

THE GILEAD GAZETTE

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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

Gilead House
P.O. Box 2031
Novato, CA 94948
Phone: (415) 257-3866
info@gileadhouse.org
www.gileadhouse.org



MAGICAL MENTORS

Since its inception, Gilead House has been blessed with a unique group of volunteers. Women from all walks of life volunteer to mentor a mom. They meet weekly with a designated mom for the year she lives at Gilead House, plus the following 6 months after she moves out of the house. The mentors work hand in hand with the staff to help reinforce their mentee's short and long term goals.

The first and most important step for a mentor is to build a trusting relationship. Once trust is established, the mentor can work with the mom on accountability and choices. We have seen miraculous situations evolve with mentors guiding the moms, providing safe and healthy boundaries. In most cases, the moms who come to the Gilead House have not been raised in positive parenting or loving environments.

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TIME TO CELEBRATE

JOIN US SATURDAY DECEMBER 5TH

Gilead House is hosting a Holiday party at the Sweetwater Station in Larkspur to benefit the women and children whom we serve. Jeff Irving at the Sweetwater is providing a fabulous 7 piece band, Johnny Vegas and the High Rollers, for our enjoyment from 8-11:30 p.m. The tickets are \$75 per person for the entertainment and open bar. Please contact Jeannie Elrod to purchase your tickets now....(415) 342.7355 or elrods2002@yahoo.com.

OUR NEW HOME

With the City of Novato building approvals in place, the pre-construction process is in full swing. October and November will be dedicated to design, engineering and drawings. From the beginning, the success of the Gilead House has been built on community outreach and committed volunteers. In that spirit it is our goal to make our new home a reality with even greater community involvement. We will award work to contractors that have the same vision as the Gilead House and are willing to show their support through superior craftsmanship, and donations of time and materials. We are soliciting local businesses and individuals to participate through donation of time, furnishings, services, or money.

Several businesses have already committed the following:

- Michaela Kalff and Laurel Segel donated the design time for the capital campaign brochure

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A CHANGE FOR THANKSGIVING

We are sad to announce that we will not be holding the annual olive harvest. The dry spring weather caused a serious problem with the fruit-set and there are not enough olives for oil this year. However, there is a smattering of olives which we will cure and jar. These jarred olives will be available in early 2009. Please take a few minutes on November 28th, when we would usually be harvesting together in Napa, to pray for the Gilead House, the families, and our construction plans. We wish all of you a wonderful Thanksgiving - we are very thankful for you.

MAGICAL MENTORS (CONT. FROM P.1, COL 1)

I watch the moms, hesitant with arms crossed, not able to believe a stranger will help them. Then I see the transformation when the moms finally understand that the mentors are called to be in this relationship to simply share their love and experience. I have had moms tell me that they did not, could not, and would not believe that the mentors were there just to be their friend, sounding board, and advocate.

Many moms experience unconditional love for the first time in their lives. We are grateful that the mentors provide this special layer to help our moms begin to thrive.

Heartfelt thanks to this fine group of women: Penny Aasby, Diana Berry, Louise Bruce, Roberta Celia, Sandi Class, Denise Cooper, Pat Copeland, Cynthia Klock, Barbara Lockhart, Nancy Lundy, Paula Peichel, Debbie Pogue, Tami Russell, Kieawnie Shedrick, Lily Shin and Jan Yarish.

Suzan Sweet
Executive Director

SHOWERS OF BLESSINGS

With heartfelt thanks and gratitude for:

- Sandra Wanschneider's parenting classes for the moms along with one-on-one sessions.
- Tami Russell and Jan Yarish coordinating the "Art of Listening" workshop
- Rev. Linda Campbell's warm and inviting facilitation of the workshop for the current and past moms, mentors, volunteers, and staff.
- June Auld creating special bags for Flights & Bites
- Gary Gilfix and all the staff at Max's Café in Corte Madera for hosting benefits for Gilead House

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OUR NEW HOME (CONT. FROM P.1, COL 2)

- Cathy Edger and Tony Yarish are donating the landscape design
- DJ Scranton is donating his surveying services
- Earnest Klock is donating civil engineering services
- Barbara Lee and Julia Delamater are donating interior and kitchen design
- Bill Kalff of BCCI, a large construction firm, has donated Japanese shoji screens to be incorporated into the interior design

Want to get involved in the construction process?
Call Ron LoVetri at 415.897.2787.

NEW FACES

Leda Nix, our bookkeeper, and her husband are moving to Ethiopia to become missionaries. We were fortunate to have Barbara Rowe step in as Leda leaves. Barbara already knows many people at Gilead House. Barbara and her husband, Ted, own Mulberry Street Pizzeria, so be sure and stop in for a delicious salad and pizza sometime.

We are thrilled to have a former mentor, Kieawnie Shedrick take on the position of our Family Advocate. She grew up in Marin and attends Lucas Valley Community Church. She is a fact finder, willing to explore and uncover as many avenues possible to help our moms. She has a kind disposition, and her patience will be an asset helping our moms reach their goals

SHOWERS... (CONT. FROM COL 1)

- Leda Nix's service as our bookkeeper
- Cynthia & John Klock for hosting Flights & Bites at their winery to benefit Gilead House. And, many thanks to the event volunteers, the "Cool Blue Jazz" band, the donors for all of the auction items, and our dedicated supporters who attended the event.
- Michaela Kalff (SP) & Laurel Segel for creating the invitations for Flights & Bites.
- Debbie Pogue recruiting and training new mentors.
- The Wise Guys diligent expansion work.
- Laura Turner providing massages and face painting for the moms and families at 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.