

innovator



Jacqueline Dawes

Brookhaven Retreat

BY JAMIE LOBER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Jacqueline Dawes was struck by tragedy, but she never gave up.

“Ten years ago, I lost a 19-year-old daughter. After she died, in lots of ways, I died too. I went through a tough divorce after that and virtually lost everything,” Dawes said.

Dawes was raised and educated in the United Kingdom, but she relocated to the United States with her son, Jonathan, after her daughter’s death.

As an entrepreneur who had previously owned assisted living facilities, Dawes’ loss led her to dig for a deeper purpose.

“I wrote a program for myself on how I was going to have to completely change my whole life,” Dawes said. “Everything had changed and [I needed to figure out] what I was going to do to stand alone as a woman on my own two feet,” Dawes said.

Title | Founder

Address | 1016
I.C. King Road,
Seymour 37865

Phone |
(877) 817-3422

Web | brookhaven
retreat.com

That process led her to found Brookhaven Retreat, a residential facility that offers counseling to hundreds of women each year.

The center opened in April 2006, and is located on 48 acres in East Tennessee. The 16,000-square-foot treatment center was formerly a dilapidated smokehouse on a family farm.

She chose to relocate to East Tennessee, because of its similarity to Scotland, where she spent most of her adult life.

Dawes was determined to make a difference.

“I kept getting kicked to the curb but I believed that there must be help for women, and if there was not, I needed to create it,” Dawes said.

“Her passion for women’s health and healing is incredibly powerful,” describes Audra Fegley, psychiatric nurse practitioner and clinical administrator.

Dawes has helped clients overcome depression, addiction and leave burdens behind in their life.

“She teaches to clean as you go, whether it be literally or on an emotional level by not carrying around baggage,” said Marta Finnegan, pro-



gram director. “She stands apart as one of the only practitioners in the state with a license for both substance abuse and mental health.

“She had the foresight as a wise businesswoman to realize that it is not enough to just wish that others could find the way through their difficulties but to actually do something about it,” said Betsy Martin, director of human resources.

As the first dual-diagnosis facility in Tennessee, Dawes is urging state legislators to change their treatment center laws and regulations so other providers may be licensed to offer substance abuse and mental health services at the same location.

“I am confident that without the dual diagnosis license waiver that was awarded to Brookhaven, I would not be able to see the amount of success I have seen from my patients,” Dawes said. “I can delve deeper and treat each patient more comprehensively.”

gram director.

Others put faith in her words of wisdom that prove to heal.

“She is a very smart, dynamic woman who has charisma that draws people to her,” adds Finnegan.

She stands apart as one of the only