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MESSENGER

Helping Families, Transforming Lives



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AUTUMN 2009

Former Campers' Hope Restored

"Joshua kept cougars from invading our camp. And once he woke me during a storm to warn us of impending floodwaters." Lori says of her 14-year-old son. "My husband had to ride his bicycle thirteen miles to town to get supplies and look for a job.

"Camping for five months while homeless was so hard, but such a bonding time for my husband, our son and myself," continues Lori, a pert, petite blonde. "We're grateful for the experience."

Rob tells of the many kind people along the way – firefighters, camp hosts, other campers – all a part of God's provision in a tough time. In a desperate hour, a church group camping nearby gave the family a cash donation. The group also left them food and firewood.

"Miracles happened in His provisions, in relationships and protection. Our needs were met. Our faith in God got stronger and our family got closer. But 'nothing changes if nothing changes,'" Rob observes. "We were living one day at a time, but nothing was moving us forward."

Then a niece mentioned she knew someone who had benefited during a stay at My Father's House and recommended the shelter as a possibility.

"When we let go of the steering wheel, God took over," quotes Rob in one of his many colorful maxims. They arrived at MFH eager and ready for the next phase God had in store for the family.

"We absolutely love the staff. They're amazing. They lift us up and are so encouraging and accepting. The classes, the whole program – just what we needed when

we needed it!" says Lori.

"We especially enjoy Dave Ramsey's *Financial Freedom*. We are putting many of the principles into action already."

"We love that N.A. [narcotics anonymous] has an open meeting here. The Parenting Class and Ready-to-Rent were great," Rob says as Lori agrees. They also appreciate the planned activities like Family Night every Saturday night.

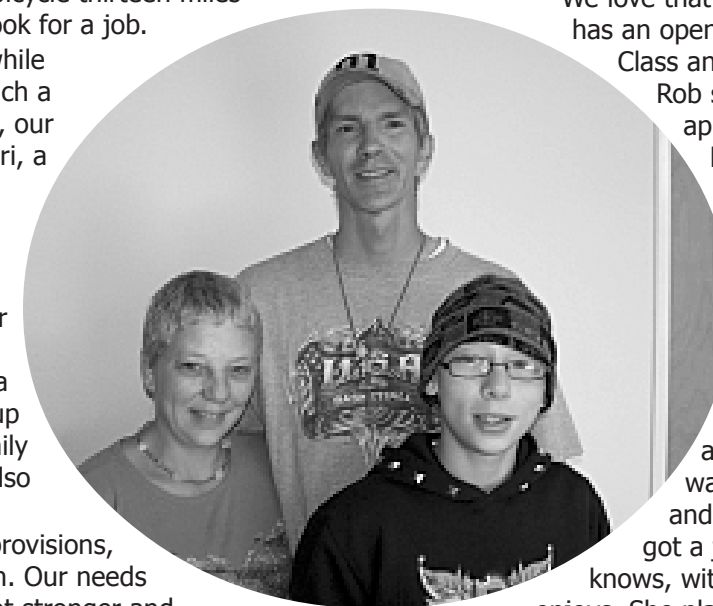
Their son, Joshua, says that Sunday Night Youth Group is his favorite part of MFH, "next to our room, of course, having our own space. That's the best ever."

Soon after arriving, Lori did a ninth step in her recovery. "I was just doing what was right and I got hired," Lori shares. Lori got a job as a deli clerk, a job she knows, with people she knows and enjoys. She plans to return to school next year and major in counseling.

Rob, a business manager by trade, recently accepted a security guard position at the Rose Garden. "I get to watch the Trailblazers while I get paid! Does it get any better than that?" Rob exclaims.

The most significant changes in their lives as MFH residents are not in the realm of jobs or housing, although these are major goals for all residents. "It's about hope restored," Rob states confidently. "And for me," adds Lori, "it's been about discovering my spiritual strength."

"MFH is so much more than a shelter," Lori says thoughtfully. "Yeah," agrees Rob, "it's like a key to independence for us. It's not a hand-out, it's a hand-up."



A special thanks to Ben Ivan of Akros Marketing, who handles the printing and mailing of this newsletter every quarter. Akros Marketing offers a comprehensive array of business communication services, including marketing, database and data management, copy writing and graphic design, as well as printing and direct mail services. Not to mention, Ben is an exceptional guy and very good at what he does!



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Christmas Concert & Tea



Join
**Michael Allen Harrison
& Friends**
for a
Christmas Concert & Tea
December 19th at 11am

This special performance will be at the Old Church in downtown Portland. Included is a "Meet & Greet" time with Michael Allen Harrison & Friends while enjoying Christmas teas and desserts. Tickets are just \$100 each or two for \$150. All proceeds benefit the families at My Father's House.

Purchase your tickets by calling 503-492-3046 or stop by our office Tuesday through Friday 9am to 8pm.

As of September 1 we have 20 families in the shelter.
Our goal is to be completely full by Christmas!

from the Director's Chair



Recently I received an email from a very popular non-profit magazine. The article stated, "with less, do less". With the turn of the economy, the layoffs, 12% unemployment, lack

of funding from grantors, donors not able to make commitments... then you should do less! Then why is My Father's House doing *more*... not less?

