



GALA 2017 - The Vision Continues

Friday, April 7th, 6:30 p.m.

Rothchild Catering and Conference Center

We invite you to be a part of the most special evening of the year at A Hand Up For Women! Come and have a wonderful meal, enjoy beautiful music, hear what is next for our dynamic ministry, and most importantly, be inspired as our ladies tell their stories. It is not too late to host a table and introduce 9 of your friends to our work. Or, you may make your reservation and we'll find you and your guest(s) a seat. **DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS IS MARCH 31ST**. Call 865-525-9696, or e-mail lisa@ahandupforwomen.org. Here are some scenes from last year.



Fleet Feet Knoxville Running Club Does It Again!

On Thanksgiving morning, 2016, the Fleet Feet Knoxville Running Club hosted the annual **Hot to Trot 5k/10k & Fun Run**. For the past 6 years, this event has supported A Hand Up for Women, and in 2016, FFKRC was able to donate **\$8000.00** to the non-profit, bringing the total contribution over the years to **\$38,000.00**. New for 2016, FFKRC added a donation element to the registration process, making it even easier to support A Hand Up For Women.



Hot to Trot truly is a family affair! Cindy Randolph and daughter Rachel with Mike and Melinda Jones are proof.



Sights from the Site

By Eva Pierce

eva@ahandupforwomen.org

One of the key values of A Hand Up For Women is partnering with organizations in the community who share our commitment to empowering women to succeed. Last year, we were fortunate enough to be sought out by the Second Chances program through the City of Knoxville's Public Service Department.

Eligible candidates from A Hand Up interview with the Equity and Diversity Committee from the department and, if chosen, serve a 12-week paid internship as part of various teams within the department. If they successfully complete the internship, they are given the opportunity to apply for open permanent positions.

Marilyn Anderson, our first Second Chances participant, is now employed with the city full-time. She completed her internship with flying colors...even becoming the first participant to receive her commercial driver's license on the first try! Pam Wilkinson will complete her internship on March 10th, having also received her CDL. A third potential Second Chances participant is in the process of interviewing for the next internship which will begin in April.

We are so grateful to Gail Frank and Nick Bradshaw from the Public Service Department for giving our ladies this opportunity to pursue a truly stable career. We look forward to many years of partnership ahead!

Leave a Legacy of Hope

For several years, our tag line after our name has been "You can find hope here." And our ladies would agree that, without the hope they have found here, they would never have the lives they live now. Lives free from desperation, instability, abuse, addiction and poverty. It is because of our donors that our ministry exists, and we hope that A Hand Up For Women will be here for generations to come.

Recently, one of our ladies was discussing the fact that her new job provided life insurance. She said that she wanted to have enough to cover her expenses and then the rest could go to A Hand Up. What a flattering thing to know that she wanted to honor us in this way.

Maybe this is something you might want to consider. It's never too early to make those sorts of arrangements, since we know that another day is never promised. Remembering us in your estate would set in motion a legacy of hope for women and their families that would last for generations.



Instructor Lori Gano led a prayer of dedication over our graduates who were surrounded by friends and family. (story page 3)

Hard-Working Women Assist Duncan House

One cold, rainy Saturday in February, eight young women from the Alternative Break program at the University of Tennessee spent most of the day serving us through helping out at Duncan House. From cleaning baseboards on their hands and knees, to climbing up a ladder to clear leaves off gutters, no job was too big for this group!

All of us at AHUFW are humbled to be the recipients of true servanthood! A special thanks to House Manager Sharon Porter for coordinating efforts and supporting this team! GO VOLS isn't just for sports!



