

FAITH

TTW Empowerment Network donates to YWCA Upper Lowlands

Submitted news

Joan D. Hampton, founder and CEO of the Total Woman Empowerment Network, presented a \$500 donation to the YWCA Upper Lowlands in support of its women's shelter and services for survivors of domestic violence.

Hampton made the presentation on behalf of the Total Woman Empowerment Network, a program of Good Shepherd Outreach Ministries. The check was presented Tuesday, Dec. 23, 2025, at the YWCA Upper Lowlands office in Sumter and received by Director Cleyardis McDonald-Amaker. The donation was designated specifically for shelter operations.

The contribution follows the Total Woman Empowerment Network's annual "A Touch of Class" Fashion Extravaganza, held Dec. 13, 2025, at Good Shepherd Outreach Ministries. A portion of proceeds from the event was committed to supporting local organizations that provide direct services to individuals and families impacted by domestic violence.

"Our mission goes beyond hosting events," Hampton said. "We are intentional about ensuring that our efforts translate into meaning-

ful support for organizations like the YWCA Upper Lowlands that serve women in moments of critical need."

While based in Sumter, the YWCA Upper Lowlands serves as a critical regional resource, with women from surrounding counties, including Williamsburg County, often seeking shelter and support services outside their home communities.

Since its founding in 2018, the Total Woman Empowerment Network has conducted empowerment programming and outreach across Sumter City and County, Clarendon County, and Williamsburg County, reflecting Hampton's longstanding commitment to serving women and families throughout the Pee Dee region.

McDonald-Amaker expressed appreciation for the donation, noting that community partnerships remain essential to sustaining shelter services and outreach programs throughout the region.

For more information, visit www.joandhampton.com.

About The Total Woman Empowerment Network

The Total Woman Empowerment Network is a community program operating under Good Shepherd Outreach Ministries, a South



MATHIS PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIO

Carolina-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The network is dedicated to inspiring, educating, and empowering women through advocacy, outreach, and faith-based initiatives.

A New Year filled with faith and determination

BY DR. BILLY HOLLAND



Holland

A brand-new year is here, and I'm excited to see what the Lord has for us! Keeping Christ at the center of our thoughts takes a great deal of discipline and determination, but so does everything else we really care about. We often hear people discussing their resolutions, which are serious intentions, desires, and promises they believe they can achieve. What are your goals and visions for the coming year? Would you like to draw closer to God and experience His peace and joy? I can tell you, according to His word, He loves you and waits for you to be more involved with Him. James 4:8, and Jeremiah 29:12-14 talk about this, but it will take more than just a whim. It will take a drastic

lifestyle change.

To become more holy and governed by God, instead of our emotions, let us understand that lifestyle transformation involves personal sacrifice. It is said that the only limit to our goals for tomorrow will be our doubts of today. So, here's the big question: Just how willing are we to give Him total control of our lives? Isn't this why we are here? If we abide under the shadow of His wings, we will walk in the peace and joy of His Spirit, but if we allow ourselves to be tempted and drawn away by sin, we will remain distant and miserable. Matthew

chapter 22 gives us the true meaning of life, "Jesus said unto him, thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment."

Most of the time, we are so busy making our own decisions that we hardly consider the distractions that cause us to ignore Him. In the book of Revelation, chapter two, God is disappointed with how the Ephesians had left their "first love," but what does this mean? It's time to examine our hearts and choose once and for all who we are going to serve. Actually, the Bible contains many passages where God says He loves us and how much He wants to fellowship with us. The incarnation, crucifixion, and resurrection are all about Jesus inviting every-

one to have a personal relationship with Him, but it's our decision since He will never force us to love Him.

This has been a challenging year for my health, along with other various disappointments, as I'm sure many of you also have your own issues. I actually spent Christmas Day in the hospital. We need our strength as there is much to do for God's kingdom. My family lost some dear members this year, and this holiday has not been very jolly, but we are comforted in knowing they loved God and are with Him now. I ask that you pray for the inmates that we serve at our local detention center. We bring the good news of the gospel, along with baptizing those who give their lives to Christ and serving communion. I also have some exciting news,

as I became a certified substitute teacher this year for Jessamine County. I've really enjoyed the challenge, love the kids, and look forward to this coming school year.

