

October 2020 Newsletter

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A Message from our Executive Director



Hello COT family,

This fall began with many things still unknown. Our community churches, schools, and businesses are working to safely open their doors and some are unsure of when that will happen. What is not unknown is the intentional support of friends, family, neighbors, and our COT communities.

Our COT team continues to serve in new ways. Many have responded to the community relief needed after the destruction of Hurricane Sally. Others are working in community gardens and food banks as the needs of our communities have changed.

We continue to find new ways to connect online. This fall we launched three new programs; Stories of Transformation, Virtual Awaken Leadership Class, and Virtual Game Night. More information is provided on each program below in the newsletter but I want to invite you today to connect with our larger COT community in a new way today.

I am excited to announce that Communities of Transformation was awarded a grant from the Alabama State COVID-19 Relief Fund. We are blessed by Governor's Ivy support of nonprofits and organizations who are working to continue to serve during these hard times. I am reminded once again of God's light in the midst of the storms.

We will be together again. We will be stronger after we weather this storm. We will continue to move forward. Please let your COT community know how they can support you until that time. I continue to pray for each of you and your COT communities as we journey through this pandemic together.

Katy Wrona
Executive Director

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Connecting Through Technology



Our society has been challenged like never before to connect in new ways. Communities of Transformation is not alone in this journey. The Central Staff continues to strategize and seek new opportunities to share our mission, develop leaders, and provide opportunities for building relationships.

In September, we launched our first Virtual Awaken Class. We are so excited to provide the opportunity for sites to continue to recruit new Awaken Students to be part of our sites during this challenging season. Rosaland Harrison, COT Training Coordinator, and Ashleigh Hicks, COT Graphic Designer, have spearheaded this new project. They have worked together to create presentations, develop a google classroom platform, and design the overall structure of this new class. Every Awaken Student enrolled in the class is also part of a local COT community. This partnership continues the COT model of walking with individuals as they accomplish the goals they have set for themselves. Please be in prayer for these strong individuals who have stepped out of their comfort zone to start this new journey.

Our Stories of Transformation Video Series features a focus area of COT every week as we share the stories of COT Awaken Students, Volunteers, Staff, and Community Partners. The first season will feature ten episodes including an anniversary segment. Season 2 will launch in the first quarter of 2021. If you have not had an opportunity to experience our new series, please check out our COT Facebook page!

Our Virtual Game Night events occur on the last Wednesday of the month. We hope to continue to build stronger relationships among all the COT communities as well as provide a fun night of fellowship. Check out the flyer below for our October Game Night!



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9/11 Remembrance Day



Our COT Team is intentional in participating in service and remembrance days for federal holidays every year. For all our COT communities, our hope is to provide awareness, education, and service opportunities. The 9/11 Day of Remembrance this year was no different.

Our Mobile and Montgomery Site Coordinators led programs during their weekly meetings. This led to deep discussions among all community members. Our Evergreen and South Walton Site Coordinators participated in local community events in the form of a memorial walk and flag ceremony. Our Dothan Site Coordinator provided goodie baskets to local first responders. We hope you can join us in our next service opportunity in your local community for Veteran's Day.

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Recruiting New Site Coordinators



We are currently recruiting new Site Coordinators for two of our COT sites, Pine Hill and Eufaula. Our Site Coordinators work to develop this ministry by utilizing community volunteers, building a broad base of support, and developing a diverse Leadership Team to guide the volunteer initiative. COT is an AmeriCorps VISTA organization and this position would be a VISTA role.

Primary responsibilities for the position include:

- Organize and lead COT weekly meetings
- Arrange programs from local outside organizations
- Build and develop relationships within COT community
- Seek opportunities for COT outreach and fundraising
- Develop partnerships with other local agencies and entities
- Develop relationships with possible participant referral organizations

- VISTA reporting

If you or someone you know is interested in any of these positions, please email your resume to katywrona.cot@gmail.com.

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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 and Ashleigh will add your prayer requests to our prayer list.

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Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
