

Mary Ellen's Hearth

"... offering hope, help and healing to homeless women and children through Christian love and values."

February 2016

Advisory Board Luncheon

Mary Ellen's Hearth hopes
you have made plans to attend
our annual luncheon

When: Thursday, Feb. 4

Time: 11:45 a.m.

Location: Fellowship Hall
at First United Methodist
Church, located at 2416 W.
Cloverdale Park.

changing lives, restoring hope

The goal of Mary Ellen's Hearth is for the families we serve to leave us within two years ... their dignity and self-respect restored, and prepared for a life of independence.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Here at Mary Ellen's Hearth at Nellie Burge, we whole heartedly believe in Christian love and values. Our work on behalf of homeless women with children is more important than ever during this time. Nellie Burge was founded over 114 years ago and today Mary Ellen's Hearth at Nellie Burge remains a safe place for women and children of all backgrounds and walks of life to come together and receive various homeless services. Daily, our residents receive services from financial empowerment, job readiness, adult education/continuing education, health and nutrition, behavior education, parenting and life skills/life skills for children. We are so fortunate to have such an engaging and active community. We counted, hundreds of Advisory Board Members, mentors, tutors, volunteers, workshop facilitators, and more have wholeheartedly invested their time, energy and donations into our program this year! We are overwhelmed with gratitude for all those who flock to our doors to help propel the status of women and children in our community! Your motivation and passion is contagious. Together, we are effecting change! I appreciate and am forever grateful for YOU! Thank you for your

continued support of Mary Ellen's Hearth at Nellie Burge!

Warm Regards,

LaTeasa Hicks-Pauley, executive director

lateasa@nellieburge.org



Mary Ellen's Hearth
at Nellie Burge Community Center

... perintendent of Schools, said the tests gave the state a true measure of where

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Homeless shelter opens up its heart

Mary Ellen's Hearth tour will showcase services

KYM KLASS
MONTGOMERY ADVERTISER

Mary Ellen's Hearth, a transitional shelter near downtown Montgomery, is hosting an open house today as a way to educate the community on the services provided to homeless women and children.

From 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. at 1226 Clay Street, staff will also provide a tour and introduce staff members.

"To improve our communities, to make them places where people are healthy, safe, and cared for, takes a lot of work," said LaTeasa Hicks-Pauley, executive director of Mary Ellen's Hearth. "As community members, we know all too well that we can't do it alone. The ability to partner effectively with other individuals and organizations — both inside

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Fair lets you give to friends and community

KYM KLASS
MONTGOMERY ADVERTISER

For \$5, five kittens can eat for a week at the Montgomery Humane Society. It is a gift that can be purchased at the River Region Alternative Gift Fair on Saturday, where 34 nonprofits will allow people to "give" to others as a way to give to their community.

For the third year, the gift fair at Huntingdon College will aim to provide residents of the River Region a convenient way to give Christmas and other holiday gifts that have a redemptive effect on their community. Shoppers at the fair will be able to purchase "gifts" from area nonprofits to honor their family, friends, co-workers, teachers or whoever they choose.

"The fair has been successful because it provides people an easy, fun and even inexpensive way to get a gift for all of the people in their lives that they want to recognize at this time of year," said Will Parker, committee chair for the event. "But beyond that, deeper than that, I think the fair has been successful because it speaks to people's desire to improve their community."

Each "gift" will be a financial contribution supporting a specific need of the organization. For example, a shopper might honor her "food-loving friend" by giving a week's worth of hot meals to an elderly couple in need. Or a construction business might honor its clients by helping a building-related nonprofit buy building supplies.



Cotton the dog tests out a dog pen on Wednesday at Family Promise of Montgomery. Family Promise is a shelter for homeless families, which now takes families with pets.



Annie Nichols meets Meals on Wheels volunteer Kerwin Washington at her door as Washington delivers food, newspapers and other items on his route in Montgomery on March 17.

others who support families and children in need, those who teach literacy, leadership and life skills to young adults and youth, and those who care for others with health or other therapeutic needs.

Gift prices start at \$5 and are tax deductible.

On the gift list includes:

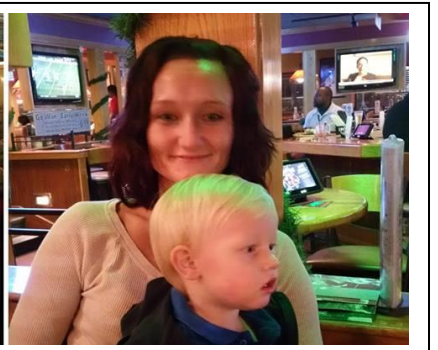
- \$5 will purchase a toy for a homeless child at Mary Ellen's Hearth
- \$10 will purchase a hot, nutritious noon meal for four seniors through the Montgomery Area Council on Aging
- \$25 will purchase 1,250 servings of food for people in need in Alabama through the Society of St. Andrews
- \$50 will purchase an item of winter clothing for a child at Brantwood Children's Home

that give hope, help and healing in our community," said its executive director LaTeasa Pauley Hicks.

A major part of Christmas "is its announcement of God's plan to fix the brokenness we all see in our world," Parker said. "A gift from the alternative gift fair may be something small, but it is a step in that direction — a way to align how we

"The most response I get is an excitement about the novelty of it," Parker added of the fair. "And that includes there being three people appreciated that initial impact of the gift purchased: the giver, the gift recipient and the beneficiary. It's a way to let people know they are thinking of them in sort of a unique way. People have really enjoyed giving

A Christmas outing with residents ...



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In order for us to continuously do God's work, we need old friends and new alike to visit our website, www.maryellenshearth.org, where you are able to provide renewed and sustained **financial commitments**, sign up for **volunteer opportunities** and become a part of our **mailing list** to receive our newsletter.

Contact us, or to contribute:

Mary Ellen's Hearth

1226 Clay Street, Montgomery, AL 36104

Call: 334-264-4108

Website: maryellenshearth.org

Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed. Proverbs 19:17