



**The Ministry of Hope is a community-funded chaplaincy program, which raises funds to employ on-site chaplains at the Western Correctional Center for Women (WCCW).**

Our chaplains conduct religious services in the center's chapel and provide pastoral care and spiritual guidance to the inmates. Their guidance and leadership are crucial to helping these residents, many of whom struggle with addiction, abuse, and grief issues. They are within five years of release or parole. Our chaplains offer them a sense of hope and real-world self-care tools to manage parenting, relationships, and employment with discernment and spiritual maturity.

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**BECOME A PARTNER IN  
THE MINISTRY OF HOPE!**

**Here are some ways YOU can join us in  
our mission to provide chaplains at WCCW:**

- ♥ Sponsor a fundraising event for the benefit of Ministry of Hope
- ♥ Put the Ministry of Hope in your mission budget, either as a church or as a Sunday School Class/Mission Group
- ♥ Make a one-time or regular contribution
- ♥ Request that you be put on the mailing list for our bi-annual newsletter
- ♥ Invite one of our staff to provide a virtual or in-person educational event for your organization

**Contact us today to learn more:**

P.O. Box 998, Black Mountain NC 28711

Email: [admin@ministryofhopewnc.org](mailto:admin@ministryofhopewnc.org)

WCCW Chaplains' direct number: (828) 259-6055

Online: [www.MinistryOfHopeWNC.org](http://www.MinistryOfHopeWNC.org)



MINISTRY OF HOPE

# HEARTBEAT

*This year at a glance...*

## 2023 Board of Directors

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**The Rev. Dr.**  
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& Assistant

**April Shoup,**  
WCCW Warden

**David Velez,**  
WCCW Assistant  
Warden of Programs

## Contact Us

**Ministry of Hope**  
P.O. Box 998  
Black Mountain, NC  
28711

**Chaplains**  
(828) 259-6055

**MOH email:**  
admin@  
ministryofhope  
wnc.org

**Visit Us Online:**  
MinistryOf  
HopeWNC.org

**Greetings from the Board of Directors!** My name is Susan Maney, and I am the 2023 Chair of the Ministry of Hope. For those of you who don't know me, I retired from Western Correctional Center for Women (WCCW) on January 1, 2022, where I was the facility Correctional Programs Director.

When I first arrived at the correctional center in 2012, it was in the most difficult season of my life, and Chaplain Dalton quite literally saved me - starting with talking over a bowl of tomato soup. **By really seeing me, I experienced empathy, counsel, and unconditional love on that day** - and many days since. So needless to say, I know the value of chaplaincy services, not just for incarcerated women but also for the staff working at WCCW.

Part of my job was doing Community Volunteer Orientation, during which many of you heard my PREA (Prison Rape Elimination Act) education presentation. Over the years I feel as if I've gotten to know many of you personally. After retiring, I was so honored to accept the invitation to be a part of the Ministry of Hope board because I am still very passionate about helping the women at WCCW, and I am especially passionate about supporting chaplaincy services there, too.

After serving on the board for a year, I was happy to accept the nomination to become the Board Chair for 2023. When I was employed at WCCW, I already understood the value and necessity of chaplaincy services, but it became apparent to me almost immediately that in addition to providing chaplaincy services, the need for transition and reentry services is also very real and very necessary. The Ministry of Hope is in a unique position to establish services and programs to help address these needs. Our board recognized that we needed a plan to help us achieve our goals for the future to provide more diversified assistance, and to assist more women than we are currently able to serve. **We need to grow, folks!**

With these goals in mind, one of the first things we accomplished in 2023 was to establish a part-time paid position for an Executive Director. Recognizing that this person should have the same shared passion for helping the women at WCCW, we believed they should also have experience in fundraising, grant writing, marketing, knowledge of our community, familiarity with our already-established mission of chaplaincy services, and also be a visionary who can help us grow and implement more programs and services for our future. This led us to hiring Lauronda Morrow Teeple, who was the obvious choice for this position because of her existing MOH board experience (served 6 years), professional résumé, and her tremendous passion for helping and serving the women at WCCW.

