2020

Thistle & Bee
Annual Report

A thank you to all of our supporters
Thank you

Board Members

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MADGE DEACON, SECRETARY
ROBERT O’CONNOR, PAST PRESIDENT
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LACEY MAUK, DIRECTOR
MARIA RINDOSOVA, DIRECTOR
Organization
Accomplishments
Home for the Holidays

WE BOUGHT A HOUSE!
Despite a pandemic, we purchased a house on November 23, 2020. The house is currently under renovation. We will move into our new home (aka “The Hive”) just in time for Christmas.
Growing our Survivor Hive

EXPANDING OCCUPANCY

We maxed out at six women in May—during COVID, the new house will allow us to double our capacity in 2021.
ORGANIZATIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

First Virtual Fundraiser

EXPANDING OUR REACH
Our Virtual Honey Tasting event was fun and informative and allowed us to stay connected with our customers. We sold over 80 tickets.
Growing our Capacity

INCREASING EFFICIENCY
Without the benefit of volunteers to assist with transportation in 2020, the need for a passenger van was urgent. With matching funds provided by a generous donor and the support of donors like you, we were able to raise the money to purchase a 12 passenger van.
Increasing Efficiency

INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS
With support from The Assisi Foundation and in partnership with our friends at St. Columba, we were able to enclose an existing pavilion with water and electricity to serve as our workshop.

This pavilion will double as an education center in 2021 as we endeavor to offer “beekeeper for a day” team-building and sponsorship opportunities.
Increasing Efficiency

INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

With hive sites scattered across Memphis and Shelby County, Thistle and Bee purchased a pickup truck to eliminate the need for multiple trips when preforming “hive checks.” With extra room for passengers, we have been able to grow the “Bee Team” providing the opportunity for more women to participate in hive checks!
Strategic Rebranding

BUILDING OUR BRAND
During 2020, we set out to accomplish a major project - To improve the packaging for the products created by women survivors working in Thistle & Bee’s social justice enterprise. The goal is to better share the message of love and recovery, of healing and hope, that each woman experiences as they progress through the program and to provide a variety of sales options to our supporters.
Survivor Accomplishments
• Celebrated one year of sobriety!
• Got medical insurance
• “Glass half full; I learned how to be around people and not judge them. I established a connection with my Higher Power and found myself”
• “I have a job that I love to go to!”
• Research & Development: Created “free holiday recipes” using T&B honey and granola for holiday markets!
• My son got married & I met my new grand-baby! - Building connections with family
• Found me; whole crew of people that I love to be around every single day - (supportive environment). “Thistle and Bee taught me how to be a woman, how to be a mother, how to have integrity, how to have dignity.”
• Working the 12 steps with a sponsor
• Opened a Checking and Savings account
• Voted!
SURVIVOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

• Got medical insurance! Taking care of self - mind, body, and soul - “When you love yourself you can love others.”

• “I got dentures!” Using COVID Relief Funds and with access to dental care, Teresa accomplished a major personal goal of getting dentures. Her smile can light up a room!

• “I started working in January and I honestly feel like a valuable team member.” Teresa loves to be creative and make soap!

• Family - twin grandsons! “I got to visit my daughter (with my newborn twin grandsons) for first time in three years.”

• Got a phone!

• Daily contact with sponsor - worked the 12 steps and then started to work them again while building a lifelong trust relationship.

• Opened Checking & Savings Account. Working on building up credit.

• Taking responsibility for myself, learning to be independent
SURVIVOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Addison

- Celebrated one year of Sobriety
- Opened a Checking Account and my first ever Savings Account
- Paid off debt
- Building relationship with estranged family members
  - "I reconnected with both of my kids."
- "I got a hearing aid! Everything sounds amazing! I can hear crickets chirping and birds singing!"
- Working the 12 steps with a sponsor
- "I enrolled in college at Southwest Tennessee Community College as a full-time student seeking a degree in Social Work so I can work with survivors!"
- Voted!
• Learned more about me
• Got a copy of my GED
• Dental work complete
• Mental and physical healthcare - got health insurance
• Learning to deal with my emotions
• Another year of sobriety - and working the steps with a sponsor
• Opened a checking and savings accounts for the first time in life
• Began the work of restoring credit and paying off debt
• Reconnected with 3 out of 4 of her children as well as extended family
• First iPhone
• Learning Computer Skills for the first time since floppy disks
• Have held a job for 6 months consecutively - “usually I’d have done got fired for failing a drug test”
• Took initiative to take care of the bees
• I have bills for the first time ever (and I pay them)... I can actually walk in a store and swipe a credit card that’s mine and not somebody else’s.
Brittany

