



Summer, 2020

*MaryJo Discovered
What Was Missing:
JESUS!*

*You Helped Her
Find Him*



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!

Ladies Find What's Missing!

Being accused of "spending too much time with sinners," Jesus tells the story of a lost sheep (Luke 15).

It is the story of the one sheep that has left the safety and security of the fold. Leaving the ninety-nine in the wilderness unprotected, the good shepherd sets out on a rescue mission.

This story exposes God's heart for hurting humanity. His passion for the safety of this little lost one is so great that He risks leaving the ninety-nine in the open field.

How great is His passion for that one who has wandered far from the place of safety.

I know that it is His passion in the hearts of our donors that compel them to support our mission. It is because He cares, you care.

It is because He cares that Pastor Mike Wells and New Covenant Church stepped forward to finance the first cottage in our Village of Hope.

It is because of the Good Shepherd's passion for that which is lost that Mollie Jarriel gives herself away to hurting ladies at South Georgia House of Hope.

It is because of His passion to put little lost sheep on His shoulders that MaryJo found hope.

Thank God for His passion for hurting humanity and how it motivates you to give.

Donor Spotlight

Mike Wells



Mike Wells, Pastor of New Covenant Church in Valdosta, attended a dinner to benefit House of Hope in 2015. He heard stories of women who had experienced full recovery and transformation. "My eyes were opened to people who'd had their lives changed. I knew right there that they were valuable in God's eyes - people with a destiny - and we needed to do our part to help them get free."

"What grabbed me was that victimhood is so inherent in drug and alcohol abuse. To be able to know how to break the victim-spirit in addicts lays a sure foundation for a life of freedom for these women!"

"House of Hope reconciles families!" Mike explains, "We hear one story after another of mothers being reunited with their children and their biological families finding healing in relationships!"

"We're all so excited to be part of the next phase, the Village of Hope, providing a place where mothers can receive treatment while keeping their children with them on site."

"I've known the founders of this organization for over eighteen years. I've watched their faithfulness to the vision God has put in their hearts. They're on the front lines against substance abuse. This is a strong and much needed local mission."



About Mike Wells Mike Wells is Pastor of New Covenant Church in Valdosta Ga. He loves his wife, Sarah, his two beautiful daughters and anything to do with Montana!

Volunteer Spotlight

Mollie Jarriel



"I had lost my place and purpose in the Kingdom, but volunteering at House of Hope gave me my purpose back!"

For Mollie Jarriel - whose husband pastors Azalea City Church in Valdosta - having a place to serve and be needed was par for the course after eighteen years in ministry as a pastor's wife. "I was used to stepping in and doing whatever was needed, sometimes fulfilling multiple roles," she says.

"When we moved to Valdosta," Mollie explains, "I had a lot of roles to fill at church. But as we grew, and staff increased, I didn't feel like I was needed anymore. I continued to support my husband, but I didn't know what else I was supposed to be doing. It was a dark time in my life."

...the true gift was what these women were giving me

She became familiar with the work of House of Hope through friendly conversations at church with some of the women. Then House of Hope Associate Director, Cathy Pipkin, brought up the idea of doing a Bible study with the women. "From that first study, it was immediately

apparent to me that the true gift was what these women were giving me. They gave me my purpose back and showed me what I was supposed to be doing - pouring into women."

Working as a volunteer at House of Hope has opened Mollie's eyes, and helped deepen her faith. "I am

They gave me my purpose back and showed me what I was supposed to be doing

encouraged and grow deeper in my relationship with the Lord as I teach and encourage these women.

I was a daughter of a pastor and married a pastor. I've always lived in a preacher's house, but I didn't realize that it was so easy to grow complacent about my faith. I was in my own little sheltered bubble, but no more!"

Mollie's role at House of Hope is one of walking alongside women on their journey.

During an activity where the women were listing what they were thankful for, one confessed, "I'm grateful that I don't have to sleep in a cardboard box anymore." Mollie knew then that she is precisely where she was meant to be.

"Over the years, I've built a special relationship with the ladies, so it's

hard to see them graduate and move on. I miss them a lot so I try to stay connected."

