

pivotnow[®]

THE PIVOT MINISTRY NEWSLETTER

Spring '23 Semester in Progress

Seven passionate women are highly involved and motivated as they arrive for class each Thursday, with all in their seats and ready to start by 9 am. *What joy* to see them eagerly absorb the content of each class, ask questions, dig deeper, find answers and leave wanting more! While each participant has a different situation, set of goals, and challenges, there is a common theme of grief from major losses that dwells in almost all of them. *Please pray* for healthy grieving and healing.

We are grateful to each **referral source** - individuals and organizations - who referred them to Pivot. We also **praise God** that He brought women who are indeed ready to change their lives. *Please pray* that their choices and paths are directed by God as our ladies move through the semester.

Since the first day of class on Feb. 23, class content has been meaningful and transformative. Pivot is so thankful to and for our **instructors**, who are incredible volunteers making a huge difference as they invest their expertise, time and talent. With more to come in the final months, the **topics and**



Sheryll Strode (standing) teaches a Totally Responsible Person session to the class. Pivot also welcomed two Leadership Winston-Salem guests for class that day.

instructors through the half-way point of April 13 include:

Bible Study, The Gospel of Mark
Julie Bell & Shannon Burgess

Self-Care: Body, Mind, Spirit
Teresa Cutts

LifeKeys: Discover Who You Are
Debbie Loftis

Totally Responsible Person (TRP)
Sheryll Strode

Dealing with Change
Jan Overman

Growth Mindset
Marvina Hamilton

SMART Goals
Joy Nelson-Thomas

Vocational Rehabilitation
Fred Taylor

Computer Basics
Linda Carter

Computer/Phone Safety
Wells Fargo Team

Financial Pathways of the Piedmont
John Server



Potential participants met and got to know the mentors at the First Step gathering on February 18 at The Enterprise Center. They also enjoyed tasty refreshments and heard inspiring testimonies from graduates Ann Marcum and Susan Davis.

As an encouraging note, this class has already **set the graduation date and preferred location**. One has even invited adult children who live out of state. That, our friends, is commitment by this cohort! Do we dare predict 100% graduation rate this term?

SAVE THE DATE

Pivot Graduation
June 10, 3 pm
Ardmore Baptist Church

FTCC Students Study Pivot Ministry for Nonprofit Marketing Class

By Dr. Renée Jessup Rogers, FTCC Professor

Pivot Ministry and Forsyth Tech Nonprofit Leadership and Management students collaborated on a marketing project this past fall semester, benefiting both the students and the ministry.

The Community Engagement (Nonprofit Marketing) course for the nonprofit students was revised to focus on the fundamentals of digital marketing instead of the traditional marketing principles. The course redesign was to provide the students with real world experiences in the nonprofit community. The trend for smaller nonprofits is to use social media, email, and other electronic means to reach their clients and supporters.

The course provided the digital foundation, but the project was the result

of conversations with Pivot Ministry Executive Director Carol Polk and Dr. Renée Rogers, Nonprofit Leadership and Management Program Coordinator at Forsyth Tech.

The project goal was for the students to be exposed to a real-world experience in nonprofit marketing. Many small nonprofit organizations do not have the means for expensive research and advertising to get in front of their target audiences, while the collaboration with the community college can provide resources to the organization and experience for the students.



Dr. Rogers

The class was small, and the students worked as a group to conduct the market research, evaluate the findings, and make some general recommendations to the

organization on increasing brand awareness.

The overall feedback from the students was positive, and they felt the project provided them a better understanding of the nonprofit marketing challenges.

Thank you, Pivot Ministry, Carol Polk, and your board for allowing us this learning opportunity!

Dr. L. Renée Jessup Rogers is a Professor, Associate Dean, Business & Information Technologies, and Program Coordinator for Nonprofit Leadership & Management at Forsyth Technical Community College.

Pivot Adds...

Thank you Dr. Rogers, Forsyth Tech, and fabulous students! You did a great job, and provided us with facts and actionable recommendations to increase awareness of Pivot Ministry and to expand collaboration. By implementing your recommendations, we are confident that more and more people will know about Pivot, wanting to volunteer, refer women and donate. We are also confident that more collaboration will expand access to services for our participants and graduates. Thank you. Your efforts continue to make a difference.

