

A HOPE-FUL COMING OUT

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- In The Spotlight
- House of HOPE
- Project PHOENIX
- Fashion Show hosted by Zohra's featuring Babes Shoes & Apparel
- HOPE's Yearbook

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The premiere coming out party on September 27th, 2006 for the Phoenix HOPE Foundation was a marked success. Hosted by Alyce and Ben Badcock, attendees included community members such as Representative Dennis Ross, Joe Jackson (Joe's Tax Services), Lou Fitzwater (The Ledger), Don Marks, Wogan Badcock, and Henry Badcock (Badcock Home Furnishings & More) and many others interested in and excited about the vision and mission of the Phoenix HOPE Foundation. Also in attendance were the members of the growing Phoenix HOPE Foundation Advisory Council and staff from the Polk County S.T.A.R. Program.

The fish enjoyed by all was hand-raised and provided by the Polk County S.T.A.R. Program. Sheriff Grady Judd was the

honored guest speaker. Sheriff Judd shared his enthusiasm for the mission of



Sheriff Judd was recognized for his dedication to the youth of Polk County. His message was direct, "We can either pay for them now, or pay for them later".

the foundation and impressed upon everyone in attendance the necessity of the Phoenix HOPE Foundation and the work it hopes to accomplish not only for youth but also for the betterment of Polk County, "We can either pay for them now, or we will pay for them later".

The Phoenix HOPE Foundation received generous donations from several guests and will continue to move forward with promoting public awareness and support to this very important project.

Thanks to everyone who was in attendance or provided donations for the special event. A special thanks for Ben & Alyce Badcock for opening their home to promote the work of The Phoenix HOPE Foundation.

"For I know the plans I have for you", declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a HOPE and a future." Jeremiah 29:11



WHO'S CRAZY IDEA WAS THIS



Crazy? Not in the least. The Phoenix HOPE Foundation was founded by people who truly care about what goes on in the world around us, especially in the lives of children and families in our own backyards.

This edition of HOPE's Herald is dedicated to the founders of The Phoenix HOPE Foundation, Erica Allen & Connie Zink.

As the mission of the foundation seeps into the community, it is important to know and understand the heart of those working to make this dream and vision a reality and a vital part of the Polk County

community. In the issues to come, you will find features on each member of the Board of Directors and the Phoenix HOPE Foundation Advisory Council. When you see these folks in your community, shake their hand and tell them how much you appreciate their dedication to the children and families in this community.

ALLEN

Erica

Erica Allen is the founding President and CEO of The Phoenix HOPE Foundation. She is married to Captain Michael Allen of the Polk County Sheriff's Office and has two sons, Tyler, 8, and Branden, 4. She and her family are animal lovers and their home is shared with dogs, Luke and Jasmine, cat, Batman, several fish, and an occasional frog or two. Erica has a bachelor's degree in Special Education and enjoys specialized work in behavior modification and cognitive-behavioral theory. She has been working with at-risk,

delinquent and post-committed youth and their families since 1992. Some of her experience includes employment at the Polk Halfway House, Polk Regional Juvenile Detention Center, the Juvenile Assessment Center and the School Board of Polk County. Currently, Erica is co-owner of Phoenix Clinical Services and is the acting Mental Health Services Administrator at the Polk County S.T.A.R. Program where she has worked for the past five years. When asked what her favorite mantra was, Erica responded,

"Life Rewards Action!"



Michael, Erica, Tyler and Branden Christmas 2006

ZINK, MA LMHC

Connie

Connie Zink is the founding Vice President and Clinical Director of The Phoenix HOPE Foundation. She is the mother of son, not coincidentally named, Phoenix, 4. She, too, is an animal lover and has a dog lovingly named Cujo (a.k.a. Barley), and a cat named Jasper. Connie has a master's degree and is a licensed mental health counselor. She has worked with at-risk, delinquent, and post-committed youth and their families since 1995. Some of her experience comes from

employment at the Polk Halfway House, Polk Regional Juvenile Detention Center, and the Department of Children and Families. Currently, Connie is the co-owner of Phoenix Clinical Services and is the Clinical Director at the Polk County S.T.A.R. Program where she has a combined total of four years of



Connie and Phoenix Summer 2006

service. Connie has done extensive community based work with children and families within the Polk, Highlands and Hardee counties and has experience with the local family court. When asked about the most exciting vision of the Phoenix HOPE Foundation, she responded, ***"The opportunity to connect with the community and provide support services to enrich lives"***.