Lauronda has already done so much to help us begin the process of achieving our goals, building relationships, and developing the transition and reentry services within our pre- and post-release programs (**READ MORE ABOUT THIS PROGRESS ON PAGE 5, "Growth On The Horizon"**). These types of services are vital, as it provides the women assistance with things that many of us take for granted (as well as the real and unique challenges they're being faced with), such as: obtaining employment with a felony record, learning how to manage finances/budgets, "smart" shopping for food and necessities, building healthy relationships within their community, family mediation & parenting, learning self-care and productive life habits, addiction recovery support, meetings with probation officers, and even legal matters (such as getting help with obtaining their driver's license and managing pending charges/fees).

Accomplishing these programs cannot be done without strong partnerships between like-minded organizations, churches, volunteers, and supporters - just like you. In order to to serve the ever-increasing number of women needing these services, **we depend on you now more than ever** to partner with us in prayer, service, and resources. **We value each and every one of you, dear friends, and look to the future with hope and optimism!**



*Susan Maney,  
2023 Board Chair*

A SUCCESSFUL SECOND CHANCE
by Jessie T., Pfaff House Resident

Upon my release from prison in November of 2022, I joined the Pfaff House transitional program in Black Mountain. Everything was all new for me after being incarcerated for six years. The ladies with Ministry of Hope were very supportive, and available to help with my transportation needs to work, doctor appointments, probation, whatever the need. They have been a shoulder to lean on and a valuable resource to my reentry experience. At Christmas, they all showed up with snacks and gifts and have treated each and every woman at Pfaff like family, trying to help us pave our own way to have a successful second chance.

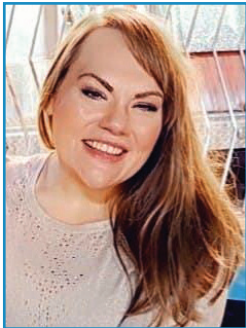
In May, Ministry of Hope helped support a trip to the General Assembly in Raleigh for the North Carolina Second Chance Lobby Day. Lauronda took Chrystal and me there, and we stayed for two days. Board members provided all of our transportation, meals and expenses. We had the opportunity not only to share our story (and challenges of current legislation\* for previously incarcerated individuals), but also to talk to our state’s lawmakers about the 2023’s bills addressing issues for those that have been marginalized or are in transition/reentry. Besides several media outlets that were on-site that day, we were also interviewed by Forward Justice, an organization that collects and shares stories from those in our communities who are directly impacted by mass incarceration, criminal justice debt, discriminatory voting legislation, and other injustices. We felt a huge sense of empowerment in that experience that I will never forget, and we hope that our involvement will help make a difference for others in the future.

I have gained my peer support certification, and I start AB Tech online classes this fall. I have been employed full time since my release and have just started a new job with Sunrise Community, working through the county’s health department for assisting with their SSP (safe syringe program), harm reduction, and Narcan community training. Since my time spent at WCCW, I have had a strong calling to help those that face the same challenges that I did, providing them with the opportunity for a second chance. This is the first time I have ever successfully completed probation, and feel very hopeful about my future in this community. I believe that this has all been with possible with the help of Ministry of Hope’s support and resources, both inside and outside the gates.

