



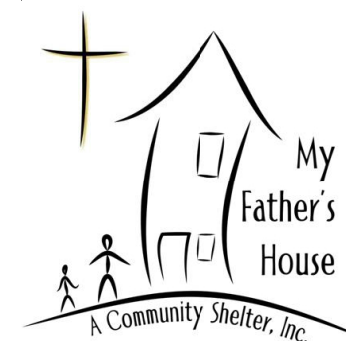
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MESSENGER

Helping Families, Transforming Lives



SPRING 2011

"God-love-hope-prayer-family-friends and Us"

As told to Jacki Washington,
Women's Case Manager and Single Moms' Floor Manager

Jeffery and his bride of 18 years, Sandy, along with their two daughters Brianna, 5, and Hailey, 4, arrived at My Father's House tired and scared. Everyone was physically and emotionally exhausted. Sandy and Jeffery had just spent ten days existing in their car.

"We received such a warm welcome when we got to the shelter. It was phenomenal," states Sandy. "It was so nice to have a real bed in such a beautiful room! After a lifetime of nightmares, I slept soundly—and have not had another nightmare since moving into the shelter. I have renewed my faith in God's love for us."

Jeffery, nodding, says, "I used to be a skeptic, but now I talk about God at work. Now, my thinking is so changed. I want to go to church and to raise my kids to love God. In fact, I actually find church to be quite fun." Continuing, Jeffery states, "We want to keep in touch with our extended 'family' and with everything we have learned these past few months. Our life was not working, but now we have hope."

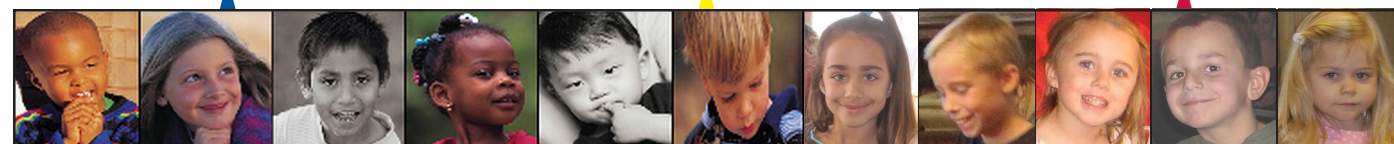
Jeffery and Sandy credit the mandatory classes as significant factors in their life changes. Jeffery loved the Dave Ramsey Financial Freedom classes and Sandy the Genesis Process classes. Sandra expressed, "At first I thought the Genesis class did not pertain to me. Then I felt emotional tenderness, realized I needed healing, and received it."

Also factors in the changes the family experienced were the interpersonal fun times like Family Night and birthday parties. "Anytime the whole 'family' gets together is special." Sandy agrees, "It has been so good to be here with our kids. The values we learned about Jesus were in a positive light, positive experiences and positive relationships."

Jeffery and Sandy wanted to share a letter that he wrote to her just a short time ago:

"To my Dearest Sweetheart Sandy, I know that moving out of My Father's House seems like a big step for you, but nevertheless, we have grown stronger as a couple. The lessons we have learned here at MFH and the tools we have received can help us as we go thru life. One thing that we

have learned is that stagnation is not a place that we, as a couple—or anybody else—should be. Life is about change. The more we change, the more we grow, and we will change and grow together as a family. ... It will always be us and our daughters. I love you Sandra Jean Elaine Moore. You are the love of my life and you always will be. So remember to lean on me if you need to, and remember, God-love-hope-prayer-family-friends and us. We can do this, but only if we are on the same page with the same goals. Let's start fresh and open up to each other so we can reach our goals together as a family. A family that loves each other instead of the strangers we were when we got here. I love you Sandy... your husband, Jeffery."



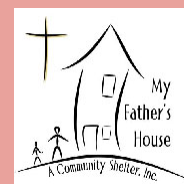
Join Us at Persimmon Country Club
for a Fundraising Black Tie Dinner, Silent Auction, Entertainment and Dance to Benefit

My Father's House Kids' Fun In The Sun Summer Programs

Persimmon Country Club April 29, 2011

6pm No Host Bar and Silent Auction
7pm Dinner, 8pm Entertainment & Dancing

Sponsored by Nine Local Businesses



Win a Persimmon Country Club Golf Package ~ Value \$400

For Tickets

Please Contact Dawn Michelle at Absolute Staffing by April 19
Individual Tickets \$45 **503-667-9939** A Table of Ten Tickets \$350



Golf-2-Give is Back! See inside for details.



from the Director's Chair



Celebrating 10 years of serving families has been so much fun! And it makes me stop and think too... these past few months I have been especially aware of how grateful I am for what God has done for all of us involved in My Father's House.

