

G A T E W A Y



Passages

Serving Children & Families In Need Since 1891

Winter 2009/2010

A newsletter from Gateway in Birmingham, AL

Issue 12.1

Gateway Partners with Crossroads to Help Students

By Susanne Myers

Gateway has been honored to serve the students of Crossroads School, Hoover City Schools' only alternative school, for over a decade. Gateway is especially appreciative to the Hoover City Schools for choosing Gateway to provide the services for their contract to best meet the needs of their students.

Working with Crossroads School allows Gateway to provide counseling services in the Hoover Community through the school setting and go outside of the traditional out-patient counseling model. Crossroads strives to create a nurturing environment in which students, 6th-12th grade, can achieve personal, academic and vocational success. The goal of Crossroads School is to teach

students the social skills required to become successful citizens in an ever-changing society. The school is grounded in the uniqueness and inherent worth of the individual student. School personnel endeavor to establish a flexible approach to learning for students to develop and demonstrate the knowledge and skills necessary for fulfilling responsible and meaningful adult roles.

Gateway sends a licensed therapist to Crossroads four days per week to provide crisis intervention, individual and group counseling, and mediation services to the students of the school in both the New Beginnings and Second Chance programs to enhance their chances of becoming successful.



Gateway therapist, Susanne Myers with Crossroads School Principal, Anna Whitney.

According to Anna Whitney, Crossroads Principal, "Our Gateway Counselors are one of the best resources Crossroads school has to offer. They work closely with every student in the building, serving as a positive adult connection. As a result of building those connections, our counselors have had a tremendous impact on many of our students including preventing potential suicide and drug overdoses. In short, Gateway counselors save lives."



Alabama Air National Guard Sponsors ILP and Residential Youth for Christmas

The members of the 117th ARW and the 117th Intel Squadron are very special people. Not only are they prepared to risk their lives in the service of their country, but they also recognize the needs here at home and step up to meet those needs.

This is the second year that this group, led by SSGT Jennifer Boffa, has sponsored the young people on Gateway's residential campus for Christmas, but this year, they added a food drive for the Independent Living Program.

And if that wasn't enough, they treated campus residents and staff to BBQ following their Christmas party and cooked them Christmas dinner!

Introducing Members of the Gateway Family

I have served on many nonprofit boards over many years and have consulted with nonprofits for the last ten years. Throughout that involvement I have known about Gateway and its important work.

As a United Way volunteer, I served as the Chair of the Visiting Allocation Team for Gateway, and learned more about what it does. The reputation for providing services of the highest quality and having strong administration was very attractive to me.

As I was rotating off another board and as I considered where I wanted to serve next, I focused on Gateway. Through conversations with board members that I knew, I let my desire to serve on the board be known, and soon I was invited to serve on the Board.

I wanted to serve on Gateway's board so that I could use my abilities to help a good organization do even more great work. The most significant thing I have done with Gateway is to facilitate our strategic planning process, which developed a new five year plan to guide our work. This is what I do in my consulting business so I was able to give my expertise to Gateway in this way.

This plan is particularly important due to the current economy, decreased funding and increasing needs.



Tom Thompson

I now chair the Program Committee as we are carefully reviewing each of our programs to ensure that we are using our resources where they can have the greatest impact.

I have been married to Glenda for almost 42 years. We have two adult children who live in Birmingham and we have the privilege of raising our now 13 year old grandson.

After my 33 year career with BellSouth, I have been fortunate to take a different direction over the last ten years and I now have two part time jobs. I am on the staff of Dawson Baptist Church as Minister of Stewardship and I also continue my own business in which I consult with churches and nonprofit organizations.

My corporate career prepared me for giving back and hopefully making a difference in my community.

I am very excited to serve in my third year on the Gateway Junior Board. I first became involved with Gateway through an internship with UAB's Master of Public Administration program where I assisted with marketing and fundraising efforts. After completing my internship, I was invited to remain involved with the organization through membership on the Junior Board.

I enjoy volunteering with Gateway because I like supporting an organization that provides such a wide variety of services to the community. Through the Junior Board's involvement with the residents at the Rushton School, we provide experiences, education and exposure to students who have not had opportunities to participate in activities that many of us take for granted.

