



Mary Frances Turner's Volunteer Story

I've had the pleasure of getting to know Mary Frances Turner.

She is a dedicated volunteer who got involved with Begin Anew (formerly Christian Women's Job Corp) from the very beginning - 1997! She worked closely with Creely Wilson and Candy Phillips cofounders of Begin Anew. Mary Frances was a facilitator for the Women's Missionary Union and encouraged a group of women to actively support female students struggling to overcome obstacles caused by poverty.

Together, they helped the students secure additional community resources while they were working on achieving their GED and enhancing their computer/job skills. It all started with decorating a bulletin board and then helping mothers provide for their children's basic needs. But this is only the beginning of Mary Frances' dedication to Begin Anew's Mission.

Her passion for providing adult educational services extended to serving on Begin Anew's Executive Board of Directors which involved helping Begin Anew relocate their office from Lockeland Baptist Church to Nashville First Baptist Church. This location was more convenient for students, and Nashville First Baptist Church continues to host our Nashville Campus today. In addition, Carolyn Hunter (a Board Member) and Mary Frances were convicted about the need to raise additional revenue. Mary Frances shared that she had never asked anyone for a financial donation and prayed that God would give her the words she needed. In 2005, they organized the first annual fundraiser that raised over \$63,000. And we are proud to share this Spring Fundraiser continues to be an annual event today and supports approximately a third of our annual budget. Mary Frances has served as Vice Chair, Chair, and Honorary Chair on the Spring Fundraiser Committee and continues to serve annually on the Spring Fundraiser Call Team.

In looking back, Mary Frances is very thankful for all the relationships she has developed over the years through making phone calls and serving on committees. These friendships supported Mary Frances during personal life valleys that she had to walk through. Most of all she has stayed engaged with Begin Anew because of the student life-changing testimonies she continues to hear over the years, and because our program is Christ centered – creating a community where individuals feel safe, loved, and supported.

Mary Frances was once asked what she would do if she were gifted a million dollars. Without giving it a second thought, she responded that she would give it all to Begin Anew. She has indeed accomplished this by being instrumental in launching and continuing to be actively engaged with our annual Spring Fundraiser.

Thank you, Mary Frances, for the life-changing impact you have created and continue to create for so many students, their families, and our communities! You are a great example of being Christ's hands and feet in our world today – thank you!