



CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S JOB CORPS® OF LEE COUNTY, AL

Newsletter

Spring 2015 - Session 16 - Issue 1

www.cwjclc.com

IMPORTANT DATES

Spring, 2015 - Session 16

Orientation - February 25

Week 1 - March 2 - 6

Week 2 - March 9 - 13

Week 3 - March 16 - 20

Spring Break-March 23 - 27

Week 4 - March 30 - April 3

Week 5 - April 6 - 10

Week 6 - April 13 - 17

Week 7 - April 20 - 24

Internships - April 27 - 29

Pinning Ceremony - Apr 30

FOUNDERS LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY

CWJC is sad at the recent losses of founders Dr. Ferne Garrett and Janice Saidla, but celebrate their lives of Christian service and heart for this ministry. Both women were instrumental in the formation, implementation, and operation of CWJC in Lee County. Ferne and Janice shared a vision of a ministry dedicated to helping women in need in Lee County become more self-sufficient.

As one of the original founders of CWJC, Ferne Garrett wore numerous "hats" over the many years: Board Chair, Events Planner, Curriculum Developer,

Job Skills Instructor, Fundraiser, and Mentor.

Fellow founder, Janice Saidla, remembered Dr.

Garrett "as a dynamic force who kept CWJC moving; one of the backbones of the program."

Former Director, Rev. Laura Eason, notes "Dr. Ferne Garrett was energetic, encouraging, and enthusiastic. She will be greatly missed, but leaves quite a legacy and many incredible memories for all involved in CWJC."

Board member/devotion leader Dr. Charlotte Ward remembers: "Not only Ferne's leadership skills but also her sparkling personality were important in the successful start and continuing success of the CWJC program."

Director Neeley Caldwell adds "Ferne was a

beautiful person on the inside and out. Her legacy will continue on not only in her family and friends but the community that she was so passionate about serving."



Janice Saidla, who took over as board chair after Ferne's death in January, also chaired Hospitality and Banquet Committees for numerous years.

For most of the past 15 sessions of CWJC, Janice worked to organize daily meals for the participants as well as planning the Pinning Celebrations at the conclusion of each session.

"Janice Saidla cared for her Lord and His church, her family, her community and each and every person she met. I viewed her as a remarkable servant as I witnessed her dedicated efforts in financially assisting hundreds of people when she served as the Director of the AUMC Mercy Ministry. Each person she helped was special to her. She took her caring ministry to a new realm as she founded the CWJC of Lee County. Her leadership and influence will have a positive effect on families in this area for many years to come. Without Janice's vision and determination, I believe we would not be blessed with having a CWJC organization in this community today. A viable and strong CWJC will be a meaningful tribute to Janice's love for all people. I will truly miss my good friend." John Wingfield, Administrator of AUMC and CWJC Board member.



Neeley Caldwell,
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RECENT GRAD SPREADS HER WINGS



Cheri Place of Arbor Springs, Pamela, and Trish Block

Pamela Davis had always been interested in becoming a nursing assistant, but never believed she could do it. All that changed with Pamela's participation in CWJC this fall. "I never had the confidence," Pamela admits, "but CWJC gave me the motivation and the push to go for it." Trish Block, Pamela's mentor, saw much potential in Pamela when they first met. "Watching Pamela at CWJC was like watching a butterfly emerge from its cocoon." Pamela completed a four day internship at Arbor Springs this fall, stayed to volunteer until her supervisor, Cheri Place, offered Pamela the opportunity to enroll in classes for Certified Nursing Assistant. After much hard work, Pamela graduated from the CNA program at Arbor Springs. Pamela was hired as a CNA at Arbor Springs. Cheri has vivid memories of meeting Pamela on her first day of internship: "Pamela was so enthusiastic and positive, eager to start a new phase of her life. She took the CNA program very seriously, was always on time and dedicated to the demanding requirements. The residents at Arbor Springs love Pamela. They light up to see her."



FOUNDERS LEAVE LASTING LEGACY - Continued from Page 1

According to Dr. Charlotte Ward, "We owe Janice Saidla a great debt of gratitude for her insight in bringing CWJC to Lee County."

