

pivotnow

THE PIVOT MINISTRY NEWSLETTER

Fifth Graduating Class Celebrates

Pivot's fifth graduation on June 28, 2022 was a fantastic celebration of four fabulous women and Pivot's first class with 100% graduation rate! Congratulations are due to Wendy Corley, Christine Evans, Annie Ham, and Carman Williams. The encouraging ceremony and reception were held at The Enterprise Conference & Event Center in Winston-Salem with about 65 people in attendance. Besides graduates, a large contingent of their family, friends and support systems, Pivot volunteers, staff, and community partners were also present.

With formal processional music playing, the crowd stood to honor the graduates and their mentors, who were led into the room by Michelle Minnich, Pivot's Program Coordinator, and Deb Pozebanchuk, our Mentor Coordinator. Carol Polk, Executive Director, brought up the rear. The graduates proudly wore caps and gowns for their official graduation ceremony.

Pivot's board Chair, Jill Lackey, opened the evening's event with a welcome and meaningful word of prayer. Next up to speak was Debbie Loftis, a pivotal instructor, who outlined "The Journey" of self-exploration the graduates had taken through her six-session *LifeKeys* course. She included a personal statement to each graduate, recognizing the strengths and growth she had observed in them.

Vocalist Mercy Davis sang a passionate rendition of *The Impossible Dream*, inspiring attendees to live with persistence and integrity to stretch, grow, and reach what can seem to be unreachable.

A survivor of many life obstacles, Marvina Hamilton delivered the keynote message of the evening, *Manifesting Your Destiny*. She encouraged the graduates to shift their perspective when they face challenges. Being intentional, knowing their value as well as God's desire for

Left to right: Michelle Minnich, Carman Williams, Christine Evans, Annie Ham, Wendy Corley, and Carol Polk.



Left: Hamilton

them and being grateful were some of the wise words of advice she shared.

For the presentation of certificates, Michelle called each graduate's name; each came forward to receive her certificate from Carol; and her mentor spoke supportive words and a prayer based on scripture chosen specifically for her graduate. The graduate then stepped to the microphone to share her testimony about how God, through Pivot, impacted her life. Needless to say, there were rousing rounds of applause for each woman.

Giving glory to God and reminding us of how Christ values each one of us, Mercy Davis shared her God-given voice with the song, *Worth* by Anthony Brown and Group therAPy. The inspiring words are



Loftis



Davis



Board Chair Jill Lackey directs the new graduates to move their tassels.

available online and will touch your soul, as Mercy's solo did that evening.

Jill closed the ceremony by having each graduate move her tassel, providing some logistics for the reception, and offering a closing prayer. During the reception, volunteers served light snacks, attendees offered personal congratulations to the graduates, each graduate received a few gifts, and many a picture was taken by volunteer photographer Andrea Tate at the photo booth.

Keep each of these graduates in your prayers as they continue on their new-found journeys. Pray for Pivot, as well. There are more women who are ready for a change and will fill Pivot's next semester of classes, scheduled to begin in mid-August. As someone comes to mind – as a volunteer, mentor, or participant – send her our way.



I appreciated everything that Pivot taught me & more.
– Annie



Thank you for everything.
– Carman



Words of Gratitude and Affirmation from Our Graduates



I greatly appreciate every one of you for helping us become better women and guiding us with Love. Exodus 14:14
– Christine



Thank you for being so giving of yourself and your time. I am grateful.
– Wendy

Pivot Ministry Fundraising Chair and New Board Member

Sallye Liner is a career health care executive in the Novant Health Care System based in Winston Salem. Now retired, her career spanned four decades, beginning in clinical care and ending in executive leadership. Serving at Forsyth Medical Center, Sallye became the Chief Nursing Officer in 1987, and ten years later, stepped into the role of Chief Operating Officer there. She was named President and CEO for Forsyth Medical Center and



Liner

the Winston Salem market in 2008. From 2011-2015, she held the role of Chief Clinical Officer for the Novant Health System.

