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SHELTER • FOOD • CLOTHING • RECOVERY • EMPLOYMENT • HOUSING • HEALTH • MENTAL HEALTH • SOCIAL SERVICES • OUTREACH

## PROFILE

### A CLIENT’S PERSPECTIVE: **Gayle’s Story**

Gayle was raised in a loving family with no history of drugs or alcohol. When she reached high school, she began hanging around with friends who introduced her to both.

She held things together, moved to a new town, bought a new house and car and had two children. She was still using on and off, and when she got overwhelmed with all that life was throwing at her she began a downward spiral. She lost it all - her house, her job, her children - and ended up in jail. She called and got on the waiting list for the Hope Center Recovery Program for Women, and her family arranged for her bail.

**“For most of us, drugs or alcohol ruled our whole lives. To watch people move from addiction to recovery is very powerful”**

**“The change and growth is visible. People arrive broken down and lost. And then, after a while, their whole thinking changes and they’re alive again.”**

Gayle spent nearly a year going through the Women’s Recovery Program. Today she and her children live in their own home and she’s getting married in a couple of months.

Gayle says the structure, accountability and the peer driven aspects set the Hope Center apart from other programs she had tried. She also points out that although people in the program come from all walks of life, there’s one thing that they all have in common. “For most of us, drugs or alcohol ruled our whole lives. To watch people move from addiction to recovery is very powerful,” says Gayle. “The change and growth is visible. People arrive broken down and lost. And then, after a while, their whole thinking changes and they’re alive again.”

### UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION

Please help us make sure we have your most updated information. Would you like to be added to our e-mail list, do you have a change of address or name, would you like to be deleted from our mailing list, etc.? If you have a change of any sort, please contact Heather Mitchell at 859-252-7881, [hmitchell@hopectr.org](mailto:hmitchell@hopectr.org).

#### MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 6  
Lexington, Ky. 40588

#### FACILITIES/PROGRAMS

Emergency Shelter  
Ball-Quantrell Jones Center  
for Women  
George Privett Recovery Center  
Fayette County Detention  
Center Recovery Program  
HopeMobile

#### PHONE

(859) 252-7881

#### WEBSITE:

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

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Cecil Dunn

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The Hope Center's mission is to care for homeless and at-risk persons by providing life-sustaining and life-rebuilding services that are comprehensive and address underlying causes.

WORDS OF  
**H O P E**

[www.hopectr.org](http://www.hopectr.org) | WORDS OF HOPE | JUNE 2010

## Serving Single-Parent Families

### *The Hope Center takes on management of Virginia Place*

I want to tell you about a new commitment we took on early this year. We are now managing Virginia Place, a project off Red Mile Road that began operation over twenty years ago. If you haven't heard of it, it's time you did.



Cecil Dunn

Virginia Place serves single parents who want to gain a higher education. It houses their families in eighty apartments and delivers supportive social services as the parents attend college. There is an on-site child care center with Head Start services. The center serves over a hundred children and has received a Level Three certificate under the state's Stars for Kids Now rating system. The families receive all this at little or no cost.

It is such a good program that Kentucky Housing Corporation has used it as a model for its own Scholar House program with similar facilities around the state.

Last year, the Virginia Place folks asked us to take a look at their program and consider taking on its management. As good as the program itself has been, like many smaller agencies Virginia

Place was having trouble keeping up. Administrative responsibilities like human resources, housing compliance and development were competing with direct program efforts in ways that overstretched staff resources.

One thing we have been able to do is take over many of those administrative functions and free up the Virginia Place staff to spend more time working directly with their clients. Meanwhile, Janice James, our Deputy Director, has taken responsibility for managing the Virginia Place staff. She's doing a great job.

We have always sought to look for new ways to address the challenges that impede people who are homeless and at risk of being homeless. The reason is simple - the causes of homelessness are many, varied and complex. If we don't confront those causes with solutions to match we won't succeed in making the life-altering changes our clients need.

