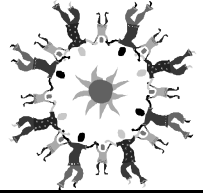


The Light



SUMMER 2002

First Light's Bluegrass Barbecue

Join us for the
Bluegrass Barbecue
on July 20th! For
tickets call 323-4277
or e-mail
flshelter@aol.com.

A big THANK YOU to
the sponsors of this
event:
Golden Flake, Garnett
Distributing, Johnny

Need a speaker?

If you need a speaker for
your civic meeting or congrega-
tional meeting, please call
or e-mail us! We have staff
that would love to come tell
about all of the wonderful
things happening at First
Light. Call 323-4277 or
e-mail flshelter@aol.com.

BLUEGRASS BARBEQUE



Saturday, July 20, 2002

7:00 pm - 10:30 pm

VISA & Mastercard accepted

music by:

Uncle Bud's Lectro Wood Experience

sponsors:

Golden Flake, Special Occasions,
Johnny Rays (Morgan Road, Hoover),
Garnett Distributing

benefiting:



FIRST LIGHT
Center for Homeless
Women and Children

Heathermoor Farm • 2720 Bailey Road • Leeds, AL 35094

\$30.00 per adult • \$10.00 12 & under • Call for tickets 323-4277

Pick up a number at check-in table for the door prize drawings!!

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First Light Celebrates 2nd Anniversary!

On May 28th, First Light celebrated its 2nd year of service to Birmingham's homeless women and children! The celebration included a cookout with hamburgers, hot dogs, watermelon, a variety of desserts and karaoke for guests, volunteers, staff, advisory board members and board members!

First Light's board of directors provided and served the evening's meal, while the advisory board prepared delicious deserts for everyone.

All of the members of the staff and board, as well as the guests of First Light, gave thanks to volun-

teers of the shelter for giving their time, support and love for First Light's women and children.

Special thanks to First Light's volunteer liaisons!

Amy Brown & Angie Segars (Birmingham Southern College)

Lisa Jackson (Bluff Park United Methodist Church)

Kevin Patton, Diane Prutzman & Donna Stariha (Edgewood Presbyterian Church)

Wendy Hare (First Presbyterian Church)

Renee Driskel (First United Methodist Church)

Kendra Howard, Rev. Susan Laney & Nancy Trull (Grace Presbyterian Church)

Rev. Susan Clayton (Independent Presbyterian Church)

Laurie Thompson (Brookwood Baptist Church)

Jeannette Bell (Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church)

Mattie Johnson & Eileen Helms (St. Paul's Catholic Church)

Mary Martin & Emma Taylor (St. Peter's Catholic Church)

Nell Rush & Fran Wells (Vestavia Hills United Methodist Church)

Milton Wren (East Birmingham Church of God In Christ)

Dawn Fowler (Starnes & Atchison)

Miriam Turner (Homewood High School FCCLA)



The Light I See

Words of Hope written by guests of First Light

You light the sky with your light
and chase away the darkness.
It runs in fright.
You guide us through murky fogs
that are clouding at our ankles,
and show us where to place our feet.
You listen to our fears
and tell us not to worry.
Then you smile at our dreams
and watch us succeed.

Written by: Barbara Rohrbacher, age 20

What is our spirituality when all is said and done? I see us silently, in a manner of speaking, doing little ordinary things children and women do everywhere. Always with a peace of mind and burning love. Knowing that love makes every gesture, step, word and work, redemptive. I see us loving each other, sheltering each other and all the world, because in our eyes of faith and truth, each is Christ to the other! That is all. The rest He will do through us. We are just lovers witnessing to love. Our sheltering of each other reflects the light of First Light, the torchbearer of love and light in our modern darkness by being love and doing ordinary daily tasks for love's sake.

Written by: Anonymous guest of First Light

First Light is supported in part by funds awarded from:

- The Jesuit Volunteer Corps**
- The Doris M. Schuler Foundation**
- Sisters of Mercy**
- The Robert Charitable Trust**
- Shades Valley Rotary Club**
- Vestavia Hills United Methodist Church**
- First Presbyterian Church**
- The Susan Mott Webb Turst**
- The Presbyterian Hunger Program**
- Becomers Class of Vestavia Hills United Methodist Church**



What's For Dinner?

