

**SOCIAL WORK INTERNS:**

Meshea Watson, Cetoria "Torri" Bogan, and Brittanie Elliott-Gary  
Social Work Interns from Delta State and MSU

Sally Kate Winters Family Services were blessed with three special interns during the Spring semester. These girls have donated a total of 1,330 hours to our program to gain knowledge and skills relating the field of Social Work. These eager students have participated in all areas of our program. They have assisted with paperwork, client activities and appointments, health fairs, and awareness activities. They will be truly missed by our staff but will leave us with the knowledge of serving children and families from a non-profit perspective.

Meshea Watson is a volunteer intern from the Social Work Department of Delta State University. She is from Okolona, MS and is currently an honored Dean's List student at Delta State. She is an active member of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) and have also been a member of the Delta State School of Social Work Club and the African American Student Council. Meshea plans on attending Mississippi Valley State to obtain a Master's degree in social work.

Torri Bogan is also from Okolona and is currently enrolled in the Social Worker Program at Delta State University. She is on the Honor

Dean's List and will be graduating in May. Torri is part of the African American Student Council, Social Work Club, Volunteer for Student Government Affairs, and Resident Assistant for DSU Housing. She is an active member of the National Association of Social Workers. After graduation, Torri plans to attend Mississippi Valley State to receive a Master's Degree in Social Work.

Brittanie Elliott-Gary is a volunteer intern from the Social Work Department of Mississippi State University. Brittanie currently lives in West Point but is a native from Okolona. She is an active member of the National Association of Social Workers, Collegiate 4-H MSU Chapter, Alpha Beta Chi Community Service Organization, and Alpha Epsilon Delta Honor Society. Brittanie is also the Vice President of Peer Assistants for Wellness. After graduation, she plans on attending the University of Mississippi to pursue a Master's Degree in Social Work with a specialty in Marriage and Family Counseling.

**NATIONAL SAFE PLACE WEEK:**

**Problems at home? Need Help? There is a Safe Place.**

Look for this sign at designated locations,  
TEXT 96866, or call 662.494.4939  
for help 24 hours a day.

[www.sallykatewinters.org](http://www.sallykatewinters.org)

**SALLY KATE WINTERS**  
Family Services

Sally Kate Winters Family Services announces March 20-26, 2011 as National Safe Place Week. This commemorative week highlights SKWFS's innovative Safe Place program, which brings businesses and volunteers together to provide help and safety to children and teens facing abuse, neglect or serious family problems.

Safe Place is a nationally acclaimed outreach program that makes help readily available to young people in crisis. A network of more than 17,000 partnering businesses and community buildings that appeal to youth – such as fast food restaurants, convenience stores, fire stations, public buses and libraries – are trained to connect youth who might be abused, neglected, thrown away or in immediate danger to their local youth shelter. Additionally, Sally Kate Winters and West Point School district have partnered to provide information to students 12-17 through video presentations and awareness materials through out the week.

Business and organizations interested in becoming a Safe Place are invited to contact Laura Yelverton at 662.494.4867 for more information.

**Sally Kate Winters  
Family Services**

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and families to seek an  
improved quality of life**

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**UPCOMING EVENTS:****April 2011:**

- Annual Child Abuse Prevention Parade  
Friday, April 1st @ 9:30 am
- 2nd Annual Spring Into Action 5K Run  
Saturday, April 9th Downtown West Point  
5:30 pm – 1 Mile Fun Run  
6:00 pm – 5K Run  
8:00 pm – Junior Auxiliary Light up the night
- Weekly Parenting & Anger Management Classes  
Mondays @ 3:00 pm Clay County
- Weekly Parenting & Anger Management Classes  
Tuesdays @ 3:30 pm Lowndes

**May 2011:**

- Teen Abstinence Event  
BYOP Girls Retreat (Be Your Own Person)  
Waverly Waters, overnight retreat  
Tuesday, May 31st
- Weekly Parenting & Anger Management Classes  
Mondays @ 3:00 pm Clay County
- Weekly Parenting & Anger Management Classes  
Tuesdays @ 3:30 pm Lowndes