Each year, we bring several students bowling – an activity both the kids and the Junior Board members thoroughly enjoy. Two years ago I spoke with a resident as he received his bowling shoes and asked him if bowling was something he enjoyed. He told me that he wasn't sure yet because he'd never done it before. As the afternoon progressed, we both

learned that he did enjoy bowling and was, in fact, pretty good at it! (Much better than myself, despite having considerably more experience!) As amazed as I was to learn that a 17-year-old had never been bowling, I was even more amazed to see what a natural talent he had for the sport. It's wonderful to expose kids to new and different activities that they would not experience otherwise.



Erin Melaney

I greatly enjoy volunteering for Gateway and am very fortunate to have the opportunity to support its programs.

I am Development Director for Girls Inc. of Central Alabama, a nonprofit that provides programs that inspire girls to become strong, smart and bold. I am a native of the Mississippi Gulf Coast, but have been living in Birmingham for the past six years. I currently serve as President of the Young Professionals of Birmingham and also serve as an officer for the Rotaract Club of Shelby County. I spend my free time working on renovation projects at my historic home in the Crestwood Neighborhood.

2009-2010 Gateway Board of Directors
Chairman - Steve Alby; 1st Vice Chairman - Sandy Killion; 2nd Vice Chairman - Denise Moore; Secretary - Carmelita Bivens; Treasurer - Clyde Smith; Asst. Treasurer - Chris Brown; Nan Baldwin, Martha Barber, Norma Grant Bell, Bob Blalock, Derry Brice Bunting, Carole Cain, Margaret Caley, Tom Carruthers, Heather Davies Cooper, Dick Dandurand, Leon Evans, Jr., W. Craig Fravert, Kristi Gilmore, Glenn Goedecke, Curtis James, Walker Jones, Richard McBee, Steve McCord, Tony Porter, Teresa Tanner Pulliam, Dave Reese, Tom Thompson, Cameron Vowell, Angela Webb-Weinberg

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Mission Statement:
 Gateway is preserving, strengthening, and enriching family life through quality services provided to families and individuals in need.

President/CEO - Jim Loop Passages Editor - Kathleen Ross 205-510-2600 www.gway.org

The 12th Annual Gateway Golf Classic

Sponsored by the Junior Board of Gateway,
a United Way Agency



When: Monday, April 19, 2010
11:30 a.m. Registration, range balls and lunch
1:00 p.m. Shotgun start
Where: Highlands Golf Course
Format: 4 person modified scramble

\$1250 Title Sponsorship

Includes 1 team and 1 hole sponsorship plus company logo on tournament t shirts

\$250 Hole Sponsorship

\$500 Team Registration or \$125 Individual Registration

Prizes: For Each Member of the Winning Team

Awards ceremony and door prizes to follow play.

25 team limit. First come, first served. Please register using this form or online at www.gway.org.

YES! We want to support healthy kids & families!

We pledge our support at the indicated level:

- Title Sponsorship Please call me to discuss Corporate Sponsorship \$1,250
- Team Sponsorship \$500 Hole Sponsorship \$250
- Mulligan Package \$100/Team or \$25/Golfer 2 Mulligans per player, 1 power drive per player (men tee off from ladies tees men, ladies tee off from edge of fairway) and 1 string (explained at tournament).
- I would like to make a donation of _____ in support of the work you do.
- I would like to provide prizes/items for goody bags. Please contact me.

Team/Sponsor: _____

Contact: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Email: _____

Phone: _____ Web address: _____

Player 1 _____ Handicap _____ Player 2 _____ Handicap _____

Player 3 _____ Handicap _____ Player 4 _____ Handicap _____

Please make checks payable to:
Gateway | Attn: Jim Belk | 1401 20th Street South | Birmingham, AL 35205 | Phone: 510 2762 | Fax: 510 2621
Your contribution is tax deductible to the extent allowed by the Internal Revenue Service.

