

ShelterNet

April/May 2000



FIRST LIGHT

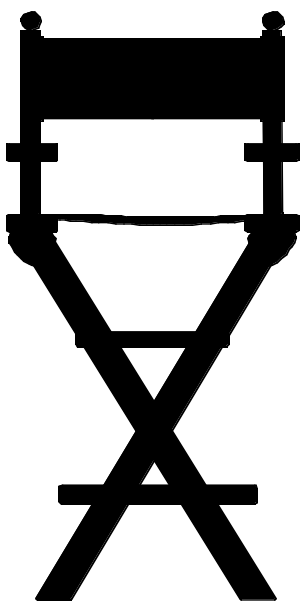
The Mission Center of First Presbyterian Church

Mission Statement

First Light, Inc. works to provide emergency shelter to homeless women and their children and long-term housing to elderly and mentally ill homeless women while serving the neighborhood community and striving to allow all to meet their most basic needs while being offered the opportunity to learn skills that will allow them to achieve their full potential.

Notes From The Director

We are so excited to be able to share with you the plans for our move to and opening of The First Light



Center. We will host an Open House in our new facility on May 24, 2000 from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m.. Everyone is welcome—please come and tour the building. The Blessing Service will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday June 4, 2000. Don't miss either of these exciting milestones in the life of First Light, Inc.

The women will move into the facility as soon as we obtain a certificate of occupancy from the city. The contractor expects to deliver

the building to us on or around the first of May. This is an exciting time for all of us!

I will be calling our partner church liaisons about the 2nd or 3rd week of May to schedule training sessions. We will schedule a night that you will be able to spend in the shelter and I will stay with you to help you learn the new building and rules of the shelter. I will then depend on you to teach your volunteers. I will stay with you one or 2 nights as your schedule allows—whatever it takes to make you comfortable in the building. There will be an updated volunteer handbook prior to your next scheduled week to stay in the shelter.

A very important issue for us has been security. We will have a guard posted in the downstairs lobby each night. We have alarms on the doors and closed circuit monitors throughout the building to make your supervision of our guests easier. We do not expect any serious problems, but we have prepared just in case!

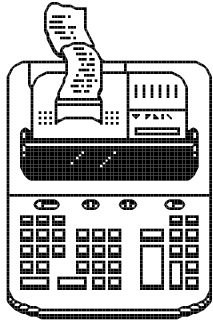
Thanks for all your support and efforts throughout the years and I hope you will continue to work with us for many years to come. This facility will make our "job" a snap and a pleasure!

—Ruth Crosby

The Entire Homeless Population Does Not Fit One Description Although, They Do Have Shared Needs. These Needs Include Affordable Housing, Adequate Income And Health Care, Some Need Psychological Help And Drug Treatment. Most Of All They Need The Help Of Those Around Them Who Are Stable And Fortunate Enough To Help.

The Capital Campaign

First Light, Inc. has been so blessed with the amount of financial commitments we have been able



to gather from local businesses, foundations and individuals. The capital campaign goal is \$2.6 million. This will pay for the purchase, renovation and furnishing of the building. Thus far, we have received commitments totaling \$2.3 million! Only \$300,000 left to go!

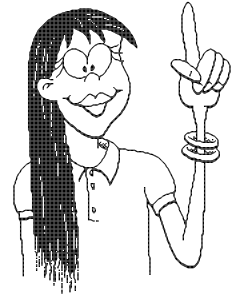
The largest donation to date was a donation from outside Birmingham. The Presbyterian Women's Birthday Offering contributed \$250,000 to First Light for renovation of the structure. Some of the contributors from here in Birmingham are, as follows:

- City of Birmingham
- Sonat, Inc.
- Independent Presbyterian Beeson Foundation
- Community Foundation of Birmingham
- EBSCO Industries
- William E. Matthews, IV
- First Presbyterian Church
- Hugh Kaul Foundation
- Protective Life Insurance
- Regions Bank
- AmSouth
- Robert R. Meyer Foundation
- Vulcan Materials Foundation
- SouthTrust
- The A. McDonald Family Foundation
- Energen
- Presbytery of Sheppards
& Lapsley Mission Division
- Compass Bank
- O'Neal Steel
- William J. Rushton, III
- Alabama Power Company Foundation
- Thompson Foundation
- BellSouth

