



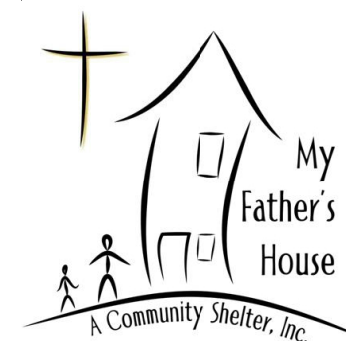
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MESSENGER

Helping Families, Transforming Lives



SUMMER 2011

Raining Nickels

As told to Jacki Washington

"The most important part of my life is my family. My kids are everything to me. I praise God every day for Austin and Faith. So when I found myself so miserable, broke, and defeated by my own poor choices, I knew I had to do something to change our direction and lifestyle."

Steve admits that making that first move was very difficult even though he knew he was doing the right and necessary thing. Arriving at MFH, Steve took a deep breath and jumped into the program. Soon he discovered the skills and support he needed to succeed. He stepped out of his dysfunctional comfort zone into a new way of living and thinking. "I did it for my children and my spiritual survival," Steve admits.

Steve remembers calling the intake line that first day. "Taking the risk to commit to the program at My Father's House is like flipping a nickel in the air and God sending down a million nickels, that's what the lady on the phone said," Steve chuckles. "My family definitely got our nickel's worth! The opportunity to clear my head and heart



through the case management, the classes, and the church services was part of those nickels raining down. Understanding God's plan of submitting to right living caused a primary change in my personal growth. I saw it in action all around me...yes, more nickels.

"Nickels" continues on page 2



The 120-day Transformation

As told to Jacki Washington

22-year-old single mom Jessica and her son Zack, 2, arrived at My Father's House determined and motivated to get a job, an apartment, and OUT of the shelter as quickly as possible. "Like, in a month," said Jessica, "but then I realized it was tougher than I thought it would be. So I took the resume class and the Rent Well along with the required classes and found out I didn't know as much as I thought I did!"

Jessica appreciated the emphasis on family. The Parenting Class was great, and the child care provided for those classes, for time in the computer lab, and job search time. "I was able to focus on finding a job and housing while Zack was safe and having fun. I am extremely pleased with how much Zack advanced with all the educational activities and lots of social time with other kids. I was free to do my thing." Jessica bubbles over with enthusiasm, sharing her huge, beautiful smile. "I got off Entry Program early too," she brags.

"Transformation" continues on page 2

My Father's House

PO Box 1147, Gresham, OR 97030

Family Fun Fest & Concert on the Lawn

TO BENEFIT MY FATHER'S HOUSE

Games, Lunch, and Bill Trafton's Volkswagen Gathering

from noon to 4 p.m.

then **Live Bands** from 4 - 8 p.m. presented by

DoSAY STUDIO

including

* Leonard Latin
* Abba Do Say

* Repent

* Real Age Band
* Dan Springer

Saturday, August 27th

175TH AND SE POWELL IN GRESHAM

ADMISSION: FREWILL DONATION

FOOD ITEMS \$1 EACH

www.familyshelter.org

503-492-3046

"Nickels," continued from page 1

"My children were safe and had fun in the MFH Day Care program. They made friends, went on field trips and to camp. This whole experience has been such a time of growing in God and relationships... yep, more nickels."

Steve found employment after a period of job search. He is a manager at Majestic Building Supplies and greatly enjoys his job. While at MFH, Steve also paid into the Family Fund, faithfully attended classes and church, completed his homework for every class, met with his case manager, and graduated from all program expectations in about five months' time.

Steve applied to Stepping Stones Apartments and was approved. "I knew I needed the stability, that is, the clean and safe environment, the rent

control and the continued support the program provides." More nickels.

"Our lives are so full of healthy activities and healthy fun. Our focus is on us as God's children living out His will and plan for our lives." Austin, 12, adds, "I made friends at MFH and my life moved up." Faith, 10, comments, "I made a lot of friends too, and MFH gave us all we needed to start our good life. We learned to save money too."

"I actually like the accountability, said Steve. "It gives me integrity in relationships. I no longer run from being hurt. I am happy living in the 'light', open and transparent."

One day Steve walked into the intake office, flipped the intake lady a nickel and said, "You were right about those nickels! Thank you!"