Even though letting go is hard, each new class is a new opportunity. "It is thrilling - we already recognize their potential and see them as thriving and whole!

And when I imagine the Village of Hope, where women can receive help and healing alongside their children, I see it as plainly as if it's already happened! I'm so excited and thankful!"

"When I think about the future of House of Hope, I see a NEW WAY and a NEW DAY!"



About Mollie Jarriel

A native of South Georgia, Mollie Jarriel serves alongside her husband Brett, as Pastors of Azalea City Church of God in Valdosta, Georgia. They have three children, Aaron (wife Caitlin), Blaire, and Chloe. She is passionate about helping women and girls from all walks of life. She is compassionate and encouraging to everyone she meets.



Sharon Wagner and
MaryJo
At Her Graduation

JESUS!

MaryJo Discovered What Was Missing You Helped Her Find Him

Mary Jo was a good person with a good life, but goodness only goes so far without Jesus.

"I had reached the end of myself."

At sixty-three years old, Mary Jo arrived at the House of Hope. After many failed attempts, she found freedom. The problem lay in her repeated attempts to do it in her own strength. "I needed a power greater than me to heal me of my addiction," Mary Jo explains. "I needed a relationship with Jesus to understand my identity as God's daughter. That's what I found at House of Hope."

“I needed a power
greater than me to
heal me...”

Raised in a religious home, Mary Jo went to church on Sundays and holidays, said blessings at meals, prayed nightly, and even took communion. But she had never read a Bible. "I considered myself a good person. I didn't even drink my first beer until I was eighteen."

At twenty-two, following an airplane accident, she was prescribed pain pills. It was the beginning of her downhill spin. "I knew nothing about addiction. I wasn't aware that the pills I used to take away my pain could lead me to addiction."

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MaryJo, (Continued)

Life didn't crumble immediately. She moved, started a career, met her husband, and started a family. "My husband and I were social drinkers. Alcohol became the thing we did for fun. We thought it was harmless."

At retirement, she tells how the destruction began. "With no job, I turned to alcohol to fill the void. Both my husband and I

"The program made it into my head but not my heart. I thought I had fixed the problem.

Three different times she tried rehab. Each time, she went through the motions. She would try to live sober, but every time she returned to the bottle.

"Looking back, I see that my addiction had total control,"



started drinking heavily. What was once a social practice reserved for weekends became a nightly habit. That nightly routine turned into daily drinking and quickly led to drinking all the time.

Mary Jo remembers a red flag moment. "My husband fell and ended up in the emergency room. I had been drinking, and the attending security guard took notice, telling my son in law to take away my keys. I began to see I had a problem."

Growing concerned, her daughter and son-in-law held an "intervention" to address the alcohol problem. Mary Jo complied and completed the requirements of the program, but it had little impact;

she says. "I decided I would quit alcohol completely, and on the third day, I suffered a seizure and was hospitalized. Feeling defeated, I began to drink again, seeing no way out of the dependency I had created."

One alcohol-induced outburst led to an incident that involved her hurting her husband. Mary Jo was arrested. "I will never forget the low point of being in the back of the sheriff's car with handcuffs on. An ambulance passed us with my husband being rushed to a trauma center. I had reached the end of me."

This "was the lowest point in my entire life." Her ongoing denial had been broken. She was crushed by her own choices. Yet there she found hope!

"Through some friends, I heard about House of Hope. I didn't know anything except that it was a Christian program."

No stranger to addiction programs, she arrived at House of Hope ready to work, but what was waiting for her was something she never expected. "I began to read God's Word.

As the weeks rolled into months, I lost the vision to be free, so I attempted to leave - I walked off of the property!" But it was in quitting that something inside her changed.

It was then that "I knew God's love for me was real for the first time. I opened the Bible and understood that the words were meant for me!"

"I met my creator and the only one who could save me from myself! At House of Hope, I fell in love with Jesus!"



About MaryJo Walker

Mary Jo Walker has been married to her husband Joseph for 37 years. She is the mother of one daughter, Melanie, and three grandchildren. She graduated the House of Hope program March 8, 2020. She now resides in Jensen Beach, Florida.