A few days ago, I pulled up to the front of My Father's House, and I sat in the car and just stared at this huge building that houses over 100 people. It reminded me of

a scripture my friend Bev had sent to me recently... *"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us."* Ephesians 3:20

It really hit home. I know I prayed and asked God to provide this wonderful building and shelter where families can come, feel safe, heal, grow and experience positive change in their lives... but wow... this was more than I dared imagine!

But putting aside this wonderful building where God allows us to house families, I am totally amazed every day at the change in people's lives. Not just the residents whom we expect to see change, but in volunteers, staff and yes, even in myself. Because of everyone working together, loving together and serving together we have the most incredible opportunity to see God work in the lives of everyone around us. That's why you will hear me say, "I have the best job ever!"

If you haven't decided to volunteer or serve in some way, we would love to welcome you into what we do best, love the hurt, bruised and broken... sometimes it's the ones doing the serving that need the most healing and you get that by taking your eyes off yourself and your circumstances and reaching out to those who need it more than you do. And in the end you'll agree with me and say, "Wow, I have the best job ever!"

Today, believe with me that God will do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine according to his power!

~Cathe

Cathe Wiese, Executive Director



TEENS GETTING READY to leave for Summer Camp provided by Gresham Rotary Club. What an awesome opportunity for these kids!

Wish List

☆ **Food Items:** fresh fruit and veggies, hamburger, hotdogs, jelly/jam, juice, milk, condiments, eggs, peanut butter, cereal

☆ **Clothing Items:** all sizes of new sandals, tennis shoes, and flip flops; kids' underwear and socks

☆ **Personal Items:** shampoo, vitamins, deodorant, feminine products, toilet paper

☆ **For Cleaning:** laundry detergent, dish soap

Mark Your Calendar



APRIL 29 Kids' Fun in the Sun
Fundraising event for our kids' summer program

JULY 18 3rd Annual Golf-2-Give Tournament

AUGUST 27 Summer Concert on the Lawn

AUG 29 - SEPT 3 Fill a Back Pack
School supply drive

OCTOBER 14 Multnomah Falls Wine Event

NOV 28 - DEC 17 Adopt-A-Family for Christmas

HANDS UP AND HATS OFF

to Chiavan Christenson who teaches a dance class at My Father's House. At just 14, Chiavan leads several girls in dance lessons on Friday afternoons. The girls love the class and are going to perform at the Dinner and Auction sponsored by Absolute Staffing on April 29th (see back page of this newsletter). You won't want to miss this!



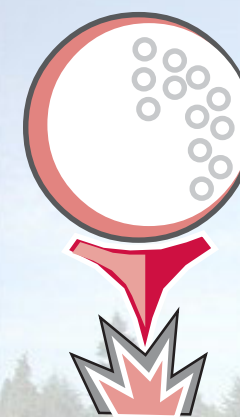
DOUG, OUR FACILITY MANAGER, does more than just fix sinks! Here he's reading to the kids during Spring Break.

What's Your Favorite Camp Song?

Remember those crazy songs you learned 'round the campfire, in the mess hall, and on hikes in the woods? *Do your ears hang low, do they wobble to and fro... Late last night, when we were all in bed... Get your elbows off the table, Bobby dear...* Won't it be neat for all the kids at MFH to learn them, too? You can provide needed items for a child attending Eagle Fern Camp for just \$100! Each camp package will include a sleeping bag, shirt-and-shorts set, underwear, tennis shoes or sandals, swim suit, towel, deodorant, bug repellent, and sunscreen. Call Cathe at 503-492-3046 x222, or mail your donation to My Father's House, PO Box 1147, Gresham, OR 97030. Indicate "Camp" on the memo line. Put a song (or two!) in a child's heart this summer, and get one in your own, too.



A TON OF THANKS TO NORTHWEST SELF STORAGE for 6,000 pounds of canned goods! Our shelves are full and we appreciate you for stepping up and providing so much food for My Father's House families!



Our 3rd Annual Golf-2-Give Tournament

...is coming Monday, July 18, 2011! Don't golf? Join us for dinner!

The event will include a 4-person scramble, box lunch, and awards dinner following golf. Featured events for the day will include: Hole-in-One, Long Drive Contest, KP's, Straight Drive Contest, Mulligan, Marshmallow Drive, player gifts, silent auction, and much more. It all happens at the beautiful Willamette Valley Country Club.

Registration begins at 11 a.m. The cost through July 1 is \$150 for an individual, and \$600 for a team. Prices increase after July 1. Price includes: greens fees, cart, use of driving range and practice greens, gift package, box lunch, and the awards ceremony with prime rib/chicken buffet. Dinner-only price is \$25. Mark your calendar and call 503-492-3046 ext 222 or 224 to reserve your spot!



<http://www.facebook.com/pages/My-Fathers-House-A-Community-Shelter-Inc>