

TGM witness

June 2006

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Semi-Annual Newsletter issued by the Tennessee Government Management Institute Alumni

TGMI Class of 2006 Announced

The Department of Personnel has announced the 2006 Class of TGMI. There are 31 members and they hail from 27 different departments. If you see the name of someone from your department on the list, be sure to let them know what a great experience TGMI was for you and the wonderful networking and camaraderie they will enjoy with their 30 new "best friends. Let them know that TGMI is more than a training course....much, much more!

Bruce Anderson
Tennessee Wildlife
Resources Agency

Reaker Bass
Department of Safety

John Bissell
Department of
General Services

Cynthia Bowling
Department of Military

Valerie Bracey
Bureau of TennCare

Mary Carpenter
Department of Personnel

Susan Cook
Department of Safety

John Crawford
Department of Labor and
Workforce Development

Sheila Crawford
Department of Personnel

Deborah Dey
Department of Finance
and Administration

Carla Farris
Comptroller of the Treasury

Sherree Hall
Department of Transportation

John Hennessey, Jr.
Department of
Human Services

Lauren Hill
Department of Environment
& Conservation

Petrina Jones-Jesz
Department of
Children's Services

Samantha Law
Department of Education

Nicole Lucas
Tennessee Housing
Development Agency

Frank Mabery
Board of Probation and Parole

Fred Marshall
Treasury

Thomas Moss
Department of Environment
and Conservation

Valerie Oliver
Department of Correction

Todd Rice
Department of
Financial Institutions

Philip Smith
Tennessee Bureau of
Investigation

Derrick Smith
Department of Tourist
Development

Bren Thompson
Mental Retardation Services

Billy Trout
Department of Revenue

Gregory Turner
Department of Finance
and Administration

Lisa Walker
Secretary of State

E. Ross White
Department of Commerce
and Insurance

Patricia Wilson
Department of Mental
Health and Developmental
Disabilities



2006 Steering Committee

Chairperson

Mike Travis
Class of 2002

Vice-Chairperson

Melvin Jones, Jr.
Class of 2002

Past Chairperson

Chuck Holland
Class of 2000

Class of 2005

Rusty Lacy
Lisa Pugh

Class of 2004

Saya Qualls
Susan Gullette

At-Large

Ashley Glover 2002
John Zirkle 2003

Ex-Officio

Cindy Saladin
Class of 2000

Newsletter Editor

Melvin Jones, Jr.

Graphic Designer

Sharon Buwalda

This past December the TGMI family gathered once again to celebrate the holidays and to share a special time together. In the midst of all the merriment, we conducted chapter business; voting on by-laws changes and performing general housekeeping duties. We also named our new TGMI Steering Committee and Committee Officers.

TGMI Holiday Breakfast 2005

In addition, we collected donations for our selected charity, Reconciliation Ministries. As always, you did a wonderful job in helping these young people who are dealing with the difficulty of living with out a loved one who is incarnated.

The funds were used to buy gifts and holiday cheer for the families served by Reconciliation Ministries. Ms. Alice Arceneaux, Executive Director, stated in her beautiful "Thank You" letter, that because of your generosity, "Over 400 kids were blessed with Christmas joy."

I offer the thanks of all TGMI and the TGMI Steering Committee to each one that gave and gave from the heart.

SCENES FROM THE HOLIDAY BREAKFAST

Pictures were provided by Floyd Hall.



Dave Walters, David Remke, Cindy Saladin,
Randy Jennings, Floyd Hall, Les Allen



2006 Steering Committee Chair
Mike Travis makes presentation to
outgoing TGMI Steering Committee
Chair Chuck Holland.



Greta Beard, Patsy Grooms



Carolyn Wilson, Don Johnson, Carolyn Stonecipher,
Melvin Jones, Jr.



The Gang !



