

NEW LIFE NEWS

“FOR WITH GOD NOTHING WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE.” LUKE 1:37



2025 BANQUET RECAP: RENEW, REBUILD, AND REJOICE

“Renew, Rebuild, Rejoice,” that was the theme of our 2025 Spring Banquet which was held on Thursday, May 8 at The Clubhouse. Our annual Spring Banquet is a time where we come together with current and future partners to share highlights, testimonies, and updates on the mission of New Life Ministries. This year was no different and we had a great night of reflecting on and celebrating lives being changed with all who were in attendance.

While enjoying a delicious meal catered by Blu Spoon Catering, our emcee Josh Kesler, senior pastor of The Well, helped facilitate an event with multiple speakers sharing updates, testimonies, and more about the work New Life Ministries is accomplishing.

The first speaker of the night was Executive Director Jimi Staton. Jimi presented a brief overview of New Life Ministries and the four ministry programs that currently make up our organization. He was able to share more about how these programs meet the needs of people and give brief updates of the impacts these programs have recently made. Jimi also took a moment to briefly update guests on the Life Center, set to be the newest ministry program and is currently in the process of being rehabilitated throughout the summer.

After Jimi spoke, our volunteer Meal Ministry Director Bob Burnsworth came to the front to share more about the New Life Community Meal Ministry. When speaking, Bob shared the impact the Meal Ministry is making and how it is a great opportunity for people to come and serve and see the need in our community. Bob also introduced one of the volunteers who regularly serves down at the Meal Ministry. Dana Goble shared her volunteer testimony with the room that night, and shared her passion for serving. She expressed how seeing people full of gratitude for something as simple as a warm meal and a friendly conversation makes serving worth it. Dana’s testimony opened the eyes of many in the room for the simple impact serving can make and how it is impactful not just for those receiving food but for those choosing to give their time to serve.



Following Bob and Dana speaking, we introduced our keynote speaker for the night. We were honored to have Donovan Coley, former Executive Director of the Fort Wayne Rescue Mission and current Founder & Chief Servant Officer of Discipleship Stewardship Network, as our keynote speaker for our event. Donovan utilized Ezekiel 37 and audience participation to help in his illustration of moving people from crisis to thriving through the programs New Life Ministries offers. He helped everyone understand how people end up in moments of crisis for various reasons and this puts them in a place where our ministry programs can help them. “The cause of homelessness isn’t just trauma, mental illness, addiction, or other factors on their own, but rather it is losing healthy support systems – that can put you in crisis,” Donovan explained.

But Donovan also explained that moving people along the continuum from crisis to thriving works when we come up alongside people and help them walk through the continuum. Utilizing guest participation, he gave multiple relatable examples of people moving up and down the continuum and how coming up alongside them as individuals and through New Life Ministries’ ministry programs helps them move one step closer to thriving. And then he invited those in the room to make the choice to be a part of partnering in support of individuals like those described in his examples, to help more people thrive.

As the night wrapped up, Pastor Josh Kesler came back on stage to close the event. Before closing, Josh got personal and shared the reason he and his church have been faithful partners of New Life Ministries. Josh said, “when you think of your church (or family or business) – if it is removed from the community, would people and the community notice? With The Well, I know my members would go on to find a new church and that is okay. But if New Life was gone, the community would notice. People would go hungry, they wouldn’t know love.”

Overall, the 2025 Spring Banquet proved to be an encouraging night of seeing the impact God is making through New Life Ministries while also learning more about how people are able to help others thrive despite the challenges of life. We are extremely thankful for each and every person who took time out of their busy schedules to attend in support of New Life Ministries and our ministry programs. We also want to thank our event sponsors including Allpro Towing, Columbia City Iron & Metal, and First Farmers Bank & Trust for their support of this event and our mission. We look forward to continuing to provide ministry programs that are impactful in our community and helping individuals move along the continuum from crisis to thriving, allowing individuals to renew and rebuild their lives and then rejoicing alongside them!



LIFE HOUSE GRADUATION: TAMMY

We have been in a season of celebrating Women's Life House graduations, and we could not be more excited for all the women who have worked hard to complete the Women's Life House program.

On Sunday, May 4, we celebrated our most recent graduation. We would like to congratulate Tammy on graduating from the Women's Life House!

When Tammy entered the Women's Life House, she was at a crossroads.

"I was an alcoholic, and I knew I needed to turn my life around, so I brought myself here (to the Women's Life House)." And while in the program, she took it seriously and worked hard to meet the expectations outlined in our Continuum of Care. She accomplished many big things like paying off bills and past debts she had incurred. She also obtained her driver's license and purchased her own car.

Tammy's journey with New Life Ministries is not over yet. Now that she has graduated the program, Tammy has accepted a position within New Life Ministries. Tammy will now be one of the Women's Life House Live-in House Managers, allowing her to serve and encourage new women who may be entering the program and using her experiences to help guide them along their own journeys.

We once again want to congratulate Tammy on her graduation and pray she continues to seek the Lord in all she does and that she is a light to the women who enter the Women's Life House.



SUMMER INTERN: JANA E

This summer, New Life Ministries is excited to welcome summer interns to serve alongside us! Our first intern is Janae.

Janae is a pastor's daughter who grew up in Fort Wayne, Indiana. She is currently a junior at Purdue University and is studying elementary education with the goal of becoming either a worship leader, 4th grade teacher, or both. Not only is she interning with New Life, but she also interns as a worship leader at her church, The Chapel, and helps lead The Salt Company College Worship Ministry on Thursdays while on campus.

When asking why she chose to intern with New Life, Janae shared that she was originally supposed to go to Greece this summer but her trip got cancelled. She prayed for God to bring something else that would fill that 4 week time period. That is when her dad mentioned this internship to her. She prayed about it, completed the application, met with Jimi (our Executive Director) on Zoom, and after speaking with him, immediately accepted the internship.

Although Janae's internship is already halfway done, we look forward to serving with her for a couple more weeks and seeing how God moves in her life outside of this internship.



NEW LIFE MINISTRIES PRESENTS

THE 13TH ANNUAL

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