



Beacon of Hope

"I rescued the poor who cried for help..."
Job 29:12

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From Wild to Responsible : A Young Mother's Year at Agape Home

Sarah is a 22-year-old mother with three boys under the age of five. She came to the Agape Home because she had lost everything through domestic violence. When Sarah first moved in she had a wild lifestyle, a disregard for rules, and her boys ran around widely ignoring Sarah's directions.

She quickly learned that she needed to change her behavior and had to follow the guidelines. Sarah soon began to realize the benefits of keeping a schedule and acting reasonably. Upon leaving, she told staff how much she valued the structure of the Agape Home. She was able to keep a daily schedule and had seen the positive effect it had on her boys.

Sarah stayed at the Agape Home for about a year, and during that time she was able to go back to school to get her GED. She now has a part time job while she continues in school and is sharing the cost of rent with a friend. Sarah plans to use her experience to help other moms who are struggling with homelessness.

Being a mother is hard just imagine being a homeless mother. When these women first enter the Agape Home, they are broken, scared, weary, and heavy-laden. These feelings often lead them to selfishness. Being overwhelmed with hardship, they find it difficult to give their children the time and attention they require for healthy development.

At the Agape Home mothers feel secure and do not have to worry about finding shelter. They learn to take responsibility for their actions, and teach their children to do the same.

With the burden of finding safe shelter removed, these mothers can concentrate on getting back on their feet again. Sarah is one example of a mother who learned what it means to be responsible.

Your support helped Sarah become self sufficient.

"I learned how to follow the rules and having a daily schedule has helped me a lot. The staff are supportive and when they told me I was doing a good job, I was able to keep going."

Music by:
End of the Road String Band

Catered Dinner

Guest Testimony

Spring Banquet

April 13

6:30PM

Lynden Christian Middle School

FREE EVENT
An offering will be taken

RSVP by 4/6/10
(360) 671-1562

Honor Your Mom by Helping Homeless Moms

Have you thought about how you are going to honor your mom this Mother's Day? Honor your mother by giving a Memorial or Tribute gift in her name. A Mother's Day Memorial/ Tribute card has been included in this newsletter. If you would like to make your gift *In Memory Of* or as *A Tribute to* your mother or a special woman in your life, just fill out the card and include it with your donation.

Agape Playground: An unforgettable Mother's Day gift

With the help of the Kiwanis Club of Bellingham and the Kiwanis Club of Lynden Breakfast Group, construction has started on the Agape Home Playground.



Building the playground's foundation



The site for the playground is nearly ready for the equipment!

We are still in need of about \$5,000 for materials, but we hope to have the playground completed by Mother's Day, May 9, 2010.

You may designate your financial gift to the Agape Playground by writing a note in the memo portion of your check.

Because You Care

January - February 2010

MEALS PROVIDED

The Mission	7,422
Agape Home	4,428
Community Meals	7,484
Total Meals	19,334

BEDS PROVIDED

The Mission	5,677
New Life Program	461
Agape Home	1,476
Total Beds	7,614

DROP-IN CENTER

Number of visitors 4,033

SEA MAR MEDICAL CLINIC

Number of visitors 75



Just a Thought

Ronald Buchinski, Executive Director
rbuchinski@yahoo.com

Mother's Day is approaching and God keeps bringing incredible women into my life; women whose love, devotion, and sacrifice shame me and make me want to be a better person.

Two years ago Mary, my daughter, and her husband were thrilled to find out they were going to have a baby. Joy turned into sorrow when they found out their baby would be born with serious birth defects; and if the baby lived he would spend his life in a wheelchair. Some encouraged Mary to terminate the pregnancy, but this was never even considered by the parents-to-be. As the pregnancy progressed, their unborn son encountered additional setbacks including a stroke.

The little guy was born prematurely and was an incredible fighter. There were times when it seemed as if he would rally and there was going to be a miraculous cure, but it wasn't to be. This precious little gift climbed up into Jesus' arms after nineteen days of being in the arms of his Mom, Dad and caring friends. Our firm hope is that our grandson is in Heaven now. But a mother's heart was broken - a mother who I am so very, very proud of.

I see this kind of love often at the Mission: mothers calling me needing a place to stay for their children, a staff member concerned about a wayward son, mothers concerned about someone else and wanting to donate or volunteer, and grandmothers who send in their gifts of love regularly and assure of us of their prayers.