From left to right: Elyssia Gaffney, Erika Seiber, Alex VerBerkmoes, Jenna Mangalindan, Victoria Montefusco, Meghan Shemwell, Kate Stamper, Meghan Byrge

TIME TO CELEBRATE!!! Graduation Day, 2017

Grace Lutheran Church was the setting on Sunday, January 29th, as we celebrated seven ladies who have worked hard for more than 12 months. They have attended more than 100 classes, met regularly with their mentors, and formed friendships with their sister participants. Most came to us unemployed or under-employed, and now are on their way to careers. Several were relatively new to living a sober lifestyle, but added months of clean time while with us. All have gained a new view of God as a Heavenly Father who loves them extravagantly and walks with them daily.

CONGRATULATIONS, LADIES!!!



Front row - Maggie Poland, Vickie Whittington, Melissa Davenport; Back row - Kristin Ferrell, Marilyn Anderson, Pam Wilkerson, April White



Mentor Sharon Porter and graduate Vickie Whittington go all the way back to elementary school.

Thanks to Ashley and Alex, our grads got pampered before graduation. Jennifer Wilson (not pictured) also did the ladies' make-up.

Grace Lutheran Church Hosts AHUFW Fundraiser

The ladies of the Grace Lutheran Church Lutheran Women Missions League showed off their creativity and generosity when they hosted the Festival of Tables to benefit A Hand Up For Women on March 4th. The theme of the day was "Fashions Through the Decades," and each hostess decorated their table to pay tribute to a decade. There was a psychedelic 70's table, a Renaissance table complete with period costumes, and a 40's table where you could have lunch with a stand-up photo of Frank Sinatra or Dean Martin!

AHUFW staff and volunteers were seated at the Shabby Chic table hosted by Betty Lou Simpson, a board member, instructor and mentor, and Susie Elseroad. Executive Director Eva Pierce was honored to be the keynote speaker for the event, sharing her own testimony as well as the story of AHUFW and its ladies.

On March 10th, A Hand Up was presented a check for \$3,005.00 from ticket sales and donations. This event is an example of how a church body can use the talents within to assist local ministries in a significant way. Thank you to the kind people at Grace!



Christina Duncan, Eva Pierce, Brenda Kerns (partially hidden), Betty Lou Simpson, and Lori Gano at the Shabby Chic table.





KCCWJC
P. O. Box 3216
Knoxville, TN 37927

Return Service Request

A Hand Up For Women
Knox County Christian Women's Job Corps
www.ahandupforwomen.org

Spring 2017

2017-2018 A Hand Up For Women Board of Directors and Staff



Front row - Cyndie Nichols, Wanda Kelly, Betty Lou Simpson, Karen Mills

Middle row - Dale Money, Sharon Porter, Rachel Randolph, Diane Gross, Deborah Broome, Nita Privette, Mike Jones

Back row - Robin Wilhoit, Lisa Costner, Christina Duncan, Gary Duncan

Not pictured - Janet Purkey and Eva Pierce
Leah Berry, Newsletter Editor

In Honor

We recognize the following contributions:

In honor of Deborah Broome by Daniel Yoder
In honor of Mary Jane Elmore by Carolyn Armbrister
In honor of Mary Jane Elmore by Eleanor Nichols
In honor of Diane Gross by Dan and Mary Holbrook
In honor of Thomas and Brenda Kerns by Nell Alfaro
In honor of Dick Sampsel by Margaret Reed
In honor of Doris June Large by Marvin and Wilda Smith
In honor of Brooke Smelcer by Shannon Sumner
In honor of Brooke, Katelyn, and Tyler Smelcer by Rick and Becky Burnett

In Memory

We recognize the following contributions:

In memory of Paul Dalton by Christine Dalton
In memory of Lezlee Gilstrap by Kathy Burnett
In memory of Kathy Hamilton by Sharon Amick
In memory of Kathy Hamilton by Susan Cooper
In memory of Anna Marie Hopper by Jeanette Thomas
In memory of Virginia Pharaoh by Ruthmary McConnell
In memory of Alma Rochat by Ernest Rochat
In memory of Eugene Stephens by Margaret Reed
In memory of Betty Waters Johnson by Jenny Woodson