



# WOMEN IN CHARGE

independence through healing, education and support

Fall 2015

## But Sometimes I Want Potato Chips!!!

Crispy, salty deliciousness, so hard to pass up! How about leaving your cozy warm bed to go work out? Sometimes finding the motivation to do what we should do is too hard, or too costly. Often a woman's face will light up when she is told that at Women In Charge we provide healthy food daily, and a chance to try out yoga. She appreciates the kick start towards a healthier life-style.

An anonymous donor has started a **Healthy Families Food Fund** to help us continue to provide the food that makes for healthier lives. Supporters of Women In Charge are being challenged to help match the initial \$750 donation. Send in your contribution to the fund and maybe the good karma will help you reach your goals, too!



## Destiny's Story

I grew up in Kinloch. Kinloch was a town where everybody was family – black owned, black operated, black stores, black everything. For my mom it was a great place for black people. By the time I came along it was a place of drugs and death. I saw things as a child – things that cannot be erased. One of my earliest memories is of a man I saw running. A truck pulls up, out

of the truck hops a man with a bat. The running man falls and the truck man starts beating him and I hear bones crack, blood gushing out of his head. He is pleading for his life and the guy kept beating him.

Our apartment was right across the street from a Catholic school and church, and that is where I spent a lot of my time to get away

*Cont'd on Pg. 2*

## *Our Mission Statement*

***Women In Charge heals the spirit, builds confidence, and educates women in need so that they may provide a better life for themselves and their children.***

We offer Adult Education and Literacy instruction, GED preparation, individual and group counseling, career counseling, parent mentoring, yoga and computer classes. The program is free of charge. A free on-site children's program is available to participants. September through May, hours are: Monday through Thursday from 9:00 to 2:30 PM. Summer hours are: Monday through Thursday from 9:00 to 12:30PM.



*Marcy Austin, and Victoria Sharp*

## Welcome Marcy Austin, Our New Teacher

Have you ever listened to “Guardians We Trust” an album released in 2014 that went gold? That’s one of Marcy’s albums!

Although she spent several years working in commercial audio as a sound engineer, released two award winning instrumental soundtrack albums, and has her own recording label, Marcy’s first career choice is in the field of education. Marcy graduated at the top ten percent of her class at Webster University with a Bachelor of Arts in Secondary Education and a second Bachelor’s in English, Society, and Politics. In addition, Marcy has several years of experience as a tutor and substitute teacher. Currently, she is completing her Master’s program at Webster University where she studies Secondary English Language Arts.

Marcy states, “I enjoy writing and reading literature, however, my main reason for becoming an educator is to teach students and watch them grow and discover the world around them. Being an educator is a privilege. It is meaningful work, and I’m the happiest when I am interacting with students.” Marcy spends the majority of her time in the classroom at Women in Charge teaching remedial math, science, reading, writing, and technology courses. In addition to her teaching duties, Marcy maintains our website, writes copy and posts for our social media page, and oversees the hardware and software needs of our organization. Marcy enjoys her job and tells us, “I’m thrilled to receive an opportunity to work for a cause that I truly believe in, and with people I respect.”

***Please visit our website: [womenincharge.org](http://womenincharge.org)  
Like us on Facebook too!***

*Destiny’s Story: Cont’d from page 1*

from the chaos in Kinloch. I helped Fr. John, this was my first introduction to there being more to life than what I had seen.

I stayed in a crack house. My mom was messing with a guy who sold crack and smoked crack, and in turn she ended up on crack as well. She was a functioning crack head. She made sure we had everything we needed. One day, when I was 5 years old I woke up to a lot of ruckus, music, arguing. I go to the top of the steps and it’s a lot of drug addicts in the house. I go downstairs to make oatmeal for myself and my sisters. I go into the icebox and I see a bag of white powder, so I taste it to see if it’s flour or powdered sugar. It wasn’t either, and it made my tongue numb immediately. I knew it had to be drugs. As I’m stirring the oatmeal I hear a loud thud and a man with a huge gun is at the back door. He says, “If you don’t want to die, get out of here”, so I left past him. I went and hid at my cousin’s house. I was so afraid I hid under his bed.

