



Living Grace Homes

PO Box 60416, Henderson, NV 89160

702-212-6472

website: livinggracehome.com

December 2011

Volume 1, Number 2

"We always give thanks to God, the Father, when we pray for you." Col 1:3

Board of Directors

Anne Killoran
Kathleen Larmore
Kathleen Miller
Mike Peters
April Swartz
Hunter Tylo

House Wish List:

1. Prayers for success
2. Gift cards from Walmart, gas stations, grocery stores, etc
3. 4 drawer locking file cabinet
4. Ink cartridges: HP 95, 98, 940
5. Drinking glasses
6. Towels
7. Vacuum
8. Maternity Belts
9. Kitchen Items (pots, pans, plates, flatware)
10. More prayers...

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Our **ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE** will be held Saturday, December 17th, 1-5pm. For more information call 212-6472.



VISIT OUR WEBSITE

Check our website regularly for more updates and activities. Our website has a donor page where you can use paypal to make a quick and easy donation. Donations are tax-deductible, greatly needed and appreciated!

NEWS FROM THE HOUSE

We currently have 5 girls living in the house, with one baby expected this month!

We continue to give thanks for our house parents, **Jacques & Jocelyn Cliche**. They have been a blessing to us! They have been with us for one year.



Fr. McShane

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide a safe haven for pregnant young women who have already made the choice not to abort their babies, but who are homeless, or in danger of becoming homeless, as a result of their choice. Furthermore, Living Grace Home will assist them in avoiding repeat out-of-wedlock pregnancies.



Sherri

VOLUNTEERS:

Our volunteers are the best! They give our house parents a weekly break, drive the girls to appointments and help with the babies. Our volunteers averaged over 100 hours since this summer.

NOTES FROM OUR CHAPLAIN:

Words and Thoughts of a Newborn

Life tucked in the belly of my mother for nine long months, so dark, yet so full. Steady growth, readying for a new home outside! Time goes by awaiting my birthday! Then, oh I can't hold back my tears. I don't want to leave, but it is time! I am outside in a different home, so big and bright! Sounds and touches, I am not used to! Then, sight comes! I can see my mother who carried me and cared for me inside her body. I am getting used to this world, and soon will be smiling. I owe it all to God! Carl Sandburg said once, "God says the world is alright for another day when a baby is born."

I am beautifully made! How awesome I am, unique and unrepeatable! Now I don't miss so much Mommy's womb, my first home. What an adventure to be conceived, and then born! I can't get over the mystery of it all! Little me! So tiny, yet so special and valuable, made in the image and likeness of God, for all the world to see and admire.

There are some who don't make it this far! Bad things can happen to good people. I am still voiceless, and must cry to get attention. I used to kick inside Mommy, stretching my little legs, now I have more room, and it seems I am in a better place. I need so much, but I am learning too, to give love to all around me. For those who don't make it this far because of sad and regrettable decisions made by others, I am sorry and will ever pray for you. God takes them too early on to the home we all hope to get to later on. I am just happy now that I made it this far, thanks to all, especially my Mom, and, of course, God.

Jesus got His start here on earth tucked in the virginal womb of Mary, and He shows Himself to the world as a Newborn in a stable every Christmas. Mary and Joseph are happy as they look at the Infant who comes to show the world love and peace.

I hope that my Daddy will also be proud of me and be part of my life. As I continue to grow and mature, I want to wish you and all your loved ones a joyful Christmas and a Blessed New Year 2012! I am happy to be with you just fresh from the belly of my mother. I am ever grateful!

Father John B. McShane
November 29, 2011

MEET CYNTHIA:

My journey to Living Grace Home was a troublesome one, riddled with confusion, various types of abuse, and abandonment. Despite these problems, I seemed to be on the right path until I reached the age of seventeen. Before then, I was ambitious. I had survived most of my high school years without ditching, without partying, and without failing. My goal was to become a Supreme Court Judge. I thought I knew what I wanted to be and I thought I knew how to get there.

And then I met him. Well I didn't exactly meet him, as I had known him for years. When I turned seventeen, he finally paid attention to me! He finally liked me, he finally wanted to be with me. I didn't care about his legal problems. I didn't mind that he already had a child. I was a good girl and I would be good for him. Four months into our relationship I learned I was pregnant. His family was excited but my family was ashamed. He was confident but I was scared. I was in high school but that wouldn't change anything, I was going to have a baby and finally, someone to love me!

That didn't happen. There wasn't a baby. It was painful although it might have been a blessing. I couldn't have a baby in high school. I didn't even have a permanent place to live! What was difficult was the fact that I had to endure a medical abortion of the



Sarah & Misty

DID YOU KNOW?

We have had 80 girls in the house.