\*For more information about the organizations Ministry of Hope collaborated with in Raleigh, visit online here:
• Second Chance Lobby Day 2023: www.NCSecondChance.org/2023-nc-second-chance-lobby-day
• Forward Justice is a nonpartisan law, policy, and strategy center dedicated to advancing racial, social, and economic justice in the U.S. South: www.ForwardJustice.org



Jessie (left) and Chrystal at the State Capitol Monument, May 2, 2023



Cara Jenkins, MOH Board Member

THE VALUE OF COMMUNITY
by Cara Jenkins, Board Member (also former WCCW & Pfaff House Resident)

Community is the cornerstone of transition. A positive, supportive, and encouraging community is the common denominator for the women who are experiencing successful transitions back into society. This is my personal experience and the shared experience of so many who are finding their way back onto solid footing after experiencing incarceration.
Positive, healthy connections help us grow and heal. Negative connections do the opposite. Many women coming into prison have never experienced safe and healthy connections in their lives. The Ministry of Hope programs and volunteers educate women about connection and how to form safe and supportive bonds, which ultimately leads to a much healthier and more meaningful life.
My incarceration set me on a personal healing journey, but personal healing isn’t enough. We must learn how to be part of a community. Most women who are serious and determined to succeed going forward are charged with the task of finding an entirely new community to be a part of, because their connections prior to being incarcerated were very unhealthy.
The Ministry of Hope provided the tools, experiences, and mentors to help me remodel my life into one that is more beautiful, more fulfilling, more successful and productive than I could have ever imagined.

THANK YOU!
The generosity of these contributors has made an immediate difference in the lives of the incarcerated women at WCCW.

- Friends (continued)
Michael Gentry
Claudia Graham
Mary Grant
Mary Guenther
Kimberly Halley
Mavourneen & Howard Heim
Beverly Hill
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David Kennedy
Margaret Kennedy
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Dawn Wilson
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Mary Jo & Perrin Wright

The Ministry of Hope has a great story.
...And there are new chapters that have yet to be written!
In this newsletter, you read more than once about the importance of community for a successful transition. We’re working on some great ideas regarding this - and bringing them to life is only possible with the ongoing support of folks like you.
Some of you have been “with us” since the beginning, and we have new folks joining our ministry family every day. If you know of a friend, neighbor, business owner, community leader, or ANYONE that would be a valuable resource to our programs and services, please do not hesitate to reach out!
You can email us at admin@ministryofhopewnc.org
Partner with us in writing these new chapters...
SPECIAL LEVELS OF ANNUAL GIVING:
Benefactor: \$2,500 or more
Partner: \$1,000 - \$2,499
Sponsor: \$500 - \$999
Sustainer: \$250 - \$499
Patron: \$1 - \$99
(See mail-in donation slip on page 5 for making a donation)

The following churches, nonprofits and businesses have made a contribution over the past year:

- Black Mountain Presbyterian Church
Black Mountain United Methodist Church
Central United Methodist Church
Circle Of Mercy
Episcopal Church Women Of WNC
First Baptist Church of Black Mountain
First Baptist Church of Tryon
First Christian Church of Black Mountain
First Congregational UCC Of Asheville
First Presbyterian Church of Asheville
Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church
Grace Lutheran Church
Green Line Media (Mountain Xpress Give!Local)
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Land Of The Sky UCC
Long Creek Presbyterian Church
Montreat Presbyterian, PCUSA
Oakley United Methodist Church Women
Presbyterian Women, Bryson City
Presbyterian Women, FPC Of Hickory
Skyland United Methodist Church
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The Church Of The Good Shepherd
Trinity Presbyterian Church Of Hendersonville
Tyson Furniture
Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church & College Chapel
WNC Foundation



THANK YOU!

The generosity of these contributors has made an immediate difference in the lives of the incarcerated women at WCCW.

The following individuals have made a contribution over the past year:			
NOTE: These contributors represent donations that have been received as of August 1, 2023 (and do not represent monies received for our upcoming September Luncheon, but thank you to those that have donated and will be attending!)			
Partners (\$1,000 - \$2,500)	Sponsors (continued)	Sustainers (continued)	Patrons (continued)
James Aydelotte	Phia & Paul Denyer	Cyndy & Ron Rios	Kristi Neal
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		Frances Case	Sara Wilcox
		John Collins	
		Karen & John Collins	Friends (\$1 - \$99)
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		Katherine & Jim Layman	Carey Jo Elam
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		Suzanne Money	Janice & David Garver
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Lynn Deese	James Aydelotte		
	Marcia & David Barstow		
	Lucy Bennett		
	Lynn Brunner		
	Liesl Case		
	Brenda DeLaet		
	Sharon Fender		
	Joseph Miller Gettys		
	Laura Gettys		
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	Blair Holladay		
	Kitty & Kenneth Kelly		
	Amy Moore		
	Mary Alice Murphy		
	Mike Murphy		



Heartbeat

RECURRING GIVING PROGRAM

FOR MINISTRY OF HOPE

A reminder about recurring giving as a way to support Ministry of Hope...

