



Girls Restored and Christ Exalted

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The Celebration Continues!



We are pleased once again to share that the 2008 Overflow challenge of collecting \$18,000 towards a matching gift was successful!

Donations from churches, businesses and generous individuals totaled just over \$31,000 which, with the gifts from two donors, brought the total very close to \$50,000 by the end of the year!

We are very grateful for these monies and encouraged by God's provision in such a time as this.

We are concerned about the recession and its effects on ministries such as ours. Please know that we have been reviewing our budget and adjusting costs, where we are able, to accommodate the changes that we are experiencing due to the current economy. We are very grateful for the help of our many volunteers who reduce our operating costs while they invest so much time and energy to the program. In January we welcomed a new intern, Kristen Hunsberger, from Holland, Michigan. In this issue we will introduce to you three valuable volunteers who give of themselves to make our program great.

Many of you donate regularly to our ministry. We want to make this as convenient as possible for you. Therefore, in this mailing we have included a simple form which will allow for direct payments. Please contact us if you have any questions about this process.

We are very encouraged by your notes, continued financial support, and your precious prayers.

HELP US UPDATE OUR MAILING LIST

Like many other non-profit organizations, Well of GRACE Ministries is aggressively seeking ways to decrease our budget costs. One area that you can help us is our mailing costs.

If you would like to receive an electronic newsletter sent to your email, please email us at

contact@wellofgraceministries.com

If you would like to be removed from our mailing list, you may notify us via email or phone at (269)428-9355. Thank you for helping us to continue being good stewards of what we have been given!



WELL of GRACE MINISTRIES
Girls Restored And Christ Exalted



Well of GRACE Values our Volunteers

Well of GRACE Ministries is thankful for the many volunteers who commit their time and talents to help the young women in our program. This month we would like to introduce you to three of our valuable volunteers.

Jenny Fry is a treasured volunteer at Well of GRACE. She offers a Bible Study time to our young women each week. They are currently studying Experiencing God. She is not only a leader in the group, she comes alongside the girls as a mentor with a genuine interest in who they are. The girls love Jenny...and the study. It has been instrumental in their journey toward spiritual growth and personal healing.

Jenny also joins our Board meetings as an ad hoc member, offering her valuable suggestions and assistance where needed including working with many local churches and missions to spread the word about the Well.

Thank you, Jenny, for making time for Well of GRACE in your already busy life!

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A WONDERFUL GIFT

Well of GRACE residents and staff enjoyed a very Merry Christmas thanks to Bredeweg Acres in Stevensville. The Bredeweg family donated a fresh Christmas tree to our house. Residents and staff spent an afternoon at their farm cutting down a fresh tree and transporting it to the house. Everyone loved the experience and it truly created a great holiday memory! Thank you for such a meaningful and memorable Christmas gift!



Warm Winter's Evening

With much gratitude to an anonymous donor, Well of GRACE staff and residents attended a **Warm Winter's Evening**, an event for women at the Mendel Center hosted by First Church of God in St. Joseph. There were almost 900 women in

attendance! The speaker this year was author Jan Silvius who spoke about the joys of friendship and how girlfriends are gifts from God. It was a very enjoyable evening!

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A HOPE AND A FUTURE

This story was written by our House Manager, Romy Ingels

This past December was a turning point for two of our residents and their own personal walks with God. Connie and Sara both decided to be baptized. Both young women shared stories of despair, without hope, strength nor faith in God nor themselves. I have seen both girls grow in tremendous ways since coming to Well of GRACE.

Sara wanted a relationship with God so bad that I wanted to fight right along side her to get her there. She struggled with God to get to a point where she knew that she could have complete faith in Him and know that He did not leave her side. Slowly, I saw a change in her. God started working! Here was a girl who was never comfortable praying and soon, she was praying for dinner and praying for our staff. She found God again and learned how to put her trust in Him. She made the choice to be baptized and to commit herself fully to God! She had faith in herself and more importantly—faith in Him again!

Connie always seemed to know that there was a God out there watching and waiting for her to come to Him. She shared about her life and the trials that she faced growing up and having to deal with the repercussions of a horrific accident that left her feeling hopeless and alone. During her time at Well

Matthew 28: 17-20

“Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always to the very end of the age.”

Jeremiah 29:11

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, *plans to give you a hope and a future.*”

of GRACE Connie realized how much God loved her and He had kept her alive for a reason. One Sunday Pastor Colp from First Church of God spoke about life and the paths God has you on. It was a great message and the next day, he shared about a

woman in the service who came up to him and shared about her life and wanted to give her life completely to Christ. That woman was Connie! She realized that God did indeed pull her through her hardest moments because of how much He loved her!

When Connie and Sara chose to be baptized, they wanted to know if they could do it together. The event was truly a memorable one. With a few close friends, Well of GRACE staff and board members in attendance, I watched these two once battered,

broken and lost women become God’s children and my sisters. It was an amazing thing and to be a part of their transformations was an honor for me. I have since talked to each of them and they still have strug-

gles, but they both strive to live for Christ and lean on Him. I stand firm on Jeremiah 29:11 that God will keep His promises to Sara and Connie, our current and future residents, and our staff.



Connie's story

I am very proud to graduate from Well of GRACE Ministries. Just a few short months ago all my thoughts about myself and life in general were negative.

One of my assignments was to read *God Has A Dream For Your Life* by Sheila Walsh. The book uses the characters from the Wizard of Oz to illustrate its points.