**June 2010:**

- Weekly Parenting & Anger Management Classes  
Mondays @ 3:00 pm Clay County
- Weekly Parenting & Anger Management Classes  
Tuesdays @ 3:30 pm Lowndes



Meshea Watson, Cetoria "Torri" Bogan, and Brittanie Elliott-Gary Social Work Interns from Delta State and MSUMSU Kappa Delta Sorority members presented a \$200 donation to our program as a prize they one through a fraternity event. The KDs are a huge asset to our program. Their enthusiasm and generous spirit makes their donations of time and resources an inspiration for us.

THANK YOU MSU KDs!!

For more information concerning upcoming events visit our website at [www.sallykatewinters.org](http://www.sallykatewinters.org)

**Sally Kate Winters Family Services****Program  
News****Newsletter #59**

January - March 2011

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Antinique Quinn; Annie Webber

**FROM THE DIRECTOR:**

Spring is definitely in full swing!! The sun is shining and warmer temperatures are a welcomed change. The great thing about Spring is the fresh beginnings and newness of the flowers and trees. It reminds us that change is a natural growth cycle - regardless of the struggles we face, tomorrow is a new day. This is the message we share with the children and youth utilizing our services. Spring is a great example for each of them to visualize the bright changes that can take place as we move from one season to another. Allowing them, and all of us for that matter, to internalize this process is very therapeutic.

Sally Kate Winters staff has been very busy serving children, identifying youth, training families, and planning events that promote the mission of our agency. We have shared our services and encouraged them to move through the season of struggle to the season of fresh beginnings. Families have been reunited, new homes have been offered as placement for children, and previous clients have visited us to share their adult success. We are richly blessed to have previous clients who are now running for public office, employed with a car dealership, serve as restaurant staff, and are stay-at-home moms. The emergency shelter services offered to them was a stepping stone to a brighter future.

The Board of Directors are actively planning the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Spring Into Action 5K Race and Family Fun Night. The race course for the 5K and the Fun Run will once again highlight the uniqueness of downtown West Point at dusk. The weather is expected to be great so we are anticipating a fun evening for both children and adults. The Churchill cherubs lead by Susie Marshall, West Point Dance Group lead by Betty Deans, First Baptist Church JAM Praise Team lead by Thea Kay Tribble, and Dynasty lead by Ginger Fowler have been secured as the entertainment for the night. Junior Auxiliary members will once again host "Light Up the Night" as the closing ceremony of the event recognizing the prevention of Child Abuse in our community. Sponsors this year have been outstanding!! We are excited to offer this event to our community in conjunction with the other awareness activities during Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Sally Kate Winters Family Services has actively supported the United Way Campaigns throughout many communities in North MS. United Way donations are a wonderful way for all people to make weekly/monthly donations to charitable organizations who are making a difference in the lives of individuals in our communities. Even though campaigns were tough this year, the United Way Agencies of Clay County, Monroe County, North Central MS, and Northeast MS have pledged support of our program for 2011. An application to receive donations through the Combined Federal Campaign was also completed allowing federal employees to designate a donation to a charitable organization through payroll deductions. Our agency receives approximately \$30,000 each year through United Way and Combined Federal Campaign allocations. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve the community as a United Way partner.

The staff associated with Basic Center Program for Runaway and Homeless Youth have been busy recruiting community partners and scheduling awareness activities for youth and adults who work with youth on a daily basis. The shelter services, outreach, and referral resources have increased tremendously during the quarter which confirms the need for these services in our community and throughout the Golden Triangle Area. We are dedicated to offering a 'safe place' for youth in a manner that is non-threatening but supportive of the family environment. Stabilizing the youth population should be a community initiative.

Several groups have assisted our program with providing direct-service activities for the children, donating supplies, and assisting with special projects. Valentine balloons and treat bags were delivered for the children. Junior Auxiliary members continue to host monthly recreational activities. Members of Saint Mark United Methodist Church provide blankets for the children on a monthly basis. Kappa Delta Sorority members assist with the after-school program weekly. Each activity and group of volunteers has been a blessing to our program. Thanks for your support!

