

Subject: Chicktime December News

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From: Chicktime

To: djpraise@satx.rr.com

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Dec 2012

Chicktime Newsletter

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Dear Karen,

When my now grown daughter was in her early teens, there was a moment during an ordinary day when time stood still. The moment happened during our routine car pool as I was shuttling her from school to one her many passions. This particular season it was gymnastics class as she was hoping for a spot on her school's cheerleading squad. As we pulled up to the gym, there was tension in the car. I don't remember the conversation that day but I do remember it was tense. I'm sure it had something to do with the lack of enthusiasm she had towards cleaning her room, her lack of respect towards me, or something as equally insignificant to her.



As I maneuvered the car into the parking space, she waited on edge to open the door and escape from my presence. I was honestly relieved to get an hour reprieve... until I watched what happened next. My sullen and angry daughter who leapt from my car as if it were about to explode was suddenly overcome with joy and delight. For a moment, I thought the boy she was fascinated with at the time must be on the sidewalk. And then I saw her. Hannah's mom. Katy ran to her as if she were the latest celebrity or



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supermodel. As my daughter basked in the presence of this woman, I felt crushed. How could this be? My daughter hadn't been delighted by my presence to that degree since she was a toddler racing towards my arms! I didn't realize she had the capacity to be delighted by the presence of an adult!!

I immediately began crying and called my husband. He listened to my story between sobs, and then delivered a profound statement that changed my perspective, my relationship with my daughter, and my life. He said, "Lori, Hannah's mom is cake. Of course Katy is going to be delighted by cake. You are broccoli. Katy needs broccoli. I expect you to be broccoli. Someday, you will be cake to Katy... but don't try to be cake now and ruin our daughter!"

That 'picture' got me through the rough years of raising a teenage daughter. Today, she is a truly phenomenal young woman whom I am growing to respect immensely... and I am happy to report that though I am predominantly broccoli to her... I get be cake a lot, too! As she grows older, I feel myself shifting more and more towards cake and I love it. I would also like to report that I later found out that the 'cake' mom allowed the girls privileges (having boys over, too much freedom during sleepovers to get into trouble, etc...) that were not allowed in our home!

I ponder a lot. As I was reflecting on this experience from my motherhood, I began to think of God. Ohhh... how he must desire to be cake for us. The bible is full of verses about how the Lord yearns to delight in us and us in him. My daughter is almost grown... but this experience makes me realize how young I am in Christ. How he often has to be broccoli for me when I'm sure he would much rather be cake. Like this week, when I was in an uncomfortable situation and rather than focus on his promises for my future, trust him that it would all work out for the best, that he had my back... I began rehearsing all of the negative scenarios in my mind. He allowed me to wallow in pity but he didn't remove the source of my frustration. As the pressure of the situation increased, I was forced to make a choice. Pray and move closer to Him, or continue wallowing. I chose to pray. I put on my favorite praise play list and sang along reminding myself that God was there, waiting for me to come to him, trust him, and enjoy the day... but first I had to put aside the negative thoughts.

Just as easy as it would have been for my daughter, on that fateful day outside the gym many years ago, to say, "Yes mom, I will clean my room when I get home." Then jump out of the car, turn and smile at me as she skipped into her gym class (that I was paying for)... I could have just as easily made the choice this week to say to God, "I don't know why this is happening but I'm grateful you love me, that you will work it all out for good, and that you have my back". Then I could have gone about my day with a smile on my face and a song in my heart.

info@chicktime.com if you would like to establish a new chapter in your area

God will be broccoli as long as we give him no choice... but ohhh how he yearns to be cake!

Joyfully,

Lori Rhodes
Chicktime National Founder/CEO
lori@mlrhodes.com

Most chapters are looking for volunteers to help update their chapter webpages. If you like working with computers, please contact a local chapter and ask how you can help. contact info located at chicktime.com

Our New Book Now Available!



Now in print for \$7.99. Please buy your copy today!

All proceeds, 100%, are donated directly to Chicktime to further our work in helping women usher the local community into the presence of almost forgotten children.

To get a copy today, please visit our online book store. The book is also available in Kindle.

[Click here to purchase your copy](#)

Click on the Map to view Chapter News!



Chicktime has chapters across the US!

Our mission is simple... encouraging women to develop their passions and use their gifts to make the world a better place for the next generation.

Of course you have a gift! Do you cook, sew, garden, yoga, sing, play sports... we can help you turn your gifts into programs that will bring joy and comfort to the broken and the hopeless in your local community.

Contact a Chicktime leader today to find out how you can help!

To view individual chapter news and contact information [click here](#) or on the map!

Chicktime Welcomes New Chapters!

Click the Images to read the full stories

Chicktime Jackson (Mississippi) Mary Ann Usry Clay



Welcome to Chicktime Jackson. After reading about Chicktime, I became so connected to the mission that I felt God calling me to start a chapter. I have lived in the Jackson area all of my life... and feel strongly that the incredible women here would love to be a part of something so tender and precious as bringing love to the almost forgotten children in our area. I feel drawn to use my gifts and talents and nurturing skills that I have developed over my lifetime to help bring the love of Jackson to these children. I want the children to know they matter, that they are adored, and that many people care for them. As far as timing, I'm experiencing a bit of 'empty nest' syndrome since my son moved out and I find that I have the time to spearhead this chapter.