Dinner volunteers please take note!!

Detailed information about providing and serving dinner is now available! Please pick up a copy or call and we can e-mail or snail-mail a copy to you.

Don't forget, if you are planning on serving bread with dinner, call and see if we already have some here that is donated 3 times per week by Continental Bakery.



SHELTER STORIES

April 14, 2002

"It was a blessing to be here at First Light. I think (the ladies) helped me more than I helped them. Their appreciation for every little thing blew me away. One lady even told us she had never had anyone ask her if she needed anything. She thanked us again and again. It just goes to show that a little goes a long way. I

was truly amazed to find such strong-minded women in such desperate situations. I know these women can do it. Thanks be to God for their determination. Thank you First Light."

-Keisha Halding

April 28, 2002

"Although brief, this has been an important reawakening of that part of my heart that too

May 16, 2002

"...The time spent here really helps me to snap back into reality and at least for one night think about what life is like for these ladies and their children—the uncertainty, the

easily becomes hardened by the stresses of daily life. Thank you for allowing me to help.

-Gayle Pelham

quiet desperation, the heartache. And yet these ladies are able to find the joy in life that so many realize is a gift from God. I feel blessed to have been here tonight and to have once again realized the face of the homeless is no different from my own. Homelessness is not some distant and abstract idea. It is present in the here and now. First Light is a special place with a special mission and I wish to come back soon."

-Kaci Sims

How Can You Help?

First Light depends on volunteers to bring and serve dinner every night of the year. We also rely on volunteers to stay overnight in the emergency shelter every night of the year, acting as hosts/hostesses, and often providing a listening ear, a shoulder to be cried on and arms that hug. Collecting wish list items is also a fun and rewarding group thing to do. Be creative. If you have a volunteer project that you would like to do, please let us know! Volunteers are an invaluable part to making First Light a reality. We could not do this without you!

Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.

-Martin Luther King, Jr.

FIRST LIGHT, INC.

2230 Fourth Avenue North
Birmingham, AL 35203

Phone: 205-323-4277
Fax: 205-323-8362
Email: firstlightinc@aol.com

A Center For Homeless Women and Children

**Our website has been updated!
Check it out!
firstlight.digitrends.com/shelter**

First Light, Inc.

Our mission is working with homeless women, their children and others at risk to create hospitality in a safe and nurturing community, encouraging them to maintain dignity, to find hope, to seek opportunity, and to grow spiritually, thereby achieving their full potential.

First Light Wish List

- Deodorant
- Styrofoam cups & plates
- Napkins
- Boxes of grits & oatmeal w/ individual packets
- Cereal
- Vaseline
- Small cups for dispensing medicine
- Metal forks and spoons
- Clothes Washing Detergent
- Powdered drink mixes
- Sunscreen
- Toothache medicine
- Mops, brooms & dustpans
- Snack foods
- Cleaning supplies
- Antacids
- Toothbrush and soap travel holders
- Cleaning supplies—surface cleaner, window cleaner, Lysol spray, dish washing liquid, Comet, etc.
- Toothache medicine
- Fresh fruit
- Panty hose
- Socks
- Copier paper
- Ibuprofen/Tylenol
- Underwear (all sizes)
- Tape
- Karaoke music
- Bingo game
- Security Camera
- Donation to purchase new dining room tables
- Cash Donations



First Light, Inc. Board of Directors & Staff

- Robin Vines, President
- Carolyn King, Vice President/Treasurer
- Camille Bryson, Secretary
- Lynn Bledsoe
- Wendi Boyen
- Sheila Cook
- Caryn Corenblum
- Newstell Dowdell, Jr.
- Renee Driskel
- Sherron Goldstein
- Rita Helton
- Elaine Jackson
- Jothany James
- Denise Killebrew
- Joy O'Neal
- Kevin Patton
- John Porter
- Chef Clayton Sherrod
- Dr. Cary Speaker
- Marion Walker
- Ann Warren
- Rev. Eugenia Gamble, Advisory Board Chair
- Rev. Drew Henry, ex officio
- Ruth Crosby, Executive Director
- Rachel Cabaniss, Program & Resource Mngr.
- Sherry Johnson-Webb, LBSW
- JoNell Comegys, Counselor
- Wynter Byrd, Coffee Shop Manager