## PROGRAM UPDATE:

**Emergency Shelter Program:** Emergency shelter services were provided for 26 children during the months of January, February, and March who received a total of 314 nights of services. The children ranged in age from 6 years thru 18 years representing the counties of Clay, Lowndes, Monroe, Neshoba, Oktibbeha and Winston. The need for emergency shelter placement included 24% physical abuse; 24% sexual abuse; 38% neglect; and 14% need of supervision.

**Runaway and Homeless Youth:** The Runaway and Homeless Youth program provided shelter services for 11 youth for a total of 97 nights representing Clay, Lowndes, and Oktibbeha Counties during the quarter. Non-residential services were provided for 1 RHY client through the after-school program focusing on educational support and the Life Skills Curriculum "Let's Talk". Referral services were provided for 9 additional RHY youth who either did not follow-through with accessing services and/or did not meet the criteria of the program. All referrals also received community referrals to address their needs. Program information was shared with community service organizations and schools providing awareness of the services available and the referral process. Safe Place Sites were established with the Bryan Public Library and Fathers Child Ministries. Activities were conducted with Fifth Street Junior High and West Point High School during National Safe Place Week, March 21-25th.

**Overnight Respite Services:** Overnight respite services were provided for nine (9) children for a total of 23 nights of service. The children represented the age range of 7 months – 17 years and the counties of Clay, Neshoba, Noxubee, and Oktibbeha. Foster parents throughout North MS are being encouraged to utilize the respite services offered. Respite services have proven to reduce stress within the home environment and renew the commitment of foster parenting.

**Resource Center Program:** Resource Center activities have been conducted through various partnerships within the community. The activities conducted in this quarter are as follows:

Parenting Classes – 211 parents/215 encounters	Resource Library – 292 individuals
Abstinence Education – 300 youth/353 encounters	Teen Parent Support – 2 classes/11 teens
Fatherhood Initiative – 102 fathers/265 encounters	Healthy Marriage – 125 individuals/199 encounters

**Foster Parent Recruitment:** One foster family has completed the foster parent licensure process and is awaiting children to be placed in the home by the MS Department of Human Services. Anyone interested in the foster parent program is encouraged to contact Laura Yelverton at 494-4867.



## Life Skills with Shelter Clients

Sally Kate Winters Family Services is implementing the Positive Youth Development Model throughout the programs offered by our agency. Part of this model is empowering youth to develop life skills that will help them become self-sufficient adults. Youth are helping with meal preparation, menu planning, shopping, activity planning and completion of the "Let's Talk" Life Skills curriculum.



## Shoes . . . A girl's dream

Donations of shoes were provided by the First Baptist Church Children's Ministry and were a dream come true for the five girls receiving emergency shelter services at the time of the donation. The giggles and smiles were priceless as they went through the shoes trying different pair and walking around the office building. Each girl ended up with 2-3 pair each and were extremely excited with their new treasures. A special thanks to the girls of First Baptist Church who participated with this donation drive.

## MEMORIALS:

In memory of William Tisdale

By: Mr. & Mrs. David Loftin

In memory of Annie Pearl Harrelson & Florence Jernigan

By: Mr. & Mrs. Grady Davis

In memory of Shirley Pollan

By: 1st Community Federal Credit Union

Debra Brock  
Willing Workers Sunday School Class  
Ruth McCary  
Mr. & Mrs. William Hill  
Mr. & Mrs. Steve McKinney  
Charlene Pruett

