

News From Living Grace Home

Living Grace Home

Changing Lives One By One

Since February 2007 when Living Grace Home burst into life and into color, and the first pregnant, homeless, young lady came through our doors, it has been an amazing adventure and many, many lives have been changed. Many pregnant moms, their parents, volunteers, and staff, whose lives have been touched, look back at their stay with gratitude.

Living Grace Home was opened to provide a safe haven for young women who are homeless or in danger of becoming homeless as a result of their pregnancy.

We combine shelter with some good, orderly direction, life skills, meal planning and preparation. Our volunteers teach those young ladies who have no experience, how to prepare a well balanced nutritious meal; parenting classes in collaboration with Family to Family at St. Rose, and a wide variety of workshops and classes to prepare them for parenting.

The vision of Living Grace Home is to help young mothers transition into permanent housing and to avoid additional out-of-wedlock pregnancies. Not knowing where one is going to sleep from one day to the next is not conducive to good parenting. Statistics show that one out-of-wedlock preg-

nancy makes it difficult to work your way out of poverty. Two or more out-of-wedlock pregnancies make it almost impossible to rise above the poverty level.

Living Grace Home has been so welcomed and so blessed by the communities of Las Vegas and Henderson!

When the doors opened, there had not been a maternity home in Southern Nevada that assisted minor pregnant women since Catholic Charities closed Marian Residence in 1994.

While there are many wonderful organizations that provide shelter to women, their missions are different than a maternity home; either protecting women who are in unsafe living situations, dealing with substance abuse or modifying behavior. While almost all of these programs will take a young woman who is pregnant, their programming is not geared toward parenting and once the baby is born, they must find somewhere else to go.

The governing philosophy of Living Grace Homes is: 1) Marriage, if the babies father is in the picture we offer counseling and direction toward marriage as studies reveal that men who marry their babies moms live longer, live healthier, and make more money over the course of their lifetime; 2)

Adoption, as children do best in two parent married families. We give our young residents encouragement and all the information they need to make that decision; 3) Single parent-



Welcome home

ing, as this is going to be the choice of most of our residents, we attempt to provide them as many tools as possible to be the best single parent they can be, as well as a support network they can depend on for ongoing direction and guidance. In just over two years, Living Grace Home has assisted over 45 young ladies who were pregnant and in a housing crisis. Not all of these young ladies have resided at Living Grace, some have just needed assistance to get back home, some have needed direction on how to get on their feet. Of the 41 who have resided at Living Grace, not all have stayed for the duration of the program, but all have touched, and changed our lives.

Kathleen Miller,
Executive Director

News From Living Grace Home October 2009

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Come Join Us!

Living Grace Home is a faith based non-profit corporation. I think the best way to explain the way we operate is we run by the Grace of God on the generosity of His people. Most of our funding comes from local churches. As we are located in Henderson, one of our most faithful supporters has been St. Thomas More Catholic Community. St. Thomas More has assisted us financially, and with goods and services, we benefited from H.O.P.E for the Holidays, the social action committee adopted our young ladies at Christmas time, and many of our volunteers have come to us from St. Thomas More.

We have also had help from St. Peter the Apostle, St. Viator, Christ the King, Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Holy Family as well as volunteers from many of the other Catholic Parishes. We have also been helped by Spring Meadow Presbyterian, Green Valley Christian Church and some wonderful people from Central Christian in Henderson. We are always in need of help, we depend on the local community churches and businesses to support us financially, but we also depend on your life experiences to come in and spend time with these young ladies who need role models to look up to.

Some of the businesses that support us are Halo Electronics, Brady Industries, Women’s Resource Medical Center, Mike Peter’s Law Office, Brendan Theatres, First Choice Pregnancy Services, St. Rose Hospital, and more.

This ministry is made possible by the dedication of our blessed volunteers, and by the sacrifices of all our beneficiaries. Keep Living Grace Home in your prayers.

We are always in need of help. We depend on the local community, churches, and businesses to support us financially, but we also depend on your life experiences, so come in and spend time with these young ladies who need role models to look up to.



Volunteers are an essential part of this ministry. Girls need transporting to medical and educational appointments daily. If you would like to learn more about opportunities to assist in some way, please call Nancy at 702-354-1015.

Shop For A Cause



What a difference a day makes! Our friends at macy*s are offering us Day Passes on **Saturday, October 17th** for **25% OFF** on any one item, **plus 20% and 10% coupons,**

plus an entry to a chance to win a \$500 gift card. *Living Grace Home* benefits by selling these coupons for \$5 each. If you want a book of coupons or would like to sell them at your business or church, please call 702-212-6472.



Let's Go Shopping!

First House Mom

A friend once said to me "All change isn't good". But to those of us who lived at Living Grace Home during its first year of opening, we would say that seemingly all of the changes that occurred were good since they greatly restored our faith and have brought us closer to God and as such have altered the paths of our lives in a very good way.