To me, it's simple. We have been ordained for such a time as this. To reach out to the struggling families who are growing in number daily. To do all we can to help a family back on their feet. There's no job security for anyone... but there is "love security". People are reaching out to find answers, to keep their families safe, and to find a place of belonging. At My Father's House we try to provide all we can to help families without doing anything for them that they can do for themselves. We're here to offer an extended hand of help... not rescue them from making choices and decisions for their families.

So for me and my staff, it's not an option to "do less". The only option for us is to "love more". So our borders are growing, and by Christmas the shelter will be at full capacity. I hope and pray that you will make this journey with us by supporting the many families that enter the doors of My Father's House.

Need ideas of how to support My Father's House? How about a food drive with your friends? Celebrate birthdays, but instead of purchasing presents, ask everyone to give a gift of \$10 to the shelter in your honor. How about sponsoring a family for just \$40 per month? You will be amazed at what we can do with \$40 a month. That's only \$10 a week. The point is, do what you can to help out the homeless in your community. To pledge, contact Cindy at 503-492-3046 x223. Together... we can accomplish so much more!

~Cathe

Cathe Wiese, Executive Director



WE HAVE A WINNER! Bill Mehling of Eagle Creek is now the proud owner of the 1967 Ford Mustang, valued at \$10,000! This classic coupe sports a new engine, rebuilt automatic transmission, new paint, new interior, and – courtesy of Gresham Ford – new tires! On Saturday, August 8, over 100 people gathered together at Gresham Ford to watch General Manager Bess Wills draw the winning ticket. My Father's House was given the Mustang last fall by Ed Rund of NW Auto Tech to raise money for homeless families. Over \$18,000 were raised and will be used to support the operating expenses at My Father's House. Other raffles included a fly fishing trip won by Sarah Green of Corbett. Pictured are Bess, Bill, and My Father's House executive director, Cathe Wiese.



Wish List Items We Need

- ☆ bus tickets
- ☆ small tool set
- ☆ cheese
- ☆ milk
- ☆ eggs
- ☆ jelly/jam
- ☆ peanut butter
- ☆ paper towels
- ☆ tall kitchen garbage bags
- ☆ frozen meats (ground beef, chicken...)
- ☆ canned meats (tuna, chicken...)

Call 503-492-3046 for further information.



\$10,000 raised at our lively Golf-2-Give

Our benefit tournament, held July 20 at Columbia Edgewater Country Club, was a resounding success. There were 32 teams hitting the green, and everyone had a blast. It was a beautiful, sunny, 80-degree day and the balls were flying! No one won the new Ford Focus from Gresham Ford, but everyone tried. It was a great time, and we raised over \$10,000 for the families at the shelter. Don't miss it next year!!

Check out our website at www.familyshelter.org

503-492-3046

"Anyone can count the seeds in an apple, but only God can count the number of apples in a seed." — Robert H. Schuller

My Father's House

Seven rooms still available for adoption

December is quickly approaching, and our goal is to have My Father's House completely filled by Christmas. But we simply can't do it without you. We still have seven rooms that need to be adopted out. Here's what's involved:

Our Adopt-A-Room program is a one-year commitment. You will be responsible for furnishing your room three to four times a year. When families move into My Father's House we want them to feel welcome. Providing the new, needed items is a wonderful way to show them we care. When a family leaves the shelter to set up their own apartment, they take all the items with them to help them with their fresh start. Furniture items do not have to be replaced because they are permanent in the apartment rooms. The average cost for these items is \$300-\$500 depending on your shopping style and the size of family moving in. The room you adopt will have a plaque on the wall outside the room honoring you, your family, church or business.

Practical, creative, tangible... does this sound like your kind of helping-out? Call Cathe at 503-492-3046 to get started!



Volunteer spotlight



As we continue to increase our ability to serve more families, our staff has been growing as well. We are excited introduce you to the newest member of our team, Sinclair Ceasar. Sinclair is serving for the next year as our Children's Center Manager. He came to us from New Jersey through the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, which sends volunteers to work with people who are marginalized by society and to live in community with other Jesuit Volunteers. Starting in September he will be responsible for managing all the aspects of our Children's Center, including our preschool, after-school Kid's Club, and evening childcare. We are thrilled to have Sinclair as a part of our ever-growing family and we can't wait to see the impact he will have on the lives of our kids.

Interested in volunteering in our Children's Center? We have many positions open in every area and would love to have you become a part of our team! We are also looking for volunteers in Reception, Computer Lab and Family Night. Contact Heather at heather@familyshelter.org or 503-492-3046 x224.

Help equip, stock and decorate the Children's Center!

Our Children's Center needs a variety of things -- big to small -- to make it a fun and safe place for our families' little ones while their parents are taking classes. Contact Heather at 503-492-3046 x224 to confirm items still needed and for other details.

- Aquatic-themed décor (nursery)
- Jungle-themed décor (toddlers)
- Muralist
- Crib sheets (new or in great condition)
- 32-inch TV and wall mount
- Cupboard for games (lockable)
- Juice boxes and snacks
- Gift cards to craft supply stores
- Kid-sized craft aprons/smocks
- Disposable bibs

- Children's DVDs
- CD players (3)
- DVD player
- Big T-shirts
- Paper plates
- Dixie cups
- 6-quart containers
- Crochet hooks
- Colored cardstock
- Glue dots

