



Caring Times

The Caring Place, Inc.
Caring, Helping, and Equipping People for Living

Summer 2007

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www.thecaringplace.org

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Program Manager - Annie Graham
Children's Program - Amelia Williams
Program Assistant - Sameena Rashid



The Caring Place Staff, from left, Amelia Williams, Child Care Coordinator; Sue Marcinko, Executive Director; Annie Graham, Program Manager; and Sameena Rashid, Program Coordinator

The Caring Place Hires New Director

Sue Marcinko became the full-time Executive Director of The Caring Place on June 1. She left her position as Executive Director of Wake Interfaith Hospitality Network after seven years there to join The Caring Place staff.

Marcinko said she became interested in the position after former Director Joseph Rappl sent out an email about the job.

"It seemed like a natural next step from Wake Interfaith," she said. "A lot of our families come here." So she applied and got the job.

The Wake Interfaith Hospitality Network is an organization of churches which host homeless families in their church buildings for a week at a time several times a year. Families spend the nights in the church buildings, and use Wake Interfaith support services in the day time.

"The Caring Place uses the Housing First model," Marcinko said. "Everyone is leaning toward this; funding is leaning toward this kind of program." Unlike Wake Interfaith, the Caring Place provides transitional housing for the families in the program, which gives more

Keeper of the Caring Heart, 2007

Susan Winstead was awarded the Caring Heart for 2007, selected as the person who best represents the heart of The Caring Place, and with good reason.

Off and on over the past 14 years, she has stepped in when needed, wearing a variety of hats, from board member to yard sale worker bee. She served as volunteer child care coordinator at the program's inception, and has served as interim child care coordinator at least three times.

She has been pleased to see the evolution of the child care program through the years. She always tried to do a craft or activity, but as a volunteer, there wasn't as much

time to develop a solid program.

"I think the children's needs are being met better now with a paid person who is able to help the ones with special needs," she said recently. "They are an actual part of the program instead of just being babysat."

In the early years, Winstead brought her own children along with her. Today, her children are grown, but she still often volunteers in the nursery on Thursday nights.

But her involvement does not end with child care. She served on the board of directors for several terms, and on countless selection teams, where families are inter-

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Greenwood Forest Baptist Church Has Been There for The Caring Place In Many Ways for Over 14 Years

TCP is back at Greenwood Forest, now that church construction is complete

Greenwood Forest Baptist Church has supported The Caring Place (TCP) from the time it was created by CCA in 1993 financially, with volunteers, and by hosting weekly meetings. Greenwood Forest volunteers have served as direct family support, support services, professional services, and Board representatives. Believing that its facilities should be used every day for local outreach, Greenwood Forest continues to provide a meeting space for the weekly family support sessions.

Several Sunday school classes have provided meals for the Thursday night family life-skills training sessions. Individuals and Sunday school classes have sponsored various informal projects for TCP including assembling cleaning packages, kitchen supplies, bedding, and dishware sets for families.

HOPE (Helping Others Pursue Eternity), a Greenwood Forest missions group for women, has had two major projects for TCP. One provided 21 window treatments for

TCP apartments plus a meal and another provided laundry baskets with household supplies and monetary donations.

The MMAT (Men's Mission Action Team), a missions group for men, has provided two teams for several years in support of TCP. The Move Team helps collect donated furniture and moves the furniture to either apartments or storage. The Repair Team addresses apartment maintenance issues routinely each week and as needed.

Late last year, Dr. Randy Sherron, Senior Pastor at Greenwood Forest, completed a sermon series on contemporary saints. He spoke of Dorothy Day and her commitment to providing a room in her home wherever she was on her missionary journey. She called it a 'Christ Room'. Dr. Sherron challenged Greenwood Forest to find a way to provide a 'Christ Room' for those in our community in need of housing. This led to several members committing funds monthly or quarterly to fund a TCP apartment on an on-

going basis.

Greenwood Forest Baptist Church is a worshipping community of faith seeking leadership from the Spirit of Christ on an inward and outward journey of faith fulfilling the Great Commission through education, fellowship, missions, and outreach. The Greenwood Forest website (www.gfbccary.org) now includes a link from the Missions section to the TCP website

(www.thecaringplace.org). The weekly church newsletter (The Enabler) provides a vehicle for TCP needs to be articulated. Greenwood Forest members are constantly encouraged to volunteer for TCP weekly activities and periodic events.

The Board, Staff, and families of TCP are grateful for the caring outreach of the so many wonderful volunteers from Greenwood Forest. Through their unconditional commitment to TCP, the family of Greenwood Forest shares the 'caring' heart with many other churches and individuals of this fine community through support of our life-skills training for hard-working, homeless families living in Cary.

TCP Netted Over \$61,000 at the 6th Annual Benefit Auction May 11

A Big Thanks To Our Major Sponsors:

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A Big Thanks Also Goes To These Other Churches and Organizations who Support The Caring Place Financially Each Year:

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The Presbytery of New Hope
Kirk of Kildaire Presbyterian
Christ the King Lutheran Church
St. Michael the Archangel Catholic
Church
Cary Presbyterian Church
Genesis United Methodist Church
Covenant Christian Church
Westwood Baptist Church
Sisters of Mercy of NC Foundation, Inc.
Triangle Pilates, Inc.

Brian Phillips gives Volunteerism award to The Caring Place

The Caring Place received a \$2,500 donation from Eaton Corporation, after longtime volunteer Brian Phillips was selected by his company to receive the James R. Stover Volunteerism award for community service.

