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

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KCCWJC
P.O. Box 3216
Knoxville, Tennessee 37927

January 2009

In Honor/Memory
We recognize the following contributions:

In Honor of:

Reverend Bob Winston by Gloria Marshall
Carol Clarke by Marti Richardson
Bob and Pat Winston by Dottie Sampsel
Bob and Pat Winston by Elsie Clark
Elsie Clark by Dottie Sampsel
Dick and Dottie Sampsel by Elsie Clark
Jim Harper by Elsie Clark
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Dottie Sampsel by Anne Cowan
Trudy Johnson by Paula Settle
Eric Weaver Family by Marita Weaver Steward
Josh Leslie by Nola Powell
Juanita Fleming by Tom & Geneva McMahan

In Memory of:

Dellana O'Brien by Paula Settle
Lois Parker by Shanna Browning
Lois Parker by Pam Eubanks
Lois Parker by Kelly Gregory
Lois Parker by Jennifer Hurd
Lois Parker by Anne Kovalovsky
Lois Parker by Hollie Smith
Lois Parker by Meredith Thompson
Lois Parker by Annie Watson
Robert Pruitt by Kizer and Gammeltoft Attys
Robert Pruitt by James & Lee Ann Cullison
Joyce Robinson by Ed & Sylvia Easterday
Eva Dean Sampsel by C. Jeannette Thomas
Roy Shrader by Ethel Shrader
Jeri Kirby by Charles & Deborah Henry
Willie Mae Ross by Darlene Love
Reverend Henry Chiles by Bob and Willodene Peek
Clyde Hylton by Ralph & Verna Powers
Clyde Hylton by Joyce Bromley
Clyde Hylton by Patty Avriett
Dorothy Greer by Henry W. Greer
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Sights from the Site

By Eva Pierce
eva@ahandupforwomen.org

I opened the business section of the newspaper this morning and saw the following headline on one of the editorial columns:

The doom and gloom: Are we sick of it yet? I know I am! Of course, the article was about the struggling economy and the dire predictions for 2009. I certainly don't have my head in the sand. I am a realist, something that should be part of every non-profit director's job description. But, this director has a prediction of her own. I predict that God will use our current financial crisis as an opportunity to "show His stuff." You see, we have an asset too valuable for any portfolio to hold; it is called prayer. Wayne Watson, one of my favorite artists, has a song that says, "When God's people pray, they bring the things of earth to the doors of Heaven. When God's people pray, there is hope reborn, there is sin forgiven. And miracles you cannot explain away." I cannot explain how we met our expenses for the month of December. I cannot explain how we were able to provide Christmas gifts and a celebration for our ladies. I cannot explain how we already have people writing checks to be gala table hosts. Oh sure, I know where the money came from. It came from donors who gave beyond their own comfort and from the Sunrise Foundation's willingness to help.

What I cannot explain is what motivates people to do so. The only explanation I have found is that I, and many others, have prayed earnestly for there to be no interruption in our ability to see women gain self-sufficiency. I have prayed that classes continue as scheduled and that we have the resources needed for that to happen. I know that we have a God who can do far more than we can ever ask or imagine. There He goes... showing His stuff again! All because God's people prayed. So much for gloom and doom!

A Celebration on the River

The ladies of A Hand Up For Women, who had faithfully attended the program since July, were rewarded with a Christmas party held on the Star of Knoxville riverboat. This evening was made possible by a generous discount from the Tennessee Riverboat Company, funding from the Sunrise Foundation, and instructors, mentors, and staff who paid their own way. This was the first time most of the ladies had ever been on a riverboat, as they enjoyed a wonderful buffet meal, holiday music, and gifts. Wide smiles appeared on some faces for the first time in months!

2009 "Hand In Hand" Fundraising Gala

Friday, March 6th, 6:30 p.m.

**Rothschild Conference Center
8807 Kingston Pike**

- Robin Wilhoit, Mistress of Ceremonies
- Live Music
- Participant Testimonies
- 2009 Helping Hand Awards
- Plenty of free, accessible parking
- Wonderful food and fellowship

Contact our office TODAY to host a table*
or

To make your reservation - 219-0104 or
gaynelle@ahandupforwomen.org

Table Host Brunch
Saturday, February 7th, 10:00 a.m.
Second Baptist Church
2909 North Broadway

*A table host makes a \$300.00 donation and fills a table of ten people, including themselves. Hosts can be individuals, groups, businesses, churches, etc.