TELLING OUR STORY

The members of the Phoenix HOPE Foundation would like to speak to your

club or organization. This year we had a great time meeting people and appreciate the opportunity to share the important mission of the Phoenix HOPE Foundation.

of the foundation to speak to your club, organization, or church, please call Erica Allen at 863-370-0935.



Connie Zink, Erica Allen, Cindy Cole & Eric Holm at the Winter Have Kiwanis Club Meeting

Special thanks to First Baptist Church, Bartow, Bartow's Kiwanis Club and Tim Murphy and Winter Haven Kiwanis Club and Cindy Cole for having us.

If you would like to schedule members



Connie Zink, Erica Allen, and Tim Murphy at the Bartow Kiwanis Club Meeting

A PLACE OF HOPE

I would be willing to guess that either you or someone you know knows a child that has made poor choices either within their relationships with their family, with drugs or alcohol, and even with the law.

Some of these youth end up incarcerated in juvenile programs and even in adult jail or prison.

But GOOD NEWS!

A large majority of these same youth can and are rehabili-

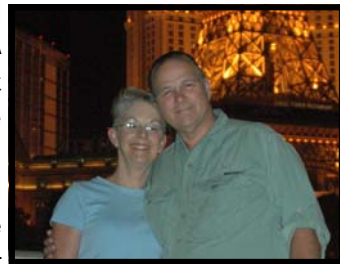
tated—because they want to be. They choose not to return to their old neighborhoods, gangs, bad habits, and sometimes criminal family systems. Unfortunately, at the present time, there is no alternative placement for these kids other than more juvenile programs.

The Phoenix HOPE House is excited to be able to offer a place of hope for these youth who truly desire to make a positive change in their lives.

A place that will be a faith-based 'home'. A place that will nurture them, teach them, and prepare them for independent living. We

are excited to be able to meet the needs of youth who ask us for help and need a placement alternative. Jill and Todd Per-

Kins have gifted the Phoenix HOPE Foundation with approximately 6.5 acres of land and blue prints for a 6800 square foot home that will allow the foundation to become extended family to 10-15 boys leaving the Polk County S.T.A.R. Program and other juvenile programs in this area. Get involved! You can help, too.



Todd and Jill Perkins Bartow, FL

PROJECT PHOENIX

The Phoenix HOPE Foundation is working feverishly on a new concept: **Project PHOENIX**.

Project PHOENIX is an innovative, contemporary counseling center cleverly disguised as hot, new "hang-out" for kids and families.

While the goal is to provide much needed teen support groups, individual and family counseling, educational tutoring, and mentorship, the center will also offer

skateboard ramps, bike ramps, indoor soccer, basketball, volleyball, boxing, dance, art, glow in the dark putt-putt golf, a toddler play area, and much, much more. Project PHOENIX, although focused on reaching today's youth, will also offer services to other community



OMEGA ZONE, EUSTIS, FL

groups and corporate Polk County.

Omega Zone is a recreation center in Eustice, FL owned by Stan Smith.

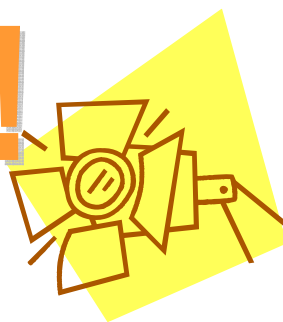
He, too, is working to provide a safe, supportive, positive place for kids to use as a haven of fun and personal growth.

