



THE PRODIGAL DAUGHTER

BY SHANNON HENRY, PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER, LOCAL RESIDENT



PHOTO BY JODI JONES PHOTOGRAPHY



Prodigals, by definition, spend resources extravagantly. I was never into spending wildly. My mom used to say she was the only mother who had to beg their child to go shopping. When it came time to buy a car in the early 90s, I had my heart set on a 1969 candy apple red anniversary edition MGB. It was not extravagant either, but it got me where I needed to go, mainly between Irmo High School and Southern Strutt. I was certainly not the best dancer or best student but was always grateful to be part of a tribe. All was well in my predictable world until it wasn't.

I never saw it coming. I didn't know what to do in the moment, and I didn't know how to get help after my rape. Nothing prepared the new unshakable truth that I was a vulnerable prisoner of war trapped by my constant enemies- my body and my mind. A few years later, I ran to college in the hills of East Tennessee. I hoped my brother who was there could make everything better like he did when we were young. But I was lost, making bad grades, and doing unhealthy things. This is the place where I became the prodigal daughter who extravagantly spent all the patience and resources my family could offer while running away from the pain of home.

My brother insisted I go home to get the help I needed. Moving back was unsettling, but it was the best decision for me. A counselor trained me to trust my mind. A powerful self-defense instructor taught me to trust my body. I was finally comfortable in my own skin again. I finished my degree and taught elementary school both in Greenville and Irmo, where I saw first-hand that abuse and assault remain ever-present regardless of age, status, or race. I was determined to do something about it, both in my hometown and beyond.

I am honored to call Chapin home for both my family and SASS Go, the nonprofit of which I am President and Founder. At SASS (Surviving Assault Standing Strong), we work hard to eradicate assault, abuse, and trafficking through our prevention education series, self-defense courses, and crisis consulting with survivors and their families. The work we do answers the three questions that plagued me for years:

- Why didn't I know it could happen? (Education)
- Why didn't I know what to do in the moment? (Self-Defense)
- Why didn't I know who to call that would connect me to the help I needed? (Consulting)



VISIONAIRE SOLUTIONS
A CLEAN AIR COMPANY

<p>CUSTOM AIR PURIFICATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portable and whole-home • Commercial and residential • Eliminates 99.96% of SARS-CoV-2 	<p>REDUCES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allergens, dust, and dander • Odors and smells • Viruses, mold, and bacteria
--	--

Breathe Easy!

Scan Here! 



Chad Shealy | 803.220.1811 / 803.924.4274 | www.visionaire.solutions



God promised me the words of Genesis 50:20, which say, "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good, for what is now being done, the saving of many lives." As I have stepped out in faith, he has fulfilled these words daily. Together, with our team of 24 instructors across the country, we have impacted 9,000 people in 19 states and Washington, DC in just three short years.

When you're hurt, running away is easy. But no matter where you go, there you are. This is my story. It is the story of running far away from the ugly truth, only to realize the true beauty in staying home with faith as small as a mustard seed to bloom in the very place where you were meant to break. The prodigal daughter is grateful for a community that has welcomed her home to help prevent, prepare, and protect neighbors near and far. Whether it is a Friday night hero with a smile that hides or a sneaky stranger with bad intentions, SASS Go will be there for the before, during, and after to ensure that we always #protectthetribes. To find out more about our work, head to sassgo.org or email us at team@sassgo.org.

Dr. Carol French



Board Certified, Diplomate
American Board of Pediatric Dentistry

**Dentistry for Children,
Infants & Teens**

NEW PATIENTS WELCOME
DENTAL INSURANCE ACCEPTANCE

(803) 781-2511

1 Thames Valley Irmo

Coffee & Books



The Coffee Shelf
Coffee & Books

SINCE 2016

thecoffeeshef.com facebook.com/chapincoffeeshef