Later my mom took us back to the house. Her boyfriend wasn’t there and we were happy, it was like the devil was gone. He was beating mom day in and day out. By the time I was five we could tell how Dirk was talking that he was about to do something to her. One night, she was mute, sitting in the dark, almost waiting for him to come and get her. We, my two sisters (2yrs and 3yrs) and my brother (8yrs), all rushed downstairs. We grabbed our 2 swords, and a poker and an ax, we sat around our mom and told him “if you touch her you will die tonight”. My brother went toward him and told him not to do it anymore and Dirk backed up the stairs. Then our real father came over and he yelled at my mom and

*Destiny's Story, cont'd from Pg. 2*

pushed her head into a glass table. Later Dirk was shot and killed.

At one point we were evicted, and started living in the car. We were sitting in the car looking at each other and we asked mom why do you do drugs? She didn't have an answer. We told her you are two completely different people, and you are hurting us, and we need you. We don't want to die. This was the first time we didn't have a place to stay. We all cried and she promised us she would stop and she was sorry hurting us. She kept her promise – she stopped. .

She decided she wanted to be a mom now– and it wasn't good. I was in the seventh grade, but after school I was running the streets. I flunked 7<sup>th</sup> grade so my mom started giving restrictions. With me already in the streets it was a no go, so I started running away to a boyfriend's house. I had 3 different boyfriends and each of them were at least 3 years older than me. They all worked and sold weed. They gave me money, clothes, and paid for my hair and nails. I would talk to them and give them the bad highlights of my life. Being men they wanted to be "Captain Save A Hoe".

By the time I was 18 I had three children. I was working and making money when I found out I was pregnant and all of that went out the window. The day I got home with the baby, Akim, my husband, took all of the deposit money for the apartment and went on the boat and he hit the jackpot on the slot machine. He won \$23,000. After he gave his mom \$5000 we were able to fully furnish our apartment, and paid the rent for the year.

The house we were renting got sold to another landlord without us knowing it so we paid 4 months of rent to the old landlord. We got a letter from the new landlord that



we owed \$2200. We tried to pay the rent plus the back rent but we couldn't catch up. We moved out of the house. As I left I put my hands up and said, "Lord, you see all of this. I need your help." I did a lot of praying.

Three weeks later Akim was walking down the street and he happened to see men working, and he got a job. He told his new boss he needed a house to rent. The boss told him he had a house on an acre of land, and after he paid me to clean the house he asked me how I liked the house. I told him I would move into it if I could and he said, "Well that's good" and he handed me the keys and said we could have it rent-to-own. The boss gave him a work truck that he wasn't using. God is amazing and a lot of the things he gave me I don't deserve, and I am so grateful. He is not a genie to give three wishes, but he works according to His will.

About 5 months ago Akim and I were having issues in our marriage. Akim thought he got someone stabbed and shot me at the same time. I had lost myself and I needed to move forward with me.

I went to People's Clinic and I saw Annie Fitter, who was the Social Worker at WIC when I had briefly attended years before. I saw

her and thought "This is God working." We talked and she told me I was really depressed. She gave me the phone number for WIC. I felt so much better when I came up out of there, like all the pressure and worries were lifted up. I waited two months before I went to WIC. When I came for the tour I wanted to start that day, but I had to wait until the following Monday. Coming to WIC gives me time to be concerned just solely about myself. Being at WIC is helping further my education. I love everybody, the staff and the women. I feel like WIC for me is growth because being able to share in our differences and different walks of life it helps me to understand more, understand people more. I think that is important because understanding people helps me make better choices.

## **Wish List**

**Baby Wipes**

**Umbrellas**

**Electric Pencil Sharpener**

**Umbrella Stroller**

**Gloves & Hats**

**Batteries (D, AAA, AA)**

## **Board of Directors**

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*Becca Guss, Sandy Marsh, and Jillian Marsh looking over Boutique items at the 2015 Gala. All three graciously volunteered their time at the Gala..*

  
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