As the first year house parents, my husband, Juan Contin and I witnessed first hand what the power of the Holy Spirit can do for believers and nonbelievers alike. At Living Grace Home, a community of faith-based volunteers and pregnant strangers all came together to help me to increase my faith by making miracles happen, seemingly every day. Little things like someone needing a

car ride to get to work on time and the door bell ringing moments later with someone else available to help (after a resident says a prayer); or a new resident moving into the lilac room and needing a dresser, just to have a couple who has heard about the program call to ask if anything was needed that day. And the very next day they arrive with a beautiful dresser they happened to find at a thrift store for only \$10; or when a new resident needing a back-pack and school supplies is rescued by an anonymous donor calling to ask if by chance one was needed because she had bought one too many. These were just samplings of greater things to come as we began our journey of offering a safe place to pregnant teens needing a

home, for just a short while.

Then there were the bigger things. One resident, a former gang member, achieved her high-school diploma, obtained her driver's license and is now attending college. She is a very good mother on top of it all.

The greatest change I can attest to is the change to my own life which occurred on September 17, 2008, (about nine months after leaving LGH) when my son, Juan Andres, was born. Perhaps he would have been born regardless of whether or not we had served as house parents at LGH. However, I do not think so. I can't explain it... it's just a knowing.

The Holy Spirit Makes Its Presence Known At LGH Everyday

My husband and I had tried to get pregnant naturally for eight years before our tenancy at LGH, but to no avail. Somehow, in a way that only God can bring about, in the safety and comfort of my new home at LGH surrounded by my newly established family in Christ, we conceived our son.

Undeniably, the Holy Spirit makes its presence known at LGH everyday. The changes that occur to our hearts and minds while there, can be remarkable if we let it. In our attempt to do something "good" for others

the most good is done unto us. Isn't that just like God to put a spin on things!



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Wish List

Living Grace Home has been more than blessed with goods and services. Our paper goods and cleaning products have been provided free of charge almost exclusively by Brady Industries. These also include toilet paper, laundry soap, dish soap, window cleaner, paper towels and other cleaning items to make sure that LGH is always clean and welcoming to new residents and visitors. Still there are things we need to buy at the store.

All of our furniture was donated at a local furniture and accessories convention or by members of the board. But there are always ongoing needs, in addition to food we often have young ladies arriving at Living Grace Home with only the clothes on their back. They may have a small bag of odds and ends, but may have been robbed or if couch surfing may have left items behind. These might include their

identification, birth certificate, or social security cards. These cost \$40-50 to replace.

We get donations of maternity clothes, and other clothing for the girls. Now if we could just figure out how to get the same size girls in as clothing that gets donated, we would be in clover! It does seem that we get size 2 girls when we have a donation of XX maternity clothes, and vice versa.

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Letter from Rev. John McShane

As human beings we have three different homes we all enjoy. Our first home is warm and comfortable and secure, but it is a relatively short stay of just nine months in our mother's womb. Emerging from this safe environment exposes us to the wonders and terrors of the vast world beyond!

Our second home is an earthly home, a roof over our head. Each week I work with those without shelter in their second home, bringing them simple comforts such as water, fruit and a clean pair of socks to help them feel human. As much as I sympathize with those who are homeless in home #2, they at least have a fighting chance to make it.

I have an ever present advocacy for those in home #1 who are often "kicked out" before their time to enter home #2. Those who are abruptly ripped from their mother's wombs and left to die, do not have a fighting chance and few to rescue them.

Many in our country favor homeless support, and rightfully so; but the neglect of the countless left homeless from the scourge of abortion shows an inconsistency. Wouldn't it be great if all men and women of good conscience would be promoters of the right to life of all in their first and second homes, for they will surely be welcomed into the #3rd and final, eternal home that is being prepared for all of us.

By Rev. John McShane



Look for an announcement in the mail about our upcoming Harvest Tea, November 14th at Living Grace Home.

If you can donate your time or treasure, this is a good way to meet us and decide how.

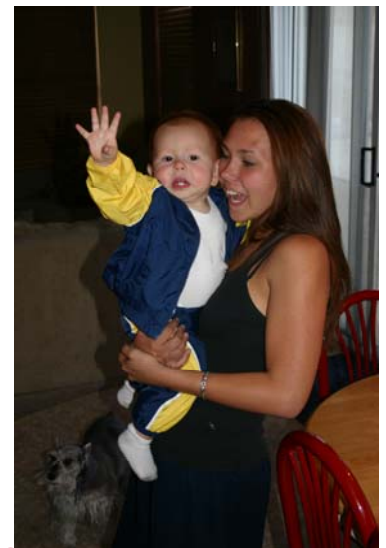
We are in the process of expanding the board for Living Grace Home, if you or someone you know would be interested, please contact Kathleen Miller, board president at 702-212-6472.

