom Marsala Sauce, Herb Roasted Potatoes, Grilled Asparagus Spears, Tomato Basil Relish

### Dessert

Ice Cream Pecan Balls with chocolate or butterscotch fudge

**Opportunities for sponsorships and auction items are available, please contact Marie Beaver. The last two years have been a huge success and we look forward to seeing many of you there this year. Thank you so much for your support.**

## The Rea of Hope Board of Directors hosted the Christmas

party for staff and residents. There was lots of great food and laughter, as the residents were in charge of entertainment. 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.



## Board News

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to personally thank Barbara Koster, Nancy Daugherty, Jeff Joseck and Mary Selinger for their tireless 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 back returning board members Sally Holliday, Laura Ellis and Sarah Holroyd. Congratulations to new our Board Officers as noted below.

### Residents' Sobriety Achievements

1 year or more	1
9 months - 1 year	2
6 - 9 months	3
3 - 6 months	6
1 - 3 months	2

### Other Goals Met

Employment	100%
AA/NA Sponsors	100%
Graduates	4

## 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)  
Wash cloths (white)  
Toilet Paper  
Bleach



**Richard Wolford, President**

**Wayne Hypes, Secretary**

Mary Skeens

Nancy Atkins

Sarah Holroyd

Nick Casey, Ex Officio

Laura Ellis

Rev Dana Holter

Sally Holliday

**Beth Pugh, Vice President**

**Brad Sorrells, Treasurer**

Jamie Tridico

Mary Elisabeth Eckerson

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

House Techs, Tammy Atkins, Sandy Fisher, Rachel Williams

House Tech II, Holly Tonkin

## Board Members & Officers 2012

# Girl's Night Out

By Elaine Secrist



The laughter and gratitude continue with our Girl's Night Out! How rewarding it is to witness newfound freedom and happiness in our ladies lives. These ladies came to Rea without much to smile about much less laugh about. Little by little, they gain some self respect and hope in recovery and now are able to laugh and enjoy this night out. Laughter and friendship is good for the soul and our Girl's Night Out gives us all this opportunity. This is difficult for many as we have forgotten these basic essentials of life. Love and laughter will always be the best medicine!



**In December**, we stormed the Clay Center with 28 "dancing queens" for "Momma Mia". The musical was excellent; of course, none of us could stay in our seats as we danced and sang to all the old songs. It was thrilling to feel and hear the gratitude from the ladies as the majority had never experienced a musical! This was a Top 10 night.

**In January**, GNO was sponsored by Catherine Nutter, Nancy Daugherty, and Suzanne Trowbridge. These 3 ladies took all of our girls out to eat pizza and to the

movies. Their movie choice was "A Week with Marilyn" and how appropriate. This was the reality of drug/alcohol addiction instead of the advertisements glamorizing it. Thanks Catherine, Nancy and Suzanne for your generosity. The girls loved being with you all.

**In February**, our annual event for our ladies is Cedar Lakes Round-Up. This weekend of AA meetings, speakers and fellowship is priceless. Many of our ladies grumble about going, but always return with a whole different opinion. They all have a wonderful time with a lot of spiritual awakenings. This is an experience we are thrilled to be able to participate.

Thanks to everyone for participating in this night; it is a wonderful experience for all.



## Rea of Hope II New Life Apartments II

We are thrilled to announce the opening of our newest facility **Rea of Hope II at 204 Beauregard Street**, Charleston. As anticipated in the last newsletter, we were able to complete all renovations and open the home on December 1, 2011 and provide safe, affordable housing for 4 women at a time. Rea II has been 100% occupied since December 2, 2011, which proves how great the need is. We continue to maintain a waiting list of over 20 women hoping for an opportunity to come to Rea.



Rea purchased 206 Beauregard in January, 2012 and plan to have all renovations completed by the end of May, 2012. This will be an extension of our New Life Apartments, which are exclusively for our graduates and their minor children. Two new apartments will be available, 1 one bedroom and 1 two bedroom. Our own documentation shows that the longer we keep women engaged in a supportive service environment the better their outcomes. We are very excited about this phase of our development and look forward to the future.

## In addition to the grants we received for our expansion, these local businesses stepped up to the plate and we wanted to recognize their support.

**BB& T Carson Insurance Agency** selected Rea as the recipient of their annual Lighthouse project which provided two new washers and dryers, small kitchen appliances and cooking utensils.

**The Capitol Resource Agency** stepped in and made a generous donation of \$2500 to pay for the security system at Rea of Hope II.

Last but not least, **WVAWC Corporate Giving Committee** donated the cost of putting in a new line for the sprinkler system at Rea II, this was a huge expense and we are very grateful to WVAWC for this donation.



## Lakeview Christian Church, St. Marks Methodist Church and the West Virginia Society Agency Executives (WVSAE)

All made Christmas for the residents and their children very special this year. The two churches adopted all 22 residents and four children and Santa did not disappoint. WVSAE donated over \$1100 in cash and gift cards. We could hardly get into the living room due to the presents; I could not tell who was more excited; the kids, residents or ladies who brought the gifts. There were lots of smiles and gratitude all around and for many this was the best Christmas they have had in a long time.



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

- Rachel D. for saving her money and paying cash for her new car.
- Amanda D. on 4 years of continuous sobriety.
- Stacey B. and Carrie C. on 2 years of continuous sobriety.

- Jennifer D. on 1 year continuous sobriety.
- Rachel W. on getting her Driver's License back.
- Tammy A., Haley H. and Rachel W. for getting hired as full time employees at Rea.
- Holly T. and Haley H. for completing another semester of college.

## Special Thanks to the following for their generous support:

- *Daywood Foundation* for their continued support and generous donation of \$6,000.
- *The Governor's Community Partnership* grant from the House for \$3,500.
- *CRC Foundation* for their continued support and donation of \$1000.
- *St. Paul Lutheran Church, St. John's Episcopal Church, St. Timothy's in the Valley Episcopal Church, and The First Presbyterian Church of Logan* for their financial and spiritual support.
- *Blessed Sacrament Church* for the continued monthly tithe of \$100.
- *CAMC Civic Affairs Council* for their continued support and check for \$2000.
- *The United Methodist Temple* for their ongoing donations of \$750.
- *The Wehrle Foundation* for their generous donation of \$2500.
- *The estate of Byron George Johanning* for naming Rea of Hope as a beneficiary and the gift of \$14,000.
- *Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church* for their annual pledge of \$1000.
- *Capitol High School National Honor Society* for their donation of cleaning supplies, paper products and towels.
- *Unicare Health Plan of WV, Inc.* for their contributions of cleaning supplies.

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.



Donor's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

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	