

hope

opportunity

community

THE LIGHT

hospitality

dignity

safety

Fall 2004

First Light, Inc.
A Center for Homeless Women and Children



SAVE THE DATE!

Granada Gala Moves to January 29, 2005

First Light's 7th annual Granada Gala, previously held in November, will be on **Saturday, January 29, 2005, 6:30 until 9:30** at the **HealthSouth Center**. This year, First Light is spicing it up with fine art, fine wine, fine food and possibly some great vacation packages! We are thrilled to have **Ken Jackson** back again this year as our auctioneer! The gala will include a sit-down dinner and live entertainment in a new venue.

Tickets will go on sale November 15! Event and table sponsorships are available. Tickets are \$100 individually, \$1,500 for a sponsor table that includes a 1/3 page ad in our program, or \$3,500 for Granada Gala sponsorship that includes 2 tables and a full page ad in our program.



In the past couple of years, First Light has held a live and silent art auction based on the theme developed through the art therapy program: *Creative Adventures!: Affirmation and Healing through the Arts*. First Light will continue with this theme for this year's gala, but we are adding wine and vacation packages to our auction. If you would like to **donate artwork, win or a vacation/golf package** for the auction, please call Rachel Cabaniss : 323-4277 or e-mail flshelter@aol.com



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Need a Speaker?

If you need a speaker for your civic meeting, congregational meeting or organization, please call or e-mail us! We have staff that would love to tell about all of the wonderful things happening at First Light. Call 323-

First Light Starts Legacy Society

You can help First Light to continue to serve the homeless women and children in our community by making a commitment to our endowment and leaving a legacy. Donors who make an outright or planned gift to First Light's endowment before December 2005 will become charter members of The Bill and Weesa Matthews Legacy Society. You can leave a legacy through a variety of charitable gifts. First Light is proud to name the Legacy Society for Bill and Weesa Matthews in recognition of their efforts and commitment to making First Light a reality. If you have already named First Light in your estate plans, please let us know. If you would like more information about remembering First Light in your estate plans, please contact Rachel Cabaniss at First Light 323-4277 or flshelter@aol.com

HOLIDAY LIGHTS



The holiday season will be here before we know it! Do you fret about finding the perfect gift for the person who has everything or who doesn't want anything? Well, don't worry anymore because First Light has the perfect solution. You can give a unique and meaningful gift to your loved ones while brightening the lives of homeless women and children. Lights will shine from the First Light building in honor or remembrance of those you love or as a gift to someone special through your donation to First Light. First Light will mail a holiday card to the recipient of your gift. The lights will burn through Hanukkah and Christmas. A Holiday Lights brochure should be coming to you in the mail soon! Don't fret! Give the gift of light to brighten the lives of homeless women and children at First Light!

RED Light = \$10.00

GREEN Light = \$20.00

BLUE Light = \$30.00

GOLD Light = \$50.00

STRING of Lights = \$100.00

First Light Recycles

Thanks to First Light's new Jesuit Volunteer, Rachel Doud, we recently started a recycling program. Recycling stations are located throughout the building for staff, volunteers, residents and guests who have all become actively involved in the process. First Light recycles paper, newspaper, cardboard, plastic bags, plastics 1 & 2 and aluminum. Each Friday, the materials are taken to the Alabama Council Recycling Center downtown. We are thrilled about sharing the responsibility of creating a more environmentally friendly Alabama! Dinner volunteers will find recycling stations in the kitchen, too!



Will You Help?

You can make a difference in the lives of Birmingham's homeless women and children.

You can provide shelter from a life on the streets where there is no place to go when it is raining and cold, except for a business building's overhang, under a bridge, the public library or a cardboard house made from boxes rescued from a dumpster.

You can make a sanctuary available to women and children 24 hours a day with social and counseling services. Because First Light exists, no woman or her children has to sleep on the street, in a car or stay in an unhealthy situation.

You can help provide specialized programs geared to chronically mentally ill women, those who cannot complete traditional day programs.

No one deserves to be homeless. No one plans on being homeless, abused, mentally ill or addicted to drugs and/or alcohol.

Will you help provide shelter to homeless women and children in a place of hope and love with a sense of home and family?

If you don't, who will?

I (we) make the following gift, offering a physical example of commitment, care and concern for homeless women and children.

\$10,000 or more	Benefactor
\$5,000 to \$9,999	Patron
\$1,000 to \$4,999	Investor
\$500-\$999	Sponsor
\$250-\$499	Sustainer
\$100-\$249	Advocate
\$1-\$99	Friend

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Phone _____

This is an anonymous gift.

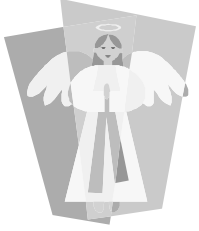
This contribution is made: [] In memory of [] In honor of

Name: _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____





First Light Angels

Through First Light's art therapy program, Creative Adventures! *Affirmation and Healing through the Arts*, the guests of First Light have created The Angel Wall to thank all of the churches, foundations, corporations and organizations who support the homeless women and children at First Light. The angel wall is displayed in the first floor art gallery that was made possible by the Junior League of Birmingham. A special thanks to recent Angels at Protective Life Foundation, Rite Aid Foundation, South Highland Presbyterian Church, First United Methodist Church, Cathedral Church of the Advent, Cosmos Club, SouthTrust Employees' Charity Board, Riverchase Presbyterian Church, Trinity United Methodist Church, Heart Matters, Inc., Brookwood Baptist Church, Vestavia Hills United Methodist Church and Good Samaritan Investments.

