

Grace Mission Tallahassee Volunteer is Granted a Full Scholarship at
Tallahassee Christian College & Training Center
by Sandy Wilson

Psalm 30:2 (NRSV) "O Lord my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me."

Rhonda Donaldson is a tall, slim elegant woman. The kind of woman one would expect to see with the Tallahassee "ladies who lunch." Instead, she spends her time as a volunteer for Grace Mission Tallahassee. I met Rhonda during a recent trip to Tallahassee to visit Grace Mission during its once-a-month clothes give-away.

She stood in the women's clothing section with a wide smile on her face and a look of helpful concern as she assisted homeless women, disabled women, and women in need choose clothing items that would be appropriate for these sweltering summer days. As we talked, Rhonda shared that Grace Mission Tallahassee is a sanctuary to her. It is the place where she healed - from alcoholism, depression, homelessness, two husbands, family deaths, and various illnesses and devastating accidents.

Pastor Amanda, the Vicar of Grace Mission Tallahassee, spent time with Rhonda and prayed with her often, with both of them asking God to help Rhonda realize her dreams and lead a productive life. After many prayers, and much introspection, Rhonda quit drinking alcohol, and decided to go back to school to earn her AA in Business Administration at Tallahassee Community College. She is now working to earn her AA in Business Management there.

After an article in the **Tallahassee Democrat** about Rhonda drew attention to her, she was contacted by Jo Anne Arnett, President and Co-Founder of the *Tallahassee Christian College & Training Center (TCCTC)*, formerly *The Center of Biblical Studies*. TCCTC offered Rhonda a full scholarship for their program in Seminary Studies, which is where she feels God is leading her.

As Rhonda shared with the **Tallahassee Democrat** recently, "(I am) eight years sober, and have mended my interpersonal relationships with my family, as well. 'We all three sisters now live together in a condo... a family again,' she says. 'I was rebellious and stiff-necked. But somehow, I always knew I had a guardian angel. Now, I'm just trying to show that I can be a role model to others.'"

Please look for the **Diocesan Magazine** in your mailbox in early November for more information about Grace Mission Tallahassee.