Don't judge each day by the harvest that you reap, but by the seeds that you plant. ~Robert Louis Stevenson



from the
**Director's
Chair**

One of the most effective classes we provide at My Father's House is the Genesis Process. Basically, Genesis Process is for those who have struggled with painful personal problems or self-destructive behaviors such as drugs, alcohol, sex, food, work, relationships, anxiety, etc. MFH staff and volunteers also have benefited from the class. Each time it has been taught, we have had overwhelming testimonies like, "I wasn't sure about all this 'sharing' that they wanted me to do, but after the first couple of weeks, I was telling my story and finding healing in learning there's a reason I do what I do, and then learning how I can change," from a father of five. A single mother of two shares, "I was blessed to be at the shelter long enough to take Genesis two times. I can't think of anything more life-changing than that class!"

Because of the impact the Genesis Process has had on our own lives as well as the lives of the

homeless families we serve, MFH is going to host a Genesis Process Personal Healing and Change Seminar with author Michael Dye on Friday evening and Saturday, September 23-24. We have room for just 400 participants and it's only \$59 (includes snacks and lunch). This seminar is for all of us who are helping in ministries and are looking for effective tools to help families and individuals. It's for those who want to help others feel safe. The Genesis Process principles are practical, biblically sound tools for helping those who want to change, be able to change.

We would love for you to join us for this amazing seminar. For more information, see the registration form inside this newsletter or call Jacki at 503-492-3046 x231. You can also tell Jacki if you'd like to sponsor an individual to attend.

My Father's House is all about helping families transform their lives. The Genesis Process is just one of the tools we use to do this.

~Cathe

Cathe Wiese, Executive Director



CAMPERS SAY THANKS! Thank you to everyone who helped our kids go to camp! Special thanks to Camp Collins, the Gresham Rotary Club, Bess Wills and Bob Avila of Gresham Ford. Thank you Camp Eagle Fern for the scholarships and Boeing of Portland for our van! Also thank you Southwest Airlines employees for the sleeping bags, and to the many individuals who gave sleeping bags and shoes and clothes for our 30 kids who went to camp this year!

"Transformation," continued from page 1

"I did my homework and chores. I looked for work. I was in all my classes. And guess what!? I got a job! A job I love as a Radio Cab dispatcher! So I arranged for my relative to babysit while I worked crazy hours. Everyone at MFH was so supportive and helpful." Jessica waves her arms. "I couldn't have done it without all this."

The Financial Freedom Class with Dave Ramsey was Jessica's favorite class. "It opened my eyes, showing me how to organize my money. I had a revelation about how I used to spend my money. Now I go by my needs, not my wants." Jessica continues, "Just like my money eyes were opened, my emotional and spiritual eyes were opened by Genesis Process. I did what I could to right wrongs from my past. When my mom came to Easter Service with me, I just couldn't quit bawling and smiling!"

When her housing went through, she knew the program's Family Fund (her regular deposits) would be there for rent and deposit. "I did it! I did the whole program and did it in four months!" Jessica beams proudly.

"I want to thank everyone for everything. The Adopt-A-Room seemed to know what I liked and it's been so comfy and homey. Thank you for all the items I get to take with me. Thank you for clothing for my son. And those diapers! I don't think I could have afforded them. Most of all I thank the staff and volunteers for believing in me. That means sooooo much! I love MFH! You have helped me when there was no one else. Thank you!"



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

Get Out the Vote for My Father's House

The judges of "Classy Awards" have selected My Father's House as a Top 25 Finalist in Most Innovative Use of Social Media. Out of hundreds of qualifiers, the judges determined that our achievement – our awesome summer kids' programs, funded in part by money donated for Facebook "likes" – stood out as one of the most inspiring and



impactful.

As a Finalist, our story will be featured on the Voting Page until Aug. 26. During that time, anyone can visit www.classyawards.org

and vote once in each category.

The Top 10 Finalists will be selected by popular vote, so the more people we can get to vote, the better our chances of winning will be!

What Residents are Saying About MFH Classes



Rent Well: "I didn't know I had responsibilities, not just rights, as a renter!" "I got my housing right away because I took this class."

Love and Respect: "Might save my marriage." "We like it a lot. It's helping us communicate."

Parenting Class: "I realized I want to have a relationship with my kids into my old age." "Kids have goals when they misbehave. Imagine that!"

Financial Freedom: "Amazing changes in how I view money."

Genesis Process: "I discovered that anger is not my real issue."

Fear is." "It's helped me forgive... showed me I am not in control."

Ballet Class: "It's helping my daughter learn poise and gracefulness." "My daughter is so happy when she is dancing!" "My girls love the teacher, Chivan."



A GREAT BIG THANK YOU goes from all of us at My Father's House to our wonderful volunteers for your quick responses in meeting practical needs. You've bought new refrigerators and much-needed paper products, provided lawn care and childcare, worked in the computer lab and the donation center. You are the prayer team, the fundraising team, the drivers, receptionist, tutors, and teachers. May God richly bless you as you give so freely of your time and talents!