Ways You, Our Readers, Can Help

A few ideas to consider:

- Connect us with your church, civic club, or small group
- Invite a Pivot speaker for an upcoming meeting (see photos, left)
- Introduce us to a business that might hire a graduate
- Spread the news among your circle of influence – talk about Pivot!
- Mention Pivot Ministry in your social media posts
- Volunteer for marketing and awareness efforts
- Volunteer for the Fundraising Committee
- Be a Volunteer Coordinator for recruiting/matching volunteers OR managing/tracking data

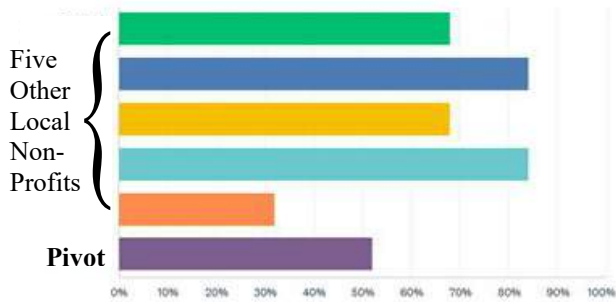
Other ideas? Let us know.

Go to: www.PivotNow.org/Volunteer

CLICK TO DONATE

Community Survey Says...

Which of these organizations are you aware of?



Pivot Ministry Awareness Survey

Y (0)

Of survey respondents:

- 59% have women in their membership or circle of influence who could benefit from/be interested in knowledge on how to change the direction of their lives
- 78% say the area definitely needs programs that work with local women to gain financial stability, career readiness and spiritual growth
- 79% would be interested in collaborating.



Left and Below: The Woman's Club of Winston-Salem heard a presentation from Pivot Executive Director Carol Polk in late 2022.



Recent Pivot Alumnae Events Focus on Prayer

By Sarah Griffenhagen and Susan David,
Pivot Plus Co-Leaders

Pivot Plus, Pivot Ministry's alumnae group, has enjoyed learning more about prayer. We met on January 21st at the main branch of the Forsyth County library to watch a movie, *War Room*. Each graduate was encouraged to invite a friend to join her to watch the movie. We had several guests and graduates, along with an instructor and a few mentors.

The movie challenged us to turn everything over to God in prayer and to realize His plan is the best plan for us. Many of us shed tears as we recognized

times when we tried to take control of our lives instead of giving it to God.

At our next Pivot Plus meeting on April 1, we met at Ardmore Baptist Church's Youth Place and continued the theme of prayer as we reflected on *The Lord's Prayer* in seven stations. The first station focused on "Our Father," while the second focused on different names of God and the characteristics of each. Station 3 gave us an opportunity to pray that God's kingdom will come on earth, in our country, in our community and in us. Each woman brought canned goods to share with those in our city who are hungry.

At Station 4, we came together to share communion and sing. Station 5 helped us to remember the gift of forgiveness. We thought of people we need to forgive and thanked God for forgiving us. Special thanks to Pivot graduate Ann Marcum for the beautifully painted rocks with the word "Forgiven." Each graduate took a rock as a reminder of the gift God has given them.



The April Pivot Plus event ended with worship in the Ardmore Baptist sanctuary.

At Station 6, we enjoyed creating a beaded pin as a reminder that God keeps us safe! At the final station, we offered praise to the Father for his kingdom, power and glory.

For the closing worship element of the April Pivot Plus event, the group moved to the Ardmore Baptist sanctuary. A former Pivot Plus speaker, April Brown and the New Zion Baptist Church Praise and Worship Ministry team led us in song, and we are grateful for their investment of time and talent.



Graduates, leaders, guests and mentors watched and discussed the War Room movie.

WELCOME! Ivonne Guerra New Pivot Administrative Coordinator

Ivonne Guerra was born in Texas and raised in the beautiful state of North Carolina.

She has worked in the customer relations management field for over 10 years. Ivonne began her journey with a State Farm Insurance agency, helping



Guerra began work on February 26.

customers identify needs and services. She then worked for Pepsi, upselling beverages and consumer goods like chips and drinks, with a focus on volume growth and product details. She also worked for HanesBrands, selling merchandise and maintaining business relationships.

As a product research analyst, Ivonne assisted in finding products for customers and retail businesses with a goal of ensuring business growth with her world class customer service interactions. Among the many strengths she brings to

her new role at Pivot are interpersonal relationships, computer and analytical skills, organizational abilities, communication, and her engaging smile. Her energy, enthusiasm, and passion for doing God's work is obvious.

Ivonne hopes to continue developing herself into the woman God has called her to be. Consistent with Pivot's values and mission, Ivonne also invests her volunteer time mentoring young women at The Winston-Salem Street School, where they learn about personality traits, interpersonal life skills, and share life experiences to help each other become a better version of themselves. Happily married to her husband Jose, they have three amazing sons – Adrian, Andres, Kain – and 2 dogs, Kora and Hamster. In her free time, she enjoys Zumba exercises, finds joy in cooking for her family, and delights in hiking with her husband.

Congrats to Kim!