When a donor signs up for this recurring donation program online, there are no checks to mail and no reminders needed - it's all automated!

Sign up now online at: [www.MinistryOfHopeWNC.org](http://www.MinistryOfHopeWNC.org)

A monthly gift allows our supporters the option to spread the financial impact of their giving across the entire year, making the commitment more manageable. These ongoing funds will provide regular and predictable support for our ministry, allowing our organization to fund our ongoing operations overall, but also predict future cash flow - giving us a better lead in future planning and outreach.

MY CHILD'S BEST BIRTHDAY EVER

by Chelsea, WCCW Resident

My name is Chelsea and I have a daughter named Elyssa. She is six years old, and I have been incarcerated since she was a year old. The Family Friendly Visits here at WCCW (at The Family Reunification Center) have changed the visitation experience for my daughter as well as myself. It has given us a way to bond, interact, and have fun like never before. The way the room is set up with couches and games automatically puts Elyssa at ease. This past February, I was able to play with her on her birthday for the first time ever. We played hot potato and raced toy cars. Then one of the dogs from the dog program joined our visit. We even got to take pictures together with the dog.

When the visit was over, I was able to walk her to the gatehouse where the crocheted lizard I made her was waiting with her birthday card. After I gave her that, she gave me a big hug and told me it was the best birthday ever. This would never have been possible without the Family Friendly visits. Our relationship is better than ever, and I recommend these visits to anyone with children.

BEFORE

AFTER



THE FAMILY REUNIFICATION CENTER

Family Friendly Visitation (FFV) at the Family Reunification Center is for incarcerated mothers and children ages 18 and under. Normally, visitation happens with multiple families visiting in the dining room at the same time. FFV is for one family at a time in a home-like setting with non-uniformed staff supervision. Grant money received by Ministry of Hope during 2022, along with generous donations from individuals and businesses in our community, provided the furnishings, rugs, lighting, and games/toys for all ages.

NOTE: we continue to provide support and supplies for this special place at WCCW, and plan to expand the area for visitations to include outside space for a play zone, bike riding, or somewhere to enjoy the view of the mountains with loved ones.



ATTENTION: SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR WCCW

We're trying to get ready for the upcoming season and resupply our inventories on greeting cards - HOLIDAY/CHRISTMAS, BIRTHDAY, THINKING OF YOU, BLANK

WITH YOUR SUPPORT, we hand out over 1200 cards quarterly so EVERY single resident is able to have this vital supply for maintaining outside connections!

We also need boxes of facial tissues.

Email [carol.dalton@dac.nc.gov](mailto:carol.dalton@dac.nc.gov) to arrange drop off of greeting cards or tissue. The best way is to order online and have delivered to: Chaplains' Office, 55 Lake Eden Road, Black Mountain, NC 28711



You're Invited

FOR A TIME OF CELEBRATION & DISCOVERY

Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>

11:00 am, Silent Auction | 12:00 pm, Luncheon

JOIN US for our

ANNUAL FALL LUNCHEON

at Montreat's Upper Anderson

Complete your registration on reverse side -

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!



