

Reflections from the Well*Girls Restored and Christ Exalted***THIS ISSUE:****COMMUNITY SPIRIT***Valuable Volunteers**A Day of Caring**Thank you BC Quilters Guild**Staff Changes**Spooky Halloween**In Her Own Words...**Thank You Donors!**Annual Open House**Another Way to Give**More Reasons to Celebrate**Prayers & Praises*

**ANOTHER
OPPORTUNITY TO
OVERFLOW THE WELL!**

Well of GRACE has been the recipient of a matching gift from an anonymous donor for the past few years. This year we have two donors who have offered to match the end of year gifts up to \$18,000!! Considering the current economy, this is a great way to "double" the value of your tax deductible donation. Please indicate your intention to participate in this offer by writing "overflow" in the memo line of your check.

Celebrating Our First Year!

We are excited to share this update about our first year in ministry. We have served 7 young women since opening our doors in November, 2007, and will celebrate our first anniversary this month having our four beds full. In addition to that, we currently have a waiting list! We also want to let you know that two of our residents have graduated from the program. We do have a lot to celebrate!

We have been blessed with amazing staff members. There have been 15 staff, 9 volunteers, and 4 interns who have been involved in direct care over the past year.



We are also very thankful for volunteers who provided a plan for the entire interior design, painted every room in the house, landscaped the entire yard, offered weekly lawn care, created a garden area, built storage shelving in our garage and kitchen pantry and continue to maintain the inside and outside of our house!

In addition, more volunteers have been interacting with the residents as well. They are doing things like scrap booking, making applesauce, baking holiday treats for the neighbors, teaching nutrition class, leading Bible study, offering transportation to and from appointments/school/jobs, and offering free hair salon services (haircuts and style).

Our expenses have been below our anticipated budget for several reasons. We have been able to bill some of our residents' insurances for some of the costs of counseling. We have received very qualified and interested Master's level interns from local schools. And finally, there are several unpaid staff members who are committed to this ministry.

These facts encourage us; yet we are still quite concerned. Our monthly costs to run this ministry are around \$15,000, while our current monthly income averages have been running about \$7,000 short of this amount. Due to this monthly shortfall, we have chosen not to pursue an Executive Director, which has placed a strain on three of our board members who are collectively serving in this capacity.

We recognize that times are tough economically right now which can take a toll on many ministries. We covet your prayers and support as we continue our mission to help hurting young women in 2009.

Included in this newsletter is an Authorization for Direct Payment Form. We now have the capability to receive your monthly or one time gift via an Electronic Funds Transfer. We hope this will be a more convenient way for you to support our ministry.



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 two of our valuable volunteers.

Jill Wimmer has been a hair-stylist for twenty-one years and is very special to Well of GRACE for her contributions. For the last ten years she has worked at the Cutting Edge Salon in Stevensville. As a member of First Church of God she was encouraged to seek out opportunities to help others. With a nine-year-old daughter named Madison, Jill is passionate about helping young women. Jill has donated her time as a stylist for many hair cuts, coloring sessions, and highlights throughout our first year. Jill understands the importance of looking your best to help our participants feel their best. She enjoys getting to know the girls one on one while they're in her chair. She reports the most rewarding part of this experience has been seeing



DAY OF CARING

On October 23, Woodland Terrace Retirement Community in Bridgman and Well of GRACE Ministries partnered for Make a Difference Day. The young women from Well of GRACE spent the afternoon with the elderly residents of Woodland Terrace playing games, assembling puzzles and building relationships.



At the end of the activity time, the residents of Woodland Terrace presented the residents of Well of GRACE with four large bags of games and puzzles to take back to the house! Our Make a Difference Day was so valuable that the residents from both facilities decided to continue their time together one day each month!

Berrien County Quilters GUILD

Well of GRACE is very grateful to the Berrien County Quilter's Guild for their generous donation of \$1,550.00.

This donation represents all the proceeds from the Silent Auction of mini quilts held in conjunction with their Quilt Fair this past Fall.





