

OFFERING HOPE • PROVIDING OPPORTUNITY • CONFIRMING DIGNITY • ENSURING SAFETY • ESTABLISHING COMMUNITY • DEMONSTRATING HOSPITALITY

Pre Iron Bowl Pancake Breakfast

November 20th

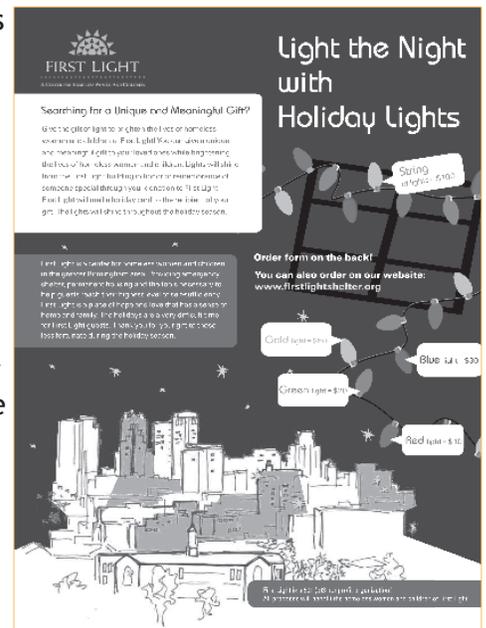
Mark your calendar now for the Pre-Iron Bowl Pancake Breakfast-Saturday, November 20, from 8:00 AM until 10:00 AM (sharp). Tickets will be available at First Light or from board members. For \$7.00 you will enjoy pancakes, bacon and sausage, scrambled eggs, coffee and orange juice in the company of other friends of First Light. This is a special event held at the Lakeview Golden Rule before their regular lunch hour begins at 11:00. We can serve a maximum of 300 people between 8 and 10—so get your ticket in advance to make sure you have the opportunity to enjoy this event. (WE CANNOT SELL MORE THAN 300 TICKETS DUE TO THE TIME AND SPACE LIMITATION.) ALSO—we will be awarding three grand prizes, with the top prize being two tickets to the Alabama/Auburn football game on November 26th. There will be door prizes awarded every 10-15 minutes for those who purchase a \$10 breakfast ticket instead of the \$7 regular ticket. So, come have a great time with First Light friends. The proceeds go to benefit the agency operations. It's a fun way to start your holiday shopping excursions and help First Light at the same time. For more info email Deborah.everson@firstlightshelter.org. Roll Tide and War Eagle!



Blair Sandford making pancakes

TIME FOR "HOLIDAY LIGHTS"

First Light invites the community to honor or remember friends, loved ones, or business associates through its Holiday Lights program. We will hand address and hand stamp a lovely greeting card that states that you have made a generous donation in a person's honor OR in memory of their loved one. Perhaps you want to honor your customers, supervisors or employees. This is a way to do holiday giving that is deeply meaningful. It makes a difference in the lives of our guests and pays a lovely tribute to someone you care about. You can access the Holiday Lights program online by visiting our website, www.firstlightshelter.org and simply click on the link for Holiday Lights to access the order form. (If you are on our mail list you will receive the order form and can mail that back to us.)



A BRILLIANT IDEA FOR CHRISTMAS AND HOLIDAY GIFTS! Purchase a copy of First Light: the Story of a Shelter for Homeless Women and Children for your holiday giving. Go to our website and click on the link to purchase online, or stop by the shelter. (between 8 and 5 on weekdays, please)

Did You Know?

That First Light makes photo ID's for the homeless of our community? Every Tuesday and Wednesday between 1 and 3 PM finds our front lobby filled with men and women who need a photo ID to access services from homeless service providers. This is just one thing we do as an active participant in the overall Continuum of Care.

ANNUAL REPORT

2009-2010

The Year in Review

1. 925 women and children were provided Emergency or Overflow shelter.
2. Mental health assessments were conducted on all guests and appropriate referrals for services were made.
3. 134 sessions in the Project Healthy Minds program were provided.
4. Attendees in Project Healthy Minds:
 - a. 180 guests attended Art Therapy
 - b. 128 guests attended Movie Therapy
 - c. 122 guests attended Group Therapy
 - d. 175 guests attended Life Skills Therapy
5. 151 emergency shelter guests were placed in either transitional or permanent housing settings.

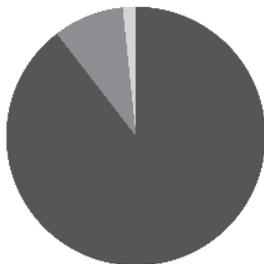
As always, First Light remains a critically important resource to our community providing frontline services to homeless women and children who have nowhere else to go. Having security services and 24-hour staffing ensures that a woman has a safe place to go in the middle of the night when all other shelters are closed.

Of the individuals who left First Light during the year:

- 96 went to permanent housing
- 55 went to transitional housing
- 11 went to treatment program facilities
- 3 went to a hospital for psychiatric treatment
- 7 went to a hospital for medical treatment
- 7 went to a domestic violence shelter
- 99 went to another shelter (Salvation Army)
- 2 went to a boarding home

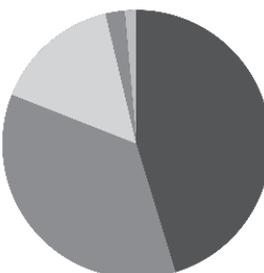
FISCAL YEAR 2009-2010

Expenses



- Emergency Shelter & Permanent Supportive Housing Operation – \$857,948 – 89.5%
- Management and General – \$84,839 – 8.8%
- Fundraising – \$15,924 – 1.7%

Revenue



- Corporate, church, individual contributions – \$420,582 – 45%
- Government grants and Contracts – \$331,844 – 36%
- Fundraising – \$142,059 – 15%
- Program income – \$21,445 – 2%
- Miscellaneous – \$13,099 – 1%

Our own fund raising efforts plus the generosity of our contributors account for 63% of our revenue.