Generous Donors Support Gateway's Mission

Donations - Off the Wall and Golf 2010 donations will be acknowledged in the next newsletter

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Macy's Foundation
Susan Mott Webb Charitable Trust

Christmas 2009

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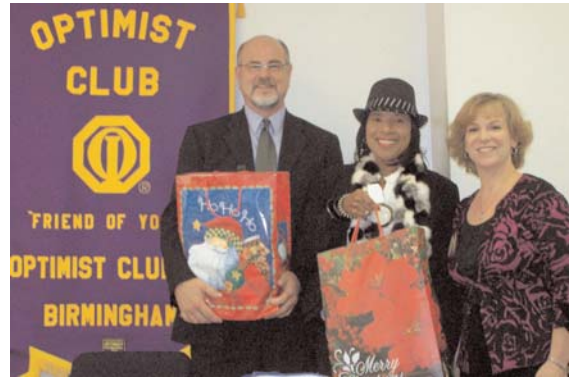
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Debbie Castleberry helped deliver more than 650 Christmas stockings filled with toiletries and toys for Gateway's Christmas Sponsorship Program. When each of the 400+ children sponsored had received a stocking, the rest were divided up among Gateway programs to fill needs that occur year round.

The stockings were a donation from Vestavia Hills Elementary East. The PTO, led by Kelly Lipford and Lindy Walker, provided the funding for Santa's Workshop, and the students filled the stockings.

Debbie is standing in Gateway's Southside lobby in front of the Christmas tree donated by Lehr, Middlebrooks, & Vreeland, P.C., an annual and much appreciated tradition.



Gateway's Jim Belk receives gift cards along with Alice Westery, Independent Living Program Coordinator for Jefferson County DHR from Optimist Club member, Nancy Ryan for the Kards for Kids annual event. Each teen in Gateway's out-of-home programs (foster care, residential, independent living) received a Walmart gift card for Christmas.

Thursday
April 1, 2010
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.



Avon Theatre
2829 7th Ave. S.
35205

Don't Miss the Party of the Year... and Help Gateway Help Kids!

Enjoy great music and wonderful hors d'oeuvres, wine, beer, and soft drinks while you pick out the photograph or bottle of "liquid art" you want to take home with you!!

Here is how the game is played.

1. Each ticket holder will draw a number.
2. The person with #1 gets first choice of all the art.
3. Everyone else will put their numbers on their favorite pieces and hope that somebody with a lower number won't "bump" them.
4. If they are "bumped," they'll move their numbers to their next favorites until all the numbers are matched with their winning art.

For sponsorship information or to order tickets, please contact Kathleen Ross at 510-2612 or marketing@gway.org.
Or use our secure website - www.gway.org



Now Recruiting Service-minded Individuals for the Gateway Junior Board

The Gateway Junior Board seeks active individuals with a passion for improving their community to join our diverse group.

Junior Board Members:

- represent a variety of areas of expertise.
- share a commitment to serving Gateway and its programs.
- use their time & talents through volunteering & fundraising.

The Junior Board primarily serves the Residential Treatment Program by:

- providing projects and activities for youth ages 12-18 who have been removed from their homes.
- working with youth who struggle with severe behavioral and emotional problems, often due to abuse and neglect.
- serving as mentors and role models, offering education, recreation and social opportunities.

Responsibilities Include:

- participation in a minimum of 6 of the 12 activities provided by the Junior Board each year for the participants in the Residential Treatment Program.
- attendance at a minimum of 4 meetings. (There are 6 lunch and 6 dinner meetings each year.)
- assistance with the Junior Board golf tournament fundraiser.

Rewards Include:

- making a difference in the lives of teens and giving hope for the future.
- developing life-long friendships with fun, caring individuals.

For additional information, contact Kathleen Ross at marketing@gway.org or 510-2612.



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Passages

“Cake Lady” Recognized for Service to Gateway



Amanda Lybrand (back row - center - holding plaque) is joined by her family, Gateway staff, and representatives of NBC13 and America’s First Credit Union as she receives her Making a Difference award.

The staff knows her as Amanda Lybrand, but the Gateway kids call her “The Cake Lady,” and with good reason. Every month, they see her once, twice, or as often as four times, bringing personalized birthday cakes and gifts to the young people in Gateway’s Residential Program. She is quick to point out that her mother and mother-in-law have helped out, but Kakes for Kids is her project and she is the driving force behind it.

She got the idea for it from a People Magazine article, and her goal is to expand the program to include other facilities and additional volunteers.

NBC13 recognized Amanda in a ceremony at Gateway as their Making a Difference award winner for December 2009.