STAFF CHANGES & UPDATES

There have been many staffing changes in the last few months. Three of our staff are leaving to pursue other exciting opportunities God has given them. Rachel Harm, our overnight manager, is getting married and moving to Texas to be with her husband who is attending seminary. Stephanie DuPraw, our weekend manager, accepted a position with a missionary organization also in Texas. And, one of our interns, Jessica Dettmann, finished her Master's degree and accepted a job in Colorado. Despite these changes, God is faith-

ful! He provided us with others who are passionate about our ministry. We have two weekend care managers: Bonnie Craig from Coloma and Amanda Harding

from Stevensville. Our overnight care manager is Faith Shreve from Coloma. To help us fill in gaps we have three on-call managers: Becky Badger from Bridgman, Jane Ann James from Stevensville and Julie Castady from Stevensville.

There are also two new interns: Mary Gilliam from Western Michigan University and Chelsea Knowlton from Andrews University.

We are very
thankful for all of
our staff who invest
themselves in the
lives of our
residents every
day!

A Spook-tacular Evening

Well of GRACE staff, volunteers, their families and residents gathered for trick-or treat fun. Everyone enjoyed a potluck supper and the residents "tricked" the children with eyeball cupcakes and "treated" the adults with pumpkin pie. In costume, we paraded the neighborhood and the children enjoyed filling their bags with sweet treats. It was a spook-tacular good time!

Hey! I am Emily and I am a recent graduate of Well of GRACE Ministries. I am so thankful for what the “Well” has done for me and so blessed to have been able to be a part of their program. I cannot begin to describe my gratitude for Well of GRACE and all the wonderful people that are a part of it.

When I entered the Well of GRACE program, I was very depressed, angry and lost. I didn’t know who I was or what I was doing. I was also deeply consumed in my struggles with anorexia, self-harm and suicidal thoughts. I felt worthless. I had to drop out of my college classes and admit that I couldn’t do this alone. I knew I needed to make a change, not only for myself, but for my family and friends.

Well of
GRACE
opened my
eyes to so
much; love,
support, trust

and friendship. I instantly bonded with the girls and staff. The close connections were so great for support through battles with myself and my negative thoughts. Not only did I have amazing encouragement from the “Well” but from many supporters back home. Having such a great support system behind me made my recovery much easier.

Spiritually, Well of GRACE opened my eyes to what I couldn’t see. God has a plan for my life. I learned that I must trust Him and His unconditional love for me. I am never alone because He is always with me.

I was the first graduate of Well of GRACE and moved out of the house exactly 100 days after moving in. I cherish every new day and look forward to what God has in store for me. I have learned to smile again! I am excited to return to college with a new attitude and outlook. I hope that every women dealing with a tough issue can be a part of Well of GRACE. I pray that my story can inspire you to face your fears and accept the help of these truly miraculous people. God bless you. Stay strong. You can accomplish your goals! Thank you so much Well of GRACE!

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 07-01-08 to 10-31-08

Individuals

J.C. and Nancy Anderson
Carla Arent
Keith and Amy Avery
William and Joy Bancroft
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Stacy Berndt
Rick and Karen Brohman
Dr. Barbara Carlson
Clay and Diane Carlson
Jack and Kathleen Culbertson
Tony and Linda DeLapa
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Businesses, Churches, Foundations, etc.

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Berrien Towne & Country Quilters
The Chapel
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First Church of God
First United Methodist Church
P & R Service Inc.
Schroeder May & Associates
Twin Cities Area Newcomers
Whirlpool Foundation



Celebrating Our First Anniversary



Well of GRACE celebrated its first anniversary with an open house Sunday, November 9. It was a great time for friends, family, staff, residents and members of our community to come together to celebrate one year of service. Many thanks to Keith and Jennifer Granzow of Beachside Bakery in Bridgman for donating donut holes for this event. Other yummy treats were provided by our own residents and volunteers Kim Klunder and Joyce Shellito. It was a great afternoon to celebrate God's faithfulness to our ministry.