Please be praying for us as we begin fundraising for this project. Specifically, we are going to require a minimum of 40,000 square feet, recreation equipment, funds, and just the right folks to make it all happen.

To get a glimpse of our vision, visit www.omegazone.org

In the Spotlight!

BY ERICA ALLEN



Jere was 16 when I met him. A drug abusing juvenile charges to include drug possession and grand theft. If adult, he would have received a sentence for 5-15 years prison. Jere entered the Polk County Juvenile Boot Camp angry, defiant and with little or no goals for his future—and he didn't care. However, his potential was immeasurable. If only he would allow us to help him...

felon with he was an in state

Jere's mother was in state prison and his father, retired, was sick much of the time. His siblings were all drug and crime involved. The odds for his success once he returned home were not very good. On top of that, his father, who he loved dearly, died shortly after he finished his Conditional Release.

Despite the odds, Jere faced the realities of his life and poor choices, worked hard at building relationships with positive adults within the program and chose to remain in contact with the people he had grown to trust. He also continued to reach out when things weren't going very well. He even got his GED.

The road to freedom has not been easy for Jere. He made some bad choices when his old life called to him, but we never gave up on him—Jere was "HOPE's" first.

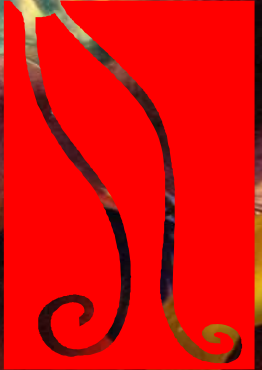
This year has been one of growth for Jere. Despite some downfalls, he has grown immensely and with the help of several HOPE Partners, including Youth for Christ, Jere is on his way. He has redefined his characterization of "family" and made a solid foundation in creating a positive, supportive family system of his own choice.

I am happy to report that Jere is supporting himself in Lakeland, has two dogs, Lilly and Cain, a very positive and supportive girlfriend, Tara who is seeking her Bachelor's degree from USF. He has recently retained a job at Publix Super Market Warehouse and has also purchased his first car. Quite a milestone in any young boy's life. I can honestly say I am as proud of him as I am of my own two sons. He has become a part of my family and will always be a part of the HOPE family. That is what it is all about.

Jere is a black belt in Tae Kwon Doe and loves volunteering his time teaching young children the art and discipline of this sport. He now has a goal to become a barber and is working to prepare for a time when he can attend school full time to make that dream a reality. Thanks to everyone who played a part in giving Jere HOPE—a second chance—and the belief he could make it. **He can and he is!**



YEARBOOK 2007



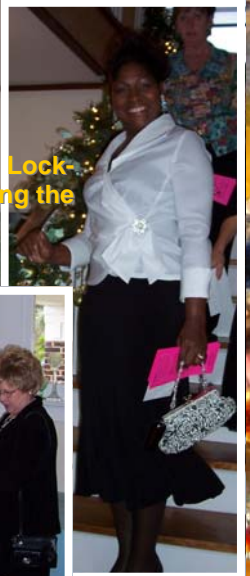
"Promoting positive life change through community and faith-based initiatives"



I'm the Man!



Connie Zink, Erica Allen, Laura Lockwood and Andrea Oliver enjoying the day at Zohra's



Alex's 18th Birthday at the Omega Zone.



Christmas shopping, Eric?

PUTTING ON THE GLITZ

The fare was fantastic but the “wear” was even better!

The Phoenix HOPE Foundation’s first annual fundraiser was a fantastic fashion show and silent auction hosted by Zohra’s featuring Babe’s Shoes and Apparel.

Our esteemed models, Laura Lockwood, Lou Fitzwater, Marsha Faux, Jean Reed, Andrea Oliver, Alyce Badcock, and Debbie Hinson did an outstanding job.

All in attendance had the opportunity to



HOPE models Lou Fitzwater, Tracey Wolfe, Laura Lockwood, Jean Reed, Andrea Oliver, Debbie Hinson, Alyce Badcock, and Marsha Faux

and to invite them to get involved.

