

## Winter Newsletter 2021 First Quarter

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### A Message from our Executive Director



Hello COT family,

A new year has begun and I am excited for all that 2021 has in store for Communities of Transformation. I want to uplift three great things that happened at the end of 2020. First, COT raised over \$5,000 across the connection to support our continued ministry efforts. Thank you for your support and prayers for our ministry. Second, we celebrated the conclusion of our first Virtual Awaken Class and those Awaken Graduates were celebrated at the local site. Third, we shared our 10th video in our new video series, Stories of Transformation.

As we enter into a new year, we continue to find new ways to grow our communities and support the families / individuals who are going through a transition / crisis. Please check out the amazing things that have already happened this first quarter and all the exciting things we have planned moving forward.

If you have been part of our journey since the beginning or if you are new to our ministry, I invite you to be part of one of our weekly zoom meetings, to be surrounded by a supportive community, and to be part of

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**Katy Wrona**  
Executive Director

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## Community In the Midst of Social Distancing



During this last year, our COT local sites have adapted to connecting in new ways. Despite some hurdles to overcome, the COT communities find new ways to safely gather together.

Our COT Montgomery site hosted an outdoor event with fire pits and s'mores. Volunteers made individual s'mores kits, brought firewood, and cleaned supplies between usage. COT members brought chairs and spread out around the fire to fellowship together.

COT South Walton hosted a nature walk at the Grayton Beach Nature Trail. The small group had a great time and had a small COT meeting outside with Good News and Affirmations! One member shared that "COT is all about relationships" and enjoyed their event at the nature trail.

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## MLK Day of Service



Our COT Team celebrated MLK Day across the local COT sites in various ways. Several sites held programs featuring documentaries and facilitated discussion within their community. Several sites participated in virtual service opportunities through community partners such as reading at a local school and sharing fire safety on Nextdoor.

Our COT Evergreen community worked with their community leaders to host a drive-in community celebration. Community members were able to listen in on their local radio station to speeches, quotes and prayers shared. Site Coordinator, Anita Watson, shared "Pastors and elected officials each spoke to a call for unity and support for each other and it turned out to be a wonderful tribute to Dr. King."

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## **Virtual 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run / Walk**



The COT Central Office is organizing a Virtual 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run / Walk Fundraiser for Saturday, May 22, 2021!! This event is intended to raise money for both the COT Central Office and the local COT sites that choose to participate. We are excited to highlight the importance of a healthy lifestyle through our physical dimension and to see a community come together to be a part of this event. Our 5K & Fun Run has something for everyone! If you are a runner, please register for our 5K Run. If you want to take your time, please register for our 5K Walk or 1 Mile Fun Run / Walk. If you just want to support a local nonprofit and would like a custom t-shirt, please register for our "I slept through the 5K" option. Registration goes live on February 27th!

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## 40 Days of Lent Prayer



As we prepare to enter the Lenten season, COT has created a 40 Days of Lent Prayer Calendar. As we take this intentional time in the spiritual dimension, we will be praying for all aspects of COT and all those who are connected to this ministry. Every day on our [social media page](#), the prayer prompt will be shared. We want to invite you to be part of praying with us through Lent.

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## UMC Connections

One thing that the United Methodist Church is known for is their connectional structure. Many see how the connection works to share resources and bring people together in new ways. We are excited to share a new connection between Communities of Transformation and the AWFUMC Disaster Recovery Response Team. At the end of 2020, Lindsay Lum, a volunteer from COT Mobile, applied to be a new Disaster Case Manager with the recovery team. We celebrated with Lindsay when she got the job and began this new journey in 2021.

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## Praying Together

During these challenging times, we look to our spiritual foundation or begin to connect in new ways. Across our sites and staff, prayer concerns are being lifted up and shared. The power of prayer is an unstoppable force. How can the COT team pray for you? What is heavy on your heart? How can we walk with you during this time?

**Please email [ashleighhicks.cot@gmail.com](mailto:ashleighhicks.cot@gmail.com) and Ashleigh will add your prayer requests to our prayer list.**

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Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.