76 babies born to date (1 expected this month!)

Our Sierra van is driven over 300 miles a week.



**MERRY
CHRISTMAS &
HAPPY NEW
YEAR!**

sac that my baby would have been in. But the most difficult thing of all was that he wasn't there for me. He stayed gone for three days at a time and when he would finally come back around, he would sleep. I started using methamphetamine, just to be with him. He had once told me that he never wanted me to use meth because he didn't want to see what it would do to me. Surely he would quit if he saw that I was going down the wrong path beside him. He didn't and soon I was addicted as well. We moved in together using money I had won in a settlement. He would still stay gone sometimes but I was already in too deep.

I found out I was pregnant again on September 26, 2006. We had spent the day looking for better meth. He had stolen a pregnancy test from Albertson's and I took it. It was positive, I was going to quit meth, and of course he would too. When we got home, his house arrest officer was waiting for him and he was taken to jail. We were supposed to quit but through the domestic violence and emotional problems, we never did. I had seen an article on Living Grace Home and I thought, "how wonderful." I gave birth to our daughter on May 19, 2007 and she was beautiful, but not healthy.

After I had our daughter, I figured I could keep using. He worked occasionally for his dad and I still had money left, so why not? Child Protective Services had come out once to evaluate how we cared for our sick daughter, but nothing came of it. They had come again after receiving a report of a filthy house with no food. This too was unsubstantiated. We still fought violently, often in front of our daughter and his son, but no one had reported that. The only way to control ourselves was to self-medicate - and we did. We self-medicated until the \$200,000 dollars dwindled down to \$60.

On December 11, 2008, Child Protective Services again came to our home. I knew it was our daughter's therapist who had called them. She wanted to help us so we could be a family again. Someone knocked on the door early on the 11th, but I didn't answer. Later in the day, I waited for him to bring back more meth as he had promised. Instead, they knocked on my door again. They interviewed me about the domestic violence, which I admitted to. They asked me about our daughter's medication, which we could no longer afford. They packed our daughter and her big brother into a car and started to drive off. He had arrived just in time to watch them speed away, fearing violence from him.

We decided to quit using on January 10, 2009. That day we bought what would be my last bag of meth. Earlier in the day I had tried to kill myself. I soon found out I was pregnant with my other daughter. He moved in with his mother, who had temporary custody of our daughter and his son. I didn't know how to work and I didn't know how to get assistance, so I found the number for Living Grace Home. I moved in a month after my tour and I changed my life, for the better. They helped me get to all of my drug court meetings and all of my family court dates. They helped me learn how to take care of a home and how to take care of a baby. I found a great job in the field I've always been interested in: Criminal Justice. Someone finally cared about me, and it didn't come from a man.

Although my daughters' dad still uses, I am almost to my three-year anniversary of methamphetamine. This is in no small part due to the love and guidance that I received during my stay at Living Grace Home. From Living Grace I moved into a transition home, and was taken in by one of the sweetest women on Earth. Now my daughters and I live in our own townhouse. I work full-time and I go to school full-time. I am pursuing my degree in Criminal Justice and I'm moving forward. When I look back at the girl that I was, I feel sad. I don't know who she was, but she's gone now. All I see when I look at myself is a maturing woman, all because I chose to let Living Grace love me.



FROM THE DIRECTOR:

What an amazing journey we have been on! We are so glad that you have been walking beside us, encouraging us, supporting our efforts with financial assistance and prayer!

In just under five years, Living Grace Home has provided a safe haven, shelter and guidance to 80 young women who were in a crisis in their lives, expecting a baby but with no place to go. Many came for the duration of their pregnancy, delivered their baby here and we have the joy of seeing new life beginning!

Others come and stay just for a while, then are on their way, finding new opportunities or getting their feet back beneath them. All have touched our lives and you have been such a great blessing to us all!

As we approach our fifth anniversary we are excited to be preparing to open Phase II, our goal is to have a grand opening on our 5th anniversary, February 1, 2012! Phase II is a second home that will provide extended care to those young moms who are working hard at changing their lives and making things better for their babies, but are not yet ready to take wing and fly. They will have a home where they can stay for an additional 18 months while finishing school or getting the vocational training that will allow them to be self-supporting.

We hope and pray that you will continue to walk beside us as we grow to meet the needs of this formerly ignored segment of our community.

As the year comes to an end, please consider making a **significant, tax deductible contribution**; the largest you can afford to make! Living Grace Home always has depended on your generosity. Teen pregnancy is a local problem, and with your help we are providing a local solution!

We wish you a very Merry Christmas and all the best in the New Year!

Kathleen Miller

*Living Grace Homes, Inc.
P.O.Box 60416
Las Vegas NV 89160*