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MESSENGER

Helping Families, Transforming Lives



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SUMMER 2014

Matching Grant Doubles Your Money, Doubles the Benefit

We are getting so close! In just a few short months Stepping Stone Apartments will be completed! There are many last minute details and you can be part of the success of this transformational housing and program for single mothers.



In order to have the apartments

ready, we have to furnish them. We want to provide a homey place for our families and you can help! We need everything from beds to couches and appliances. That's why we are joining forces through "crowd funding".

Crowd funding is a new and unique ways to raise funds for things that matter to people. And the wonderful news is that we have a matching grant from MJ Murdock Charitable Trust, so every single dollar you give, we'll receive a match of a dollar. Turn your gift of \$100 into \$200 instantly, all while helping single moms get a high school diploma or job skills in order to gain sustainable employment!

Please go to indiegogo.com and search for My Father's House. We even have some fun rewards! This is a great place to order your Stepping Stone—a personalized paver for the outdoor gathering area at the apartments—as well as some raffle tickets for our fundraiser, "Uncorked", happening this December. The indiegogo campaign will launch on August 22 and will only last 30 days. Please don't hesitate. Get in on the action while we have the opportunity to DOUBLE the benefits!



indiegogo



www.familyshelter.org

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

"We Have Really Come Home"

From a boat to a bus to a place to build relationships that count

Smashing their small boat just off the coast of southern Mexico, Hope felt overwhelmed with frustration and despair. After several years of chasing mining jobs with her husband Ryan and their two small children, Hope just wanted to go home. But where, exactly, was home?

After getting small jobs, Hope and Ryan bought a school bus, and started the long trek back to the United States. As they traveled north, not knowing their destination, the school bus broke down in the Gresham area. They met a kind family who directed them toward My Father's House. They both agreed this probably wasn't going to work. Hope and Ryan had both smoked pot for years, and weren't sure of their ability to stop now. At My Father's house, potential residents are expected to refrain from drug and alcohol use of any kind. They came to the interview with open minds, later confessing they liked the idea of reviving their spiritual commitments to God. "Now," says Hope, "I look back with wonder at how coming clean affected me. I began to feel more emotions, colors were brighter, food tasted better, and I had an incredible love for others. As I renewed my relationship with Jesus, He led us to a little church, a little family that embraced us, and accepted us unconditionally." "Yes," agrees Ryan. "We found a

supportive family in My Father's House, our church and the community. When I accepted Christ, my view of everything changed. We became a much more positive, closer family."

Both children, who have never attended daycare or school, benefitted from the daycare program at MFH. Both are smart children and have gobbled up the academia. They even went to summer camp for the first time! Ryan got a job easily, not as lucrative as his previous mining job, but a stable income nonetheless. Hope found a job that she loves in a hardware store, selling tools. During her time here, she even helped a friend replace a manifold on their pickup.

Ryan and Hope benefitted greatly from the classes they took, the case management and the accountability it fosters, and, adds Hope, "learning to use the computer!" The financial portion of the program at My Father's House involves depositing 30% of all monies earned into an account called a "Family Fund." As a resident works, the money they save is used for first and last months' rent, deposits, and utilities when they find their own place to live.

Ryan and Hope paid more than their require 30% and were able to purchase, for half price from Christian friends, a trailer with more square footage

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My Father's House

503-492-3046

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from the Director's Chair I love Facebook. I know a lot of people who don't do social media, but I'm convinced that if I wasn't on Facebook the world would pass me by! Well, that may be an exaggeration, but I do know I would miss a ton of pictures and life events from not only my family but my friends and acquaintances. I would miss the wonderful things happening in the lives of those I don't see, both near and far away. But I am also encouraged and enlightened as well. Like this piece of wisdom:

The Four Things You Can't Recover


- The stone after the throw.
- The word after it's said.
- The occasion after it's missed.
- The time after it's gone.

from MothersQuotes.com

Reflecting on these words I have to admit that at least three of the four of these apply to me. (I sincerely hope I never throw the stone.) Sometimes I am in a hurry, for whatever reason... walking down the halls of My Father's House and I pass by an opportunity to encourage and bless a resident who is hanging out waiting for someone in the lobby area. Later, as I reflect on my day, I think, "Wow, why did I miss out on this opportunity?" My goal is to stop and linger more often... let the emails, phone calls, and "business" of the day, wait... just a few more minutes so I can listen to those around me and say a few words of encouragement someone may be longing to hear.

