



Sights from the Site

By Eva Pierce

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Sights from the Site – Fall, 2017

I suppose in every job there are things that we experience that we didn't count on. For me, the worst of those things has been attending the funerals of young women that I have grown to love. The text I received the morning of July 8th really knocked the wind out of me.

Kim Clark joined our program in February, bringing laughter and exuberance with her. She had a round, almost cherubic face that always had a rosy glow. Her laughter was contagious, as she laughed from her toes to her nose. She worked hard at Sonic and frequently would bring a warm corndog to share with Gabby, our Duncan House dog. If it was too warm, she would blow on it and feed it to her with a fork! In class, Kim was always right in the thick of any discussion, ready to share her viewpoint or experiences in order to encourage someone else.



Thanks to the ravages of drug addiction, Kim made her share of poor choices and the consequences were dire. She had been in jail and had signed custody of her 4 young children over to her mother, because their father was in prison. She had satisfied stringent Knox County Recovery Court requirements, and graduated that program in May. She had developed quite the sense of humor about her old life. I'll never forget the laughter when she took us through all her mugshots, pointing out that she changed her hair color each time she was arrested. But when the laughter ceased, she would say, "Not going back there...God's got me."

Thirteen months before we met Kim, she knelt at the altar of Blessed Hope Baptist Church and gave her life to Christ. You could tell that Kim no longer wanted to be that woman in the mug shots. Sometime during the night of July 8th, at her mother's home, Kim met her Savior face to face. She was 34 years old. I firmly believe that sometimes the Lord purposely brings his child home at a time that defies human explanation. Maybe because He knows the battles they fight and wants to save them from further defeat or discouragement. Maybe because He wants their loved ones last memories of them to be when they were on top of the world. And maybe, we don't need to know. "For as heaven is higher than earth, My ways are higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts." Isaiah 55:9 Whatever the reason, our classroom is too quiet without her laughter, and our hearts are emptier until we see her again.

Carolyn Garner, Kim's mother, wishes to thank the following people who contributed to Kim's final expenses and the back-to-school needs of her children: Mary Blount, Lisa Costner, Gary and Diane Forry, Pam Hodges, Arlene McElyea, Les and Eva Pierce, Nita Privette, Rachel Randolph, and The Secret Sisters.



Graduates Return the Blessing

One of the fundamental beliefs of A Hand Up For Women is that our ladies are so blessed during their time in the program that it is incumbent upon them to give back. Most of our graduates take this very seriously, as the photos below will show. Through the years, grads have shared their testimonies at our gala and have accompanied me to speaking engagements and done so. Several have trained to mentor new women, a few have even taught classes. We always have a graduate serving on our Board of Directors, and graduates regularly come to have dinner with our current participants and then clean up the kitchen before sitting in on class. In a time in society where a sense of entitlement can run rampant, we are so proud of our graduates for returning the blessings that they have received.

Participant Pamela Hutchinson assisted graduate Temecka Smith with the Secret Sisters yard sale in May. Some of the funds from the yard sale assisted with the funeral expenses for Kim Clark.



Marilyn Anderson shared her story at Black Oak Heights Baptist Church



Graduates Janice Palmer, Marilyn Anderson, and Christina Duncan are the officers of Secret Sisters, a secret pal group serving current participants

We're Looking For a Few Good Men!

If your men's ministry or Sunday school class is looking for a way to really make a difference, have we got good news for you! Because we serve all women, our male resources can be somewhat limited. We frequently have ladies who are moving into new homes and have no way to pick up donated furniture or move into their new places. A few nice fellows with a couple of pick-up trucks could make all the difference!



BRAG ALERT!!

The ladies pictured holding certificates have just completed two of our toughest classes simultaneously! Due to an unexpected schedule change, we had no choice but to require the ladies to attend Basic Computer Skills on Tuesday, then Faith and Finances on Thursday. Both classes require homework and lots of effort put into attaining brand new skills. These ladies dug in and did it! Also pictured is Andrea Pope, Faith and Finances Instructor.

In Memory

We recognize the following contributions:

In memory of Doug (Mickey) Atchley by Burma Carr
In memory of Mickey Atchley by Patricia Webber
In memory of Bob Bryson by Max Conner
In memory of Charlotte Courtney by Deb Henry
In memory of Mary Culver by Patsy Marcum
In memory of Dorothy and Lily Duncan by Gail Debusk
In memory of Ann Gentry by Dick and Irene Townsend
In memory of Ann Gentry by Linda Williams
In memory of Pat Harmon by Carlos Harmon
In memory of Gene and Lance Hubbard by Frances Hubbard
In memory of Peggy Kesterson by Jeanette Thomas
In memory of Leonard Mitchell by Jewell Mitchell
In memory of Sharon Monett by Robin Stroud
In memory of Louise Patterson by Tom Patterson
In memory of Louise Patterson by Ed and Wanda Kelley
In memory of Peggy Pierce by Diane Gross
In memory of Peggy Pierce by Thomas and Brenda Kerns
In memory of Peggy Pierce by Les and Eva Pierce
In memory of John and Marie Pressley by Claudia Pressley
In memory of Ronald Sampsel by Alice Sampsel
In memory of Margaret Sherkey by Rick and Dawn Hawksmith
In memory of Teresa Drinnen Siler by Powell Drinnen
In memory of Deborah Gail Sligh by Regina King
In memory of Marjorie Spears by Deb Henry
In memory of Ann Thornley by Peggy King
In memory of June Vaughn by Kathy Burnett
In memory of Bobbie Wilson by Nita Privette
In memory of Katherine Wright by Sandy Bolton
In memory of Mae G. Wright by David and Denise Walker