Toddy Savage (board member/instructor/mentor trainer): "Janice Saidla was a dedicated founder and leader for CWJC. She worked relentlessly to see the program start in Lee County and not just start but to be successful in changing women's lives. We will miss her determination and leadership."

SESSION 16 BEGAN ON MARCH 2 -- MEET OUR NEW PARTICIPANTS



Sonya, Mary Fermin - Fitness Instructor; Neeley Caldwell - Site Coordinator; Hattie, Allysa, Jennifer; Iris and Not Pictured is Leslie

Sonya – 27 years old, single, 3 Children- 9, 8, 6, from Alex City and lives in Auburn, does not have High School Diploma or GED, attends True Deliverance Church, heard about CWJC from Soul Sisters

Hattie – 60 years old, widow, 3 children although one is recently deceased, no High School Diploma or GED , church - Jehovah Witness, heard about CWJC from Billboard

Allysa – 35 years old, single, 5 children- ages 20, 18, 17, 13, 11, from Auburn and lives in Auburn, has a GED, attends Latter Day Saints, heard about CWJC from Soul Sisters

Jennifer – 50 years old, divorced, 1 daughter- 25, from Alex City but lives in Auburn, High School Diploma with some college, attends Rising Star Church in Tuskegee, heard about CWJC from Goodwill Career Center, just completed CNA classes through the Achievement Center

Iris – 55 years old, widow, 2 grown daughters, from Opelika and lives in Opelika, has a High School Diploma, attends the Kingdom Hall, found out about CWJC from Opelika Housing Authority and brochure from Community Market

Leslie – 41 years old, married , 1 child- 19 years old, from Jacksonville, Florida but lives in Opelika, currently employed as the Front Desk Clerk at Quality Inn, has a High School Diploma, joined AUMC this month, heard about CWJC from Judy Guin at the Darden Clinic



*Sharon McKinnon
Session 5 Graduate
Spring, 2009*

When Sharon McKinnon relocated to the area about 8 years ago, the job market was not promising. She heard about CWJC and was especially interested in the computer classes. Sharon found an excellent and rewarding experience at CWJC. Upon her graduation from CWJC, Sharon was hired at the Marriott Grand National where she had interned her final week of the session. Within a few years of Sharon's graduation from CWJC, she became the Hostess at First United Methodist Church in Opelika where she has been employed for about 6 years. At the end of 2014, Sharon retired from FUMC to help care for her grandchildren and have time to visit with elderly family out of state. For any woman desiring a real life change, Sharon strongly recommends CWJC. A strong work ethic is something very important to Sharon and CWJC has the curriculum and support to give local women what is needed to succeed.

HIGHLIGHTS OF CWJC FROM 2014

Reprinted from an email originally sent out by Neeley at year end.

Thank you for giving to Christian Women's Job Corps® of Lee County!
Some of the highlights from 2014:

- 7 ladies graduated in our Spring Graduation with 6 out of the 7 receiving employment after graduation.
- One of our Spring Graduates got saved during the session and traveled to Mexico for her first mission trip.
- Auburn United Methodist Church donated 10 computers and 5 computer tables for the Eagle Center to have its own computer lab.
- Auburn University Head Basketball Coach Bruce Pearl spoke at our annual fundraising banquet in August.
- 7 ladies graduated in our Fall Graduation. One of those ladies graduated from CNA classes at Arbor Springs. 3 more of the ladies have received employment in that class.
- Our building has been painted and decorated thanks to several groups who volunteered with this project.
- CWJC has over 150 volunteers involved in the ministry.
- CWJC of Lee County just received our own 501c3 status in November.
- Our website www.cwjclc.com has a donate page with online giving available. You can also find us on Facebook and Twitter.
- Completed our 15th session of CWJC giving us a total of 99 graduates and 138 children who have been impacted by this ministry.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY!!

Thank YOU for your support, time, love, and prayers toward CWJC and to our Founding Members whom we dearly love and miss for leaving this lasting legacy of CWJC.

Dr. Ferne Garrett

April 7, 1934 - January 19, 2015

Janice Saidla

April 25, 1938 - February 28, 2015

