



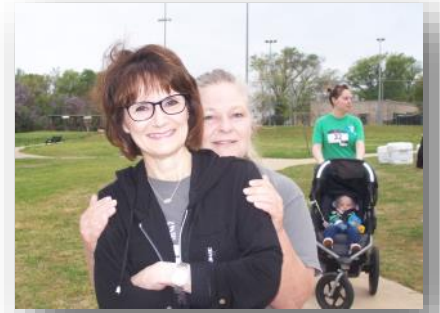
April 2018 Issue

Fundraisers for Son Shine Lighthouse

Ebenezer Baptist Church in



Henderson held the second annual **Resurrection Run** on March 24. Not only did our women and children enjoy the day, the church was able to double their donation from last year.



Neighborhood Lemonade Stand



Thanks to Griffin and Russ Ricks, Layla and Ava Kanger for donating the proceeds from their lemonade stand.



Workday at the Lighthouse

First Baptist Church Henderson



Annual workday at the Lighthouse for FBCH followed by worship and fellowship



Thank you for your Labor of Love



Christian Men's Fellowship of Blossom Hill renovating 2 of our resident rooms



Carlisle High School Honor Society came and painted our main hall as well as mowed the courtyard as part of giving back to the community.





Rikki has passed the first of four parts to her GED test! We are very proud of her.

Kelsey and Addie are in Phlebotomy School.



Kelsey, Malissa and Karlee completed the job readiness skills at Heartisans Marketplace to better qualify them for job placement..

Mentors **Debbie Kangerga** (L) and **Taryn Howell** (R) faithfully minister to our ladies each week as they pour into them.



Special Thanks



CWJC of Rusk County



CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S
JOB CORPS™
a ministry of WMU*



EMPHASIS EXCELLENCE ★ 1935



How Can You Help?

- Prayer for our staff, residents, and board of directors
- **Volunteers to Transport**
- **T-Shirt Sales**
- Backup generators for freezer/fridge and computers
- Goal 50 Churches giving \$200 and 300 families giving \$50 monthly
- Furnishings and décor for resident's room
- Volunteers to help fundraise
- Sub Zero Freezer

EMILY COLLOP



My name is Emily Collop and I am a grateful addict saved by grace! I came to Son Shine Lighthouse in February of 2017. By the time I arrived I was completely broken, beaten down emotionally and physically and thoroughly miserable. I also knew nothing about God or the life-changing experience that I was about to have through this program. All I knew was that what I was doing wasn't working for me anymore. From as early as I can remember my family was very dysfunctional. My parents were always fighting. There weren't any rules or any discipline. Instead there was arguing, chaos, dramatics and emotional instability and neglect. I longed for "something more" from a very early age. I clung to the unsafe "friends" and the toxic boy-friends to find that "something more" through human relationships. I was a full-blown alcoholic by the age of 16, and at age 18, I got my first bartending job and took some classes at Houston Community College. Abusive relationships became the norm for me. Around 22, I began a very expensive and very excessive addiction to pain pills. Being a bartender allowed the perfect environment and financial ability to fuel my addiction. I eventually went back to school at the University of Houston and ended up dropping out just 21 hours shy of my Bachelors in English Literature. Pills, alcohol, and cocaine were my reason for existing. This consumed all my money and a good portion of my time. Not to mention my every thought in my brain. Then at age 25, I met the true drug of the devil – methamphetamine. Life as I knew it took on a whole new "low." I began prostituting, stealing, and doing anything and everything to earn money for the drugs. I harmed many people, but I mostly harmed myself. I can look back now and see that clearly. I didn't care anymore. In 2009, I left Houston, moved to Longview and continued the downhill spiral of the vicious addiction. My dependency on drugs grew and so did my depression and misery. I hated waking up. I couldn't stay out of jail and when I did it was only a matter of a few months before I went back. I had 6 months sober with my first CPS case, and I relapsed the very same day that the case was closed. That God-shaped hole I had inside wasn't being filled by the alcohol or the drugs, or the men, or spending \$\$\$ or friends, or the gambling, or even my son JJ. No, none of it worked. When finally, I hit my bottom that's when I started looking up. With an innate longing for Himself, coming to SSLM literally changed my life completely. Everyone here, pointed me to a very personal, very real love relationship with Jesus Christ. He comforted me and bound up all my wounds. He showed me that He makes all things new. I had to get rid of all the baggage I was carrying around in my heart, and when I did, He allowed me to see His transforming power. Fifteen months ago, if you would have asked me where I thought I'd be by now I would've told you that I'd probably be dead. But God had other plans! "For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it." Mark 9:35. Today, I am a good mother with true friends and hope in my heart. "Thank you, Lord, for restoration and for your amazing, unchanging freely given grace that you've given me even though I didn't deserve it. And thank you God, for Son Shine Lighthouse, because they introduced me to you and for that I am forever grateful."