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PRESIDENT
Summer Camp

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Alice Arceneaux

SERVICES
*Reconciliation Guest House
Separate Prison Support Group & Newsletter
Programs for Youth
Family Advisory Board
Summer Youth Outdoor Programs
Kids Corners in Prison Visiting Areas
Advocacy for Families
Handbook for Families & Friends of Prisoners
Community and Congregation Education*

PAST BOARD PRESIDENTS
*Kathryn L. Hearne
Nancy Carol Miller-Herron
Jeffrey Fisher
Nancy Ray
Karl Dean
James Weaver
Marsh Nichols
Patrick McNally
Samuel Coleman
Ray Sells
Randall Venson
Ilyas Muhammad
Angela Hicks*

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December 29, 2005

Greetings:

Words cannot express the heartfelt gratitude for the hard work and generosity you and the team of volunteers at TGMI displayed this holiday season. Because of your efforts Christmas was a joyous day of celebration for many children and families with a loved one incarcerated. As you know, the Gulf Coast devastation compelled nearly all Americans to give liberally to our neighbors in Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. We also realize and are very thankful for the financial stretch that you have demonstrated by your continued commitment that enabled Reconciliation to serve even more families this year. Over 400 children (a 25% increase over last year) were blessed with Christmas joy this year because of TGMI and its generous employees.

Play is so important to healthy child development. That's why gifts of toys, as well as warm clothing are vital to our work. What you have done helped to lift the burden many of our children carry as a result of losing a parent (s) to incarceration. During the holiday season these children may experience a greater sense of loss or abandonment for the parent that used to play and take care of them but is now locked away in prison. The primary caregiver left to tend to their needs is usually over whelmed by the circumstances, but as they received your gifts they wept, were amazed and thanked God for the goodness of people like you.

Thanks again for all of your wonderful gifts of time, talent and treasures that went into making this year's Christmas Program especially rewarding to children of prisoners. Happy New Years!

In Great Regards,

Alice Arceneaux
Executive Director



TGMI Helps In Making Over Reconciliation Ministries Home

On Saturday, March 18, about 40 volunteers from the Nashville area participated in the Extreme Make-over kick-off for Reconciliation Ministries. The group stripped wallpaper, cleaned curtains and linens, organized, scrubbed, sanded, pulled weeds, trimmed and pulled up shrubbery, raked leaves, picked up garbage, and even power-washed the outside. It was an overwhelming success, and everyone worked together to prep the house for painting and the next team of volunteers: The Re-Designing Women and Heavenly Helpers.

The completed project will result in a beautiful, refreshed guest house that will be a temporary haven for family members who are visiting an incarcerated loved one. This is a stressful situation that takes its toll on everyone involved, especially the children. The volunteers from TGMI and TGEI did a tremendous job in showing these people that we care. Special thanks go to Brenda Apple, Linda Biek, Rick Brown, Greg Duncan, Yvonne Holbert, Chuck Holland, Rusty Lacy, Saya Qualls, Marty Toth, and Jon Zirkle. If you missed this one, rest assured that there will be others. We hope you can join us!

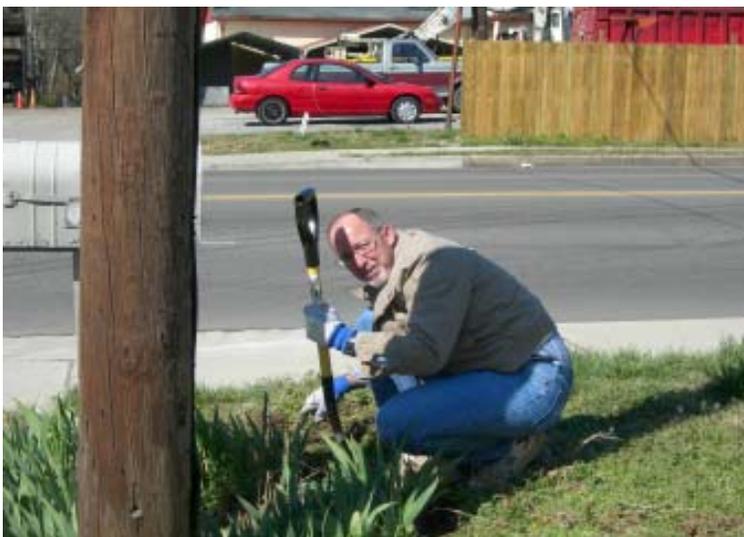
Attached are some pictures of your friends and alumni at work. Thanks to all that came out and thank you to Cora Alston, Lynn Claxton, and Lisa Pugh who pledged a "house warming gift" from the register at Home Depot or Target.