In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Spurgeon Cliett

By: Jeanette Cliett

In memory of Judy Myers & Margaret Guest

By: Mr. & Mrs. Mike Simmons

In memory of Josh Stevens, Judy Myers,

Annie Pearl Harrelson & Florence Jernigan

By: Mr. & Mrs. Gregg Kaiser & Family

In memory of Harold Forrest

By: Elizabeth & Carl Miller

In memory of Cora Strickland & Shirley Pollan

By: Ann Harper

In memory of Carl T. Harris

By: Mr. & Mrs. Carl Bryan & Jason

Mr. & Mrs. Ken Harrelson

In memory of William "Bill" Walters

By: Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Turnipseed

In memory of Shirley Pollan & Betty Jo Redwine

By: Mr. & Mrs. Buddy Griggs

In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Spurgeon Cliett

By: Mr. & Mrs. Spurgeon Cliett

In memory of Judy Myers & Mr. Ingram

By: Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Terry

In memory of Judy Myers

By: Mr. & Mrs. Neil Smith

In memory of Shirley Pollan

By: Dr. & Mrs. Hal Posey

In memory of Martha Williams

By: Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Donahoo

In memory of Matthew Gaskin

By: Mr. & Mrs. David Hodges

In memory of Carl T. Harris & Shirley Pollan

By: Mr. & Mrs. Billy Taylor

In memory of Fred Coon

By: Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Stewart

In memory of Jean Sizemore

By: Mr. & Mrs. Lonnie Brand

Mr. & Mrs. T.A. Dendy

Trina Dendy

In memory of Garland Wray

By: Ann Harper

In memory of William Tisdale

By: Mr. & Mrs. Steve Gaskin

## HONORARIUMS:

In honor of Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Glass

By: Mary Carolyn Ellis

In honor of Mr. & Mrs. Mike McCoy

By: Maxine Bryan

In honor of Claire Grace Slanker

By: Kelly McQueen

## HEALTHY MARRIAGE WEEK:



West Point Mayor Scott Ross and Sheila Brand, Executive Director



Columbus Mayor Robert Smith and Jackie Weir, Resource Center Staff

Sally Kate Winters Family Services celebrated Healthy Marriage Week, February 7th - 14th, through the Families First Resource Center Program. Proclamations honoring this event were recognized by the City of Columbus and the City of West Point supporting the Healthy Marriage Initiative. Healthy Marriages are being recognized on a national level identifying the benefits of stable, supportive relationships for adults and children. "We are excited to promote healthy marriages during this week and throughout the year", stated Sheila Brand SKWFS Executive Director. "Our program is committed to improving the lives of children. Establishing healthy relationships is a key component to providing stability for the children and youth in our community". Healthy marriage classes and monthly workshops are offered to individuals and organizations located in Clay and Lowndes Counties. For more information about the classes and resources available, please contact our office at 662.494.4867 or visit our website, [www.sallykatewinters.org](http://www.sallykatewinters.org). Be committed to improving your marriage by accessing the free resources available.

## SPECIAL THANKS....

**Special "Thanks" to this quarter's Cash Contributors:**

Dr. & Mrs. Ed Riley  
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Allen  
Clay County Board of Supervisors  
Mr. & Mrs. Bennie Hitt  
Will Ketchum  
United Way of Northeast MS  
Glenda Brinkley

Heath Brand  
Independent Methodist Church  
Clay County United Way  
Karen Mooney  
Stephanie Craven  
United Way of Lowndes County  
Carl Miller

Maxine Bryan  
KD's  
C.F.C. of NE MS  
Sam Marshall  
Stacy Weems

**Special "Thanks" to this quarter's In-Kind Contributors:**

Linda Young  
Nikki Cude  
St. Mark Church  
Angel Wooten  
Clay County Co-Op  
Long Leaf Camo

Pizza Inn  
Kentucky Fried Chicken  
Maxine Bryan  
Petal Pushers  
B&W  
Eleanor Dalton

It's Fashion  
Mr. & Mrs. Wilkes Bryan  
FBC-Children's Ministry  
Melissa Cole  
FBC-Youth Group  
Susan Robinson

## 5K RUN AND FAMILY FUN NIGHT

The 2nd Annual Spring Into Action 5K Run and Family Fun Night is scheduled for Saturday, April 9, 2011 beginning at 5:30 pm. We are excited to host this event again in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month.

A Special Thanks To All of Our Sponsors and Volunteers!

**In-Kind Donation Policy:** Sally Kate Winters Family Services will only accept in-kind donations the **LAST SUNDAY-THURSDAY** of each month.