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NEW BEGINNINGS

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SUMMIT HOUSE CELEBRATES OUR NEW GRADUATE

Congratulations to Summit House Charlotte resident L and her son A! L graduated from Summit House Charlotte on Friday, November 13, and at Summit House, this is the pinnacle achievement: mother and child completing the steps required that empower them to change their past behaviors, start a new life together, and begin re-writing their histories.

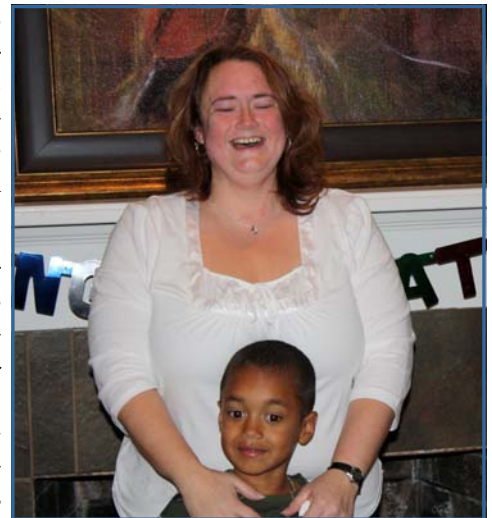
The Summit House program has been particularly challenging for L. "Before coming to Summit House, I was locked up in county jail for 11 months and my six-year-old son was in Virginia with my sister," she said. Although L never lost custody of A, she did lose 11 months of their lives together...and was looking at losing even more because she had many charges still pending against her. With no fewer than two more years away from A at stake, she needed help.

L's attorney was listening. She felt L genuinely wanted to make permanent changes in her life and she knew more than anything, L did not want to lose her son. What they really needed was Summit House. And the judge agreed.

in September, 2008, L and A entered Summit House Charlotte, but the tough part was only just beginning. L had a pretty intense drug habit and a son who didn't trust her. "I neglected my son while I was high," L remembers. "He saw me on drugs; I didn't take care of him. I didn't have the parenting skills I needed."

In fact, before beginning the parenting courses required by all Summit House residents, A was seen hitting and kicking L, and she was yelling at him in return. They needed redirection on a path paved with communication and the power of healing.

So although L already had her GED and Associates degrees, she took parenting classes, self esteem classes, and life skills classes. She started developing confidence in being a mother. She stopped yelling at A and started communicating. She was determined to have her son love her as **his mother** and believe she would be there for him. But it has been a hard road for A.



Graduate continued on page 2

Summit House is a White House Presidential Award Winner

MEET THE BOARD

JACKIE NELSON CORPORATE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jackie Nelson, grew up in tiny Ventura, Iowa, population 500. Coming from a family of nine, they made up a good portion of the population. "I was in the largest graduation class ever, 32!" she said. "I was the only girl my age, around so I hung out with my brothers; I was a tom boy. I did things like frogging and ice skating on the lake. I never could get into hunting though."

Her repressed girly side must have been seeking a way out, since Jackie met her husband, Dale Waynick, ballroom dancing in 1998. "We were the only two single people in the shag class," she remembers. "We started practicing together and one thing led to another."

Jackie has two sons. Scott who was in the military for 12 years and is now preparing to graduate from college. Brad, a helicopter pilot in the military serving his third tour in Iraq, is engaged and looking forward to coming home and getting married. Jackie also has a stepson, Richard, who graduated from UNC Chapel Hill and now lives in Atlanta. "So now Dale and I have four-legged children at home: four dogs and a cat."

Jackie has been with VF Jeanswear in Greensboro for 20 years and is a Product Development Coordinator. Each year VF gives money to the community through RFP's. She was the community involvement team captain about 10 years ago and chose Summit House for one of those RFP's. VF then funded the Summit House CHAMPS program for three years in a row. When



Jackie during Summit House Piedmont Construction

Summit House Piedmont asked VF if someone would join their board, VF recommended Jackie. She has now been on the board, in some form, for 10 years.

"Next to my two boys, Summit House is the best thing I have ever done in my life," Jackie said. "I used to believe that if you do the crime, you need to do the time. But after I saw what was going on at Summit House, I changed my mind."

The Chair of the Piedmont board from 2004-2008—spearheading the sale of the original Summit House building and the construction of the new 12 family site—Jackie is now Vice Chair of the Corporate Board. While she eagerly and proudly anticipates the first graduate from the new Piedmont facility, she also recognizes the Summit House program is ultimately not for every resident.

[Nelson continued on page 3](#)

Graduate continued from page 1

A needed more help than his mother could give, but not more than Summit House could provide. Summit House found a counselor to work with A. "After A started seeing a counselor, he was diagnosed with attachment disorder. He has been in therapy for six months and his behavior has really started to change. He can show his feelings in different ways now because he knows I'll listen to him." These are the small intangibles that make each Summit House success story poignant and real.

And while A has expressed concern that his mom will go back to her old ways, L has learned how to listen and respond appropriately, assuring him that "it will be a struggle, but we will work through this together." After graduating from Summit House, L is determined to work on her recovery, is resolute in continuing the 12 Steps, and is adamant about finding a good church for fellowship and support.

