

THE GILEAD GAZETTE

Volume 10, Issue 1

Spring 2008

MEET GILEAD HOUSE

Gilead House is a transitional home for single mothers in need and their children. In addition to housing, we provide women with the skills and support they need to rebuild their lives and care for their families. Our mission is to offer hope to families by helping them transition to a stable life and permanent housing.

PARTNER CHURCHES:

- BayMarin Community
- Christian Church of San Rafael
- Grace Church
- Good Shepard Lutheran
- Hillside Church
- Marin Covenant Church
- Novato Presbyterian Church
- St. Francis Episcopal Church
- St. John's Episcopal Church
- The Quest
- Tiburon Baptist Church
- Trinity Community Church
- Valley Baptist Church

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GILEAD HOUSE CELEBRATES TWO MORE GRADUATES

On January 12th and 13th, volunteers stopped at donors homes in Marin to pick up sofas, beds, linens, and kitchen items. After gathering the donations, they made their way to Pt Reyes to move Jeannine and Jakayla into their new home. They arrived to an empty space. By the end of Saturday, all the boxes were unpacked and the kitchen cabinets were lined and filled with dishes, glasses, and pots & pans. The bathroom was ready for use with towels, mats, Kleenex and soap. Jakayla's toddler bed was dressed up with Dora sheets and the book shelf was loaded with books. Photos were hung and clothes were organized in the closets. They were truly settled in. However, it was bitter

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JOIN GILEAD HOUSE IN THE MARIN HUMAN RACE

Currently our Community Board is forming teams from their respective churches to join together under one banner to support Gilead House on May 10th walking/running around the Civic Center Lagoon.

Everyone is welcome, regardless if you have a connection yet. We have T-shirts, snacks, water, and lots of camaraderie and laughter. The idea is to register as a Gilead House participant for a \$25 entry fee. Then ask your friends, family, and/or working buddies to financially support your effort in this event. 90% of everything collected goes to Gilead House.

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SPRING FLIGHTS & BITES MARCH 29, 2008

Hosted by our resident Wine Maker, Cynthia Klock

Meandering through the rolling hills of West Marin and winding up to the hill top of West Wind Winery is always a special treat. John & Cynthia Klock graciously open their wine cave and winery for this event where all proceeds go directly to Gilead House.

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GILEAD HOUSE CELEBRATES...

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sweet since everyone was thrilled for Jeannine's new success, yet we were left with a part of our hearts in West Marin.

Paula, who has been saving money working for the Kramer's, has gotten a job in her former field as a head administrator in a nursing home in Milpitas. This is a wonderful opportunity for her to move ahead with her goals. A teacher at her child's school donated furniture for her new apartment. Her graduation party was celebrated at the end of February. She was showered with dishes, kitchen items, linens to get her settled March 1st.

Since the two families have left within 6 weeks of one another, scrapbooks were made by all to celebrate memories and hopes of maintaining the strong relationships that have been formed at Gilead House.

MARIN HUMAN RACE...(CONT. FROM P.1, COL 2)

More importantly we have the opportunity to walk and talk with members from churches all across Marin.

Over 70 people from 8 to 80 years old came together for this event to support Gilead House last year. If you can join us, please call Natalie Stingley at 717-0420 to find out more about how you can be a part of this team and enjoy a great day with other Gilead House supporters.

SHOWERS OF BLESSINGS cont. p.2, col. 2)

The fall was filled with three successful fundraising events supported by over 200 volunteers. The GH nine members of the Board of Directors, and Community Board made up with representatives from 10 churches, all provided the helping hands.

Thank you to Jacki McNeil for creating a beautiful handmade quilt. Gilead House raffled it during 2007 and Tim McCarthy was the lucky winner.

Year after year the Soroptimist, a professional womens club in Novato, literally takes the "Dear Santa" lists from the children and provide a wonderful celebration on Christmas morning with clothing and toys. They also give each mom gift cards to Target. The Ritter House provided some extra gifts this year as well.

An ongoing blessing for the mentors is Tami Russell hosting the monthly meeting at her home.

"SPRING FLIGHTS" (CONT. FROM P.1, COL 1)

Separate stations will feature their special wines paired with the perfect tasty accompaniment. For each Flights & Bites Cynthia and the chef, Debbie Keith, spend time matching the flavors and textures so the wine and food complement each other enhancing the delicious flavors. You will be surprised and delighted at the innovative combinations.

Please put March 29th in your calendar for our next Flights and Bites at West Wind Winery. This will be the perfect venue to enjoy the community, good wine, good food and take advantage of our silent auction. Of course, you can purchase additional wines and our 2007 Organic Extra Virgin Olive Oil to take home and enjoy.

Please go to our website: www.gileadhouse.org for directions to West Wind Winery.

SHOWERS... (CONT. FROM P.2, COL 1)

Many generous supporters of Gilead House have donated furniture and household goods for our two recent graduates. These are very special gifts since the moms moved into Gilead House with only their clothes.

A big thanks to Debbie Pogue, Jeannine's mentor, for jumping in to organize her move. The added truck power by Sandra Wandschneider and the Sweets got everything to Pt Reyes.

Again, GH was blessed with rows and rows of Olive trees at both Pine Ridge Winery and Merilee and Ed Turley's Napa groves. Their generous donations make our harvest a fun and successful event. And, many thanks to Frantoio Restaurant and Oil Company for processing the olive oil.

With Gratitude,

~ Suzan Sweet, Executive Director

MENTORS NEEDED

GH is in need of potential mentors who can work on a weekly basis in a one-on-one relationship with the moms in the program. There will be a wonderful opportunity to meet former and current moms, their mentors and other volunteers at our Communication workshop on April 19th. Please call Denise Pena, our Family Advocate, at 686.6905 to learn more about this very special part of our program.

GIVING ENVELOPES

Enclosed with this newsletter is a self addressed "Giving Envelope". These are replacing the envelopes that previously included the prepaid postage. If you use one of the prepaid envelopes from past newsletters, they will be returned to you as this postal permit is no longer valid. We appreciate your continued support.