I hope that during the rush of expecting Fall and the holidays that are approaching so quickly, that you, too, will take time for the things that are most important. To me, it's ministering and working with homeless families, volunteers, and staff, and the building of relationships. I want to take the time to offer open arms of acceptance and the unconditional promise of love and family to everyone who comes to My Father's House.

Thank you for being part of our family!


Cathe Wiese, Executive Director



WHAT A GREAT SUMMER we've had at My Father's House! Thank you Gresham Rotary Club for sending our kids to Camp Collins. What a fantastic time they had, just being kids! Thank you also to Milt at Eagle Fern Camp, for the additional camp for our new families.



UNITED NIGHT OF WORSHIP Andrew Norlen hosted this fantastic event along with four other local churches at The Chapel in Troutdale. The collaborative effort resulted in an evening of fun, fellowship, and fundraising, including a band made up of talent from all the churches. It was designed not only as a chance for the churches to worship together, but also as an opportunity to invite those that don't usually "do" Sunday morning service. Admission of a donation of food, plus a free-will offering totaling \$900 all went to My Father's House! Andrew hopes there are more of these to come. To schedule your own event to support the work of My Father's House, contact Cathe: 503-492-3046 or cathe@familyshelter.org.

'Uncorked'

A Winter Wine Event
Benefiting My Father's House
Presented by Leitner Construction

Saturday, December 6th

6:00 ~ 10:00 pm

Lakeside Gardens

16211 SE Foster Rd., Portland

Reserve your tickets today
503-492-3046 ext. 224
or online at

www.familyshelter.org/events



"Come Home," continued from page 1

than their little apartment at My Father's House! Hope and Ryan feel like they got a second chance at life, as well as their own little space with their own little garden, patio and storage shed. "This couldn't have happened without My Father's House," exclaims Ryan.

"I miss everybody already, even though I've only been gone for a few weeks, and I know why," says Hope. "It's all about relationship. Our relationship with our Heavenly Father, our relationship with all the people we've grown to love, and our relationship with each other as a family. We have really come home and have a place to put down roots. We love My Father's House."

"Yeah," agrees Sammy, age five. "My Father's House is my kind of place!"

Wish List

- ☆ canned fruit
- ☆ soup
- ☆ spaghetti sauce
- ☆ fresh veggies
- ☆ jelly
- ☆ hotdogs
- ☆ milk
- ☆ snack things: crackers, cookies, etc.
- ☆ tuna
- ☆ boys' and women's underwear

Volunteer Spotlight: Paul Lothar

If you have ever visited My Father's House, one of the first things you will notice is the beautiful landscaping. During the spring, summer, and fall, there is always something beautiful blooming in our courtyard. All of our grounds were planned by and are cared for by Paul Lothar.



Paul began volunteering with My Father's House back in 2002 when we had a housefire in our duplex. Paul saw that the fire had burned down our tree and came with a replacement. He planted and babied that tree until it grew strong, adding much-needed shade and beauty to our former home. When we began planning the landscaping at the current shelter in 2007, Paul volunteered even more hours planning, planting, and arranging donations of 187 trees and shrubs. He remembers that they needed to get trees into the ground in August and the ground was so hard, they had to rent jackhammers!

Paul had worked with Cathe in the nursery at East Hill Church. In fact, he still works in the nursery at East Hill, loving on the babies. He had followed the work that she was doing and when he retired, he joined right in. He also is working on the landscaping design for our Stepping Stones apartments. He works tirelessly on our yard, making sure that grass is mowed, plants are watered, and everything is beautiful.

Paul also teaches Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University to the residents on Tuesday nights. He believes in the purpose of My Father's House, and believes that it is a well-organized and structured ministry that is really able to meet the needs of the individuals.

When I asked him how long he planned on volunteering, he said that he would be here as long as he could. I know that makes everyone here very happy!

There are many areas of need at MFH. If you would like to become a volunteer, please call Sara at 503-492-3046 x224 or e-mail sara@familyshelter.org.