Well of GRACE Values our Volunteers

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some of the participants change and transition from one visit to the next. When she is not volunteering her time, this Sawyer native enjoys activities such as Scrapbooking, Photography, and Bowling. Thank you , Jill, for blessing our ministry!

Heidi Fodo is our volunteer nurse who schedules weekly rounds at Well of GRACE. She is a member of the United Methodist Church in Stevensville, where she was a parish nurse for nine years. She

currently works for Lakeland Medical Center in Outpatient Surgery. Heidi not only checks vitals, but has become a 'Vital' member of our staff. She refers to her experiences as being "awesome" and enjoys that there is "always something different" going on. When Heidi is not working and volunteering, she enjoys spending time with her husband Joe and their three children Carrie, Jaclyn, and Joseph. She also enjoys time with her animals, gardening, and reading. Heidi's voice is full of excitement when speaking about her children and their accomplishments. Likewise, we are very excited to have such a tremendous and caring individual volunteer here with us!

Wish List

copy paper (20 lb weight)

gift cards to

Office Max or Staples

laundry soap and dryer sheets

toilet paper, kleenex

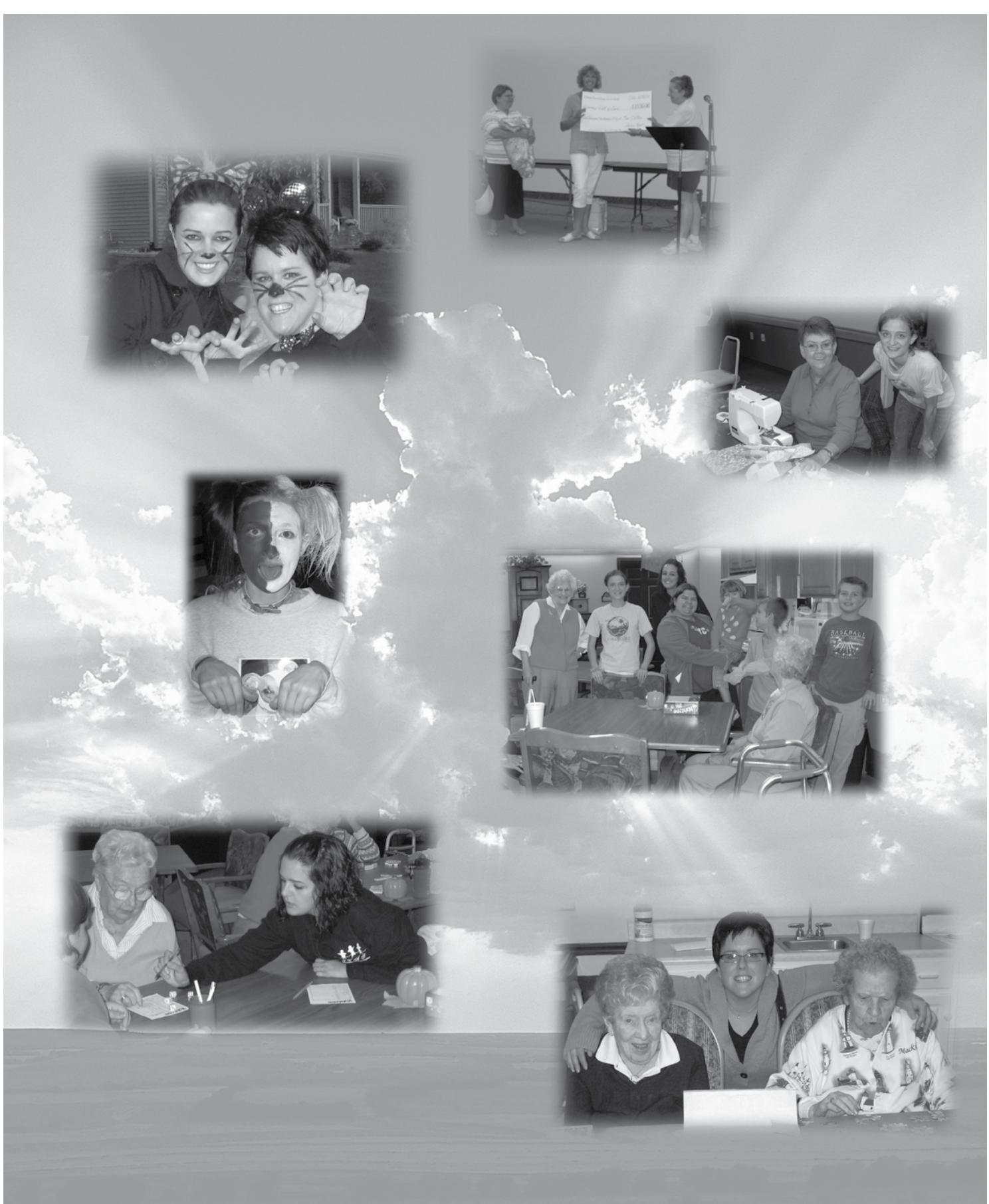
and paper towels

gift cards to Walmart or Meijer

lumber and materials

to build privacy fence

refrigerator (new or used)



Take a glimpse inside our home and see God at work in and through our residents and staff:



RESIDENT

"Yesterday I saw glimpses of God...I had a chance to really talk and bond with another resident last night which was really good for our friendship. We read magazines, talked and watched a movie together and laughed and laughed. Before we went to bed, I asked her if she wanted to come in and pray with me. It was great!"

STAFF

"These last few weeks I have seen God work in the residents; so much that it has inspired me to push on toward building my own walk..."

"MORE REASONS TO CELEBRATE"

RESIDENT

"Yesterday was very hard, but through it all, I really saw God...I had messed up...the staff person was great and helped me feel God through it. "

STAFF

"I was very encouraged today. Everyone sticks together: staff and residents. We all have each others backs and that is AWESOME!!! When one is down-we make sure to do all we can to pick them up! We ROCK!!"

RESIDENT

