

PEARLS

OF HAMPTON COUNTY



MEMBER NEWS

Connecting women who care with causes that matter.

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Rhonda Willis
Chair

Glenda (Rusty) Belote

Kari Foy

Peggy Grill

Latoya Robinson

Sharon Shealy

Becky Young

January 2020

Message From Our Chair

January 2020 is the start of a new year and a new decade. As a leap year, each of us has gained not 365 but 366 days of opportunities to give to others and make Hampton County a stronger community and a better place to live.

Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."

As PEARLS chair, I believe this organization, since its inception, has mirrored this thought. PEARLS members, comprised of ladies from different Hampton communities, different churches and different backgrounds have joined together to make a difference by "Connecting Women Who Care with Causes That Matter."

While one PEARL can achieve greatness and make a difference, many PEARLS can make a greater difference. In 15 short years, PEARLS members have established an endowment fund of over \$150,000 in assets and given back \$63,000 in grants to support projects that have strengthened Hampton County citizens through health care, nutrition, safety, support services and PK-12 education. Goals have been achieved and lives have improved because women have selflessly given \$100 a year. Beyond the PEARLS endowment, PEARLS members have worked to sustain other initiatives, such as the PEARLS Girls' Endowment (a mentoring program), the Beth McNeer Fund and the Betti Crosby

Fund. Hampton County PEARLS, along with PEARLS partners and business sponsors, have truly achieved greatness by working together to help the communities where they live.

In closing, I wish to thank all PEARLS, and I want to encourage us to continue the work we have started. To those who have committed their \$100 for 2020, I appreciate your giving. Our giving less than \$10 a month has made, is making and will always make a difference. If you are a past member, I welcome you to rejoin your sisters because there is still much work to be done.

If you want to become involved in one of the PEARLS subcommittees, please reach out to any of the 2019-2020 advisory board members with questions you may have.



Thank you again for your "hearts of grace" and your "souls generated by love."

Rhonda

Rhonda Willis
PEARLS Chair

The Newsletter Returns!

PEARLS is pleased to announce the return of our quarterly e-newsletter! Expect to receive member news in your inbox January, March, May and October. We will be using the newsletter to regularly update you on current grant recipients, important PEARLS program information and deadlines, and ways to become involved. If you have information you want included in the newsletter, send it via e-mail to [Rusty Belote](#).

PEARLS Girls News

PEARLS Girls had the opportunity this month to attend the Lowcountry Speaker Series' inaugural season on Hilton Head Island, featuring Condoleezza Rice. Tickets were provided by the "Our Doors Are Always Open Fund," which the series offers through Community Foundation of the Lowcountry.

The girls' response to the event was inspirational! Here's Peggy Parker's report of the evening:



Condolezza Rice was just as I expected; the best role model for our girls, parents and volunteer task force. I watched the girls and not one even whispered to a friend nor even thought about a cell phone.

They watched her intently and listened to each word, which is pretty amazing. I know they couldn't understand everything, but we discussed the highlights on the bus afterward and they did retain some profound statements. I am collecting them now to type up and place in their notebooks!

Sincerely, Peggy Parker

Membership Updates & Opportunities

Be on the Lookout for New Membership Forms

The annual PEARLS membership has always extended from one annual meeting in April thru the next April annual meeting. This year, the Board is sending out information about an optional early membership renewal for current, new and former members. PEARLS membership with the early renewal option will extend until April 2021. **Now there is no need to wait until April to renew or join.** Keri Foy and Peggy Grill are coordinating this new renewal effort and will be sending out new membership forms soon.

Advisory Board Notice

New Board Members

Joining the Board this year are:

- Glenda (Rusty) Belote
- Latoya Robinson
- Sharon Shealy

Expect to learn more about these ladies in the coming year!

Grants Information

Over several years, PEARLS has awarded grants to Hampton County nonprofit groups and organizations. Information about the current grant process will be available in early February, with applications due by the end of February. This year's theme is "Changing Mindsets."

If you know of a nonprofit that might benefit from the grant program, encourage members to apply. Grants can help start a new activity, present a new program, provide a support program, buy materials for a current program or involve any other activity that will benefit the nonprofit's services or programs. Grant recipients are introduced and recognized at the annual PEARLS meeting each April.

Sincerely,

Rusty

Glenda (Rusty) Belote

PEARLS of Hampton County
is a fund of