Continue: Wish List

Gift cards to Target, Kohl's, Walmart and other stores help to make sure the girls have something to wear while they are pregnant, even if it is just an outfit or two. They must be presentable when applying for jobs and attending school.

Often our girls are transported to and from doctor appointments and school, however they may take the bus to work. There is a need for monthly bus passes.

Bedding needs to be replaced, when we have several girls through a room in a year, the bedding wears out. Our beds are queen size, deep pocket beds that were donated by a mattress company. We have indeed been blessed with continuous support and donations of supplies. If there is any thing laying around the house that is not being used, that we could use, just give us a call 702-212-6472 and we will try to pick it up or make arrangements.



Great Support!

In our first two years of existence Living Grace Home has truly been blessed with community support. If we are not characterized as represented by the story of the Widow's Mite, I don't know who is! If we had not had donations of \$25, \$50, \$100. per month from individuals and \$500 to \$15,000. donations from small companies and foundations, we would not have been able to continue. Outreach groups from different churches have raised, \$500 to \$1000 with small events and donated to Living Grace Home.

While one church donated funds for our power bill for several months, another donated the funds for a swamp cooler to help stretch those dollars for at least two months longer than if we had used only air conditioning to cool Living Grace.

Here are some ways you can make donations: If you or a family member works at WAMU/Chase you can support Living Grace Home with your company withholding; if you work for MGM Mirage you can ask that we be the recipient of your Voice! Funds; if you shop at Albertson's you can register your rewards card to donate to Living Grace Home; go online to LivingGraceHome.com and use PayPal; or simply send your donation to: P.O.Box 60416, LV NV 89160. All of these are wonderful ways to help Living Grace Home change lives.

Our two most consistent financial donors though are our wonderful Pastoral guide, Father John McShane who has supported us both spiritually and financially from his own retirement funds. Without Father McShane, Living Grace Home would never have opened their doors. The other is Mr. James Heaton and his company, Halo Electronics. Jim was a board member for our first year. He was a wonderful mentor and provided the financial support to get our new non-profit up and running. Jim is still on our advisory board and we are very grateful for the input he gives on the business aspects of running Living Grace Home.

Our budget calls for over \$200,000 per year to run the home. In September, we were at \$109,000 and just making it. This sounds like a lot but many residents we take in are unable to contribute to the rent. Taking in young, pregnant teens, who need a home, is our mission. Our ministry requires complete trust in the Lord to take care of the needs of this house and all who enter. That means we trust people like you to listen and act when you are called to pitch in. If the home is to continue, we will be provided the funds and volunteers to do all that is needed to build a safe, holy shelter for the most needy among us.

He is speaking; are YOU listening?

Introducing Our Board of Directors

Our board of directors at Living Grace Home is not made up of people whose names you see on the society page. Our directors are people who have a loving heart and a strong desire to walk the walk, not just talk the talk. When they see a problem they are front and forward with offers of assistance.

Kathleen Larmore is our secretary/treasurer. She takes her role so seriously that when the first couple of attempts to open a maternity home faltered, she and her husband purchased the current residence expressly for the purpose of opening this much needed shelter. Kathleen also gives of her time, treasure and talent to make sure that the books are kept up to date, the home is maintained, and also fills in when too many girls have to go in too many directions! Again, Living Grace Home would never have opened if not for the quiet persistence of Kathleen Larmore.

Michael Peters was on the original board and involved in planning, designing and opening Living Grace Home. Mike is an attorney who has practiced family law and worked with adoptive parents for many years in Las Vegas, he is a great asset to the board. Mike has been supporting women who struggle to make a choice for life and has invested many hours of pro-bono work on their behalf. Mike also serves on the board of First Choice Pregnancy Services.

Janet O'Donnell is a Registered Nurse who set that most wonderful example of staying at home until her own children were raised before going back and resuming her career as a nurse. Janet works at Odyssey Hospice and gives aid and comfort to people in the last days of their lives. Because Janet is there, many have had a peaceful passing. Janet is also one our original board members who has been there to support, suggest and assist with the development of Living Grace Home. In her spare time she also volunteers at First Choice Pregnancy Services.

Anne Killoran is the newest member of the board of directors. Anne was a member of another Ladies organization that Kathleen Larmore and I belonged to. From the time I first spoke about Living Grace Home in 2002, Anne was interested. Anne has been on the board for just over a year and has brought enthusiasm and organization to our fundraising. Taking the lead on the banquet planning committee, she has surrounded herself with outstanding committee members. We welcome her.

Living Grace Home

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See How Living Grace Home is Changing Lives! Won't You Help Us Continue This Work of Charity Now?

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