It is clear that families headed by single parents with limited educations are among those at risk of becoming homeless, and the barriers to gaining that education are immense. By helping Virginia Place parents go to college, we are helping make sure they can compete in the job market, take care of and house their families and raise the next generation of achievers.

Last month we held a recognition ceremony for sixteen single mothers who had just received their college degrees. Three had earned associate degrees, twelve had earned bachelor degrees and one had earned an M.B.A. The degrees were in a variety of fields including social work, criminal justice, special education, psychology, management and health education.

Virginia Place is the kind of inventive program that not only sees a problem and provides a solution, it prevents that problem from becoming an even bigger one. That is exactly the approach we have long pursued here at the Hope Center. We are pleased to be pursuing it now at Virginia Place. 

**Virginia Place serves single parents who want to gain a higher education.**

# Tireless Volunteer and Supporter

**Ms. Geneva Fisher** is a resident of Hartland Hills Retirement Community. She started her involvement with the Hope Center by being in charge of the Hope Center donations received at the Hartland Hills Chapel



service. As she learned more about the Hope Center, she mobilized the residents to do much more.

Ms. Geneva is a staunch advocate of the Hope Center and has persuaded the residents and staff of Hartland Hills to become passionate about the Hope Center as well.

She constantly urges residents to donate clothing, furniture and anything else that can be used by the Hope Center. Hope Center staff picks up a large load of donations at least once a month. At Christmas, she organized a shopping trip for the residents so they could buy gifts for our residents and their children. Then the group came to the Hope Center with Santa hats on and delivered them.

Ms. Geneva has a heart for the homeless and those who are

addicted to drugs and alcohol because addiction has affected her own family. "There has been so much tragedy in my family and I want to help those who are less fortunate. I have a great passion to help those in recovery. It is a way for me to honor my daughter's memory," says Ms. Geneva.

The Hope Center was proud to honor Ms. Geneva at the Central Kentucky Volunteer Award Breakfast on April 21.



## Girl Scout Making a Difference

Maggie Cook-Allen, a junior Girl Scout, was recently awarded a Bronze Award, the highest award a junior Girl Scout can receive.

Maggie chose the Hope Center for her service project because of the impact it left on her when she came with her church to serve a meal last Christmas. "All I wanted to do was to give back and make a positive impact on the residents of the Hope Center," says Maggie.

She collected kitchen appliances from friends, neighbors and her parents' co-workers. These items will be used to help furnish apartments for Hope Center clients who are transitioning back into the community.

If you or your group would be interested in helping with a donation drive please contact Heather Mitchell at 859.252.7881, ext. 3041 or [hmitchell@hopectr.org](mailto:hmitchell@hopectr.org).

## Random notes on homelessness in America ...



### Last August the Washington Post

**reported:** More than half a million family members used an emergency shelter or transitional housing between Oct. 1, 2007, and Oct. 1, 2008, the latest figures available from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The number of homeless families rose 9 percent, and in rural and suburban areas by 56 percent. Women make up 81 percent of adults in homeless families, and tend to be younger than 30 with children younger than 5.

## Join the Hope Center at Ichthus **ICHTHUS** MUSIC FESTIVAL

The Hope Center has partnered with the Ichthus Music Festival to provide our community with a way to support the Hope Center while also enjoying a great night of music. On Wednesday, June 16 you are invited to attend the kick-off night at Ichthus for only \$10 and a Bag of Hope. To create a Bag of Hope, simply fill a sandwich bag with toiletry items such as toothpaste, lotion, shampoo, razor, chapstick, etc. and bring it with you to the festival. All Bags of Hope received will be distributed to clients at the Hope Center.

The Ichthus Music Festival is the oldest and longest-running Christian music festival in the nation. Ichthus has a great tradition of being a music and media innovator as well as a showcase for the best in Christian music. The Ichthus Farm is located at 9520 Harrodsburg Rd. in Wilmore, Kentucky (only about a 15 minute drive from Lexington).

