April

Iriquios Mattison 1
Nancy Hardy 2
Pierre Salmon 4
Michael Saris 5
Margaret McFarlane 7
Shannon Haymes 8
Alvin Johnson 10
Tony McJunkin 12
Clifton Andersen 17
Kathy Williams 17
Jim Wolf 19
Erica Thurman 19
Joey Blackstone 19
Clifton Andersen 15
Shannon Haymes 17
Timothy Williams 17
Kathy Williams 19
Alvin Johnson 10
Tony McJunkin 12
Clifton Andersen 15
Joey Blackstone 17
Erin Greene 17
Timothy Williams 17
Kathy Williams 19
Jim Wolf 19
Erica Thurman 19
Candace Street Fritz 20
William Rowe 23
Jennifer Lassausaie 23
Candace Jenkins 25
Carrie Sells 25
Rebecca Robins 28

Q: Tell us what you do at Miracle Hill.
A: I am one of the counselors working with men at Greenville Rescue Mission.

Q: Tell us something unique about you that most people at Miracle Hill would not know.
A: I grew up in Panama as the child of missionaries.

Q: How did you come to work at Miracle Hill?
A: After serving as chaplain to incarcerated men in the South Carolina Department of Corrections for fourteen years, our Lord gave me a new assignment, so here I am.

Q: Is there an experience at Miracle Hill that stands out to you?
A: I am continually amazed by the diversity of circumstances that create homelessness in our region. The clichés do not stand when you work with homeless men directly.

Q: What advice would you give a new staff member?
A: Watch and learn. Much of what is important in the work is subtle. Trust that the Holy Spirit will guide you to see what you need to see.

Q: What is your favorite thing about working at Miracle Hill?
A: I have truly enjoyed getting to know my co-workers in this field. They bring a wealth of knowledge to bear and I grow more and more as I learn from them.

Q: What is the greatest challenge in your role at Greenville Rescue Mission?
A: A big challenge is going to be to see things as they are and not as I wish them to be; and, by doing so, to act in the best interest of the men whom God has placed before me.

ANNUAL FUNDRAISING
Banquet

guest speaker & performer JIMMY WAYNE
country singer/song writer & author of Walk to Beautiful

TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2015 at the TD Convention Center in Greenville • 6:30 pm
Register online at miraclehill.org or email Sandy Furnell at sfurnell@miraclehill.org.

While there are many great social sites out there, Miracle Hill concentrates its social efforts on the three heavy-weight champs: Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. By staying active on these three sites we are exposing thousands of followers to MHM, and keeping our ministry at the forefront when they choose to get involved.

You can help us catapult our ministry into social media superstardom just by following us, sharing and retweeting posts, and asking your friends and family to do the same.

facebook.com/miraclehill - Twitter: miraclehill - Youtube: miraclehillupstate

Mark Your Calendar!

Tuesday, March 17 at 6:30 pm
Annual Fundraising Banquet
TD Convention Center

Guest Speaker & Performer
Country Music Singer/Songwriter
Jimmy Wayne

2014 - an incredible year!
by Reid Lehman, President/CEO

Christ was proclaimed regularly throughout, and a guide distributed in June helps ensure greater consistency in spiritual teachings. One hundred fifty decisions for salvation and 123 decisions for rededication were recorded, and many other decisions were made. There were 84 graduates from Renewal and 22 from Overcomers. The tent city under the bridge, with more than 100 residents in January 2014, closed. A new Greenville Literacy partnership provides high school equivalency and literacy training, and prepares clients better to enter the work force. Older children are working on post high school education, employed while still with us, and successfully moving into adulthood.

Family Strengthening served its first 26 families increasing father involvement and helping children return to birth parents sooner and under better conditions. The multi-year goal of 100 active foster families was achieved in August.

MHM was designated a “Best Christian Workplace” by a national agency. Monthly professional growth workshops began last September. Hiring and orientation practices have improved, and we’re working to reduce turnover.

Thrift Operations opened a new Mauldin location with much more square footage, and purchased their Pleasantburg store. Our trucks filled nearly 10,000 requests for donation pick-ups, our cash registers rang 474,900 transactions, and our staff sorted 2,693,600 lbs. of clothing. Net profits from thrift operations, available to support ministry, were $1,353,242 for the calendar year.

December finished with MHM’s lines of credit current for the first time in six years. MHM’s health care policy renewed with a premium increase of 2%, when other organizations have seen 20% increases. Facility improvements included three mini-buses, a roof for the Boys Shelter, flooring in many locations, parking lot improvements in Spartanburg and Cherokee Counties, Kent Cottage windows, new washers at Shepherd’s Gate and Wade Hampton store upfiting.

Thank you Lord, for empowering Miracle Hill to serve as your hands and feet in 2014!

From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him. Isaiah 64:4

Best Christian Workplaces 2015

Staff Stuff

January 2015
Gwen is going to Myrtle Beach

Congratulations to Gwen Greenwald for winning the part-time staff competition! She will be traveling to Myrtle Beach and spending a week at the Sheraton Broadway Plantation. Gwen said it was perfect timing to celebrate her and her husband’s anniversary!

Gwen is employed at Miracle Hill Children’s Home.

if you could have any super power, what would it be?

Tell us your super power and why you would choose it, and you could win a $25 gift card to a local restaurant! Send your response to mhmi@miraclehill.org by February 16. The winner will be chosen by the Staff Stuff committee and posted in our next issue of Staff Stuff!

congratulations “miss hot!” aka Latoya Pickens

Latoya is the winner of our fall “nickname” contest and a $25 gift card. Her nickname was given to her as a child when she drank a whole bottle of hot sauce and had to be rushed to the ER! She still loves hot sauce today.

Gwen is the winner of our fall “nickname” contest and a $25 gift card. Her nickname was given to her as a child when she drank a whole bottle of hot sauce and had to be rushed to the ER! She still loves hot sauce today.

Help us be better stewards of our funds -- sign up to receive Staff Stuff and other information through email. Please send your email address to mhmi@miraclehill.org.

A new mission statement

A ministry’s mission reflects the key good it seeks to do in the world. It focuses the energy of the ministry and specifies clearly who we will help and what good we plan to do for them. Mission statements are rarely changed, and changes should be carefully planned. So it was a pretty big deal when the Board modified MHM’s mission statement in December after months of prayer, planning and discussion. You can see the language removed.

New Language is underlined.

“Miracle Hill exists that homeless men, women and children and adults receive food and shelter with compassion, hear the Good News of Jesus Christ, and become productive members of society move toward healthy relationships and stability.”

What do the changes mean?

• “Men, women and children” are now “children and adults” -- isn’t that the same thing? For many rescue missions, children are baggage that come with their parents. Those ministries serve adults and accommodate children if they need to. Miracle Hill has a strategic focus on children, and every night we serve 150 homeless children (with no other place to call home) separately from their parents. Also, the Board has prioritized children first when there are unmet needs.

• How about “productive”? A mission statement should apply to all we serve. Many of the adults we serve can become productive again, but that is not as likely when applied to children. A three-year-old who only stays for a year, is likely not productive, at least not yet. But we’re thrilled if he’s in a healthy family. An elderly person in poor health may not become productive, but if she goes into safe affordable housing, with supportive relationships, we’ll consider her successful.

• Key words haven’t changed: “food, shelter, compassion” and critically-important hearing “the Good News of Jesus Christ.” To know what’s most essential at Miracle Hill, re-read our Mission, and then help us fulfill it more effectively.

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