

A summer of Empowerment

We are grateful to you, our partners, for allowing us to fulfill our mission; to empower single mothers to become self sufficient, knowledgeable, productive members of society. Your prayers, volunteer work and financial support are making an incredible difference in their lives. We would like to convey our heartfelt thanks to the dedicated group volunteers who mentor the mothers, prepare meals for classes, tutor/mentor the kids and volunteer in the office. Without your commitment we would not be able to complete this work.

180 program

There are 44 women enrolled in the 180 program and they are divided into four groups. These women have 109 children, resulting in 153 people currently impacted through the work of AtG. The 180 groups are Beta, Delta, Epsilon and Gamma. Each of these groups of women are making remarkable strides to recover from bad choices and situations in their lives to become leaders for their families and the community at large. Recently, we performed a study to determine the annual cost to society to support one single mother with two children. Taking into account government housing, TennCare, Families First, day care certificates and food stamps...the cost is \$44,124 per family. This study will allow us to better track the impact that AtG is having on society and track the effectiveness of the program. Look for updates in upcoming Newsletters and online.

Beta

The Beta group has advanced from level one to level two, which means they have completed their in-class training and are now working one-on-one with their mentors. They meet with their mentors every other week to stay focused on their specific goals and to overcome their particular challenges. This holistic approach is much more demanding, but results in a sustainable plan for independence. Shareta, one of the Beta moms, will be graduating from Kaplan Institute on November 9 as a Medical Office Specialist. She is currently completing her externship at a Dr's office in Nashville and is looking for a permanent position as an office manager in the medical field.

Delta

The women in Delta group have been together for almost a year now. They have already completed parenting, Getting out of the Pit, Budgeting 101 and are in the last few weeks of the Jobs Program. This group has been such a joy...they are younger than the Beta group which means they are catching on even faster. These women understand that they can overcome their past and return to the person they were created to be. The younger women embrace their God-given value much quicker than the women who have been in the trenches for a longer period of time.



Bryanne and LaTonya



Andrell receives her G.E.D.



Beta Moms



Delta moms at the AtG offices

Epsilon

Epsilon is the new group in Franklin meeting on Thursday nights. These women are very diverse, which causes many fascinating discussions. They range in age from the mid 40's to teenagers and it is interesting to watch these dynamics collide. They have just finished the parenting class and are moving into the Job's Program. This is the class where we really begin to see changes as the women are forced to wrestle with some of the roadblocks that have caused them to quite and fail in the past. This is also the time when we see one or two women rise to be the leaders in the group as they embrace the vision for the futures.



Marshae and Ja'niyah

Gamma

This group is in the beginning stages of existence. Meredith is currently working with these women, preparing them to begin the classroom portion of the program. This will be the first class offered in Nashville which is possible through a collaboration with Youth Encouragement Services, who have offered their building as a location to meet the needs of the women living in the Napier/Sudekum communities. It will be interesting to see this new group come together and begin classes in January of 2009.



Graduation from the Jobs Program

The Kids

The school year ended with the tutoring program running in full swing. Throughout the 2007-2008 school year we had more than 150 volunteers provide food and tutoring assistance to the kids. We ended with a cookout in the park and congratulations to the kids, they held a combined G.P.A. of 3.56 during the last school year.



Summer Literacy Camp

This summer we held a five week literacy camp at Christ Community Church for 50 kids. It was absolutely an incredible time. The kids read, played games, did cheers and chants and attended both a Sounds baseball game and a day at Beech Bend Amusement Park. There were several visitors that came and read to the kids...ministers, teachers, sports mascots and elected officials donated their time to encourage the children to discover a love for reading.

Upcoming Events

Thursday October 23, 2008
Fifth Annual Fall Banquet with a Silent Auction
Liberty Hall in The Factory at Franklin
Doors & Silent Auction open at 5:30 Dinner at 6:30
R.S.V.P. required



Group Activity at Camp



Crafts from Camp

If you are unable to attend the Fall Banquet but would like to support AtG as a Financial Partner you can donate online at www.atghope.org.