

October 2, 2017

Dear Partner Churches and Volunteers:

The Firehouse will be celebrating our 34rd anniversary on Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017. **The Blue Jeans and Baskets Bash** has been a huge hit the past few years, and this year we have several exciting changes! For the first time, the event will be on a Friday, and will be at Haven, a wonderful new event space that will allow us to have a little more room to celebrate. We will also be adding a new touch calling the event **The Best of Birmingham** – Celebrating all of the wonderful things about our city!

We again ask that our partner churches and any interested volunteer group prepare a “theme gift basket,” or provide items to be combined with other donations to complete a basket. We will in turn sell by ticket draw at our bash. We attached a list of gift basket ideas, but you are not limited to these suggestions—use your imagination! The gifts don’t literally have to be in a basket; that is up to you and your creativity. We are reducing the total number of baskets this year to help organize our event space, facilitate event time flow and provide a consistent basket value. We suggest that each basket have a total value of approximately \$150-300, but again, that is up to you. However, we do ask your cooperation if the event committee combines like items to create larger baskets.

At the bash, we will display each basket, note the Church, organization, or individual from which the basket or baskets were donated, and have a ticket drawing box in front of each basket. Bash patrons will purchase drawing tickets for \$1.00 each and may place as many tickets in the box corresponding to a basket as they wish. We will draw for the first 10 baskets mid-way through the event and the evening will culminate with ticket drawings for the remaining 30 baskets.

Admission tickets to the bash may be purchased online at our website, <http://www.firehouseshelter.com> for the price of \$50.00 per ticket. Your admission ticket will include food from various Birmingham restaurants and caterers, complimentary beverages including wine and beer, and some of the best fellowship *that money can’t buy*. We have a new band this year. Come hear the great sound of the JKO Band!

All proceeds will go to benefit the Firehouse Shelter, as we endeavor to be a channel of God’s grace to the least fortunate among us, and a beacon of hope for many who have lost hope. If you are willing to participate, we ask that you respond to the following email address: [firehousebaskets@gmail.com](mailto:firehousebaskets@gmail.com) and indicate which basket(s) your group has chosen to donate. We ask that you respond as soon as you decide whether you can participate so that we will have an idea of what exciting creations we will be offering in the drawings.

We would like to receive the baskets as early as October 15. Delivery options below:

1. Drop off at Firehouse Shelter Monday- Friday, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
2. Drop off with the event coordinator: 2695 Watkins Glen Drive, Vestavia Hills, AL 35216
3. We will also be happy to arrange to pick them up

We look forward to hearing from you soon and express our gratitude in advance for your participation. It will be an exciting celebration and we hope to see you there!

Blessings,



Anne Wright Rygiel  
Executive Director