



**Alpha House Inc.**

**Changing our communities, one woman at a time**

---

## 2017 Annual Report

Our Alpha House  
PO Box 5641  
Oak Ridge, TN 37831  
[president@ouralphahouse.org](mailto:president@ouralphahouse.org)

Alpha Bitz Thrift Shop  
5512 Harriman Highway  
Oliver Springs 37840  
(865) 730-6323

# A Message From Linette Brown, President

## Who is Alpha House?

This subject has been in our conversation frequently. Who is the official face of Alpha House? We do not want to overlook the true heart of our ministry. No one person could have created this all by themselves, it takes a team effort. Buffy Russell, who was both the Alpha Bitz Thrift Shop manager and the Executive Director of Alpha House, was the driving force behind pumping new life into the almost non-existent board of directors in January 2016, recruiting the current board members. She worked tirelessly for the ministry with a passion no one can deny, being a mentor and a spokesperson for women in addiction; always remaining true to her testimony, "There is hope and life only by laying your burden at the feet of our Savior, Jesus Christ." We wish Buffy success in her future endeavors of providing Christ-centered safe havens for women in recovery.



But, what about the friends, who love God, love the women, love the thrift shop, love the mission, and love us. And all of the nameless people, often existing only in the background; the founding family who gave tirelessly of their time; the women and men giving up family time to do the dirty work of running a successful thrift shop; the donors who faithfully support the reopening of our future Alpha House; our loyal customers; full-time employees leaving work and coming home to their computers doing the books, paying bills, filing government documents, or leading Celebrate Recovery classes in both Anderson and Morgan county jails. Take any one of these groups out of the equation and the mission would suffer.

There are two faces of Alpha House. One is found in the sad eyes of the hopeless, forgotten, and often unforgiven women we serve in jail. And the second, is the shining face of a born again sister in Christ, who now sees herself as God sees her, His beloved child.

Psalm 142:7 NAS *"Bring my soul out of prison, so that I may give thanks to Your name. The righteous will surround me, for You will deal bountifully with me."*

### BOARD LEADERSHIP

#### **President**

Linette Brown

#### **Secretary**

Sue Skytta

#### **Treasurer**

Christine Goudy

#### **Facilities Manager**

Stephen Goudy

#### **Executive Director**

Elizabeth Andrews

# OUR MISSION & VISION

Dedicated to changing the lives of women affected by addiction, abuse, and incarceration.

Alpha House is a faith-based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to providing a safe environment, with love and support, to women affected by addiction, abuse, and incarceration. Alpha House is a ministry where by God's grace we are changing our communities, one woman at a time.

## Looking Forward

Matthew 19:26

*“Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”*

As I am planning for the future of Alpha House and its programs, I feel excited and enthusiastic. Alpha House has the foundation of staff and volunteer passion to strengthen all of its current programs and add new programs. There is a specific need in our communities for women in recovery to have supportive housing. I believe Alpha House can meet the needs of women in recovery by providing faith-based residential recovery housing. I will spend the upcoming months praying, planning, collaborating with others and finding the resources Alpha House needs to have the programs and facilities necessary for women in recovery in our communities.

I am looking forward to working with all of you! We will dream big for all of the needs we could meet in our community. We will take our dreams and needs to HIM for with HIM all things are possible.

Peace be with you,  
Elizabeth Andrews



# Alpha Bitz Thrift Shop

As the primary fundraising activity for Alpha House, Inc., the Alpha Bitz Thrift Shop transferred \$10,000 in sales proceeds to the Alpha House operations fund during 2017. The transfers allowed the Hope Partnership capital fund to receive 100% of the over \$6,300 in cash donations received during 2017.

## **Compared to 2016, the 2017 sales at the Alpha Thrift Shop increased by 130%**

2016 sales: \$60,593.36	business days: 258	daily sales average: \$234.86
2017 sales: \$77,260.64	business days: 253	daily sales average: \$305.38

Three in-kind donations had a significant impact on Alpha Bitz sales in 2017:

- 1) A Ford box truck from Dry Bones Restoration Home in Harriman allowed us to offer pickup of donated furniture and delivery of furniture purchases; furniture sales had a very positive impact on our sales profits.
- 2) A large collection of Star Wars figures and memorabilia donated in November generated nearly double the sales for November 2016, with sales over \$10,500 and a daily average of almost \$480.00.
- 3) We are also grateful for the in-kind donation of a new large-capacity washer and dryer set that makes it possible to efficiently launder and prepare clothing donations for display on the sales floor.



Brittany Webb, Shop Manager



Patty Butler, Assistant Shop Manager

## Volunteer Impact



*Thank You!*

*Volunteers are the spirit and heart of a non-profit faith-based organization!*

Alpha House was blessed with many volunteers in 2017 who gave of their time in the Alpha Bitz Thrift Shop, Fund Raiser-Turning Wheel Review, CommunityStrong#bettertogether, Jail Ministry-Celebrate Recovery, and God Beyond the Bars. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus for **4,778 hours**.

### **Alpha Bitz Thrift Shop**

Staff Members and Volunteers worked **3,929 hours**

### **The Turning Wheel Review (fund raiser)**

7 Volunteers worked **83 Hours**

### **CommunityStrong#bettertogether (community outreach)**

44 Volunteers worked **326 Hours**

### **Morgan County Jail Ministry – Celebrate Recovery**

4 Volunteers worked **264 Hours**

Reached 51 Women

### **Anderson County Detention Facility – Celebrate Recovery**

3 Volunteers worked **112 Hours**

Reached 550 Women

### **God Beyond the Bars**

5 Volunteers worked **64 hours**

**We were blessed to minister to fourteen women providing transportation, court fees, probation fees, writing material, clothes, personal items, and admittance fees to a faith-based recovery home, birthday and Christmas presents for women released from jail.**

**TOTAL HOURS:**

**4,778 - Volunteers**

**3,271 - Board of Directors**

## Volunteer of the Year



Terry Butler, always smiling whether he is volunteering at the shop or playing his music entertaining, is by far our most valuable thrift shop volunteer of 2017. Volunteers are the backbone and heart of any non-profit ministry

Thank you Terry!