- “I got my drivers license back and have been practicing driving.”
- Paid off debt - only one bill left
- Working the steps with a sponsor
- Celebrated one year of sobriety
- Contacted estranged family
- Completed Hope Works Development Course
- Received Microsoft Office Certification
- ServSafe Certification
- Received a merit-based raise and promotion
- Joined the production team, the bee team, and the sales team
- Completed intensive outpatient program
- Graduating in May of 2021!
- Voted!
Survivor Accomplishments

• Got medical insurance and am taking care of “deferred maintenance/self neglect” issues. Got my own primary care doctor. Met with a doctor for the first time in as long as I can remember who actually listened to me and diagnosed me with an underlying condition.

• Have very important people in my life, like Bishop Phoebe

• I am able to love myself and show love to other people

• First ever checking and savings accounts - it feels so go to go and swipe my card! (After I learned how to use a debit card - which was a new thing for me.) Working towards financial stability

• Celebrated one year of sobriety, working the steps with a sponsor

• “I lost my sister and niece to addiction this year, but I did not relapse.”

• Cutting out unhealthy relationships

• Amazed at how love can bring joy

• I have a job!!!

• Voted for the first time ever!

Delrio
A look at the Numbers
## 2020 Grants

Celebrating an increase in grants of 783% over 2019

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<th>Shelby County Commission</th>
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<td>Holy Apostles</td>
<td>Charity Aid Foundation (Nike)</td>
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<td>Community Foundation of Greater Memphis (CFGM)</td>
<td>CFGM Give 365 Stable, Safe, Thriving</td>
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<td><strong>Capacity Building Grant for 2020</strong></td>
<td><strong>Micro-Grant: 5 Year+ Members Choice</strong></td>
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<td>United Way Drive the Dream</td>
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<td>Second Baptist Church</td>
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<td>Grace St. Luke’s Episcopal Church</td>
<td>PPP Loan - Pending Conversion to Grant</td>
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A LOOK AT THE NUMBERS

Platinum Level Donors (over $10,000)

ANONYMOUS HOUSEHOLD
FRANK AND JEANNE JEMISON
FRIENDS OF THISTLE AND BEE
THE KATHRYN FOUNDATION
PYLE FAMILY CHARITABLE TRUST
LESLIE STRATTON

Gold Level Donors (over $5,000)

EYLEEN FARMER AND TOM MOMBERG
MARTIN JELLINEK
HENRY AND SNOW MORGAN
CHARLES AND JANE SLATERY
JANICE WAY

Scholarships/Development Partners

SANDLER TRAINING
JESSICA AND ORIANA, FOUNDATIONS CLASS
ALI & ELI, MASTERY AND LEADERSHIP CLASSES
HRO PARTNERS
HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
EPICENTER PARTNERSHIP
GOOD FOOD SERIES
ENTREPRENEURIAL SUPPORT
COSTARTERS CLASS
FUNDRAISING SUPPORT
GIVECAMP GRANT
WEBSITE DESIGN
INFORMATION ARCHITECTURE
A LOOK AT THE NUMBERS

23
Average number of years our residents have been in ADDICTION

1,600
medical, counseling, and trauma THERAPY appointments for our residents

100%
of our residents have experienced HOMELESSNESS

3,000+
nights of safe and supportive HOUSING were provided to women survivors
A LOOK AT THE NUMBERS

6
women
SURVIVORS
employed

3,900
hours of
EMPLOYMENT

10,000+
PRODUCTS
manufactured
A LOOK AT THE NUMBERS

2,314
ONLINE ORDERS placed

550%
INCREASE in online revenue

8
new PRODUCTS added
The Thistle and Bee Organization includes three major branches: Administration, Clinical & Residential Program, and Employment in our Social Justice Enterprise (Workforce Preparedness/Job Skills Training).

The women in the Thistle and Bee program are represented by the various fruits growing on the tree. Each woman is unique and comes to us with varying challenges, strengths, lived experience, and capabilities. They are The Seeds of Change who will help the next woman off the street.

Thistle and Bee Board Members are the roots that provide stability and nourishment to the organization.

Our Volunteers and Donors are the sun and the rain, without whom, we could not survive.

Special Thanks to the Rev. Eyleen Farmer, our founder, who has spent the last 7 years of her life building something from nothing with the help of our amazing community.
Thank you!