



**STEPHANIE FOUND
FREEDOM!**

Because of You!

The Path To Freedom!

God specializes in new beginnings! **The "Path To Freedom"** begins when we find release from the pain of our past. One of the greatest causes for unhappiness in our world today is that so many of us get stuck in the past.

This often includes resentment and regret. We must find freedom from the pain of resentment and regret.

In our past, we get hurt, sometimes intentionally and sometimes unintentionally. But what we do with that hurt determines whether we live in freedom or in a prison of pain.

Thankfully, there is a path to

freedom! Isaiah 43:18-19 says "Forget about what has happened. Do not think about the past. Instead, look to the new thing I am going to do."

We have to let go of the past. Give up our grudges. Let God settle the score. Let Him even the odds.

There wouldn't be a path to freedom at the South Georgia House of Hope were it not for you.

We wouldn't be celebrating Stephanie Kelley's freedom were it not for you.

Because of you, precious souls struggling with alcoholism, addiction and abuse find the path to freedom.

Because of you, the Lord is brought close to the brokenhearted.

Once more, my heart is filled with thankfulness, because of you!

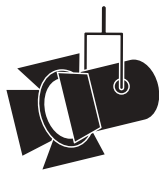


Sharon Wagner | *President & CEO*

In 2005, having experienced the devastation and effects of alcoholism, addiction and abuse personally and in their own family, Rick and Sharon Wagner began to help others to find hope and freedom. In a bold move that, at the time, just felt like the right thing to do, the Wagners moved out of their home and into a hotel in order to give five women in recovery their home. They gave the first financial donations, Teen Challenge donated the curriculum and House of Hope was born!

Volunteer Spotlight

Aleta Spell



When Aleta Spell was invited to a dinner at South Georgia House of Hope, she was moved and knew she would be back. "I heard God speak to my heart and say 'You will be back here.'" And, for over nine years, she has returned as a volunteer to teach the ladies.

She teaches what she is passionate about: Prayer! "I had been told all my life that I should pray, but no one had ever taught me how to pray."

She remembers realizing how the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray. It was then that she began a journey in the scripture, looking for everything she could find. "I had been a part of a great church for years but I was never involved in prayer."

Aleta has experienced the effects of addiction firsthand in her family. Because of that, she has a special heart and passion for the House of Hope ladies and the power of prayer.

"Providentially, I was found by other people who mentored me in prayer and I learned to war for my family."

"Prayer is not a religious

exercise. It is the way you get to know the God who created you, the Son Who gave everything for you, and the Holy Spirit Who empowers you," she says.

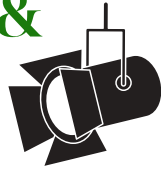
Aleta is looking forward to expansion in the lives of the ladies she mentors and in the ministry of South Georgia House of Hope



About Aleta Spell Aleta Spell is a married, mother of four, with seven grandchildren. She lives in Lowndes County, Georgia

Donor Spotlight

Carolyn & Robert Dinkins



Carolyn and Robert Dinkins knew South Georgia House of Hope founders Rick and Sharon Wagner before they got married. "Sharon and I were kindred spirits and became really close friends," says Carolyn. They would attend women's conferences together. Their friendship grew and Sharon began to share her dream for a safe place for those suffering from addiction, alcoholism and abuse. "We prayed together, in agreement," she says. "She and Rick had helped people in their home for years and had begun to dream of this ministry."

"Rick and Sharon continued to help ladies as they could and eventually moved them into the old farm house," Robert said. The property needed a lot of work and the need for money was always critical. From their own

There is a real problem...

pocket the Dinkins hired a painter to paint what was an old farmhouse.

"Renovating that old farmhouse started our involvement and it continually went up from there," Robert says.

Robert served on the South

Georgia House of Hope Board for many years, rotating off in 2013.

A few years later, the Dinkins showed up again with their work gloves on to help renovate the newly acquired Re-entry houses. "We took on the renovations, receiving financial help from local vendors and churches," Carolyn says. "I handled zoning

...and there is a real answer and it is Jesus!

and permitting for the project. We knew Re-entry was a missing part of the South Georgia House of Hope recovery process."

"House of Hope is a safe place for these ladies but their re-entry into a hostile world can be dangerous," Robert says. The Dinkins realized that the House of Hope ladies needed a Re-entry process.

Both Robert and Carolyn felt a very passionate call to see the Re-entry homes renovated.

"God blessed us with the people and the financial resources to do the work. We are very happy to have had that privilege," Carolyn says.

A few years later, the Dinkins showed up to help renovate another building on the House of Hope property into a chapel. This project lasted just under two years, but they saw it to completion.

All that construction was years ago, but, Carolyn says, "It is

still in our hearts to be consistent givers to the ministry. The

House of Hope is a safe place...

problems these ladies face are real, and the answers House of Hope brings to them are real."

"We all have to make choices, but sometimes those choices lead us down a path that will require help to recover from," Carolyn says.

"There is a real problem and there is a real answer, and it is Jesus!"



About Carolyn & Robert

Carolyn and Robert are entrepreneurs who have been married for 41 years. They have four children, eleven grandchildren and two great grandchildren. They are Lowndes County natives.

FEATURE STORY

Stephanie Found Freedom! *Because of you!*

Stephanie, with Sharon Wagner, at her graduation.

Stephanie Kelley found freedom!

She just graduated from South Georgia House of Hope this summer. But, freedom was not always where she lived...

Stephanie Kelley comes from what would be described as a “normal” home. Her dad, mom and siblings loved her. She remembers being fifteen years old, having friends and preparing for the tenth grade. Then something happened that rocked her world. Maybe it shouldn’t have, but it did.