Warmth Knit with Love



Mr. Colba B. Ramsey is proof of a lot of things. He is proof that you are never too old to learn something new, that you never outgrow the value of giving to other people, and that doing so is good for your own mental and physical health. After all, he turned 96 years old in October! He must be doing something right!

Mr. Ramsey began weaving afghans about 10 years ago when he stepped in to complete one that his daughter Dolores had started. Dolores told me, "When I saw how much he enjoyed making his own designs and producing something that people wanted to buy, I bought him a round loom that he uses to knit scarves." Mr. Ramsey's scarves have gone to people in New Mexico, Nebraska, South Carolina and Ohio, among other states. Weaving had become a tool that he used both for his own enjoyment, and to provide warmth to people who would otherwise suffer from the cold.

Then, about seven years ago, Mr. Ramsey became severely ill, spending two months in the hospital, and even more time in a nursing care facility. In April of 2002, he had recovered enough to move to Windsor Gardens Assisted Living. But, Dolores said, "I knew he was better when, about two weeks after moving in, he asked for his looms."

He started out making little placemats, then baby blankets, then, when the weather started getting cold, he began making scarves again. At about that same time, Pat Hilton, a long-time A Hand Up For Women volunteer, and a friend of Dolores's began gathering things to go into Christmas gift bags for our ladies. Mr. Ramsey's scarves have been part of our ladies' Christmas ever since, and have always been welcomed with tears of appreciation and humility. This past Christmas, some of our graduates were excited to tell the new ladies about the love that Mr. Ramsey had put into every stitch.

Dolores says that "This hobby has kept him busy and happy, because he knew he was doing something to help others." Everyone at A Hand Up For Women has a warm spot in our hearts for Mr. Ramsey, as well as a shield from the cold, knit with love by his hands.

January 2009 National Mentoring Month

In recognition of National Mentoring Month, we would like to thank each and every woman who has given of their time over the last six years to walk alongside one of our participants. Mentors act as cheerleaders, teachers, role models, accountability people, mothers, sisters, and friends. Some of these relationships have lasted for over five years and are now true and equal friendships. Thank you for giving from your heart.



Brenda Kerns, Pat Hilton and Kathy Hamilton are three of our longest-serving mentors.

Our Mentors

Debbie Hopper
Mary Anne Hoskins
Brenda Kerns
Barbara Manis
Julia McGlown
Carolyn Mitchell
Brenda Morris
Paula Phillips
Ann Pruitt
Clara Segars
LaVon Stinson
Ruby Tobe
Gwen Valentine
Amy Wilson

Marylyn Adams
Cheryl Biggs
Betsy Booker
Delores Brabson
Deborah Broome
Becky Burris
Natalie Crippen
Joyce Drew
Dianne Graybeal
Diane Gross
Marilyn Hafner
Kathy Hamilton
Pat Hilton
Harriet Hodge
Cindy Hood

Many Thanks to "Extra-Milers"

Those of us at A Hand Up For Women, KCCWJC, are never ones to exaggerate any financial need that we may have. But it is only accurate to say that, without the help of those listed below, our ladies would have had no Christmas gifts from us, and we would have had some tough decisions to make regarding our operations. Please know that each and every dollar you give to us makes a difference, and is wisely managed. WITHOUT YOU, WE WOULD NOT EXIST!!!!

Christmas Gift Donors

Fredrick and Delores Brabson
Eunice Goodwin
Pat Hilton
Tim and Debbie Hopper
Brenda Kerns
Kelly Redwine
Salon Visage
Steve and Diana McSween
Dick Sampsel's Sunday School Class, Cumberland Baptist
Clyde and Nancy Tilley
Linda Williams
Tina Williford



Special Appeal Donors (Received through 1/12/09)

Virginia Acker
Tere' Atwater
Patty Avriett
William and Mary Blount
Joyce Bromley
David and Kathy Burnett
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Carolyn Cate
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Norvin and Linda Davis
Nancy DeCoasta
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Bob and Willodene Peek
Buck and Paula Phillips
Nola Powell

Ralph and Verna Powers
N.J. Prater
Todd and Cindy Randolph
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Steve and Diana McSween
Clara Mink
Bob and Willodene Peek
Buck and Paula Phillips
Nola Powell
Ralph and Verna Powers
N.J. Prater
Todd and Cindy Randolph
Dick and Dottie Sampsel
Paula Settle
James and Libby Scruggs
Marvin and Wilda Smith
Judith Stansberry
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