Detatch, include with donation, and mail to: Ministry of Hope, PO Box 998, Black Mountain NC 28711

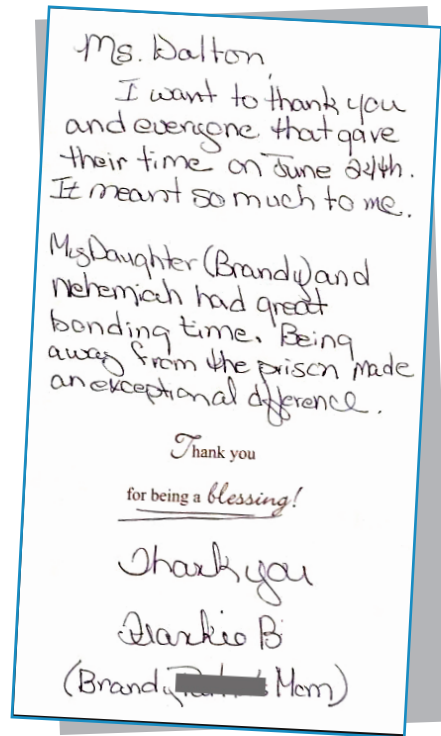
## REJOICING IN REUNION

by **Becky Robinson, Prison Ministry Team Volunteer (Land of the Sky UCC)**

In her book *Small Victories*, Anne Lamott describes a book she imagines is missing from Scripture titled, "The Book of Welcome." The book "states unequivocally that you are wanted, even rejoiced in." Recently, women from WCCW and their children were able to experience that kind of welcome. The message that they are wanted and rejoiced in resounded through goofy games, intentional conversations, gooey homemade cookies, homemade BBQ and Mac-n-Cheese, swirling paints in shaving cream, and rollicking laughter.

**Volunteers from Land of the Sky UCC and Circle of Mercy came together with staff from WCCW to offer a safe space off-site for a reunion that for some mothers and their children hasn't happened for years.**

Perhaps the most significant moments were the simplest: eating with real forks (women at WCCW only have access to plastic sporks); moms and their kids measuring and mixing ingredients together in a warm, sweet-smelling kitchen; painting fingernails; and cornhole games between friends. Moms and teenagers sitting on rocking chairs as a cool June breeze blew and voices mingled: the ordinary made all the more beautiful and sacred because of just how rare and extraordinary we all knew it was.



## GROWTH ON THE HORIZON: WE NEED YOUR HELP

Transition is defined as "the process or a period of changing from one state or condition to another," so I believe I'm using the right word to describe what has been (joyfully) going on in my life with Ministry of Hope lately! I have been so honored all these years to be a part of the continued efforts that Ministry of Hope provides at WCCW and in our community. As Susan shared in her introductory message, we have taken some time to focus on looking at where the organization is now, **and where we want it to be** as we plan towards our future. Our board and staff have been brainstorming on how we want to grow our organization - **all with the intention of increasing its impact, outreach, and ability to help MORE WOMEN within the WCCW community.** We're more thrilled and motivated than ever to be "doing the work" - and with your continued support, we'll keep moving forward.

I started reading a book recently with a title that couldn't be more true: *Life is in the Transitions*. The book touches on the idea that "you are your story." As in, your life experiences ("stories") define and shape who you are, where you came from, how you see yourself, and where you're going. For those of you that may not already know our origin story, Ministry of Hope was formed 24 years ago, recognizing the need to provide chaplaincy services at the local women's correctional center. During these past two decades, we've seen the population of the facility grow by over 300%, and with supporters such as yourself, we've also grown to accommodate the pastoral care for the residents at WCCW. In the last 10 years, our chaplains have extended our services even further to include additional programs to assist these residents in their journey of transition - which starts "on the inside" (in the heart and soul, pre-release), as well as "on the outside" (their physical world) and eventually leaving WCCW. **We've realized in recent years that in order to help the ever-growing demand, it's going to take another growth spurt, as well as developing some diversity in ways we serve.** Not only is the population continuing to grow, but so is the number of women who are passing through WCCW without the time or opportunity to gain the valuable tools and resources to transition back into our communities successfully.