Welcome First Light Staff!



Welcome Shannon Horsley, First Light's new program manager and volunteer coordinator! Shannon began her work at First Light as a development intern in January of this year. She helped to plan the incredibly successful Bluegrass Barbecue. Shannon is currently working on her master's degree in public administration at UAB.

First Light welcomes Sheila Young to the First Light team! Sheila is a case manager for the guests of First Light. She has a bachelor's degree in social work from the University of Montevallo. With the increase in the number of guests seeking shelter, Sheila provides a great service to the women and children at First Light!



Rachel Doud serves as First Light's 2004-2005 Jesuit Volunteer. Rachel is from Schaumburg, Illinois and recently graduated from Winona State University in Minnesota with a degree in social work. At First Light, Rachel is a part-time case manager and part-time shelter assistant. She is a tremendous asset to the First Light team. Welcome Rachel! We'll have you sayin' "ya'll" before you know it!



Volunteer Liaison Meeting Schedule

First Light's biannual volunteer liaison meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, December 7 at 11:30 at First Light**. If you would like to get your church or organization actively involved in serving homeless women and children at First Light, please call or e-mail Shannon Horsley at 323-4277 or flcoordinator@yahoo.com



Organizations Represented:

Birmingham Southern College
Bluff Park United Methodist
Brookwood Baptist
Cathedral Church of the Advent
Edgewood Presbyterian
First Presbyterian
First United Methodist
Grace Presbyterian
Huffman United Methodist
Independent Presbyterian
McCalla United Methodist
New Smyrna Christian Church
Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church
Rushing Springs Baptist Church
Sixth Avenue Baptist Church
St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church
St. Paul's Cathedral
St. Peter's Catholic Church
Vestavia Hills United Methodist

Volunteers of the Month

"Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around."—Leo Buscaglia

July

Laurie Thompson—Brookwood Baptist
Jenny Walker—First United Methodist

August

Susan Haskell—Independent Presbyterian
Nancy Skinner—Independent Presbyterian

September

Lynne Rogers—First Presbyterian

First Light, Inc.
2230 Fourth Avenue North
Birmingham, AL 35203

Phone: 205-323-4277

Website: www.firstlightshelter.org



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 Board of Directors

Wendi Boyen, President
 David Elliott, Vice President
 Carolyn King, Treasurer
 Camille Bryson, Secretary

Sheila Cook	Nancy Skinner
Cindy Coyle	Rev. Cary Speaker
Newstell Dowdell, Jr.	Nancy Turpen
Sharon Fenstermaker	Marion Walker
Sherron Goldstein	Anne Warren
Rita Helton	Becki Weathers
Elaine Jackson	Jessie Williams
Jothany James	Jeff Wilson
Jeff Morrison	Joan Witherspoon-Norris
Joy O'Neal	Eukie Woodall
Blair Sandford	Rev. Eugenia Gamble, Ex Officio

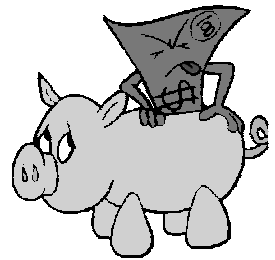
First Light Staff

Ruth G. Crosby, Executive Director
 Rachel C. Cabaniss, Development Director
 Sherry J. Webb, LBSW, MSW
 Shannon T. Horsley, Program Manager/Volunteer Coordinator
 Sheila N. Young, BSW
 Martha B. Terrell, Coffee Shop Coordinator/Receptionist
 Rachel M. Doud, Jesuit Volunteer, BSW
 Emily Simon, Social Work Intern/Shelter Assistant
 Valerie B. Bouriche, Shelter Assistant

First Light Wish List

Hygiene and Personal Items

- Cold, sinus, allergy, cough medications & dispensing cups
- Antacids, Pepto-Bismol
- Feminine hygiene products
- Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Lotion
- Hairbrushes and combs, hairspray
- Baby wipes



Food—New Unopened Packages Only

- Fruit
- Cereal
- Boxes of grits and oatmeal
- Powdered drink mixes
- Styrofoam plates, bowls and cups
- Quart and gallon size zip lock bags

Cash donations allow First Light to continue to serve Birmingham's homeless women and children. Volunteers are also needed to bring and serve dinner and stay

Household Items

- Ironing board cover for permanent residents
- TV for permanent residents
- Laundry detergent
- Dryer sheets
- Cleaning supplies
- Bath towels
- Extra Long Twin-size sheet sets

Miscellaneous

- Recyclable jewelry and beads for art projects
- Medication boxes
- Ink pens
- Band-aids