Kim McDermott kept applying for positions and not getting a job offer. She was jobless, in situational poverty, had lost her confidence and had no sense of direction. After a friend told her about Pivot, she joined the next semester of classes in life skills, job readiness and Bible study. Pivot also provided a Christian mentor to walk the journey with Kim. A few weeks before her Jan. '20 Pivot graduation, Kim happily accepted a part-time job using her skills. Goal accomplished!



McDermott

In February 2022, Pivot also hired Kim to fill a new part-time position. She diligently worked two jobs, balancing her time between them.

As of last November, Kim works full-time and has benefits with her other employer. While Pivot was sad to lose her, we celebrate that Kim is thriving and has met another goal! We miss you Kim, and we celebrate all your accomplishments – past, present, and yet to come!

Read more about Kim's story from an article published in *The Baptist Paper*: click or go to <https://pivotnow.org/wp-content/uploads/Kim-Article-The-Baptist-Paper.pdf>



For a new approach to life & work

501 Miller Street • Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27103 • www.pivotnow.org • (336) 725-8767, Ext. 131

Mentors: What, Who, and ... You?

Mentoring is a critical aspect of Pivot Ministry. Each trained Christian mentor provides encouragement, accountability, prayer support, discipleship, and so much more to each of our participants. Mentors commit to several hours of training, monthly mentor meetings, and weekly one-hour meetings with the participant with whom she is matched. Simply put, Pivot could not fulfill its mission without our mentors.

This semester's mentors are: Kathy Arnett, JoAnne Burnette, Marvinna Hamilton,

Tarsha Howell, Donna McEwan, Olivia Bayard, Deb Pozebanchuk, and Ellen Richardson. Five are returning mentors, and while the rest are mentoring for the first time, they have all previously volunteered with Pivot in some capacity. We are so grateful for their commitment to walk alongside our participants.

It is safe to say most mentors would agree they are blessed and grow as much as the participants. One mentor wrote following their first meeting this semester, "Just had to share... I had a wonderful 2-hour

meeting with [my participant] today. She has had a lot of tragedy in her life, but I see so much promise in her. It was great, and I cannot wait to meet with her again."

If your interest has been piqued, we would love to have you join us for mentor training sessions beginning early this summer. No need to commit to mentoring in order to join the training. To receive an invitation to register, please email info@pivotnow.org and include "Mentor Interest" in the subject line. We would love to have you! Alternatively, fill out the Volunteer interest page at <https://pivotnow.org/volunteer/>

Pivot Donations in HONOR and MEMORY

We are always grateful for our generous donors who make it possible for Pivot to exist, minister, thrive, and bring glory to God. Recent donations were made in honor and in memory of special individuals, and it is a privilege to share those names with you:

IN HONOR OF...

- All the Courageous Pivot Graduates
- Julie Bell
- Shannon Burgess
- Carolyn Carpenter
- Sarah Hines
- Harold Holmes
- Lory Kelley
- Jill Lackey
- Sallye Liner
- Debbie Loftis
- Kim McDermott
- Michelle Minnich
- Sophia Morand
- Carol Polk (2)
- Richard D. Rierson, Sr.

- John Robinson
- Dee & Jane Smith
- Kathy Steen
- Sheryll Strode
- Jackie Toland
- Louise Toland
- Yvonne Toland
- Cara Lynn Vogler

- Mary Fachtmann
- Dot & Al Fultz (2)
- John Wayne Gibson
- Elizabeth Gordon
- Maurice Hall
- Merial Holland
- Pat Leroy
- Carol Moore
- Dottie Petree
- Phyllis Quelette
- Jerri Smith (2)
- Beth Tsiolkas
- Thurmond Toland, Jr.
- Mr. & Mrs. Howard Whisnant
- Pat Whisnant
- Alice Wilson

IN MEMORY OF...

- Betty H. Allen
- Carl Bovender
- Roy & Ann Burchfield
- James Camp (2)
- Rev. Mary G. Coleman
- Dot & Fred Davis
- Stan Elrod

OTHER VOLUNTEER NEEDS

- Fundraising Committee Members
 - Volunteer Coordinators for
 - ▶ Recruiting & matching volunteers
 - ▶ Managing & tracking data
- Follow the link above to volunteer

SAVE THE DATE

Pivot Ministry Annual Meeting

May 18 (Details to come)

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

<https://pivotnow.org/donatenow/>

Financial information about this organization and a copy of its license are available from the State Solicitation Licensing Branch at 919-814-5400. The license is not an endorsement by the State.

Pivot Ministry • 501 Miller Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27103
www.pivotnow.org • Office: 336-725-8767, ext. 131
Carol Polk, Executive Director • carol@pivotnow.org • 336-971-4878

Michelle Minnich
Program Coordinator
michelle@pivotnow.org
336-207-3890

Ivonne Guerra
Administrative Coordinator
ivonne@pivotnow.org
336-497-8586