Sallye is a true believer and advocate for community engagement and involvement. She has served on community boards: The Arts Council, Piedmont Triad Partnership, Winston-Salem Rotary President, Winston-Salem Alliance, American Red Cross Local Chapter, Forsyth Futures, the United Way, the NC Hospital

Association Board and a member of the board of directors at Providence Saint Joseph Health, located in Seattle, Washington. As chair of Pivot's Fundraising Committee, Sallye was elected to our board at the Annual Meeting in May 2022.

Sallye loves every moment she can spend with their nine grandchildren and in travel. Community service, she believes, is the "Price we pay for the good fortune to live in this country – making it better right here at home".

Lunch-N-Learn: Working with Families Experiencing Poverty

Walk a mile in my shoes.

Have empathy.

Love your neighbor as yourself.

Don't these statements imply that we understand below the surface and relate to the things our participants deal with on a daily basis? Can it permeate who we are as individuals and a ministry? Can we see things from another's perspective? How will we demonstrate that? Will God's love shine through us in even better ways?

These are among the topics discussed as Pivot's governance committee and board of directors explored the significant, strategic impact of building an organiza-

tion that leans into Diversity, Equity and Inclusion from top to bottom. DEI has to be more than training. It must be life changing, a new perspective, and a new way of thinking, relating, and living. It ensures we all offer respect, honor, dignity, acceptance, and intentional understanding.

That's where a couple of heroes come into play. Annette Weston and Crystal Imes are professional trainers with NetWorx, part of Rural Faith Development. With the proven reputation of excellence in *Bridges Out of Poverty* trainings, these two had already developed and delivered specific content for Pivot Mentors. It was an easy decision to recruit them to

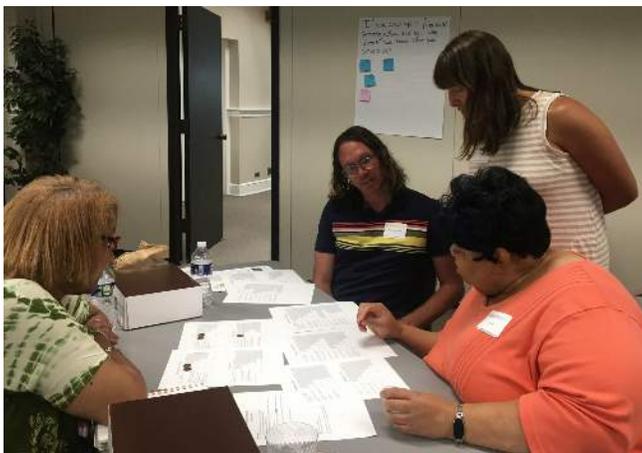


Crystal Imes and Annette Weston

lead training for our board, as well.

On June 24, almost 30 people gathered in Ardmore Baptist's Fellowship Hall for a life-changing experience. There were Pivot board members, instructors, volunteer leaders, and committee members who absorbed the concepts. Nine other local organizations

were also represented: ATAR, Dress for Success, Financial Pathways, Flourish, Forsyth Technical Community College, My FACE, Inc., Pilot Mountain Baptist Association, The CAREs Project, and Young Life. Comments, discussions, insights and light-bulb moments happened as we more fully understood and grasped the differences among socioeconomic classes. Those with lived experience shared their stories, and all of us left with actionable knowledge. DEI and Pivot? Relating to our ladies even better? *Yes!* We are all growing into all that we were created to be.



Some participants in the Lunch-N-Learn were: (left to right) Dothula Baron of My FACE, Inc.; Kristopher Norris of Flourish; Pivot staff member and graduate Kim McDermott; and (standing) Jess Barnhill of Young Life.

Welcome New Pivot Volunteers

Volunteer Coordinator Heidi Strickland

Originally from Wisconsin, Heidi moved to North Carolina in 2000 to marry her husband, Bradley, and together they have two beautiful daughters. Prior to COVID, Heidi worked at a law firm for eight years, which gave her the organizational and scheduling skills needed to serve with Pivot Ministry in this role.



Strickland

Heidi has been on three mission trips to Kenya with her home church, River Oaks Community Church in Clemmons. She has a passion for helping people and connecting with individuals on a deep level. She is also a passionate AFAS artist who often displays her art and photography at Red Dog Gallery in Winston-Salem.

