



May 2018

NEWS & UPDATES

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS: A Time for Reflection

As I am writing this note, I am reminded of how grateful I am for the opportunity to serve our guests "the Ladies of McKemie Place" alongside such wonderful staff, volunteers, Board Members, and supporters. Our organization has endured much change over the past 5 months, inclusive of moving our day shelter, a car crashing into our night shelter, moving our ladies to three different locations during the crash, and so much more. But through it all, McKemie did not waver and remained a light in the darkness to those who need it most. There were also many bright spots during these times of change. We hosted our first Building Walls Event in February, promoted two staff members, built several new relationships with in our community, and so much more. The most impactful experience as to date was addressing our guests after the car crash and letting them know they were loved, safe, and not forgotten. We have expanded how we serve our guests by offering a 24 hour shelter with life skills training, case management, three meals a day, and so much more. Due to these many changes, our budget has been impacted and therefore we are sending out a midyear appeal letter. We are hopeful you may consider giving to our worthy cause. When transitioning into the Board President Position, I had two main goals for 2018. First, I wanted us to be more transparent with our guests, our supporters, our community, our government, and other nonprofit organizations. Second, I wanted to find a 24/7 permanent home of McKemie, a new McKemie Place. We have done a tremendous job with the first objective, and are continually leaning into our second objective. I encourage all of you to keep supporting our wonderful cause through your prayers, thoughts, giving, and encouragement. If you would like to learn more or would like to get involved please reach out to Jessica James, Executive Director or go on our website at www.mckemieplace.org, on behalf of our organization, please know that we could not do anything without your support and we are deeply humbled and grateful for all that you do. Thank you for being a part of the McKemie Family!

*Sincerely,
Ben Kennemer, President of the Board of Directors*

FUNDRAISING: Keeping Shelter Operations Funded

Dream Dinners Daphne is hosting a fundraiser for us on June 19. For just \$34.99, you will assemble 3 wholesome, family meals to take home and enjoy with your family with \$10 of this coming to our Shelter! Register online at <http://dreamdinners.com/757456>. Password: McKemie

Our Board Member Elaine Sessions and her husband Al were at ArtWalk on May 11 selling beautiful handmade crafts made by our Guests. We hope you had a chance to stop by and pick up something beautiful! We'll be back at other ArtWalks, soon!

Wanting to host a fundraiser for McKemie? It's as simple as hosting a bake sale, yard sale or donation drive at your local church or community group. Or, you may donate securely online at www.mckemieplace.org/donate. Remember, no donation is too small as every dollar counts.



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DONATIONS: *Our lifeline*

Alayna Mickles, a Junior at McGill Toolen Catholic High School, organized a donation drive for our Shelter at school and collected so many items for our Guests and Shelter. Way to go, Alayna!

Greta from S.S. Nesbitt & Company Insurance stuffed our Director's trunk full of office supplies! We are so thankful that she thought of us during their transition to a new office space.

Dobson Sheet Metal Roofing donated their copier to us for use at our day shelter location. Thank you so much, Dobson Roofing!

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Please be sure to check our #WishlistWednesday that's posted each Wednesday on our Facebook page, Instagram and Twitter accounts. You can check our pages for news and upcoming events, too!

SERVING THE HOMELESS: *Our mission*

Ms. Terri from Our Sisters Closet lead "Customer Service" and "Telephone Etiquette" workshops for us in May. Our Guests love completing her workshops and receiving certificates they can add to their resumes.

Our Director enjoyed spending Cinco de Mayo with the ladies of Overlook Presbyterian Church. A fun, Mexican-themed fellowship was enjoyed by all, and the women of the church collected so many #wishlist items for us!

Ms. April Lyles, Mental Health Counselor, spoke to 32 of our Guests on "Overcoming Adversities." We appreciate our amazing volunteers!

Our Director enjoyed speaking to the Azalea City Kiwanis Club during their weekly lunch meeting at Half Shell Oyster House on May 8. If you'd like for her to speak to your group or organization, give us a call at 251-432-1122.

Mrs. Mary Mastrangelo, another one of our amazing volunteers, leads our Guests in light chair exercising weekly. Exercise is a great way for our Guests to boost their self-esteem and feel better about themselves!



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The Region's only emergency shelter for single women. McKemiePlace.org