I wanted life to be perfect as Dorothy did. I avoided emotions similar to the Tin Man. I was ignorant to life around me like the Scarecrow, and I was cowardly like the Lion because it was the easier and the softer way. However, all these characters sought to change, but I was content living in the misery and blaming past circumstances and others for my problems.

Today, I know different. Today, I know that I cannot dwell in that past life. I can move on and feel good about myself because I let go and let God into my life. By opening up my soul to God and accepting His love I now understand that even though life will bring me challenges, God's strength and love will enable me to face these challenges in a healthy manner.

**IN HER
OWN
WORDS...**

THANK YOU DONORS

It is with sincere gratitude that we recognize the following individuals and businesses for their generosity. Thank you to all of you who have donated financially to Well of GRACE Ministries over the last several months. Without you and your support we would not be able to continue forward in our efforts. Donors to Well of GRACE Ministries 11-01-08 to 2-28-09

Individuals

John and Mary Banks
Dr. Jim and Marcia Bednar
Deborah Berez
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First Congregational Church
First Church of God
First United Methodist Church
Graafschap CRC
Mulder Glass and Glazing
Washington Ave. Church of God
Wedron Silica Co.
Whirlpool Foundation
Whirlpool Front Load Laundry
Product Development Team
Woodland Shores Baptist Church

RESIDENT

“As I sit here on my last night at Well of GRACE I have a lot of memories and images flowing through my mind. To staff: Thanks for all the encouragement and smiles along the way. To new residents: May your road to recovery here at Well of GRACE be everything you wanted and more. I am glad that my road in life has taken me here because I would have never found the real me if it were not for Well of GRACE.”

STAFF

“What a joy our residents are! I see such courage, hope and desire in them. Their inner beauty really shines!”

RESIDENT

“Today has been crazy, but through it all I’ve been studying “Captivating.” Today’s chapter was about how God yearns for us to come and let Him be our Savior, someone to defend us and stand up for us and to love us thought it all. I really want to overcome my fears and struggles with God’s help and guidance. I need Him in my life. I feel my heart of stone slowly melting and being able to live and feel again.”

“A Glimpse INSIDE THE WELL”

Well of GRACE Values our Volunteers

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Bryant and Lyndsay Knepp are a married couple from Coloma who both give of their time and talents to benefit our ministry. They are life group leaders at First Church of God in St. Joseph who became involved with our ministry after being motivated by Pastor Colp’s Life on Loan sermon series.

Bryant works for Harbor Habitat for Humanity and uses his skills (and his life group!) to lead work projects inside and

outside our home. Lyndsay comes to the house every week and shares her creative spirit with the girls in scrapbooking. Their life group donated money for each girl to purchase a scrapbook and Lyndsay comes every week to help the girls fill them. The girls love to show off their creative work!

Bryant and Lyndsay have three daughters who also come to the house and share hugs and smiles with the girls.

For the Knepps, volunteering at Well of GRACE is a family affair! Thank you so very much for sharing your family with us!

STAFF

“Today we enjoyed some childhood memories of silliness and fun, and we created some of our own. Thank you, Lord, for simple joys and for allowing us to play and giggle in the rare winter sunshine.”

RESIDENT

“God is great! God really opened my eyes. I can now truly see God and how He is going to use my story as I walk side by side in God’s walk.”

Wish List

copy paper (20 lb weight)

gift cards to
office supply stores

laundry soap and dryer sheets

toilet paper and kleenex

napkins and paper towels

gift cards to grocery stores

lumber and materials
to build privacy fence

gas cards

PRAISES:

We praise God for our amazing staff that show their passion for and commitment to our ministry everyday.

We are thankful for the opportunity for several of our staff to attend a conference on Eating Disorders to gain a deeper understanding of how better to help our residents.

We praise God for residents who are beginning to break through the issues they're dealing with and building stronger relationships with Him.

We praise God for professionals we consult with and their willingness to share their abilities, creativity, and gifts with our ministry to further our mission.

PRAYERS:

Pray for wisdom for those who are considering a position on our Board of Directors and for patience, wisdom, and understanding as we take steps to reorganize our Board.

Ask God to bring us the young women who can benefit from our program and who need to learn about Him.

We pray that God will prompt us to stay in pace with His plans as we consider the current and future vision for this ministry.

Pray for our graduates and their transition back into life away from Well of GRACE.

To be on our monthly prayer email list,
contact us via the web or mail a note to us at:

*Well of GRACE Ministries
1672 Roberts Drive, St. Joseph, MI 49085*

www.wellofgraceministries.com

Authorization for Direct Payment

I (we) authorize Well of GRACE Ministries to initiate on the 30th of each month an automatic withdrawal from my (our) account described below:

Amount of gift: _____
Checking Account No.: _____
Or Savings Account No.: _____

Financial Institution's Name: _____
Financial Institution's Address: _____

Please attach a voided check or a savings account deposit slip. This authority is to remain in full force and effect until Well of GRACE Ministries has received written notification of its termination, and they will act on the request in a timely manner.

You will receive an acknowledgement for your gift that can be used for tax purposes.

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Signature: _____

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Joint Account Signature: _____

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This completed form along with a voided check or a savings account deposit slip must be mailed to:

Well of GRACE Ministries
1672 Roberts Drive
St. Joseph, MI 49085

Please expect approximately 2-3 weeks for your automatic withdrawal to be set up.