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# Sweet Soiree Event Benefits Northfield Plantation Ministry

**By: Semein Washington**

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On Thursday, March 31, a group of Longwood Communication Studies majors, in partnership with Northfield Plantation Ministry, held a fund-raising event in a side room at Charlie's Waterfront Café. Serving delectable desserts such as s'mores, cupcakes, chocolate decadence wafers, and red velvet whoopee pies were served with either water or coffee and enjoyed at small, well-decorated tables with candles and other fine decorations. A harp player performed in the background and a table was set up on the same wall as the door showing the many pamphlets and opportunities to give for Northfield Plantation Ministry. Tickets cost \$7 each at the door and a green ribbon around the wrist indicated those who had paid to get in.

Junior Communication Studies major and event organizer Lynne DeCora, involved both with her schoolwork and the continuing development of Northfield Plantation Ministry, sensed an opportunity to assist the ministry and contacted Northfield's Kathy Boyle to rally support within her major.

The developing properties at Northfield Plantation Ministry are 30 minutes away from Cumberland County and will be able to house 12 women. The main groups to be served by Northfield are victims of eating disorders and depression and those who struggle with unplanned pregnancies. As a Christian ministry, utilizing spiritual methods including Bible study, Northfield Plantation is a "place where [women] can come rehabilitate and go through counseling...[to] develop a closer relationship with Christ." With the assistance of a 5K race and golf tournament, the ministry is trying to open up hopefully later this year.

Boyle said the founders of the ministry bought the property in 2006 and had looked at the property many years before. They felt very drawn to it and since one of them had worked very closely with women suffering from unplanned pregnancy, eating disorders and depression; they thought the best use of the land was as a place for these women to stay. Formerly a dairy-farming and working plantation in the 19th century, the plantation has been developed through fund-raising and a board of directors. In the five years since the plantation has been owned, nearly 3,000 volunteers have come forward to commit 2,500 collective hours to get the house in working shape. Interior designers nationwide have also approached Northfield and given their time to developing the available furniture and architecture into something unique and potentially comforting for the future residents.

Northfield Plantation also has a website, <http://northfieldfoundation.org/>, and keeps in regular communication with its contributors. The ministry needs around \$3,000 to complete the project.

This philanthropy one deserves especial attention because it cares for specific group of suffers. Eating disorders, unplanned pregnancies and depression are conditions that are perceived to largely effect women as a whole, and especially young women. While many sources can be found to address these concerns, there are almost never enough to go around. Resembling institutions such as Madeline's

House that serve women throughout several counties, though for a much different reason, the ministry looks to be good contribution and especially important to the many who have experienced or known those who have experienced these ailments. It is described as a good place for women who do not need minimal care but can be referred to a nutritionist and/or medical assistance.

The public is invited and encouraged to attend Northfield's upcoming fund-raisers. The aforementioned 5K race is scheduled to be held Saturday, May 7 and the annual golf tournament the previous day, May 6..

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