



FIRST LIGHT

*A Center for Homeless Women and Children*

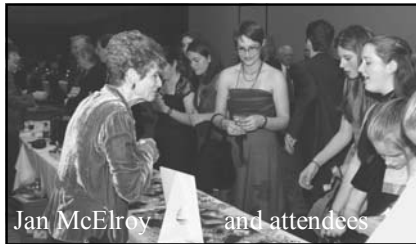
# the LIGHT

Winter  
2007

## 2007 First Light Gala



Ruth Crosby with Emcee Fran Curry



Jan McElroy and attendees



Volunteer of the Year Lynne Rogers

The ninth annual First Light Gala was a HUGE success thanks to our steadfast supporters! With 53 tables and 416 attendees, we made over \$140,000 to benefit the homeless women and children of First Light. The evening included silent and live auctions, as well as a viewing of the new First Light video.

The 2007 Gala was dedicated to Honorees Susan Clayton and Carolyn King. Susan was central to the founding of First Light and taught us all that great love can conquer great obstacles and achieve wonderful things. Carolyn was the first treasurer and CFO of First Light, and she established a firm financial foundation that left us well-positioned for future challenges.

Lynne Rogers of First Presbyterian Church was honored as 2006 Volunteer of the Year. Lynne graciously serves as a volunteer liaison for FPC, an overnight volunteer and a dinner volunteer. She is a member of our Board of Directors and serves communion to First Light guests on a regular basis.

A special thanks to Blair Sandford, gala coordinator; Joy O'Neal, auction coordinator; Fran Curry, emcee; Ken Jackson, auctioneer; Robin Wilson, photographer; Scott Gordon, graphic designer; and everyone else who helped to make the 2007 Gala a night to remember!

### Event Sponsors

**Burr and Forman, LLP**  
**Protective Life Corporation**



Executive Director Ruth Crosby with 2007 Honorees Susan Clayton and Carolyn King. Photos courtesy of Robin Wilson.

### Table Sponsors

- ArchitectureWorks
- Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz
- Bayer Properties Inc.
- Birmingham Title Services
- Bradley, Arant, Rose & White
- Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama
- Brasfield & Gorrie, LLC
- Cathedral Church of the Advent
- Compass Bank
- Cowin Equipment Co.
- Colonial Properties Trust
- EBSCO
- Energen
- First Presbyterian Church
- Michael and Marilyn Gross
- Ken Jackson
- Carolyn King
- Independent Presbyterian Church
- Maynard, Cooper & Gale
- Jeff and Jennifer Morrison
- Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church
- Myers-Player Group of Merrill Lynch
- Regions Financial Corporation
- Saint Francis Xavier Church

September 29, 2006

My mother and I are back again here at the First Light shelter. We are happy to return and be of service to a wonderful organization. Things were busy from about 7 to 7:30 p.m., but the women have quieted down and many are already settled into bed. I am so thankful that this shelter has the women fed and in a warm, safe bed tonight, especially as the weather turns cooler.

Leanne McMillan

## Volunteer of the Month

**October 2006– Frank and Gerianne Savage**  
Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church

**November 2006– Emma Taylor**

St. Peter's Catholic Church

**December 2006–**

**Kristin Johnson**

**January 2007–**

**Birmingham Southern College Students**

# Shelter



# Stories

October 29, 2006

Good morning! I had a blessed night. This is another time for me. I used to spend the night with my daughter, but now I am here with my boys. They really enjoy coming, and it also helps them to appreciate their lives more. Thank you so much for allowing me to still be a part of the many things you do to bless so many women!

Landra & The Boys

December 28, 2006

This is my first time to volunteer. What a special place! The ladies are wonderful. It is an honor to be here!

Debbie Bennett

January 1, 2007

Happy New Year! We were impressed with how organized and efficient everything was. We look forward to coming back!

Beth Dillard and Miller Kreider



## Welcome New First Light Staff



**Sarah Brooks is First Light's newest social worker. She graduated cum laude with a Bachelor's in Social Work from Montevallo in December and joined our staff in January. Welcome to First Light, Sarah!**

**Deborah Everson is First Light's new Assistant Director. Her background includes religious studies, nonprofit board membership and sales and marketing experience. Deb joined our staff in February. Welcome to First Light, Deb!**



## Special Thanks

We would like to thank the following businesses, churches, foundations and organizations for their generous contributions to First Light in 2007:  
 First Presbyterian Church  
 The Independent Presbyterian Church Foundation  
 The Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham  
 The City of Birmingham  
 Protective Life Foundation

## 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 child 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 plans on being homeless, abused, mentally ill or addicted to drugs and/or alcohol.

No one deserves to be homeless.

**Will you help provide shelter and essential services 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) give the following gift, offering a physical example of commitment, care and concern for the homeless women and children in our community.

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

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

This contribution is made: Name: \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of Address: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

This is an anonymous gift. Your name will not be included in our annual report.



JUNIOR LEAGUE CHORAL GROUP  
 Christmas Concert

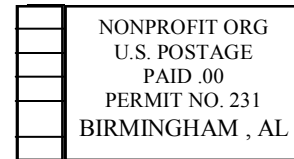
This past November, the Junior League Choral Group hosted their annual Christmas concert at First Light, complete with carols, costumes and sing-a-longs. Thanks so much to the Junior League of Birmingham for providing a hefty dose of holiday cheer to the women and children at First Light!



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

205.323.4277

<http://www.firstlightshelter.org>



#### First Light Board of Directors

David Elliott, President  
Blair Sandford, Vice President  
Joy O'Neal, Secretary  
Jeff Morrison, Treasurer

Wendi Boyen	Nancy Skinner
Cindy Coyle	Jim Toomey
Betty Drennen	Nancy Turpen
Sharon Fenstermaker	Marion Walker
Michael Gross	Eulala Woodall
Jothany James	
Denise Killebrew	
Weesa Matthews	<u>Ex Officio</u>
Joan Witherspoon-Norris	Dr. John Bush
Lynne Rogers	Rev. Drew Henry

#### First Light Staff

Ruth G. Crosby, Executive Director  
Deborah B. Everson, Assistant Director  
Sherry J. Webb, LBSW, MSW, Director of Social Services  
Shannon Horsley, Program Manager & Volunteer Coordinator  
Vicki N. Hampton, BSW, Social Worker  
Sarah Brooks, BSW, Social Worker  
April M. Graham, Receptionist  
Osarieme Erhunmwunsee, Shelter Assistant  
Candy Wiley, Shelter Assistant  
Carmen Taylor, Weekend Manager  
Marilyn A. Gross, Art Therapy Coordinator

#### WISH LIST

**Hygiene and Personal Items -  
New, unopened packages only**  
**Cold, sinus, allergy and cough medications**  
**Cough drops**  
**Children's over-the-counter medications**  
**Over-the-counter stomach medications**  
**Pain relief medications**  
**Pill Boxes**  
**Feminine hygiene products**  
**Kleenex**  
**Chapstick**  
**Deodorant**

**Food - New, unopened packages only**  
**Fruit**  
**Cereal**  
**Cereal Bars**  
**Pop-tarts**  
**Instant grits and oatmeal (individual packets)**  
**Powdered drink mixes**  
**Paper or Styrofoam bowls and cups**  
**Plastic forks, spoons and knives**  
**Quart and gallon-size Ziploc bags**  
**Snacks for life skills programs**