With a doctorate in Christian education, I have a passion to teach and coach, especially knowing how the enemy is attacking the young ones in today's world. I want to pray and help children in any way I can.

Philippians 3:14 declares, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling in Christ Jesus," which reveals a vital condition to personal transformation: no one else can do it for us. We must see our need to change and be willing to do whatever it takes to be victorious. It's commendable to have long-term goals, and we should release our faith into accomplishing our des-

tiny, but it's critical to realize just how desperate we must become. It's not automatic, but a day-by-day process. It would be much better to go slow with permanent results than to go through the motions and become overwhelmed with frustration and eventually give up. Let us pray. "Father, in the name of Jesus, I ask that you truly become our Lord. No more games, no more lukewarmness, depression, or excuses. Please give us the courage to discipline our flesh and the faith and strength to say no to all that is wrong, and yes to your perfect will for us. We give you all praise and glory, amen."

Dr. Holland is an ordained minister, chaplain, and author. Read more about the Christian life at billyhollandministries.com

Life Outreach Ministries provides veteran help

Life Outreach Ministries, Inc. of Kingstree, collaborates with the Williamsburg County

Submitted news

Life Outreach Ministries, Inc. and Resource Center is designed for "homeless veterans" to come and shower, wash their clothes, receive a haircut or get their hair done and receive new clothes if needed. All of this is free to the veteran.

Starting Jan. 6, 2026, any homeless veteran can contact one of the offices above and request assistance. That office will reach out to Life Outreach Ministries, Inc. and the ministry will assist the veteran from that point on, which includes trying to find the veteran a home.

We believe that everyone feels better about himself or herself when they have proper hygiene, clean clothes and groomed. Our goal is to help make that happen for them.

When you have served your country, you should not have to want for anything. We are so much better when we work together. For any questions about the "Feeling Better Program" call the ministry at (843) 356-2760.



PHOTO PROVIDED

From left: Deborah Wilson-McPherson (Williamsburg County VA Director), Willette Wooden (Apostle Dr. Life Outreach Ministries, Inc.), Hardy Brown (American Legion Post #8), and Dentist Harvin (VFW Post 6500).

Faith News

The Felician Center, 1000 Thorne Ave., Kingstree, offers a food pantry on Tuesdays, a Clothing Closet and free health screenings during the school year on Fridays from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Mt. Olive Baptist Church, 2011 Dunbar Rd., Georgetown, gives away food products every month on the first, third, and fourth Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and the second Friday from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Call (843) 387-5353 or (843) 426-5172.

The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), a program that offers free monthly nutrition information and nutritious foods, accepts Commodity Box applications at **St. John Community Food Ministry**, 2468 Easler Hwy., Greeleyville, on the third Friday of every month from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The box is for seniors 60 years or older and includes shelf stable food and a large piece of cheese. For information call Lula Mack at (843) 382-8388.

Book "Breaking the Silence," a criminal

domestic violence skit, by contacting The Total Woman (TTW) of **Good Shepherd Outreach Ministries of Sumter** (803) 775-0171 or email info@joandhampton.com or JoanDHampton.com.

Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Church Food Pantry, 2384 Highway 521, Andrews, distributes food on the fourth Tuesday of every month from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call Della Nesmith (843) 387-6169.

The Total Woman Fellowship provides TTW weekly prayer line Saturdays

7-8 a.m. Call (712) 451-0451 and enter code 306069#.

Good Shepherd Outreach Ministries (GSOM) provides the GSOM Empowerment call line where listeners are edified, encouraged and empowered by scriptures and prayer, on Saturdays 7-8 a.m. Call (551) 258-6854.

Friendship United Methodist Church, 21 Friendship Church Rd., has prayer at noon every Wednesday and Bible study at 6 p.m.