- James Rushton
- First Presbyterian Church of East Lake
- Edgewood Presbyterian Church
- Shades Valley Presbyterian Church
- Susan Mott Webb Trust
- Berkowitz, Lefkovits, Isom and Kushner
- Goodrich Family Foundation
- Hill Crest Foundation
- American Cast Iron Pipe Company
- First Presbyterian Church of Tuscaloosa
- Junior League of Birmingham
- South Highland Presbyterian Church
- CRS Engineering
- BE&K
- Jemison Investment Co., Inc.
- Cathedral Church of the Advent
- Central Park Ensley Presbyterian Church
- The Birmingham News
- National Bank of Commerce
- St. Luke's Episcopal Church
- C. Eugene Ireland Foundation
- Colonial Bank

Volunteer Opportunities

There will be many more opportunities for you to volunteer in the First Light Center. We hope to involve Boy and Girl Scout troops, Sunday School Classes and groups of all types in the activities for our women. This means we are open to your suggestions—you can come and share your hobbies or talents in an informal day program at First Light. We will continue using overnight volunteers and meal preparers—as always, but we'll have many more exciting ways to help the homeless women and children in our center. Please be thinking of ways you may want to participate. We need your creativity and talents!



The Growth Of First Light Bed Needs

4th Quarter 1991, Oct-Nov-Dec, # Beds Used = 802
4th Quarter 1992, Oct-Nov-Dec, # Beds Used = 800
Average # Beds Used Per Month, 4th Quarter 1991 & 1992 = 267

4th Quarter 1999, Oct-Nov-Dec, # Beds Used = 2317
Average # Beds Used Per Month, 4th Quarter 1999 = 772

Hospitality Recognizes Several Things

- It acknowledges the guest as a **human being** made in God's Image.
- It treats each human being as one who is **equal worth** with ourselves.
- It recognizes that each human being has **unique and surprising gifts** to bring to the community.
- It recognizes the truth that the guest may indeed be a Holy One—that we may be entertaining "**angels unaware,**" or indeed that we may be entertaining Christ himself at our table.
- It recognizes that **no one is strange** except in relation to someone else!

Mark Your Calendar 2000 Granada Gala November 17, 2000

November 2000

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

First Light Wish List

- Office Supplies—pens, pencils, manila folders, legal pads, etc.
- Plain Paper Fax
- Slide Projector
- Dry Erase Boards
- Bulletin Boards
- Tall Butt Cans—for smoking area
- Trash Cans and Liners
- Books (novels, etc.) and Videos
- Subscription to Newspaper
- Shelving—for storage closets
- Clipboards and 3-Ring Binders
- Television Set
- Microwave Oven
- Kleenex Tissues
- Large Cans Fruit—peaches, pears, fruit cocktail, etc.
- Individual Packages Cheese/Peanut Butter Crackers
- Pillows
- Women's Hygiene Items
- Deodorant
- Lotion
- Powdered Fruit Juices/Drinks
- Socks, Underwear, Pajamas
- Art Supplies—markers, paper, crayons, construction paper, etc.
- File Cabinets—2 drawer and 4 drawer
- Step Stool, Small Ladder
- Torchier Floor Lamps
- Art For Walls—motivational posters, Birmingham scenes, etc.



First Light, Inc.

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Email: firstlightinc@aol.com

Visit Our Website: <http://firstlight.digitrends.com/shelter/>

First Light, Inc. Board Of Directors

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Associate Pastor First Presbyterian Church

Ruth Crosby, *Executive Director*

Sherri Nielson, *Project Manager*



FIRST LIGHT

The Mission Center of First Presbyterian Church

You are Cordially Invited to Attend the

Grand Opening

Of First Light, Inc.

May 24, 2000

4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

and

The Blessing of the Building Service

June 4, 2000

2:00 p.m.

The First Light Center

Corner of 4th Avenue and 23rd Street North

Birmingham, Alabama