AN APPEAL FOR YEAR-END GIVING

Please consider making a financial contribution to First Light in your year-end giving. Costs have gone up for products, services and normal building maintenance. We have tried to be more creative with giving opportunities. We have asked for budget relieving help by suggesting that you donate laundry detergent, decaf coffee, cereals and other breakfast foods. The fact remains, however, that it takes money to operate the shelter and sustain the work our social services staff delivers.

It is grassroots support and the generosity of our contributors that keep our doors open. Volunteerism and charitable giving make First Light the special agency it is....all with a budget that has stayed under a million dollars! If not for the over 8,000 volunteer hours served here annually to prepare and serve dinners, our budget would look extremely different.

Make your holiday and end of the year celebrations more meaningful by making a contribution to First Light. Our guests have desperate needs and for many of them, First Light is the only family they have and the only way to take steps toward independent living. On behalf of all the women and children we will serve in coming months...thank you!

WAYS TO SUPPORT US

A. Financially ... Sustaining the agency now and for the future

1. One-time cash gift
2. Monthly, quarterly or annual cash giving
3. Leave a legacy-bequests and contributions to the endowment fund
4. Donate stock
5. Attend the annual First Light Gala (or donate money for tickets so others can attend)
6. Participate in the annual Holiday Lights program; donate money and have holiday cards sent in honor or in memory of your loved ones
7. Help First Light make connections with corporate giving programs or potential benefactors
8. Donate funds for the purchase of items such as furnishings that benefit the guests of First Light
9. Have a dinner party and ask everyone to make a donation to First Light as their thanks to you
10. Throw a birthday, anniversary, or holiday party and suggest that friends bring a check for First Light in place of a gift for you.
11. Do a fundraiser- call us before you make any plans! We have guidance for "third party" events.

B. Volunteering... Hand-in-hand experiences with guests or other volunteers

1. Stay overnight in the emergency shelter
2. Bring and serve breakfast or dinner
3. Coordinate a donation drive in your clubs, churches, social groups and workplaces to supply the shelter with basic needs (ex: breakfast pantry drive; laundry detergent drive)
4. Work projects
5. Mentoring possibilities
6. Conduct a group activity for the guests
7. Take guests on field trips
8. Serve on the Board of Directors
9. Serve on a Gala committee

C. Advocacy... Spread the word about First Light

1. Place a note about First Light in your company or church newsletter
2. Share the wonderful story of First Light with your friends, relatives and co-workers
3. Learn more about homelessness from the National Alliance to End Homelessness online

D. Become a fan of First Light on Facebook to learn what's happening in a more immediate way. Share our story with friends—you may introduce First Light to a completely new community!

IMPORTANT NOTE TO OUR NEWSLETTER RECIPIENTS

If you would like to help First Light reduce (and eventually eliminate) newsletter printing costs by receiving an emailed newsletter: go to our website, www.firstlightshelter.org, scroll to the bottom right of the Home page and click the link "Sign up for email updates"



FIRST LIGHT

A CENTER FOR HOMELESS WOMEN AND CHILDREN

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www.firstlightshelter.org

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ANOTHER BRILLIANT IDEA! HAVE A BOOK READING AT YOUR HOUSE!

As you know, we have published a book, First Light: the Story of a Shelter for Homeless Women and Children. The author, Ellen Dossett, will do readings from the book for groups of 20-40 people. This would make a unique social gathering! One event done in July was actually a combination of wine tasting and readings from the book in a board member's home. She wanted to introduce friends and associates to our mission in a relaxed atmosphere.

The book's photographer, Wynter Byrd, is a wine merchant. The wine tasting is a volunteer effort on her part to create an interesting evening for supporters of FL. (No wine is brought for purchase) The evening started with tastings of five wines, then, Deb Everson spoke a few moments about First Light, followed by Ellen doing readings. The evening ended with a question and answer period and everyone left feeling touched and inspired.

This would provide your social or business associates an opportunity to hear our guests' own words about how First Light changed and, in some cases, literally saved their lives....it is very moving.

If you are interested in having a similar event in your home (with or without a wine tasting) or having an event for a networking group or club, contact Deb Everson at 205-323-4277.

Board of Directors

Carolyn King, President
Joy O'Neal, Vice President
Davis Goodson, Treasurer
Emma Taylor, Secretary

Melissa Brisendine	Denise Killebrew
Nicole Boomhover	Faith McDonough
Tiffany Chiang	Herb Patterson
Rev. Susan Clayton	Jim Poole
Martha Elliott	Lynne Rogers
Lanita Engates	Jamie Sandford
Scott W. Ford	Susan Tipton
Angel Garrett	Rev. Drew Henry, Ex Officio
Richard Keller	Rev. Shannon Webster, Ex Officio

First Light Staff

Ruth G. Crosby, Executive Director
Deborah B. Everson, Assistant Director
Sherry J. Webb, LBSW, MSW, Director of Social Services
Shannon Horsley, Volunteer Manager
Roxanna W. Harris, MSW, Social Worker
Chaquita Pendleton, BSW, Social Worker
Patrice Reese, BSW, Social Worker
Kelsey Wenger, BSW, Social Worker
April M. Graham, Shelter Manager
Deborah Jackson, Shelter Assistant
Becky Mims, Shelter Assistant
Therese O'Hara, Shelter Assistant
Yvonne Hardy, Weekend Supervisor
Caroline Thomas, Security Guard
Marilyn Gross, Art Therapy Coordinator