

COMMUNITIES OF TRANSFORMATION



The Community Connection Fall 2022

A Message From the Director

Hello COT family,

One of the great things about family is the support that we give to each other, through thick or thin. A few months ago, the mom of an Awaken Graduate shared her COT story:

"I actually attended COT to support my daughter, as this was my last ditch effort to get her help in life. See, she quit school in 10th grade, was beat up by a classmate, was in an abusive relationship with a now ex-boyfriend, and was arrested twice. As a mother, having to watch was extremely painful. I prayed and prayed for God to lead her on a different course in life - one that included God and community! Little did I know that God was already in the process of working ALL things for good and for His glory in her life, and mine too. While attending to make sure she attends and completes the Awaken class, I found another family! This is truly a community of transformation. I realized this is also a place for me to encourage others and let them know they are loved by God with this same love! I can't imagine life without this wonderful community of faithful servants!"

We could not provide this community without supporters like you who devote your time, donate meals, give financially, and pray for this ministry. Thank you for your continued support!

Katy Wrona
Executive Director





A ThinkTank Experience

COT hosted two Cost of Poverty Experience (COPE) events this August as part of our continued effort to challenge the way people view poverty. Over 100 COPE participants in Montgomery, AL and South Walton, FL were given the opportunity to experience poverty firsthand through the eyes of real families. These poverty simulations help churches, organizations, and communities deepen their understanding of the complexities of poverty, paving the way for us to address the issue more comprehensively.

Thank you to First United Methodist Church in Montgomery and Good News UMC in Santa Rosa for hosting these events.

Save the date for our next two COPE events in
Mobile - November 5th, 2022
Dothan - January 21st, 2023

Visit our website at communitiesoftransformation.org/learn to learn more about COPE and other training opportunities.

Register Today!

New COPE Video

More Than a Logo



Have you ever looked closely at the COT logo? At first glance, you might see a colorful cross. Or maybe with a closer look, you notice four people raising their hands in praise; or four church buildings topped by vaulted roofs and joined in the center. All of these perspectives are correct. The COT logo represents not only what we do, but also what we value as an organization.

The colorful cross is shaped by two lines. The vertical line symbolizes our relationship with our heavenly father and the horizontal line symbolizes our relationships with each other. God created us to be in relationship with Him and with others. We believe both are important for human flourishing.

The colorful people symbolize our diverse communities. COT brings together people of different races, denominations, political affiliations, and socio-economic backgrounds. All are valued and respected. All are created in the image of God. Notice that they are joined in the middle, with each person giving and receiving strength from the others.

The colorful churches symbolize COT's vision, which is to take the church into the community, to invite the community into the church, and to build relationships that elevate families in the name of Christ. Each COT site is supported by local churches working together to

build a stronger local community.

What about the colors?



PEACE THAT
PASSES ALL
UNDERSTANDING



LIGHT OF CHRIST
IN THE WORLD



KINGDOM OF GOD



GROWTH; CREATION

New Partnership in Montgomery



Members of COT Montgomery visited the Beacon Center in June.

COT Montgomery is celebrating a new partnership with the Beacon Center, a ministry of Metropolitan UMC. The Beacon Center is a hub for community care that includes food assistance, mental health services, and adult education. Starting in September, the Beacon Center will include COT as part of its wrap-around services to assist its neighbors remove barriers that make it difficult to escape poverty.

The Beacon Center's director, Pastor Richard Williams, has also been an important part of COT Montgomery for the past 6 years. As a Leadership Team member and Awaken class facilitator, Pastor Williams has seen firsthand the power of a COT community. "We believe when people experience our community, they will experience life differently. They will understand financial hardships in a different way. They will experience church in new ways and new places. Being a part of a diverse community will help to develop dynamic leaders who are addressing systemic issues with love, support, accountability, and self-determination."

Fall Planning

Our leadership teams are the foundation of our COT sites. Teams across the connection have been working hard planning and preparing for our fall programming and Awaken Classes.

These teams host larger visioning meetings as they look at the health and sustainability of the site.

Brewton COT recently held a fall planning meeting with the team and community partners.





Get Involved

Hi Katy, thanks so much for subscribing and supporting COT. We would love for you to get involved. To find out how you can sign up for our Awaken class, volunteer, or become a donor please visit our website below!

[Get Involved!](#)

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