For more information about the Ichthus Music Festival or to purchase tickets for this great night of music featuring Matthew West, the Newsboys and TobyMac visit [www.ichthusfestival.org](http://www.ichthusfestival.org).

### FOR THE RECORD / Services provided for January - April (at the Emergency Shelter unless otherwise noted)

**Meals Served**  
(including Privett Center & Women's Center) ..... 119,204

**Nights Lodging**  
(including Privett Center) ..... 38,108

**Clothing Issued** ..... 14,218

**Mobile Outreach** ..... 2,370

**Volunteer Hours** ..... 1,707

**Health Clinic Visits** ..... 2,069

**Mental Health Services** ..... 7,710

**Men's Recovery Admissions** ..... 78

**Housing & Employment** ..... 558

**Hispanic Program** ..... 892

**Women's Recovery Admissions** ... 33

### INCOME (January-April)

**Grants** ..... \$911,144

**Individuals** ..... \$34,468

**Churches** ..... \$6,854

**Businesses** ..... \$526,364

**TOTAL** ..... \$1,478,830

# A Selfless Act of Giving

One day Amy Lett called the Hope Center to tell us of her plan to ask guests to her upcoming wedding to make donations to charities, rather than purchase the more traditional gifts. Her question was if we could provide her with the names of those making gifts in honor of her marriage to Arne Bathke so she could acknowledge them. This was such a unique and selfless act of giving that we asked Amy and Arne if we could ask a few questions and share their story.



Photo: Wells Photography

**Q** When planning a wedding most couples choose to select needed items and place them on a gift registry. Why did you choose a different option?

**A** “To us a gift registry seemed like a lot of money wasted. Individually we both make a point to donate to issues we care about so it is part of how we spend our money. In that same vein, we met while volunteering for a local nonprofit organization.

“Which has more value, a dollar to shelter and feed, or a dollar that adds clutter on our shelves? It was an easy answer to our once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to point friends and family to gift-giving and introduce them to some fantastic and selfless work that local organizations are doing every day.”

**Q** How did you choose the charities to recommend to your friends and family?

**A** “We selected a few local organizations that we were personally familiar with. We had donated time or money to these organizations in the past.

“Amy had visited the Hope Center, invited by different people who work there. She learned a lot from those visits. We often see people who probably rely on the services of the Hope Center which caused us to think ‘Thank goodness for the Hope Center and all the work they do.’ What could feel better than being a part of that in some small way and involve the guests of our special day too.”

**Q** How did you let your guests know about your wishes?

**A** “We made the suggestion through our gift registry webpage. The wording said, *As gifts to us, we ask that you offer a donation to a relevant organization or cause on our behalf. Some organizations we love are:*”

**Q** Did you get any feedback from guests about your request?

**A** “A few friends and family were uncomfortable saying they wanted to give something tangible to reflect on the day and our relationships. Some wanted to give a loving, thoughtful gift and felt a donation was too detached. Others said it was refreshing and very much appreciated the idea and the giving. In the end, we think overall it was appreciated. But we also didn’t refuse any of the “hard” gifts we received!

“It’s been a unique opportunity to let our family and friends know what we care about, what we don’t care about (more clutter) and to put our (well, actually their) money where our mouth is. We feel as happy as the gift givers, and the Hope Center will put the money to good use. It’s a win-win-win proposition.”



- Shower Shoes (Flip Flops)
- Sunscreen
- Pre-Packaged Snacks
- Towels
- New underwear (men’s and women’s)

See full list of needed items at [www.hopectr.org](http://www.hopectr.org)



The Hope Center provides services to the homeless in Lexington, Kentucky, including the immediate needs of food, shelter and clothing and the longer-term needs of detox and substance abuse recovery, diagnosis and treatment of mental illness, health clinic services, employment counseling, life skills, housing support and transitional housing.

**DONATE ONLINE** | [www.hopectr.org](http://www.hopectr.org)

Leave a legacy of hope by including the Hope Center in your Planned Giving. For more information, please call Kim Livesay at (859) 252-7881.