Chuck Holland and Marty Toth



Rick Brown



Rusty Lacy



Greg Duncan



John Zirkle has been with state government for 10 years and has a BS and Master's degrees in Civil Engineering from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. He is currently a Civil Engineering Manager 1 with the Department of Transportation Structures Division. He manages the Hydraulics Section, which includes the hydraulic design of bridges and culverts, scour analysis, approval of roadway plans, and a number of other related areas.

John was born in Portsmouth, Virginia and grew up in Salem, Virginia. He is single and is a very active member of the TGMI Community Service Committee. He acts as the liaison between the Community Service and the Steering Committees. He is also active in the local "swing dance scene," participating in both Nashville and Murfreesboro.

John was at one time an avid weight lifter and jogger, and has participated in volleyball and basketball leagues in town. He loves hiking, canoeing, and white water rafting. In 2004,

he obtained his black belt in karate.

He says that the Class of 2003 is, "Da Best," and said that his most memorable TGMI moment was his flight on the Blackhawk helicopter. John's wish for the new TGMI class is, "The bonding experience with their classmates is strong enough to encourage participation in events outside the normal workday and to seek contact with other TGMI alum."



Ashley Glover is an Executive Administrative Assistant for the Tennessee Highway Patrol in the Department of Safety. She is responsible for the DUI Seizure Program and has been in state government for twenty years. Ashley was born in Nashville and attended the University of Tennessee Knoxville. She is single, with no children. A younger brother and sister-in-law (Sam and Kendall) will make her an aunt in July. She has a five year old cousin Emily who is like her own child.

In her spare time, Ashley assists the local Fraternal Order of Police in fund raising projects, and assists with the correspondence secretary duties of the Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary.

Ashley enjoys bingo, trivia games, Scrabble, concerts and cocktail hours. She loves watching the Titans and NASCAR races. She says, "I am addicted to cheesy reality TV shows and I love to stay in hotels!" Her dream is to have unlimited resources and the time to do nothing but travel.

Her most memorable TGMI experience was visiting Brushy Mountain Prison and being allowed in areas that rarely anyone other than inmates or employees have access to. For new TGMI members, she wishes, "They develop the same amazing relationships with their classmates and other alumni as she has."

2006 Habitat for Humanity Community Service Project Summary

The second annual Habitat for Humanity community service project was held April 29, 2006 and was a great success. Jon Zirckle worked with Amy Maloney to schedule a date and type of project for the group. This year we participated in day five of the eight days of construction on a house for Melissa Burton, whom we met on site. Habitat has contractors on site supervising the build and providing tools and they work rain or shine.

They paired us with BBA Fiberweb who is celebrating their 3rd sponsored house. The combined group cut and installed trim work, installed doors, primed and painted the new drywall and indoor and outdoor trim, and installed and painted porch railings. The 12 volunteers that participated on build day included personnel from five departments of state government and consisted of five TGMI alumni. Three volunteers were from TDOT and friends and family participated as well, including three folks from CMT.

The project was a success. We exceeded the inspector's expectations by having at least one coat of paint on the entire house by the end of the day and he said we could come back and work for him anytime. Great teamwork! Again it rang true that it rarely rains at the project site despite the forecasts. Also Greta Beard of the TGMI Class of 2004 won a drawing for a \$250 gift certificate. Way to go Greta!

During lunch the Community Service subcommittee held a meeting and discussed some ideas for projects later in the year. We will announce those projects as they come together. We hope everyone can participate in at least one during the year.

Habitat has volunteer opportunities throughout the year at the Habitat Store on 8th Ave. and the new store on Division Street where small groups of three or four can come in on a Saturday and provide customer service, stocking, or other tasks needed on that particular day. If you would like to set up a time for a small group to volunteer on a build or at the Habitat stores, contact Ms. Amy Maloney at 254-4663 ext. 224.

Thanks to all those who participated in our Habitat for Humanity project. Amy and the contractors on site were great to work with and provide a great service for the community. We hope everyone that participated had a rewarding experience and we look forward to doing it again next year.



