



GEORGIA'S FRIENDS

HOPE HEALS

NEWSLETTER VOL. 2 • AUGUST, 2020

Friends,

Like all of you, I am at times overwhelmed by the ongoing pandemic that has overtaken our lives in 2020. But when I see the women of Georgia's House in the gardens, sharing a meal, conducting and attending support meetings and achieving their goals for sobriety and stability, I am heartened and hopeful.

As noted on our website, we are asking all visitors who may want to come to Georgia's House to call first for approval: (434)284-7817. News and updates will be posted on our website as information changes: georgiasfriends.org.

Please share this update with a friend who may need our help, who can lend a hand or who may be in a position to join our donor community. We continue to be grateful for your ongoing support.

*Mary Anne Grant
Executive Director*



Join us for a "virtual tour" of Georgia's Friends!

With special thanks to Alex Grant, the talented student filmmaker and son of our Executive Director, we are delighted to share our "Virtual Tour of Georgia's Friends" video.

Please visit our website at [Georgia's Friends.org](http://Georgia'sFriends.org) to view the video. You'll find it at the bottom of the home page and also on the News & Events page.

With Gratitude

The gardens and open spaces surrounding Georgia's House & Cottage are a peaceful place for our residents and have become an opportunity for the community to contribute to our organization. The recent installation of raised garden beds, pergola and soapstone patio, provide shade and a new meeting and retreating place for our residents.

Special thanks to these wonderful volunteers for their donations and hard work this summer. It's simply incredible!



- **Rusty Lilly** - garden design
- **Grelen Nursery** - plants & bed preparation
- **Lynn & Kenny Brown** - patio
- **Molly & Robert Hardie** - pergola
- **Gaston & Wyatt** - privacy fence
- **Building Goodness** - building and coordination
Michael Gallihue, Bruce Wachtel, Vinnie
Valentino, Kathy Garstang



Meet One of our Residents

Dee came to Georgia's House in January 2020 after spending time in treatment for alcohol and drug addiction. Her struggles with substance abuse started as a teenager when she was surrounded by violence and drugs in her neighborhood. Alcohol provided an escape. She stopped using for nearly 20 years while raising her two children but relapsed at the age of 40 after several personal losses in a short period of time. As Dee said, she "hit rock bottom."

After treatment at the Region Ten's Women's Center at Moore's Creek in Charlottesville, Dee realized she needed more help to stay in recovery and to learn a new way of living and coping. Georgia's House is giving her a new foundation and helping her to start over.

Since coming to Georgia's House, Dee has undergone surgery she put off for years and is delighted with the outcome of feeling well. She has started working and participates in meetings and therapies that are teaching her new approaches to living free from addiction. Dee is working on her GED and plans to continue her education toward becoming a nurse.

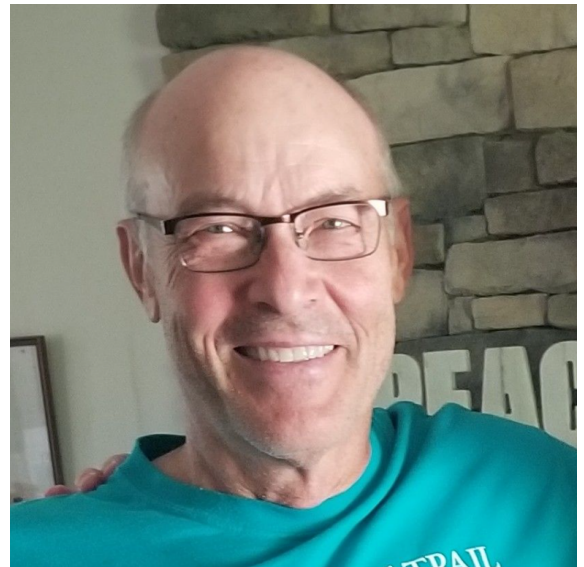
She also looks forward to having her own place and supporting herself. Most importantly, she is loved and says she feels happy for the first time in years. Dee is a delightful, loving person with a great sense of humor and is supportive and kind to others. She is on a new path to living a life of recovery.



Volunteer Spotlight: Joe Brown

Joe Brown is one of our most faithful volunteers. He is the 'go to' person for any kind of maintenance issue, including plumbing, hanging shelves, water leaks, door lock . . . anything that requires knowledge and experience with basic house maintenance. Joe is always pleasant and upbeat, ready and willing to help and always maintaining a good sense of humor. As Joe notes, Georgia's House is a family affair as his stepdaughter Amanda Norris Ames serves on the Board.

She and her mother have often brought dinner to the women residents. Joe tells us a bit about how he got involved with Georgia's House in his own words: I'm 66 years old and moved to the Charlottesville area from Illinois 5 years ago with my wife Margaret to be near our grandchildren. Our home - that we call Green Acres - is east of Charlottesville where I enjoy gardening, playing with the grandkids, doing home projects and running.



I retired first from UPS and then from the VA Hospital. I now work part time and enjoy volunteering during my "free" time. My stepdaughter is on the Board of Directors at Georgia's Friends and mentioned that they needed a volunteer to do various maintenance jobs around the new house. I thought it was a good fit and have enjoyed taking care of a variety of issues and improvements, as well as working with the great staff at Georgia's.

The Cleo Fund ~ Help support our furry "forever" resident

Cleo, a beautiful cat arrived at the first Georgia's House in Woolen Mills in 2016. She was very young and, like the women when they arrive, broken. She was emaciated and homeless and had no name. Everyone thought that GH could provide a good home for her and that she could become a healing friend to help the women through their recovery journeys. So, she was adopted and stayed.

Cleo, named "Cleopatra" for acting like royalty, is very intuitive and when a resident needs love and attention, she senses their need by becoming amazingly attentive and loving. Cleo's job is to walk people into the house and out to their cars and to always be on standby as the house watch cat.

Cleo has never tried to leave and doesn't go outside the yard, even after the move into our new house on Ridge Street. She spends her days traveling between the house and cottage, joining staff and board meetings, being present for resident dinners, and lounging about.

Cleo's is the only forever resident of Georgia's House and we've launched "The Cleo Kitty Fund" to provide for her ongoing care. If you would like to contribute, please donate to the Cleo Kitty Fund. Your gift will help to sustain her home at Georgia's house.



Georgia'sFriends.org has launched



In early June we launched a new website to align our messaging and brand with our mission and vision for the future of the organization. Functionally, the site is designed to streamline communications with supporters, while building our awareness through stories, impact data and news.

Please visit our new home on the Internet here:
georgiasfriends.org

Join me in thanking our committee for a job well done!
 Committee members: Val Newcomb, Karen Turner, Kimberly Wilson, Mary Anne Grant and Lizzy Turner.

Thank you to our many volunteers who bring meals, linens, toiletries and other supplies for the women residents during this difficult year. Many thanks to all!

For an updated list of supplies & household items we are seeking, please visit our website.

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