Leave a Legacy of Empowerment

A few weeks ago, we received a substantial donation from the estate of a volunteer who had recently passed away. This was not only a surprise, it was humbling to know that someone we loved dearly would honor us in this way. It means that this lovely lady will continue to invest in the lives of our women, just as she did in life.

With more and more baby boomers doing their estate planning, I would ask that you consider A Hand Up For Women in your will. We will be happy to provide any information you may need to make an informed decision. Or maybe you would like to come pay us a visit to see first-hand what kind of empowerment you would make possible. Call us at 865-525-9696 or e-mail Lisa Costner, Administrative Coordinator, at lisa@ahandupforwomen.org for more information.

In Honor

We recognize the following contributions:

In honor of Marilyn Anderson by Bill Cahill
In honor of Willie Mae Downs by Kimberly Evans
In honor of Barbara Golec by Pauline Walker
In honor of Granddaughters Kara, Sarah and Amanda by Glinda Arnold
In honor of Emily Grady by Kathy Burnett
In honor of Michelle Henley by Thomas and Brenda Kerns
In honor of Michelle Henley by Tracy O'Connor
In honor of Michelle Henley by Lynne Riggs
In honor of Thomas and Brenda Kerns by Nell Alfaro
In honor of Kathryn Wyatt Mee by Joyce Wyatt
In honor of Les and Eva Pierce by Gaynelle Russell
In honor of Nita Privette by Norma Kelley
In honor of Donna Roland by Brittany Hong
In honor of Dick and Dottie Sampsel by Margaret Davis
In honor of Dick and Dottie Sampsel by Charlie and Deb Henry
In honor of Betty Lou Simpson by Lauren Dake
In honor of Betty Lou Simpson by Tina Stone
In honor of Brooke Smelcer by David and Kathy Burnett
In honor of Brooke Smelcer by Roger and Margaret Davis
In honor of Richard and Stephanie Spencer by Anonymous
In honor of Ashlyn Whisnant by Jeff and Laura Allen
In honor of Ashlyn Whisnant by Ralph and Gladys Lillard
In honor of April White by Trish Masters
In honor of April White by Brooke Smelcer
In honor of Linda Williams by David and Linda Ackerson

KROGER REWARDS

Now is the time to register or re-register your Kroger Community Rewards sign-up so that A Hand Up For Women receives a portion of your purchases. Go to www.kroger.com and click on Community Rewards. The organization number for A Hand Up For Women is 99250.





KCCWJC
P. O. Box 3216
Knoxville, TN 37927

Return Service Request

A Hand Up For Women
Knox County Christian Women's Job Corps

Fall 2017

Christmas (planning) in August

As of this writing, it is 124 days until Christmas! Now, before you shout "BAH HUMBUG," hear us out! Before things get stressful and busy, and before you have more parties to attend than you have room on the calendar, start thinking about how you would like to assist A Hand Up For Women for the holidays. Here are some options:

- ◆ At the end of the year, expenses go up, so we ask that you plan to include us in your year-end giving. We'll send you a receipt for all your 2017 donations to use for tax purposes.
- ◆ Our ladies are usually doing all the giving to their family and friends, so we would love to have gift cards to let them splurge on themselves for a change! Maybe to a salon for a new haircut or a manicure. Or to a theater to take in a movie, or to a holiday event. Anything to show them how special they are.
- ◆ We always have a great time at our Duncan House Christmas Party with our White Elephant gift exchange. We like to have nice things for the ladies to choose from, or to use their saved Barbara Bucks to purchase. If you have an unused item that you would like to give, or you would like to purchase a new item to donate, it would be very much appreciated.
- ◆ Some of our ladies have young and/or school-age children. While there are many programs in our community to sponsor children for Christmas, our volunteers and donors take a much more personal approach. They work closely with the moms to provide exactly what their children like. This preserves the dignity of our ladies and their families.

Please contact us at 525-9696 if we can assist with your holiday giving! Merry (early) Christmas!

IDENTITY STATEMENT

A Hand Up For Women, Knox County Christian Women's Job Corps, is a life-management and job-readiness ministry that brings dignity, self-confidence and hope to women who might otherwise remain trapped in addiction, abuse, poverty and despair.

Through the combination of classes, mentoring, networking, fellowship and spiritual development, we help women realize skills, self-sufficiency and faith to become what God intends them to be.

Board of Directors:

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Dale Money
Cyndie Nichols
Nita Privette
Dr. Janet Purkey
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Eva Pierce, Executive Director
Lisa Costner, Admin. Coordinator
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Leah Berry, Newsletter Editor



Check us out on our website
www.ahandupforwomen.org