"Today during devos I got to share my heart with the others..I haven't done a good job of spending time alone with God, but He is still moving my heart towards Him."

STAFF

"I saw God's grace so clearly through the residents today. Each, in her own way, found the courage to confront me kindly about our experience together last week. Each one was forgiving and willing to allow me another chance. This is what Jesus would do! Thank you girls! Thank you God! "

RESIDENT

"I am so thankful for Well of GRACE. I can see God's hand and healing in my life already, even though I really have been here three weeks today. This place is so much like a real home! "

RESIDENT

*"Today at First Church I saw/heard God through these messages:
- God sees us differently than we see ourselves.
- God can see past our hurts and loves us the same.
- Gideon overcame his painful past and so can we!
- God wants us to stop blaming the past and live out His plan for our lives. "*

RESIDENT

"Today was an incredible day...I felt like today was one of the BEST days that I've had in a very long time. All my masks were down and I was able to be who I used to be. I wasn't feeling or noticing my pain, hurts, or trials."

STAFF

"We had an amazing day. The house was just filled with smiles, giggles and joy. Even though we stayed busy ALL DAY, we all had our own personal victories. You girls inspire me! "

PRAISES:

We praise God for another resident completing her program and graduating this month!

We praise God for our one year anniversary and celebrate how He has continually blessed and grown our ministry. It is by His grace that we have accomplished much and look forward expectantly to the future.

We are thankful for the wonderful evening of fellowship and fun that our volunteers, staff, and residents had at our 1st annual Halloween Party.

Nine staff and board members attended an excellent conference a couple weeks ago. We are thankful for the generous gift to cover all the conference fees.

We praise God for all the opportunities and people that lead our residents into a closer relationship with God.

PRAYERS:

Ask God to lead us to the right people who can serve on an Advisory Board.

We pray for our resident who is graduating, that her transition to her new life will be successful.

Please pray about our continued financial support, as well as new opportunities for it, during this time of current economic crisis.

We pray for wisdom for our directors and staff as they seek to guide the residents through tough times and that God would be glorified in all of it.

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