Stephanie’s dad got another job in another city and state. It was a real step up.

Who could have known that the move would open the door for upheaval in her life. “It had nothing to do with my family,” she says. “It had everything to do with my choices.” Stephanie hid the fact that she was angry for moving. Her anger grew and she became rebellious.

To cover the loss of her friends, and lack of happiness, she turned to alcohol and marijuana.

She made all new friends, with all the wrong people.

“The enemy found a way to steal my future from me. My son, my career, my education,” she says.

At 15, Stephanie began a slow and painful fifteen year downward spiral. By twenty-one, she was an alcoholic. “I woke up wanting a drink, I drank all day long until I passed out.” She would go to the club each day. She couldn’t keep a job.

Attempting to find her life, she enrolled in college but eventually was forced to drop out. Her heart was not in it. “My family did everything they possibly could for me.”

(Continued on page 3)

Stephanie hid
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she was
angry...

By 22, Stephanie was pregnant. She eloped with the father, "I just felt like we should get married." That marriage lasted four months after her son was born. She was abandoned and was alone with her son.

Stephanie was 23, with an infant son and didn't know what to do. She went back to college. Through sheer strength of will, she had quit the alcohol during her pregnancy. In school, she gave it all she had. She was making it until...

“ I knew
I would
end up
dead.

One day she had to have surgery on her wrist and the doctor prescribed pain pills. Then she got introduced to adderol. "Adderol gave me energy to cope with the grinding schedule of college." She found a doctor who would give her the highest dosage legally available each month. In a few days, she had used up her month's supply. Her month's prescription lasted four days. By day five, she was desperate. There were always people who would sell her their prescription. It took a lot of money to buy drugs for the remainder of the month.

By God's grace, Stephanie graduated college and landed a great job, had her own home, her son and was on top of the world. But she had a secret addiction.

Then her boyfriend of four years introduced her to meth. "Meth became an everyday part of my life, every hour of every day. I went days without eating because I had no money for food. I remember looking for change at the grocery store parking lot, just so I could buy some chicken nuggets at Burger King for \$1.25." Finding that \$1.25 could take hours.

At that point, Stephanie began living out of her car. Embarrassed and ashamed, she left her son with her parents, having lost everything she had. "I started breaking into abandoned houses looking for places to sleep, I was arrested a few times."

"I was death warmed over. I needed help. I knew I would end up dead. My family found the South Georgia House of Hope."

At the House of Hope, all the emotions Stephanie had numbed with drugs through the years, came alive. "I remember feeling peace for the first time in years." She stopped worrying about finding a place each day to sleep. She stopped worrying about her son. She ate regular meals. "I began to learn about relationship," she says. "I trusted no-one. I heard voices that weren't there. Slowly, I began to know how much Jesus loved me. I admitted my anger toward God. As I learned to trust the staff, I also learned to trust God." It was hard for her to believe that the staff had her best interests at heart. "Every day was an emotional roller-coaster, one moment laughing and crying the next."

"Also, I was not used to hugs. But Director, Sharon Wagner would hug me and I slowly began to melt." She learned routine, being responsible, getting up on time, how to clean, make her bed, how to pull weeds and cut grass! "All these things," she says, "built character."

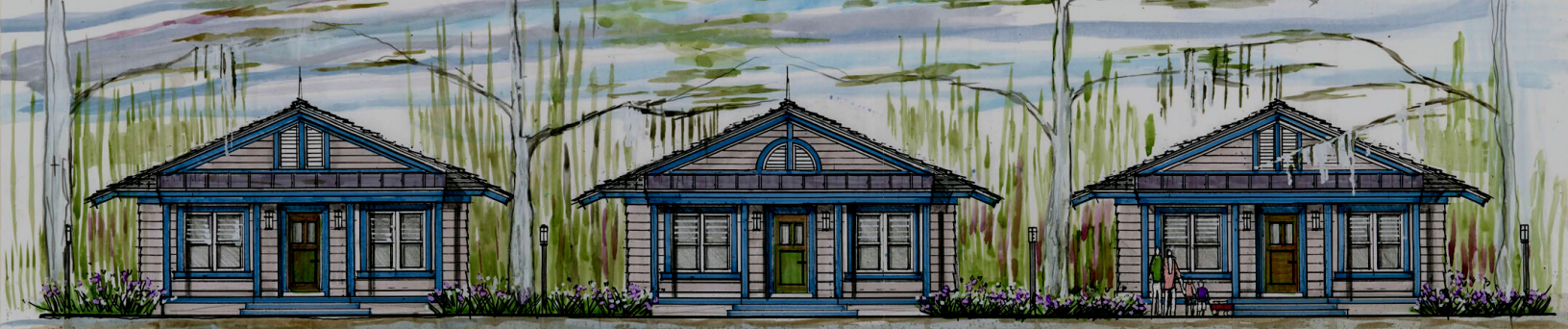
Today, Stephanie has graduated the program and is in Re-entry, where she is slowly being acclimated to the outside world. She assists the staff, helps the ladies, works and learns leadership skills. And, she looks forward to returning to dermatology and her son!

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About Stephanie Kelley

Stephanie Kelley is a recent graduate of South Georgia House of Hope. She is currently in the Re-entry program. She looks forward to being reunited with her son Jayden is nine years old.



Because most clinical models for addiction treatment cost between \$1,000 to \$1,500 PER DAY and most insurances only pay for 28 days of treatment, the average alcoholic and addict cannot get the treatment they need. **House of Hope donors make the smart choice**, realizing that ONE DAY'S FEE AT A TRADITIONAL TREATMENT CENTER WILL PAY FOR ONE MONTH AT HOUSE OF HOPE!

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