Rhonda Edwards at Duraline surprises us with a \$500 check at Christmas. We love surprises like this Rhonda!

## CommunityStrong#bettertogether

September 9, 2017

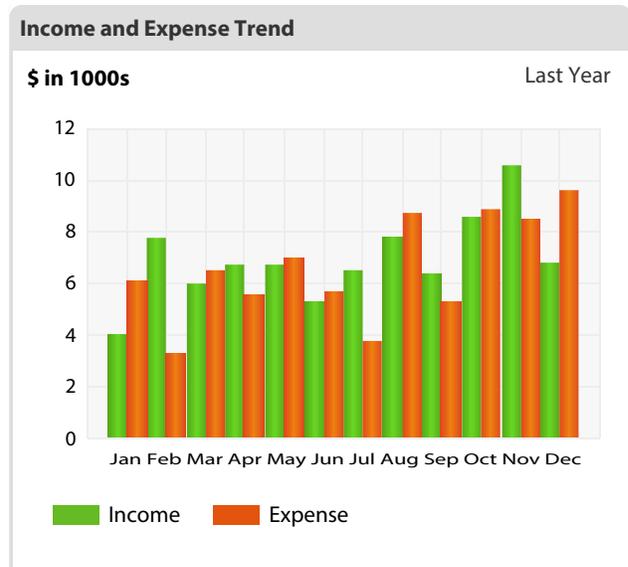
This was so successful, we want to invite everyone over and “let’s do it again!”

The food, music, dunk tank, fire trucks, and puppet shows brought the kid out in all of us. And we went home more informed about the services available in the Roane, Anderson and Morgan counties. There were 13 community agencies spreading wisdom from the Free Medical Clinic of Oak Ridge (FMCOR) to the Free Kid ID Kits from Apple Discount Drugs located in Clinton.



# Alpha House 2017 Income & Expense Trend

This graph shows our income and expenses for each month of 2017. Green represents income, orange represents expenses.



Four thousand, two hundred thirty-four dollars (\$4,234) went to the Alpha House Missions: Community Outreach, Jail Ministry, and the God Beyond the Bars program.

## Community Outreach

### Family Recovery Support

- We were able to provide furniture and baby clothes for two expectant single moms.
- God sent us two families with children that needed school clothes.

Mathew 25:40 *“The King will answer and say to them, ‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers and sisters of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.’* (NAS)

## Facilities Management

In 2017, Facilities Management focused on maintenance and repairs at the leased Alpha Bitz Thrift Shop. The cinder-block structure was formerly a small store and has been converted into a clothing and household wares retail operation.

During 2017, the following work has been done by volunteers and with in-kind donations of some materials.

- replacement of A/C control board (in-kind from Adkins A/C) and addition of return air vent;
- soffit modifications on the exterior to increase air flow through the attic;
- improvements to receiving work area with increased electrical capacity, shelving installed

In 2018 we will strive to continue to improve our facilities to make Alpha Bitz Thrift Shop a warm and welcoming location with continued generous support and donations.

# God Beyond the Bars

By Sue Skytta, Program Director

## **The Beginning, Jail Ministry**

Under the leadership of Buffy Russell, our Jail Ministry Bible studies began in the Morgan County Jail on a weekly basis in August 2016; and continued strongly into 2017 with the addition of Celebrate Recovery Inside, a faith-based 12-step program. There are no GED or learning classes at Morgan County Jail. How grateful we are to gain permission to bring the first faith-based learning study into this cold, concrete, silo-like pod. God is opening doors. After attending the required training session, we were also able to bring Celebrate Recovery to the Anderson County Detention Facility.

## **Stop the Revolving Door**

In a short time, the women began to share openly, request prayers, and discuss their “exit plan” as their trust in us began to deepen. Having the thrift shop, allowed us to provide clothing for the women as they were released; all excited and determined to stay clean. How heartbreaking to have them disappear or to be back in jail, stuck in a “no win situation.” They will die, wanting the next fix. Is there no other way, but to continue to make the same mistakes, expecting a different result – the definition of insanity?

## **Being the Bridge**

God spoke. Do not wait for a recovery home of your own, take the next step. And, we responded by walking through the open door and a new program of Alpha House’s Jail Ministry began, God Beyond the Bars; one step at a time.

## **God Beyond the Bars**

We seek to be the bridge in searching out faith-based recovery homes for post-incarcerated women in addiction: by visiting and reviewing the recovery homes’ programs and philosophies; by recommending homes to the Criminal Justice Liaison for Anderson and Morgan counties; by assisting in the admittance process; by offering financial assistance, necessary clothing and personal items; and by providing safe passage



transport from the jail to the home and back to living on the outside with a continuum of care.

In November, prayers were answered as Morgan County Judge Davis released Elizabeth D. to the custody of Alpha House. On 11/20, she was given safe passage transport by trained volunteers to the recovery home, Women at the Well in Athens, TN. We were contacted by Tracy M., previously released a month earlier, to provide assistance in carrying her to Mending Hearts in Nashville on 11/22. As we mailed their Christmas gifts, we prayed for Jesus to send guardian angels to protect and surround them in their new homes.

Psalms 142:7 *“Set me free from my prison, that I may praise Your name. Then the righteous will gather about me because of Your goodness to me.”* (NIV)