Chicktime Farmington (New Mexico) Ashley Cordova



I have that found that in order to move on in your life from the things that have physically and emotional beaten you down, you have to surround yourself with loving and supporting people. If I hadn't found the people that are in my life today that helped me get to where I am right now, I believe that I would have lived a life of self-destructiveness.

This is what I plan to accomplish with Chicktime. I want to give back to others, what has been given to me, love and support. I want to show the physically and emotional wounded women and children of our

community that there are women in San Juan County that care and are willing to putting in their whole hearts and souls in to helping them overcome their battles and that it is possible to move on to a better life.

Chicktime Erie (Pennsylvania) Ebony Davis



Hello! My name is Ebony, and I am very excited to lead the Erie chapter of Chicktime!

Every woman you meet has a story... whether one of hope, joy, and love or disappointment, pain, and loss. When we look at our neighbors, friends, co-workers, or even passersby, we rarely, if ever, take a moment to wonder if the women we see every day grew up in a home filled with love or if their childhood memories were filled with shame, worthlessness, and despair.

There are many children in our community who face hardship every day. Many are without a permanent home, food to eat, healthy familial relationships, or struggle with other adversities on a daily basis. I know very well having experienced such conditions

early in adulthood as a result of my own childhood trauma then succumbing to a cycle of low self-esteem and unhealthy, abusive relationships which led to poverty, homelessness, and even lower self-esteem. After a difficult divorce, and through determination, self-discovery, and God's love, I broke free from that cycle. I was then able to focus my attention on loving myself and re-building communication with my children, imparting life lessons and restoring a happy, loving home. This has given me the desire to help others along their journey of self-discovery and self-confidence as they rise above

their temporary setbacks.

Chicktime Charleston (South Carolina) Michelle DeMers



Charleston's Chicktime chapter is led by me, Michelle DeMers. I'm passionate about Chicktime because it offers an opportunity for women to rally in support of the same goal: bringing hope and encouragement to abused children.

We do this in a couple of ways: we give them our undivided attention to show our care, and we serve as reminders of the good (positive) in the world. This reminder is what can help children grow into compassionate and productive adults.

These beliefs are why I choose to serve and lead Charleston's Chicktime chapter:

Chicktime Fort Worth (Texas) Sophie Duprat



When I was 15, I already knew I wanted to devote my life to helping others who were in need. My dream was to work for one of the huge humanitarian companies and travel (one of my other passions) through the world supporting and helping people.

Unfortunately, I listened to the advice of a close friend's uncle. He was working with Medecins Sans Frontieres (a French company, as I was raised in France) and at the time he convinced me not to do so. He told me I was way too emotional and that I needed to be stronger and very confident to make it in the field of Humanitarian Relief. Well who is confident at 15? I should have asked myself that at the time

but I didn't. Because of his harsh words at such an impressionable age, since then I have been afraid to put myself out there and become vulnerable to

...when I have been afraid to put myself out there and become vulnerable to the pain others are experiencing.

Chicktime Humble (Texas)

Emily Medley



Welcome to Chicktime Humble! My name is Emily Medley, and I live the in Kingwood/Lake Houston area. I have been married for twenty years to my high school sweetheart and have three amazing children, 16, 13, and 13. Yes... that is right... I'm a twin mom with all the craziness and laughter that entails. And my daughter, well she is my left hand. (I'm also a lefty!)

I am very aware that abuse can play out generationally and it breaks my heart. I have witnessed the pain and desperately want to be a part of the solution. My hope is to take what I have witnessed, and with the continuous love and presence of God, turn it into something good.

Breaking cycles doesn't happen magically. It is a purposeful decision to act... and I chose to act!

Shelby Stauter

Chicktime Justin (Texas)



When you realize how much you've been blessed, you start to think about all the people who aren't as fortunate as you. You think about children and how some of them have endured things you couldn't even imagine. Then you start wondering how you can help and how you can change the lives of those around you.

You can be the one thing that gives abused women and children hope. You could be the one to save them. This is why I decided to start a Chicktime Chapter, and this is what we stand for. Together, we can change the lives of hundreds, maybe even thousands of

people who have lost all hope. So instead of waiting for something to change, **BE** the change!

What is Chicktime All About?



Chicktime



Leader Only Update!



Chicktime Leaders,

In case you haven't noticed the new menu tab under leader resources, please check it out. The Leader Only VIP Information is up to date and very relevant!! You must be logged into the site to see this all important info... if you can't remember your login info, email lori@mlrhodes.com. You will also note the 'graphic design' menu tab.

This is where the Chicktime logo is located for your convenience. Feel free to download the logo for anything you like... invitations, letter head, t-shirts, etc. Can't remember how to access your online sign-ups? Check out the CRM-Volunteer Management tab! As always, I'm here for you anytime, just reach out!
Lori

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