

# pivotnow<sup>®</sup>

THE PIVOT MINISTRY NEWSLETTER

## Round Two Is Underway and Approaching Conclusion

Pivot's second semester began mid-October of last year, after participants went through referrals, interviews, and attendance at the orientation party. The "Pivot First Step" orientation was on Sunday, October 14, at The Enterprise Center in Winston-Salem, with classes starting October 18. Six of ten possible participants made the decision to attend classes regularly and were matched with mentors. Over the holiday break, two of those six chose to stop attending classes. Even though not all participants are committed to completing requirements for graduation, we pray that the classes they completed and relationships they developed will benefit them on their journey.



Dr. Lelia Vickers

### Orientation

The First Step orientation event followed much the same format as the initial one last March. Besides the potential participants who attended, there were mentors and instructors there to meet and inform the ladies more about the Pivot experience. Jill Lackey, consultant and Human Resources professional, led the group in a Human Bingo game that got everyone talking and asking questions of each other. Angela Brown, Community Health Coordinator at Wake Forest Baptist Health and a local minister, hosted the Share-and-Shift exercise, directing participants to move from table-to-table to hear briefly from the instructors and mentors about various Pivot classes.

Special guest Dr. Lelia L. Vickers, Educational Consultant and retired

educator, shared a word of encouragement and inspiration. Entitled *Rest in Me My Child*, her uplifting words reminded attendees of God's involvement, care and plan for our daily lives, while motivating all to use the Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi in our efforts for a better life. Carol Polk, Pivot Executive Director, also spoke to encourage potential participants. Three Pivot graduates, Lisa Carr, Ann Russell, and Kathryn Walden, spoke about Pivot's positive impact on their lives. Thank you to these ladies for their willingness to share about their experiences!

Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers, led by Patty Stockner, who provided and served delicious refreshments, greeted and welcomed our guests, and provided gift bags for the participants. Besides Patty, thanks go out to Luelle Crumpler, Elizabeth Gordon, Ann Pearce, Sylvia Picket, Mary Simmons, Martha Taylor, and Norma Wells. Thank you to Kathy Stewart and

Andrea Tate for photography, and to Jim Mabe for graphic design support.

### Classes

The committed Pivot participants have been through more than 10 weeks of classes and have the end in sight. They chose *A Woman Who Doesn't Quit*, based on the book of Ruth, for their Bible study class with Leslie Cox. Focusing on Life Skills, they completed *LifeKeys* with Debbie Loftis, and *Financial Pathways* with Lisa Terry. They concluded *Totally Responsible Person* with Sheryll Strode, and Teresa Cutts led *Body, Mind & Spirit* along with an exploration of how traumatic experiences can build resiliency. In addition, Mary Sajfar led a discussion about perseverance, Lori Timm taught time management skills, and Beth Kennett helped them understand communication styles and conflict management.



Pivot graduate Ann Russell speaks to future participants.

Needless to say, they have been very busy and have several weeks of classes to go. Those weeks include more Life Skills and Job Skills with incredible volunteer leaders, as well as exposure to community educational resources. Job Skills will include resume writing, interviewing, and computer basics.

Look for information soon on another Pivot graduation! In the meantime, all the participants, instructors, mentors, and Executive Director Carol Polk covet the prayers and continued support of you, our Pivot friends and family.



Leslie Cox, far right, explains Bible study choices during the Share-and-Shift.

## Savings Match Update

In a previous newsletter, we outlined a Savings Match Plan that promised to double any savings up to \$250 that the participants in Pivot's first graduating class could accrue by the end of 2018. From the July/August 2018 article:

Following the lesson on savings, our active participants engaged in a discussion to define a workable framework that would encourage and reward changes in spending behaviors to generate savings. **The goal: accumulate a rainy-day fund of at least \$500**, which many experts say is essential for low-income folks to weather a financial crisis.

### Outcome

What was the result of this plan? Pivot is happy to announce that three of the six graduates were rewarded with matching funds. Two opened accounts, saved at least \$250, earned the maximum match, and as a result, have their rainy-day fund in the bank. One saved \$110, was rewarded with a \$110 match, and is well on her way toward her \$500 goal. We trust that these matching funds will encourage each of these ladies to



continue their changed habits and behaviors.

### Donations

Thank you to all who have generously donated to Pivot. Your contributions help make these matching funds possible. Donations to Pivot can be made to Ardmore Baptist Church with Pivot designation online or by check. Checks can be mailed to Susan Griffin in the church office at 501 Miller Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27103. Visit Pivot's website [www.pivotnow.org](http://www.pivotnow.org) for online donation instructions.

## What's Mentoring All About?

Beginning in late August, as Pivot prepared for another semester of classes, fourteen women started training to explore the mentor role. Two of these had previously been Pivot mentors and wanted to work with new participants.

Like these ladies, you may ask: What does it take to be a mentor? Why does Pivot exist? Who is Pivot trying to reach and why? How does Pivot hope to help? What sorts of classes are offered? What are the do's and don'ts of being a mentor?

Through a series of training sessions, potential mentors are introduced to the covenants and the commitments they are entering into with a potential participant and with Pivot Ministry. Each mentor must be willing and able to meet with her mentee once a week and attend monthly mentor meetings with Executive Director Carol Polk for a six

month period. A potential mentor will need to pass a background check, and her pastor will need to provide a letter of recommendation. She will fill out monthly mentor reports listing the hours spent with her mentee, issues that need to be addressed, and accomplishments achieved. All aspects of the mentorship are to be covered in prayer.

Mentor training includes an overview called *Effective Mentoring*, led by Meagan Bosworth from Wake Forest University. In subsequent sessions, several instructors of Pivot classes provide abbreviated training for the mentors, as well. Debbie Loftis trains on *LifeKeys*, Sheryll Strode introduces *Totally Responsible Person*, and Chris Gambill explores *Conflict Management Styles* with mentors. Mentors are also encouraged to attend outside training opportunities, such as *Bridges Out of*



*Potential mentors discuss ideas during training.*

*Poverty*, to further educate themselves on what their mentees could be facing.

Meeting together monthly and discussing their experiences in confidentiality helps the mentors to share ideas and resources. Carol provides encouraging devotionals and helpful articles to further each mentor's training throughout the semester. All of the mentor materials can be kept in a Pivot binder that the Ministry provides, making it easy to refer back to and to carry along when meeting with the participant.

Pivot is constantly seeking more volunteers and mentors. If you think you may be interested in mentoring a Pivot participant in the future, contact Carol Polk at [carol@pivotnow.org](mailto:carol@pivotnow.org), or 336-725-8767, ext. 131.