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To sign up to help, explore volunteer roles, or connect with Heidi personally, reach out to her at either: 336.817.6334 or heidi@pivotnow.org.

Event Planning Team Leader Vicki Keslar

Vicki is a higher education professional in her thirteenth year at Wake Forest University, currently working on the University's Employer Relations Team. Previously she worked in schools of business at University of Maryland and at Carnegie Mellon University. Vicki graduated from Carnegie Mellon's Heinz College with her Masters Degree in Public Management with concentrations in Leadership Development and Higher Education Administration. She also earned a BS from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.



Keslar

Vicki's organizational, leadership, and event planning skills provide resources for graduations, new class orientations, Pivot Plus, and fundraising events.

Vicki was born and raised in Ligonier, PA and now resides in Winston-Salem with her life partner, Ronnie Lee, Jr and their son, Jordan. Vicki and her family attend River Oaks Community Church in Clemmons.

If you have interest in helping with Pivot events, you may contact Vicki at: (410) 507-0780 or vicki.keslar@gmail.com.

Pivot Ministry Inc is a 501(c)(3) public charity. Donations directly to Pivot are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Two ways to donate: Make checks payable to *Pivot Ministry* and send to:

501 Miller Street
Winston-Salem, NC 27103
or click here to donate
www.pivotnow.org/donate/

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Pivot Ladies Receive New Laptops

Pivot Ministry’s relationship with its community partners are critical to its ministry. New partnerships, as well as new avenues with existing partners, continually reveal how vital these networks are to serving our ladies well.

Lakisha Jordan, one of our dedicated mentors, serves as the Executive Director for WinstonNet, Inc., a nonprofit community technology initiative with the goal of “bridging the digital divide” that currently exists in our community. Recently Lakisha recommended Pivot



Lakisha with Pivot graduate April Ruchugo.

participants for a grant of new laptop computers by Kramden Institute, Inc. another digital equity nonprofit organization.

Five graduates and the four Pivot participants of semester five were deemed eligible for computers, and all nine of them received brand new Lenovo laptops in April during WinstonNet’s distribution event. Volunteers from Wells Fargo helped each recipient with the set-up of her computer.

In early May, our four participants brought their new laptops to class, and Linda Carter, WinstonNet’s Outreach and Marketing Coordinator, came and taught them how to use the software on their computers. The women were fast learners and eagerly absorbed all Linda had to teach them. This was not Linda’s first time instructing at Pivot. Through her



Recent Pivot graduate Christine (left) with Wells Fargo volunteer.

joint role at Forsyth Tech, she has taught computer skills to Pivot classes each of Pivot’s five semesters!

As we often say – and so genuinely believe – Pivot could not fulfill its mission without our generous and dedicated volunteers, or without our partners who so passionately serve our community alongside us. Thanks to Lakisha, Linda, WinstonNet, Wells Fargo, and Kramden Institute, these Pivot ladies have not only received the gift of a computer, but the ability to use it for better life and work opportunities. They are extremely grateful, and so are we!



Pivot graduates Carman Williams (left) and Susan Davis (right) with Lakisha Jordan.

TIME SENSITIVE: Want to Mentor or Volunteer?

You can make a difference! As Pivot prepares to launch its sixth semester of classes on August 18th and expand Pivot Plus activities, explore practical opportunities to invest your time, energy, gifts, talents, interests, and experience. If you see the ideal option on this list or you have another idea, reach out to let us know!

- Become a mentor (**Urgent Need!**)
- Provide lunch for class

- Set-up classroom one morning a week
- Assemble materials
- Join the Event Planning Team
- Help Pivot Plus with quarterly graduate gatherings
- Join a committee: Finance, Fundraising, **Governance**, HR
- Write or edit a grant
- Commit to pray regularly

Volunteer Orientation
via Zoom Tuesday, 7/26 at 7 PM
with mentor training to follow
on 7/30 and 8/6.

Interested? Contact Heidi Strickland, Pivot Volunteer Coordinator, at heidi@pivotnow.org or 336.817.6334.



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or with AmazonSmile ON in the Amazon app, select Pivot Ministry Inc. of Winston-Salem. AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of eligible purchases to Pivot, at no cost to you.



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