



changing lives

COMMUNITIES
of transformation

The Community Connection Winter 2024

A Message From the Director

Hello COT family,

It has been a great start to the year. COT Central Office and the Board of Directors have been intentional in our 2024 Strategic goals and are excited about what is to come this year!

I have been focused on expanding our poverty education opportunities through our Cost of Poverty Experience training and expanding new COT sites in new communities. We are excited for our COT Bradford site to launch in two weeks with their Taste & See on March 14th. Please hold this community in your prayers as they begin this new journey.

Our education focus continues to grow. We hosted five Cost of Poverty Experience (COPE) events in 2023 and are projecting eight for 2024. Check out the story below to learn more about this training.

We hope 2024 is a year of growth for our Americorps VISTA grant. We are blessed to be able to partner with nonprofit organizations serving the community through an economic opportunity lens and place a VISTA within their context to build capacity. We are thrilled about our newest site in Opelika, Alabama with the PRF Institute.

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 continuing to be on this journey with us and we can't wait for what happens next!

Katy Wrona
Executive Director



Team Spotlight

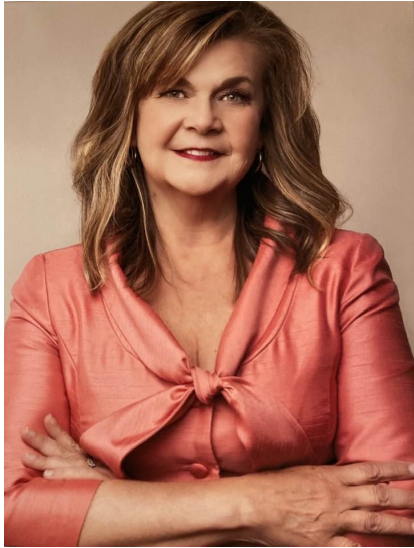
In November, COT Dothan Site Coordinator, Angela Smith was nominated for The Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce inaugural "Woman of Distinction Award." The Woman of Distinction Award is a prestigious recognition given to a woman in the Wiregrass area who demonstrates

ConnectHer
WOMEN'S CONFERENCE
 WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH | 7:30AM-12:45PM
 TROY UNIVERSITY - DOTHAN CAMPUS
 TICKETS | \$85 Contact: Kendretta at khs@dothanconnecther.com
 Tickets include all sessions, networking lunch, and event t-shirt



the following characteristics.
Achievement Leadership Innovation
Community Impact Advocacy
Resilience Positive Influence

She was among the top five finalists announced at the ConnectHer Conference on November 8, 2023. She is a proud North Alabama native and a South Alabama transplant! She describes herself as a Christ-follower, master gardener, wife, mother, and backyard biologist. Getting her hands in the dirt, watching something grow and flourish is a passion both personally and professionally. Angela earned a B.S. degree in Communications from the University of Alabama and a M. A. degree in Biblical Studies from Birmingham Theological Seminary.



Reflecting on her experience she stated, "We have amazing women in Dothan, doing amazing things! It was so humbling to be included in such an esteemed group. One of the things we have discovered here is that we are better together, and together we can make Dothan a great place to live and thrive!"

Cost of Poverty Experience



The Cost of Poverty Experience is a 2.5 hour immersive experience that gives you the opportunity to gain a glimpse into the lives of families in our communities that face poverty everyday. COPE gives participants an opportunity to experience poverty firsthand through the eyes of real families. The experiential nature of this training helps organizations, churches and communities deepen their understanding the complexities of poverty, paving the way for addressing the issues of poverty more comprehensively.



COPE is a great training for everyone from schools to hospitals to corporate businesses. We want to partner with you to host this training event with your team. If you are interested in hosting a COPE in your community, email Katy Wrona at kwrona@communitiesoftransformation.org

COPE Video

Grant Awards

COT Montgomery and COT Mobile each received a grant from Publix. These grants will support our weekly meetings through our meals. The breaking of bread is central to our weekly meeting and individuals growing in relationship with each other. We are grateful for the local impact of Publix and their intentional giving back to local nonprofits.



The COT Phenix City site received a mini grant from the Community Foundation of East Alabama. The foundation does great work in East Alabama in the Lee, Macon, Tallapoosa, Chambers, and Russell counties. We are grateful for their support for our Awaken students and their continued success.

Site Highlight

COT Montgomery hosted a Volunteer Orientation on Saturday, February 10th. We had a great group of 10 new volunteers and leadership team members. The training was facilitated by our Executive Director, Katy Wrona and included several new COT team members.

"While participating in the Volunteer Training for COT in February, I loved hearing that we are to be like a Pot Luck, not a Soup Kitchen. The goal is the transformation of everyone involved, building authentic two-way relationships because we all have something to offer!"
- Kathy, Volunteer



"Volunteers are a vital entity of non-profit work. The training for the volunteers must be executed with the same care, compassion, and empathy that we intend on impacting the community with."
- George, COT Montgomery Site Coordinator

Come Grow With Us

Communities of Transformation has two Americorps VISTA positions open to serve in Mobile or Montgomery, Alabama starting in May 2024.



Marketing / Communications VISTA to assist with the organization's efforts in branding COT as a nonprofit as we recruit, fundraise, and expand into new communities.

*The **COT Mobile Site Coordinator's*** primary responsibility will be to organize and lead COT weekly meetings, build and develop relationships within the COT community, and develop partnerships with other local agencies and entities.

If interested, please email your resume to Katy Wrona at kwrona@communitiesoftransformation.org.



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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