During the last six months, the board has collaborated with WNC Nonprofit Pathways to evaluate our organization's strengths (and weaknesses), participated in 12 sessions of board coaching by one of their advisors, and have begun the process of finding and identifying ways that we want our nonprofit to expand, in order to better serve both our population at WCCW and those releasing into our area. We have also received advisement from Pisgah Legal Services in how to best structure our current organization in light of possible growth for the new future. They also have provided legal assistance for several post-release women we're working with at Pfaff House, aiding in their overall transition experience.

Any group that works in service to the women at WCCW (or any correctional center) will tell you that **the ultimate goal we all have is to REDUCE RECIDIVISM** - the likelihood that an individual will return to prison within three years. The North Carolina state recidivism rate is pretty scary - over 50%. Yes, that means that one out of every two individuals released from incarceration right now will return within three years. Needless to say, **we feel it's our duty - now more than ever - to help break that cycle.** Women who have participated in one or several of our programs and transitioned through the Pfaff House drop the recidivism rate to less than 10%. **IT WORKS**, plain and simple. The extension of services into any new programs will not take away our efforts, energy or focus from our primary goal of serving the residents at WCCW, but recidivism is not only impacted by what goes on "inside" the prison, but also what happens "outside the gates" once a woman is released. **Availability of resources needed for day-to-day life, a reliable support network (of peers, mentors, and community), and safe housing options TRULY make a big impact on one's ability to maintain the "transition within" that happened before their release and have a truly successful transition.**

Finding where and how to grow can feel like trying to hit a moving target - that is because every aspect of a prison ministry's services and programs are connected, even overlapping, with each other. However, right now, **we have identified two main areas of growth we're exploring:** 1) transition services (pre- and post-release reentry education, support, programming); and 2) providing support and resources to incarcerated women serving shorter sentences (who currently are unable to participate in our long-term mentoring programs, or are serving their time in county detention centers).



Lauronda Morrow Teeple,  
Executive Director

## TIME TO CLEAN OUT YOUR CLOSETS!

WCCW is needing help collecting **gently used clothing and shoes** for the residents going on passes and those soon to release.

**All sizes (both men's and women's), particularly tshirts and jeans** - anything not used will be donated to Mountain Home Thrift Store (which benefits the Children's Home)

Call **Sgt. Owens at (828) 259-6000** to arrange drop off - notification required.  
WCCW: 55 Lake Eden Road, Black Mountain, NC 28711



Detach, include with donation, and mail to: Ministry of Hope, PO Box 998, Black Mountain NC 28711

GUEST NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I / WE WILL ATTEND, Would appreciate: [ ☐ ] vegetarian options  
[ ☐ ] gluten-free options

☐ I WILL SPONSOR LUNCH FOR  
WCCW POST-RELEASE GUEST  
(AT AN ADDITIONAL \$15 EACH)

☐ I AM UNABLE TO ATTEND,  
BUT ENCLOSING A DONATION.

Tickets are **\$40 per Person**

**SPECIAL LEVELS OF GIVING:**

\$100: Patron | \$250: Sustainer

\$500: Sponsor | \$1000: Benefactor  
(Special giving levels of \$250 and above  
include 2 lunches.)

Acceptances by September 10, 2023, please.

or **PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE** at:  
**www.MinistryOfHopeWNC.org**



## THIS IS WHERE WE NEED YOUR HELP NOW...

**We are seeking supporters that can assist us in this growth by providing annual gifts of \$2,500 or more**

The funds raised will directly impact our ability to hire the additional staff, administrative support and resources we need to increase our programs that are provided weekly and monthly to women inside WCCW (for pre-release reentry programs) and "outside the gate" transitional programs (for those that have released into our community and need support services).

☐ **YES, I would like to become a Ministry of Hope Benefactor by donating \$2,500 or more:**

See my enclosed donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **Every dollar counts!** See my enclosed donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donations can  
also be made  
securely online:



Detach, include with donation, and mail to: Ministry of Hope, PO Box 998, Black Mountain NC 28711

