In the 1st Quarter of 2018, Gateway To Dreams launched their first “Impact Awards” as a way of celebrating all the wonderful people making significant contributions in the St. Louis area. We would like to congratulate all the nominees and especially our very first honorees who are making exciting and substantial contributions in our St. Louis Community!

By recognizing and celebrating these people and organizations in the St. Louis Metro Area that exhibit a kind and giving heart, we can inspire more people and organizations to do the same and improve our community.

Our Awards night was filled with pride and emotion as we honored the following people and their organizations:

**Kindness Award Personal:** Robyn Rosenberger  
**Dream Champion Personal:** Gail Lee  
**Dream Champion Organization:** Tracie Berry McGhee  
**Community Involvement Organization:** Candice Murrell Cox & Beth Brockling  
**Inspiring Hope Nonprofit:** Meredith Seithel Mittelstadt  
**Person of Inspiration:** Marty K. Casey

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**Connecting and Promoting Women has a new look!**
Check our our new logo designed by Kathi Bell of Kathi Bell Studio.

Please mark your calendars to be sure to join CPW on the 4th Wednesday of each month! Can’t wait to connect with you!
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Tracy Floeh

Grace Joy & Jobs — Canine Couture with a Cause

As a Gateway to Dreams (G2D) board member since 2013, Tracy Floeh has watched and been part of many wonderful things that have happened to members and guests. In fact, Gateway to Dreams was responsible for helping her make a connection to a horse rescue group that she became a volunteer and board member for as well.

As a huge animal supporter and lover, Tracy also has a therapy dog named Snoopy that helped with children’s reading programs. However, when a beloved aunt passed away unexpectedly, Tracy’s aunt wanted her to receive custody of Gracie, her aunt’s beloved Teacup poodle, along with a VERY extensive wardrobe of high end, haute couture clothing.

Gracie became an inspiration to Tracy as she pondered how she and Gracie could bring joy to those around her the way auntie had done for so many years by volunteering with groups where animals heal humans such as senior living centers and hospitals. Tracy and her auntie shared many tales of creating joy and supporting people thru animals thru the various organizations they volunteered for, so what if she started a business creating affordable dog clothing and employed disadvantaged workers that need to be employed? At Gateway to Dreams, Tracy attended a marketing workshop that member Debbie Josendale hosted that helped create more structure to her idea, and Grace Joy & Jobs was created and Canine Couture with a Cause was born.

From there, Tracy needed help to create and design her logo. Another member of Gateway to Dreams community, Kathi Bell, helped Tracy create a look that resonated, and her new business cards were created. Now Tracy is in talks for funding and running this social enterprise. Tracy will tell anyone who asks that Gateway to Dreams gave HER dream wings to fly.

“Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn’t do than by the ones you did do, so throw off the bowlines, sail away from safe harbor, catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore, Dream, Discover.” —Mark Twain
SPOTLIGHT ON OUR NON-PROFIT MEMBER OF THE MONTH:

Kathie Thomas

Hope Creates™

Hope Creates™ is a nonprofit and the founder, Kathie Thomas is a member of Gateway. Hope Creates™ is making its mark in our community by offering a creative and fun program to help youth/young adults recovering from addiction and their families.

As founder Kathie Thomas states, “Creation is the opposite of self-destruction and that positive self-expression builds self-confidence and self-esteem.”

Hope Creates™ focuses on positive self-expression, building and maintaining self-worth, giving participants relevant business training and making sobriety more fun and attractive than using mind-altering chemicals.

Their mission is to improve the lives of youth/young adults in recovery from addiction through the engagement of expressive arts and occupational therapy principles, and the development of related entrepreneurial-business skills.

By doing so, they bridge the gap in understanding addiction and recovery, transform the cultural dialogue, and establish pathways to a joy-filled, sober life for youth/young adults.

Their vision is a community that understands addiction, nurtures recovery, supports prevention, and encourages constructive self-expression of sobriety.

The programs/services offered are:

• Recovery community art projects
• High quality public exhibits and performances
• Art creation workshops
• Studio time and portfolio development
• Entrepreneurial-business skills development
• Mentoring programs for the expressive arts and entrepreneurialism

Hope Creates™ is at the intersection of sobriety, expressive arts, entrepreneurial skills development, occupational therapy best practices, community-based support of youth/young adults in recovery, and sponsor/mentor support. Hope Creates™ is well connected in the sobriety, expressive arts, gallery, commercial/graphic arts, occupational therapy, business and academic communities. To learn more or to make a donation visit www.HopeCreates.org

Share the Art of Sobriety™
**HOW MEMBERSHIP IN GATEWAY TO DREAMS HAS HELPED ME …**

**Debbie Josendale**

Gateway to Dreams provided the safe place I needed to rebuild my life when I moved back to St. Louis 2 years ago. In Nov. 2015 my husband passed away, and along with him went my business as he was my business partner. I transitioned into a job that fell into budget cuts in May of 2016. I was living in Denver but decided to move back home to be close to family in St. Louis.

I can say unequivocally that Gateway to Dreams was the key to finding my way back to life, happiness, hope, and joy. One of the first reconnections I made was with Karen Hoffman, and she immediately invited me to attend CPW and to get involved in all that Gateway to Dreams had going on.

At first, I felt a bit like a zombie, but I kept coming back to Gateway to Dreams events because I felt welcomed, safe, and not judged. I really needed a place to explore who I was and what I wanted to do with my life and business.

So many doors opened, from reconnecting with old friends, making new friends to business associates, to learning about new products like Norwex and Melaleuca, to participating in many new experiences, to having a space to conduct a beta workshop for my Marketing SweetSpot program. All of this helped me to put one foot in front of the other to rebuild my life and re-launch my marketing consultancy - Captivate & Co. I am eternally grateful to Karen and everyone at Gateway to Dreams for the life-affirming support, fun, learning, and joy that I have received. I hope to give back much more by being an active participant in the community and serving on the Gateway to Dreams Board. Thank-you everyone for your kindness, love, and generosity of heartfelt support.