"I am so grateful for the Summit House program. I now know it is not all right to be abused by someone. I talk to, rather than yell at, my son. I don't have to chase after him because I know he'll come back. We're going to do okay!"

All our best L and A! Good work!

FRIEND OF SUMMIT HOUSE ANNUAL FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

A *Friend of Summit House* is a Very Important Partner! Our board and staff help raise critical funds through current and potential Friends of Summit House, like you! These critical funds keep vital programs and services available to families.

Friends of Summit House help: get abused mothers the treatment they need ♦ feed families ♦ provide transportation for education ♦ provide diapers and baby needs ♦ provide household essentials ♦ keep families together, change women’s and children’s lives.

While at this residential, court-ordered program, the mother is serving time where she’s needed most...with her children. She has accepted the challenge necessary to turn her life around, to keep her children, and to avoid incarceration while completing this intensive, structured program. After graduation, Summit House mothers have a 93% success rate of staying out of prison. That compares very favorably to the state’s prison system rate of 64%.

Summit House: A Whole-Way House

The commitment from the board, staff, community, and most importantly, the Summit House families, is a whole-way, 360° commitment; nothing is done halfway. The Board commits time, personal finances, oversight, and individual resources. The staff’s commitment to success is exhibited in each member’s professionalism and empathy. The community commits to provide support and acceptance. As expected, the biggest commitment comes from the mothers and children in the program. They go the whole way; anything less would result in the mothers going to prison and their children going to foster care, or to an unstable environment that would still cost taxpayer dollars. Requirements to graduate include Mom: completing her high school education, 12-step substance abuse treatment program, and life and parenting skills classes. ♦ obtaining a job that pays more than minimum wage ♦ saving \$1,500 to help start her new life. Upon graduation, families move back into the community and become tax payers not tax spenders. Summit House has saved NC taxpayers over \$750,000 net annually. With the 2009-2010 North Carolina state budget cuts, this year’s actual net taxpayer savings could be well over \$1 million.

93% of Summit House graduates are productive, taxpaying citizens!

Yes, I would like to support Summit House with the following contribution:

“Friends of Summit House Wall” Nameplates Family Nameplate \$2,000 Corporate Nameplate \$5,000

Name _____ Company _____

My gift is \$ _____ Signature (required) _____ Date _____

Contact Number _____ E-mail _____ Office Contact: _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

General Campaign Giving Options:

___ \$15 a month ___ \$25 a month ___ \$50 per month ___ \$100 per month ___ One Time Gift: \$ _____

Please send me an invoice for my pledge Please charge my credit card: ___ Monthly ___ One time

Summit House Central Pmt Office: Rick Redmon, PO Box 13568, Greensboro, NC 27415, 336-375-9344

Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____ 3 digit code _____

Donate online at www.summithouse.org

Please make checks payable to Summit House, Inc.

Nelson continued from page 2

“I know the Summit House program is hard, but why would a mom lose her children and just serve out her time in prison?” she said while contemplating why a mom had chosen to leave the Summit House Piedmont program and go to prison. “There are no services in prison. These women need services like education and guidance in order to obtain the tools necessary to change their lives and their outlook on life. After prison they go home to the same circumstances and usually end up right back in prison. I would like to see Summit Houses all over the state.”



The Summit House program strives to break the multi-generational cycle of crime, poverty, and substance abuse by intervening in and strengthening the lives of mothers who have committed non-violent crimes and their children.



Donate Now

Button available at summithouse.org

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Greensboro, NC 27405
Phone 336.375.9344 Fax: 336.375.9384



Summit House Triangle
PO Box 27284
Raleigh, NC 27611
Phone 919.329.9214 Fax 919.329.9216



Summit House families have the same needs as every family. If you would like to help our families in their day-to-day lives, please contact the Summit House nearest you to arrange for a donation delivery. Our babies need every size of Huggies diapers, wipes, and sealed baby food. Our moms need new toiletries, paper products, cleaning supplies, trash bags, and linens. Thank you!!



THANK YOU LUQUIRE GEORGE ANDREWS

Summit House is the grateful recipient of a wonderful opportunity received from Luquire George Andrews, a Charlotte-based advertising, marketing and public relations firm. As a tribute to their community and in celebration of their 25th anniversary, LGA launched Goodstock™ 2009, their first-ever 25-hour pro bono advertising, public relations and marketing marathon.

Luquire George Andrews has donated more than 1,000 hours and more than \$225,000 worth of services to nine area nonprofit agencies during this year's Goodstock. LGA employees worked around the clock—brainstorming, writing copy, designing creative materials, developing strategic plans—and did not rest until all the work was done. In the end, the agency presented more than 25 pieces of work to nine nonprofit agencies they selected, including new names, logos, taglines, a Web site, press materials, key messages, fundraising event ideas and social media strategies.

Summit House has a new logo, tag line, and brochure thanks to the LGA efforts and generosity. We are excited as we plan to share this new identity with all of our *Friends of Summit House*. Watch for our next newsletter and the roll out of the new Summit House identity!

