

LEAP: Ladies Empowerment & Action Program

The Best Christmas Presents Ever!

Where they are going to sleep at night and how they are going to support themselves ... these are the two worries that keep women coming out of prison (and those of us who care about them) up at night. Thanks to several community partners, all of us can sleep a bit better. Camillus House and Chapman Partnership agreed to take in our ladies who have no where else to go, and have already welcomed four graduates this past year. Lotus House has also opened its doors to LEAPers coming out of prison and we expect some of our ladies will go there in 2017.

Transitions, Inc. has placed several of our ladies in jobs and has promised to do the same in 2017. Transitions, Inc. works with local employers to show them that hiring ex-offenders can make great business sense, is good for the community AND is an amazing opportunity to make a huge difference in the life of someone looking for a second chance. If you are in the market to hire someone, please ask us about employer incentives for hiring ex-offenders.

The Center For Social Change, which has supported LEAP in a thousand different ways over the years, has come through in a huge way for 2017. Thanks to the Center, as of January 1, we now have a house where several LEAP graduates can live until they get on their feet. The house is located in a safe neighborhood near the Center (which is also where LEAP's office is located) and public transportation. Please let us know if you have any furniture or household items that you would like to donate.

Presenting LEAP's Class 12

Class 12 graduated in August, and they are up and running! They are doing everything from working as an automotive service writer to attending cosmetology school, and all of them were able to find safe places to live.



Thanks to the generous donations from LEAP supporters, we were able to provide each graduate with a phone, clothing and a bike, all of which come in handy when it comes to looking for and going to work! Our next class will start coming out in February, which means we will once again be looking for donations of clothing, bikes, phones and computers. Please let us know if you have any items you would like to donate.

LEAP Mentor Program

If you are looking for a hands on, meaningful, interesting, fun way to give back, look no more! LEAP is currently accepting mentor applications for our next class. The commitment is low – one visit to the prison for 5-6 months, and the reward is high. Our ladies are interesting, engaged, and eager to learn and grow. Send us an email if you are interested in becoming part of the LEAP family.



Cafe, LEAP Class 11, and mentor Mahlia Lindquist at LEAP holiday party

LEAP Fairies

LEAP now in it's 7 year, has been able to help rebuild and reclaim the lives of some of the most marginalized members of our community only through the help of grantors who take a "leap" of faith with LEAP. These grantors are our good fairies who enable LEAP to do good work.



This year, those funders include the Charity Services Centers, PA, The Women's Fund, the Denise Moon Fund, the Joseph H. & Florence A. Roblee Foundation, 100+ Women Who Care Miami Dade, BB&T Bank, TD Foundation, Sequoia Foundation and Lush Fresh Handmade Cosmetics, in addition to dozens of individual donors.

We also have fundraising "event" fairies! Attorney Alan Kluger hosted a beautiful event and tour of his extraordinary art collection. Charito Jiminez hosted LEAP's first annual Holiday Sip & Shop at her gorgeous home and ever the hostess with the mostess, even baked for our awesome vendors. These events would not be possible without the generosity of our other in-kind donors such as Stefano's Wine & Liquor, Chef Denisse, and Alma Wines.

Thank-you to all of our good fairies who enable us to serve the women of LEAP.

Welcome Tarshea!

We are thrilled to announce that thanks to funding from Transitions, Inc., Class 11 LEAP graduate Tarshea Sanderson is an official staff member for LEAP. We are sharing Tarshea, who will also be working for the Center for Social Change, and so she has her work cut out for her! With her sunny smile, enthusiasm and strong work ethic, we love having Tarshea on board. She has already proven herself to be indispensable!!



Celebrations

In addition to helping women transition from prison to community we at LEAP like to have a fun, plain and simple. And so, in 2016 we made celebrating life, freedom and community a priority. You know what they say about all work and no play. Check out (and please "like") our Facebook page and you will see photos from our Beach Bash, the Sip & Savor, pool side socializing at the Vagabond, Christmas Party, Holiday Bazaar, and Art Tour.



1st annual LEAP Beach Bash

We are not an exclusive club, so please be sure to join us in 2017!

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America is the land of the second chance - and when the gates of the prison open, the path ahead should lead to a better life

George W. Bush