Thanks to the help of the Phoenix HOPE Foundation Advisory Council Fund-raising Chair, Shirley Whitney and her assistant’s, Jean Smith and Advisory Council Chair, Teressa Sample, approximately \$5,000 was raised for the foundation.



participate in the Silent Auction which included Tampa Bay Buccaneer cache’s, gift certificates to the Ice Show in Clearwater, 7-day vacations packages, and much, much more.

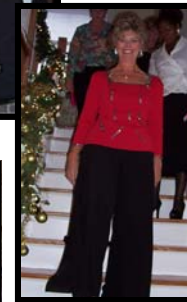
The fashion show was a great way to educate our community about the mission and goals of the Phoenix HOPE Foundation

Thank you to everyone that participated in this fun-filled day.

If you are interested in being a part of this years Fashion Show, please call Advisory Council Chair, Teressa Sample, at 559-5279.



Fundraising Committee: Jean Smith, Shirley Whitney, and Teressa Sample



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The Phoenix HOPE Foundation is a 501c3 not-for-profit public charity serving youth and families in the Tri-County Area.

This year we have been fortunate to work with Mark Cameron of Tampa Internet and Doug Henriott of Lakeland PC Repair. Mark is hosting the site and Doug did an awesome job designing it. If you are

interested in sponsoring this website, or in any other advertising opportunities through The Phoenix HOPE Foundation, please call Erica Allen at 863-370-0935.

If you are interested in getting involved with The Phoenix HOPE Foundation either through volunteering or mentoring, visit our website

and find out how.

We love to hear from you and are always looking for volunteers and mentors.

All contributions to the foundation are tax deductible.

Check us out !



www.thephoenixhopefoundation.org

BAZAAR VS. BAZAAR

There was nothing 'strange' about it. It was a brilliant way to earn a little money and to introduce The Phoenix HOPE Foundation to the Bartow community.

Mrs. Shirley Whitney, with the help of the local community and Phoenix HOPE Foundation Advisory Council, hosted several tables at the Lioness Club fundraiser on November 4, 2006 at the Bartow Civic Center. Youth from the Polk County S.T.A.R. Program earned



Hal and Pat Paul visit with Shirley Whitney and Connie Zink at the Bazaar

community service hours for event. Items sold were new and helping to prepare for the days used and all proceeds were used to continue to fund the work of the Phoenix HOPE Foundation.

By all accounts, the event was a success and many local community members were happy and eager to see such a well rounded program committed to serve their great community.



WHO DOESN'T LIKE A GOOD PANCAKE?



The Phoenix HOPE Foundation was honored by being selected by the Polk County S.T.A.R. Program Restorative Justice Initiative to receive proceeds from their December project.

The Polk County S.T.A.R. Program has a community minded Restorative Justice initiative that requires the committed youth to acknowledge and accept the responsibility for their crimes, and make steps to repair the harm they have caused by making amends with their victims and giving back to their community.

Among many wonderful giving projects this year, the Restorative Justice initiative sponsored a pancake breakfast on **December 15th at First Baptist Church in Bartow** on behalf of The Phoenix HOPE Foundation. Youth currently in the Polk County S.T.A.R. Program were present and a part of making sure every order is preparing pancakes and filling orders correctly.

If you would like to be a part of the Restorative Justice Initiative, please contact Thelma Merritt at 519-2985.

THANK YOU, Polk County S.T.A.R. Program!

A SPECIAL THANKS TO YOU!

We want to thank all of the volunteers, mentors, and community members who have rallied to support the foundation. The Phoenix HOPE Foundation has gone through many growing pains this year and has even had a much need face lift!

A special thanks goes to:

Krista Creekmoore

Krista is solely responsible for the awesome facelift of the foundation. All of the new graphics and our new logo are her creation and we LOVE them.

Thank you, Krista, for the heart you have for the youth and families we serve. Your spirit and creativity is a joy to work with.





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Rising Above the Past—Soaring Towards the Future