Jon Zirckle, Brenda Apple, Greta Beard, A friend on the project, Marty Toth, and John Struyk standing behind.

John, Greta, Brenda, and Jon



Notes from the Class

So much has gone on since our last issue. There have been a number of retirements, job changes, births, and other events, some wonderfully happy and others tragic. We want to say congratulations to all who have experienced these wonderful renewals of life and offer our heartfelt best wishes to all those affected by the storms and tornadoes and we want you all to know that you are in our thoughts and prayers.

Class of 2000

- Chuck Holland is the proud grandfather of Macy Alexis Overall, born on November 23, 2005. She weighed 7 pounds 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ oz., and was 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches long. Also, Chuck is now engaged to be married.
 - Ray Lyons is the new Executive Director of the Northeast Tennessee Community Services Agency. Ray retired from state government in 2004 and went to work for Northeast in August 2004. His agency provides an array of services to the community through grants and contracts obtained from the Departments of Children's Services, Correction, TennCare, Transportation, and Mental Retardation. His agency is responsible for the administration of the evacuee sheltering program for his area.
 - Nancy Blevins recently celebrated 30 years of service with the state.
-

Class of 2002

- The Class of 2002 has seen the retirement of three of our members; Debbie Keith, Harriet Wise Jenkins, and Marlene Jacobs. All will be missed, but we know they will enjoy this next phase of their lives.
 - On March 1, 2006, Jim Worthington was appointed warden of Brushy Mountain State Prison.
 - Debbie Reeves has been promoted to the position of Director of Business Development at the Tennessee Housing Development Agency.
-

Class of 2003

One's On The Way

- Congratulations to Martin Toth and his wife, Kristen, who are expecting a baby girl in early September.

The Best Year Of Her Life!

- That is how Christine Ferguson, now Christine Reichard, describes the past twelve months. On February 18, 2006, she married her childhood sweetheart, Jon Reichard. Christine and John's sister were best friends growing up, and she said that, "John gave me my first diamond (chip) ring and still had the letters that I wrote to him more than thirty years ago."

On March 30, Christine's daughter, Elizabeth, and her husband, Winn, had their first child and her first grandchild, Dorothy Alice Keathley. The proud parents live in Atlanta. Winn is a former employee of our own Tennessee Department of Transportation. Says Christine, "I cannot remember ever being this happy, fulfilled and content with my life."

Class of 2003 (Continued)

Jon Zirkle, Volunteer Opportunities

– Jon Zirkle continues to lead volunteers to get involved with worthwhile projects such as Habitat for Humanity and Reconciliation Ministries. If you'd like to find out more about these projects and others, please read his articles here in the Newsletter or contact him directly at jon.zirkle@state.tn.us to be put on the list for future opportunities to help.

Promotion

– Don King has been promoted to Chief of the Information and Education Division of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. He commends his mentor, Dave Woodward, whom he replaced, and looks forward to “spreading the word” for his agency.

Class of 2004

– Tracy White was promoted to Information System Director for the Department of Human Service's. Tracy is also serving as Chairperson of the Hospitality Committee this year.

– Patsy Grooms was promoted head of TRICOR's Customer Support Division beginning in January and Greta Beard was promoted to TRICOR's Director of Contracts.

Class of 2005

– Ralph Barnes, TDOT, was selected to attend the TDOT Executive Leadership Academy. Ralph will be attending one week at the UT Transportation Center and the second week will be conducted at Henry Horton State Park. This TDOT Executive Leadership Academy also holds forums one day each month. Way to go Ralph!!!!!!

– Terrinita Manlove has been promoted to Assistant Director of the Department of Revenue's Processing Division. Good Job Terrinita!

– Best wishes and farewell to Laura Burton as she leaves State Government for a new and exciting position in the private sector. We wish her the best in her new position. Laura, we will greatly miss you being around.

Final Thought:

The outpouring of love and affection for little Cristiana Amore Collins, better known by her nickname, (CiCi) has been nothing short of wonderful. CiCi, as you know, is Teresa Bullington's granddaughter and she has been through some very trying times recently. Teresa has sent out “Thank you's,” but we want to reiterate those thanks to each of you that has shared your heart with Teresa and her family. Continue to keep them in your thoughts and prayers.