

# 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
- Hillside Church
- Marin Covenant Church
- Novato Presbyterian Church
- The Quest
- St. Francis Episcopal Church
- St. John's Episcopal Church
- Tiburon Baptist Church
- Trinity Community Church
- Valley Baptist Church
- Westminster Presbyterian

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## THE LITTLEST MEMBER

Our Gilead House community also grew by one special addition: David was born on Labor Day. He is a beautiful little one. He and his mom are doing well. Everyone in the house can't take their eyes off of him!

## OUR NEWEST FAMILY

"I don't feel so alone here," stated Jessica, mother of one-year-old Jorge. At just twenty-one Jessica has found a home that she feels is safe and less stressful. Her goal is to be independent with a home of her own with her son. She wants a better paying job to help to achieve this dream and is hoping for a job with either children or with clothing retail.

Living at Gilead House for the last three months she finds other mothers who understand her journey. "I now know that I am not the only one." "In fact, I think I am a better person because of Jorge and my experiences here," she elaborated.

### Special presentation by Cindy Mitchell "Helping Versus Enabling"

**Saturday November 11<sup>th</sup>, 9:30am – noon**

St. John's Church - 14 Lagunitas, Ross - Corner of Lagunitas and Shady Lane

Share a cup of coffee and a continental breakfast with women from many other Marin churches. Take some time off to learn a little about Gilead House, a transitional home for single homeless mothers and their families and how we develop effective working relationships with women who have on-going problems. The content is designed to assist all of us as we interact with our families, friends and co-workers so that we can be a God's light in the situation without burning ourselves out. Come be a part of this interesting and informative presentation. Please RSVP to Suzan Sweet at 381-0244.



## BUILDING COMMUNITY

We are busy at Gilead House building community. We launched our new Community Board at the house with a BBO for representatives from the following churches: Christian Church of San Rafael—Jamie and Jim Clark + Kathryn Neville, Hillside Church—Jeannie & Scot Elrod, Novato Presbyterian Church—Janis West, Marin Covenant Church—Becca Greco & Shawna Nordhoff, St. John's Church—Melinda & Steward Barbee, Trinity Community Church—Deborah Swett and Valley Baptist Church—Steve Boyle. Natalie Stingley joined the Board of Directors this summer taking the job to get this new arm of our Gilead House family up and running. These new volunteers will be the conduits for information between Gilead House and their home churches.

We will be meeting on October 18<sup>th</sup> and November 15<sup>th</sup> to share information with one another. We are thrilled with the willingness of these people to join hands and link us more efficiently to the wider net of people in the larger Marin church community. If you would like to join this new endeavor please call Natalie at 717-0420.

## SHOWERS OF BLESSINGS

Staff Updates: We have been blessed with two exceptional volunteers that have filled in as interim House Managers. Rebecca Courtney has been a long time volunteer and Board Member of Gilead House. Sandra Wandschneider, a multi-talented and gifted teacher has been a welcome addition to Gilead House.

For the past 5 years Jeannie Bader has served as our Business Manager for Gilead House. She has spent countless hours ensuring that the business operations of the program are met. Jeannie, a faithful member at Tiburon Baptist Church, has served Gilead House as

## REMEMBER GILEAD HOUSE: DURING YOUR SEASON OF GIVING

We know so many of you have supported the ongoing work at Gilead House, and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We are grateful for your commitment to this important work of providing a safe place for these families to come and heal while they learn parenting, budgeting, cooking, nutrition, running households all necessary tools to live independently as productive citizens in our community.

In this upcoming season of giving, we invite you to remember the Gilead House. An envelope is enclosed for your gift that will help us to continue to help these families break their cycles of poverty and bring hope to the moms and their children. The backbone of our success is the faithful support of each of you. Thank you for making a difference for the Gilead House families.

May you have a Blessed Christmas,  
~ Suzan Sweet  
Executive Director

## OUR NEWEST FAMILY (CONT. FROM P.1, COL 2)

Jessica also finds the accountability within the house a positive thing. I am learning about myself and that's a good thing."

She is even learning to cook with the guidance of the other mothers.

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

We join together in saying a hearty "Thank You" to Jeannie and wishing her God's blessings in her next endeavors.

Stepping into Jeannie's big shoes is Leda Nix, a capable bookkeeper and Godly woman with a big heart for children, who has agreed to serve as Gilead House's Bookkeeper. We know God will use Leda's talents to benefit the Gilead House moms and program.

Our blessings have been abundant. Many thanks to Dick and Janet Locke for the much needed car they donated to one of our moms.

The Soroptomists of Novato donated furniture for the apartment of one of our recent graduates.

We had an amazing team of people help with the "Bounty for All" dinner; Andrea Grossman, Bill Fort, the team at Outback Steakhouse, Chef Paul Larsick, Patty Flynn Boston, Tom and Karen Cowley, Kresten Froistad, Liz Gabriel, Karen Conrad, Chad and Linda Douglas, Jan and Tony Yarish, Cathy and Keith Edger, Harry Jones, Anne Salmon, Kathy Haley, Karen Robinson, Stacey Tafao, and Martha Milligan..