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LEAP Graduate Spotlight

Meet Rebecca, LEAP Class 15

Rebecca learned how to train dogs during her first prison sentence when she became involved in a dog training program. She dreamed of having her own dog training business, and during her time in the LEAP entrepreneurial program developed a business plan to make her dream a reality. That business is [All Paws Allowed](#). Currently, Rebecca is the Senior Sales Associate at LEAP's Dragonfly Thrift Boutique and is also developing All Paws Allowed. Her first official four legged customer's owner is a police officer who came into Dragonfly and was wowed by Rebecca and LEAP's mission.

"LEAP has helped me to understand my substance abuse and trauma together as a whole, versus before when I didn't understand why I did the things that I did. Now I can work on making sure that those things don't happen again as I have the tools to know when a crisis is about to hit or when an event will affect me in a manner that would usually drive me to substance abuse. LEAP pretty much gave me my sanity back."

Rebecca McLemore



Volunteer Spotlight

Capital One Volunteers

The crew over at [Capital One Café in Coral Gables](#) is all about community. Every week, one of its ambassadors volunteers at the Dragonfly Thrift Boutique. They help out at the store and spend time with our Leapers. Capital One also hosts financial literacy classes for LEAP graduates, as well as the broader community. "Part of the goal is to support LEAP and their effort in empowering these women to get their lives



on track," said Vanessa Ramos, a Capital One Ambassador. "We just want to support the girls" (Pictured is Capital One Ambassador Patrick teaching one of our LEAP graduates, Café, about how to market her business, Liberty Soaps).

Upcoming Events

Class 16 Graduation

September 21, 2018

Our favorite time of the year is around the corner -- graduation! On **September 21, from 8:30 to 10:30 AM**, our Class 16 will walk up to the podium in cap and gown and receive their certificates. LEAP graduations are always a highlight of our program. Anyone who have ever attended, can attest that LEAP graduations are just as transformative for guests as for graduates. The graduation will take place at the prison in Homestead. If you are interested in attending, email Mahlia Lindquist at mahlia@leapforladies.org. Because all guests must be cleared through the department of corrections you please let us know as soon as possible if you'd like to attend.

Changing Times: Ethical and Practical Considerations for the Legal Profession

September 22, 2018

The Florida Bar now requires five (5) CLE Professional Responsibility Credits in the areas of legal ethics, professionalism, bias elimination, substance abuse, or mental illness awareness programs. We want to help you earn ALL five credits in just one morning, while also helping others.

This intermediate workshop, on September 22 at the Coral Gables Museum, and will help legal professionals to address ethical and practical considerations in a changing world. By providing a better understanding the role of health and illness in American society, this workshop will shed light on health, mental illness, substance abuse and dependence disorders to allow lawyers to advance professional behaviors and advance professional responsibility.

This event is open to all.

[Click here to find out more information and RSVP](#)

The LEAP Book and Lecture Series

September 27, 2018

The LEAP Book & Lecture Series aims to delight, enlighten, educate and create connection. Our monthly gatherings will alternate between speakers and book discussions, and will encompass a wide spectrum of books and topics, including the arts, entertainment, therapeutic concepts, and social justice.

Our first scheduled event is on Thursday, September 27, 2018 at 6:30 pm and will feature **Monica**

Espitia, South Florida Regional Organizer at the ACLU of Florida. Monica will discuss Amendment 4 which, if passed in November, will return the eligibility to vote to 1.4 million Floridians convicted of felonies who have completed all terms of their sentence.

Our first book discussion will be on Thursday, October 25. The book is Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption by Bryan Stevenson. Let us know if you have book ideas for future gatherings

We hope you make it and become a part of the change we're enabling.

[RSVP Here.](#)

Volunteer Information Night

Second Thursday of the Month

Want to become involved with **LEAP** or the **Dragonfly Thrift Boutique**? Attend one of our information nights, held the second Thursday of every month from 6 - 7 pm. The next one is September 13, 2018. RSVP through our [Facebook Event](#).

How Would You Like to Help the Women of LEAP Put Prison in the Past?

- Volunteer at the Dragonfly Thrift Boutique (DTB)
- Mentor LEAP graduates just out of prison
- Coach LEAP students in prison
- Employ a LEAP graduate
- Support the Voting Rights Restoration for Felons Initiative (Amendment 4)
- Help spread awareness by hosting a coffee at your home
- Donate women's clothing, furnishing, and home accessories to DTB
- Donate a bicycle and/or computer for graduates living in Miami
- Sponsor a LEAP graduate for a in-prison curriculum (\$6,500 per graduate)
- Sponsor post-release essentials for one LEAP graduate (\$175 per graduate)
- Sponsor a LEAP graduate for DTB Internship (\$1,600 per graduate)
- A donation of any amount helps
- Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram - Comment on Yelp - Share widely

Welcome to our New Board Members





Holly Woodbury

"It's a thrill to be on the Board of LEAP! I fundamentally believe that your past should not define your future and this is the essence of LEAP. Everyone should be provided an opportunity to move forward."



Gustavo Castillo

"I can't think of a more inspiring story than of redemption. Of a person making a mistake but refusing to have that define them; Of a person seeking to learn and through it grow and transform into a better version of themselves. LEAP helps those desiring to do this. Being involved in their journeys inspires me and seeing others accept and help them reinforces my belief in the goodness of humanity."

Engage With Us on Social Media

LADIES EMPOWERMENT AND ACTION PROGRAM



DRAGONFLY THRIFT BOUTIQUE



Thank you to our generous supporters!

Over the past 9 years working with women in prison, we at LEAP have learned that if given tools to succeed, most will remain crime free. Those tools include education, access to jobs, mental health and addiction services and housing. Thanks to the support of our community, over the past 2 years LEAP has expanded from an in-prison program, to one that includes housing, employment and other support post release. We have been able to expand our services thanks to community support.

We are proud to announce that the Denise Moon Fund of the Miami Foundation, Capital One Bank and the Miami Foundation Community Grants Program recently awarded LEAP grants to expand our post release services, and to develop a comprehensive paid retail internship for LEAP graduates at the Dragonfly Thrift Boutique.

LEAP is 100% dependent on the generosity of our community. Please consider donating today.

Donate to LEAP



THE JOSEPH H. & FLORENCE A. ROBLEE FOUNDATION



Ladies Empowerment and Action Program | Dragonfly Thrift Boutique | (833) 757 - 5327 |
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STAY CONNECTED

