

THE GILEAD GAZETTE

Volume 11, Issue 1

Spring 2009

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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BUILDING OUR FUTURE

This is an exciting time for Gilead House. If you drive by our new property at 1024 7th Street you will see progress in the making. The property will be leveled and utilities put in by mid-May to complete our first phase of construction.

GRADUATE IN MOTION

I met Janey and her 4-month-old baby on Christmas Eve 2005. She was a frightened 20 year old looking for a way out of a bad domestic living situation. I liked her immediately, but we both realized she was not truly ready for our program. In the spring of 2007 it was apparent she had to change her life for her daughter's sake. She moved into Gilead House as a timid self-conscious young woman, in many ways older than her years from having survived a tumultuous family life and being tossed from one foster home to another.

Debbie Pogue came into her life as her mentor. We coached Debbie to take it very slowly, that Janey would need lots of time to develop trust in her. We brought in Sandra Wandschneider, one of our Life Skills coaches, for parenting help. Janey came to respect Sandra's experience and embraced the lessons that she still uses to parent her daughter. The house was filled with families focused on making changes to move to independent living and Janey grew to find comfort in the traditions and rituals of the GH family.

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CELEBRATING MOTHERS SUNDAY, MAY 3RD 3-5 PM

In the spirit of the mission of our work to help mothers in need, we invite you to bring your mother, daughter, special mentor or friend to celebrate mothers. This is our first annual Mothers Fundraiser with a traditional tea at the home of Jane & Holt Greene.

Come as our guests to learn more about our program and what we do to assist women who want to rebuild their lives to become independent and support their families.

Contact Cynthia Klock to reserve your place. Her contact information is: (415) 662.2466 or email: clklock@msn.com.





TIBURON BIKE CLASSIC RIDES FOR GILEAD HOUSE – JOIN US

The 9th Annual Tiburon Bike Classic will be held Saturday, April 25th. This year the sponsoring organization, Tiburon Baptist Church, has graciously designated Gilead House as the recipient of their annual fund raiser. The route will be along the vineyard-lined Silverado Trail in Napa.

Always a popular event for both serious cyclers and family friendly riders, the 27.5 mile route can be ridden in all or part. Riders range from children to seniors. Please consider riding or volunteering to support this fun way to support Gilead House.

Interested Riders or volunteers should contact Susan Prnjak at 415-846-1742 or by email: susanprnjak@msn.com by April 19 to obtain an information packet.

SHOWERS OF BLESSINGS

We are grateful for the out pouring of kindness during the holidays:

- Troop 30971, Thanksgiving treats c/o Laurie Taylor
- One Community Church in Richmond, Thanksgiving dinner c/o Jin Choi
- Soroptimist played personalized Santa to the children and moms for their annual generous giving.
- The Williams Family; Ashley, Linda & Jamie provided all the trimmings for Christmas dinner.
- Novato Men in Missions, c/o All Saints Lutheran Church with grocery money for the families
- Ritter House provided abundant gifts for all, thanks to Debra Delaney
- Jean Jefferies' Mt Carmel Sunday School class created hand puppets and socks for all our families
- Tiburon Baptist Women's Ministry
- Many churches and volunteers donated the furnishings for our latest graduate, Natalie, to set up her first home in Ft Bragg.

GRADUATE IN MOTION (CONT. FROM P.1, COL 2)

It was apparent that Janey had never known unconditional love. The staff, Life Skills teachers, and Debbie all continued to accept and love her without any judgment, urging her to grow with the ups and downs of her life. She was fortunate when her low income housing number came up, enabling her to finally afford a place to live on her own, and the GH family celebrated her graduation by helping her furnish the apartment.

Debbie continued to nurture their relationship and build her confidence, allowing Janey to finally believe that she could attend college. Debbie helped set up the appointments, interviews, orientation and registration to begin her Medical Assistant Program. Janey was scared and told me on more than one occasion that she would never have gone to college if it hadn't been for Debbie.

Although she was managing to juggle her part-time job, attend college, commute from Pt. Reyes to Novato and parent her daughter, the financial challenge proved to be overwhelming. Even with Adopt-A-Family assisting with her books and heating costs, Janey was still struggling. GH encouraged her to submit an application for a grant from the Soroptimist Club of Novato, an international organization of professional women who work to improve the lives of less fortunate women. The Novato club has enthusiastically supported Gilead House as the moms' personal "Santa" for many years.

On March 5, 2009 the Soroptimists awarded a \$1000 grant to Janey to assist in reaching her educational goals. We are most grateful for the support of the extended community to one of our GH graduates, and very proud of Janey's determination to improve her life.

~Suzan Sweet
Executive Director

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

- Rev. Linda Campbell for facilitating our Women's workshop on communication with thanks to Lucas Valley Community Church for donating the space.
- Priscilla Rudy for Christmas gifts
- Karl & Enkh Doolittle donation of hair products
- Gary Gilfix and all the staff at Max's Café in Corte Madera for hosting benefits for Gilead House

Please consider a donation or pledge. We appreciate your continued support.

Note: Prepaid envelopes from past newsletters will be returned to you as this postal permit is no longer valid.