In 1915 Howard Johnson wrote:

"M" is for the million things she gave me,
"O" means only that she's growing old,
"T" is for the tears she shed to save me,
"H" is for her heart of purest gold;
"E" is for her eyes, with love-light shining,
"R" means right, and right she'll always be,
Put them all together, they spell "MOTHER,"
A word that means the world to me.

I couldn't agree more. Happy Mother's Day,

My Spring Gift of Hope

Yes Ron, you can count on me to help those in need during this spring season and throughout the year.

Here is my gift of: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Please accept my credit card donation: (please print)

Card Type: _____ Exp. Date: _____ / _____

Credit Card # _____

I am interested in learning about including Lighthouse Mission Foundation in my estate planning.

NLM10

Fed. Tax ID # 91-0659437 • Lighthouse Mission Ministries • PO Box 548, Bellingham, WA 98227 • (360) 733-5120

All donor information is confidential. All gifts are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.



My Biggest Joy

A Street-Dwelling Alcoholic Finds Hope

Gary came to the Mission on and off for about three years. He is an alcoholic and in beginning stages of dementia.

Every couple of months he would relapse and as a result, he would have to leave the Mission for awhile. Gary finally quit drinking and came back to the Mission, but became very depressed and began a journey of self destruction.

His hostility resulted in arrests for aggressiveness and trespassing; his violent behavior forced him to leave the Mission. We can only help those who are willing to receive help.

After a year had passed, Gary returned to the Mission. I was scared because of the past threats, but saw him across the street and called him over. In talking to him, I realized he was probably the most repentant man I had ever met. Gary was now serious about wanting to change and he finally wanted to follow some of our suggestions

about how to do that. It was difficult because of his dementia, but we helped him get financial assistance. With the life skills Gary has learned at the Mission and the money he has been able to save, he is now able to move into his own apartment.

Gary and I have spent many hours together; talking about what God has done for him, praying with each other, crying, and laughing. God showed me what He can do with a life, what He can do through His persistent grace and love. Seeing and being a part of this man's journey has made me want to know what grace really means in my own life.

Thank you for your support - your donations help us provide valuable services to people in need.

Paul
Mission Staff

"God showed me what He can do with a life, what He can do through His persistent grace and love."



To hear more stories like Gary's, Sign up for our e-newsletter at TheLighthouseMission.org



Ron Buchinski, Executive Director
 PO Box 548
 910 West Holly Street
 Bellingham, WA 98227-0548
 www.TheLighthouseMission.org



It's not too late...
**Call today to reserve your seat at
 our Spring Banquet!**

NONPROFIT ORG
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 BELLINGHAM WA
 PERMIT # 70

The **Distribution Center** is located at 1015 West Holly Street and is open by appointment.

It exists to provide housewares and furniture, free of charge, to local families and individuals in need. The Distribution Center is supplied through the kind donations of individuals and businesses in our community.

Contact Bernie at (360) 733-5120 Ext. 103 for more information about donating large items.

A note of thanks:

The Staff of Lighthouse Mission

I just wanted to say "Thank you" "Thank you" "Thank you" for the bedroom set, bed and other misc. things you provided for my apt in Sumas. It means a whole lot to me.

Thanks again.
J.

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 Patricia Buchinski, Women's Ministries
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January - February 2010

Memorial:

Betty Jane Keeler	Judy Friedl-Hansen
Betty Martin	Kailey Walter
Beverly Martin	Lester Neevel
Darlene Polinder	Loren Roy Stelzer
Dave Ashton	Mary Nestle
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Harold Rand Wasel	
Ian Beer	
Jack Radisch	
Jean Cahill	
Jim DeBruyn	
John M. Weber	

A Tribute to:

Case Voskuilen
 Dr. Emily Gibson
 Gabe Garcia
 Bill Snyder & Carole MacDonald

Items we Need:

- Baby Wipes
- Toilet Paper
- Mayonnaise
- Coffee
- Butter/Margarine
- Pancake Syrup
- Sugar
- Tea Bags
- Bleach

For the glory of God, Lighthouse Mission Ministries desires to minister to needy men, women, and children through the provision of compassionate resources and services in the Name of Jesus Christ.

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