

## Spring Newsletter 2021 Second Quarter

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### A Message from our Executive Director



Hello COT family,

Our warmer days, rainy nights, and blooming flowers are a reminder of new beginnings and transition into a new season. COT is also in a transition as we work towards the next season. Our sites are working hard recruiting and preparing for a full launch back into full in person meetings. We look forward to breaking bread together and being in fellowship again.

This spring season also brings opportunities to come together in new ways. In April, we celebrated Volunteer Appreciation Month. In May, we are hosting our first Virtual 5K & 1 Mile Fun Run / Walk. In June, we are hosting a Professional Development training for the COT Team.

We are grateful for the continued support and prayers of this COT community. We can see the light at the end of the tunnel and through planning and safety guidelines we will get there!

Praying for each of you,

**Katy Wrona**  
Executive Director

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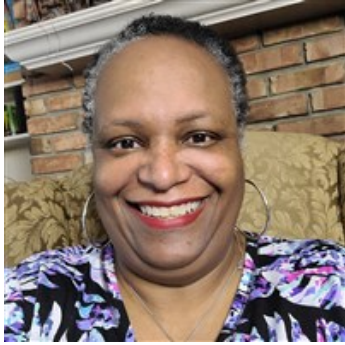
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## Volunteer Appreciation Month



“Act as if what you do makes a difference...it does.” - William James

Our founder, Laurel Blackwell, started the tradition of COT participating in Volunteer Appreciation Month. This is celebrated every April and each COT Site coordinates how they show appreciation for their volunteers. This year, we have started a new tradition! We have established the John Fergus Volunteer of the Year Award. This would be a memorial for John Fergus who served as a founding volunteer with our pilot site, COT Dothan.

Each COT site has selected an Outstanding Volunteer as part of their Volunteer Appreciation. An Outstanding Volunteer is a volunteer who has gone above and beyond what is asked / expected and has been an asset to the site. These Outstanding Volunteers have been nominated for our John Fergus Volunteer of the Year Award!

Please join us in honoring these individuals who are listed below.

COT Dothan: Les Pinckard                      COT Montgomery: Jackie Slaughter

COT Evergreen: Marie Jackson              COT Phenix City: Joan Gatewood

COT Mobile: Amy Messer                      COT South Walton: Kate Smart

We hosted our Volunteer Appreciation Night on May 5th via zoom to recognize our Outstanding Volunteers and announce our Volunteer of the Year. Our Outstanding Volunteers listed above all have made an impact in their community and embody the belief of Communities of Transformation. Our volunteers are the heart our of ministry. We are pleased to announce that Jackie Slaughter from COT Montgomery is our 2021 John Fergus Volunteer of the Year Award Winner

## Oh, the Places You'll Go!



## COT Montgomery Homecoming



COT Montgomery hosted a two part Homecoming in April. They hosted a virtual homecoming on April 13th with members joining from out of state and two former Site Coordinators attending. It was a great night of conversation and fellowship. They also hosted an in person social distanced gathering at Shakespeare Park on April 18th. They continue to find ways to connect and support each other during this season.

Site Coordinator, Ja'Cori Smith, shared "Homecoming was a reminder that even in a pandemic, with creativity and technology, COT family can't be bound by distance or time."

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



The COT Central Office is hosting the First Annual Virtual 5K & 1 Mile Fun Run / Walk! The virtual event will be held on Saturday, May 22nd from 7 am to 7 pm. The event can be completed anytime during that time frame.

Our 5K & Fun Run has something for everyone! You can register for the 5K Run, 5K Walk, 1 Mile Fun Run / Walk or "I slept through the 5K" option. Your \$25 registration fee will support Communities of Transformation as it helps members of our community who are working hard to move from just surviving to thriving. Local COT sites will offer a location to walk/run with a community of people, but participants can complete the event in their own location or even on a treadmill.

To Register, check out our website at [communitiesoftransformation.org](https://communitiesoftransformation.org). See our Facebook event page to stay connected!

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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.

COT Phenix City is hosting a book study on the front lawn of Summerville UMC. The site is able to gather together safely and study "Be The Bridge". COT Evergreen is hosting their weekly meeting at the community garden. They are able to have programming and fellowship in a community space that means so much to their community. COT Brewton is hosting a Virtual Awaken class with a community partner.

## 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.

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