"I am honored to work for a company that values volunteer-ism," Phillips said. "I couldn't think of a better organization than The Caring Place to receive the stipend for the award."

In her letter of nomination, recently-retired executive director Mercedes Auger said, "Brian Phillips has the experience and empathy to know when to be sensitive to special situations within families, and when to practice 'tough love', and help the families grow in character and self-esteem. We often try to place him with a family that is headed by a father, because he is an excellent role model for young men. Brian's natural mentoring ability is helpful to all our families. They know he

cares. They know he only wants what is best for their future and their children. They eventually understand that Brian's tough love serves a higher purpose; lifetime self-reliance for each of them. . . .

"Brian Phillips inspires our families to create the life they want: one step at a time. Brian inspires our volunteers with his dedication to the family he is serving. Brian inspires the staff with his longevity as a volunteer. Most of all, Brian Phillips creates self-sufficiency for working, homeless, families which enables them in turn to provide for their family," Auger wrote.

At least two of the homeless families that Brian worked with now own their own homes, and at least one has come back as an active volunteer in The Caring Place.

Brian also assists his wife, Mary Beth, as meal coordinator, usually by reminding her to make reminder calls. Brian also supports her as editor of The Caring Times. His children, Kevin, 19, and Jean, 17, started out vis-

iting the child care program when they were younger, and have come back and helped with child care occasionally. Phillips recruited his father to become a Support Partner, and they served on two families together. Later, his father helped two more families. In July, Phillips began serving on a team with his daughter. Serving The Caring Place has truly been a "family affair," for the Phillips family.

Besides his volunteer work at The Caring Place, Brian is an active volunteer with Marianist Family Ministries. He has taught faith formation to fourth and fifth graders for 32 years. He serves as a mass coordinator and on the parish formation committee for the St. Michael's satellite mass at Green Hope High School. He often visits an area nursing home to lead a weekly prayer and eucharistic service. In his spare time, he does living history in area schools, dressing as a Revolutionary War soldier and sometimes (with permission) firing his Brown Bess rifle.

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stability as they seek permanent housing.

Marcinko has also worked as a Community Employment Specialist at the Raleigh Vocational Center, helping disabled people re-enter the workforce. She earned her degree in special education and psychology from Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania and came to Cary for her first job, at Life Experiences, another worthwhile organization which provides employment and independence to adults with special needs.

Her first priority is to obtain stable funding. "It will be a challenge to replace the TANF grant which we lost," she said. "We have to make up \$60,000 very quick."

She is also working on a plan to recruit volunteers.

The need for volunteers and funding are the most pressing needs right now, she said. On the plus side, "I see a lot of potential for the program to grow."

Marcinko joins two other new

employees, along with Program Manager Annie Graham who has worked for TCP for almost 10 years.

Amelia Williams became Children's Program Coordinator in March, after having come back as a volunteer in September only a few months after graduating from the program in July.

Marcinko said, "We really invest in the whole picture. We're hiring our graduates."

Williams had been unhappy in her position as an administrative assistant in a busy commercial investment company, but she persevered, despite the high stress level.

"I believe my reward for sticking it out was finally being able to work at the Caring Place," she said. "I am more than happy to every day work towards doing something good for someone else. It is a prayer granted."

Williams has two children, Alleya 12, and Edmond Williams III, 6. Sameena Rashid joined The

Caring Place staff in December, after having been a stay-at-home mom for 10 years. She also began as a volunteer at The Caring Place.

At her first information session, she asked former executive director Mercedes Auger if there were any paid positions at TCP, and she told her to email her resume. Soon after that, the office coordinator position became available and Rashid was hired.

"Working at TCP has been an eye-opener for me as to how much homelessness there is," she said. "Being a part of reducing homelessness is very rewarding for me."

In her job as office coordinator she is "a jack of all trades, I pretty much do what ever comes my way that needs to be done. . . .

"It was very challenging getting back to the working world after having been a stay home mom for 10 years," she said.

She has two children, Alina, 10, and Amaan, 6.



**The Caring Place
P.O. Box 622
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- * 33 Gallon Garbage cans
- * Small garbage cans
- * Garbage bags, small and large
- * House cleaning supplies: Murphy's Oil, Mr.Clean, Bleach Sprays, all purpose cleaners, windex, dish detergent
- * Oven cleaner
- * Toilet rolls
- * Paper towels
- * Bath soap
- * Toothpaste
- * Foil, Cling wrap
- * Ziplock bags
- * Pillows
- * Pots



**Please see our website
for more items and details.**

- * Fans
- * Televisions
- * Vacuum cleaners
- * Laundry baskets
- * Light bulbs and appliance bulbs (fridge and oven)
- * Office supplies: Pocket folders, pens, pencils, etc.

**Volunteers
Are Needed,
Especially
Through the
Summer.
Call 462-1800
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Urgent Need.**

Winstead, Continued From p. 1

viewed to see if the program will benefit them.

Winstead was also the backbone of more than 20 yard sale fundraisers, working tirelessly organizing volunteers and pricing donated items, raising many thousands of dollars to support the program.

The Caring Place is a big part of her daily life, as well. As part of her job as a property manager at Westbrook & Associates, she manages five apartments that The Caring Place rents at below market value. Currently, she is sharing her real estate skills with the Caring Place by serving on the property committee.

"I just strongly believe in the program," she said.