

# THE GILEAD GAZETTE

Volume 6, Issue 1

Spring 2004

## 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.

### SUPPORTING CONGREGATIONS:

- Marin Covenant Church
- Tiburon Baptist Church
- Church of the Nazarene
- Bay Marin Community Church

### PARTICIPATING CONGREGATIONS:

- All Saints Lutheran Church
- Bayside/Novato Christian Fellowship
- Presbyterian Church - Novato
- St. Francis Episcopal Church

**Gilead House**  
**P.O. Box 2031**  
**Novato, CA 94948**  
**Phone: (415) 257-3866**  
**Email: [info@gilead-house.org](mailto:info@gilead-house.org)**  
**Web: [www.gileadhouse.org](http://www.gileadhouse.org)**



## MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK

Over the past two years, everyone at Gilead House has learned a lot about a rather arcane aspect of agriculture: harvesting olives. Individuals and wineries in the Napa Valley have donated olives to us both years, but with one caveat—we had to harvest them ourselves. And what we've learned is that olives must be gathered by hand, tree-by-tree. It's a big job, especially when you're talking about 100 trees and 4000 pounds of olives!

So how did we do it? Well, "we" is the key word, as over 50 volunteers gave up part of their Saturday to harvest the donated olives last December. Thanks to their selflessness and hard work, the olive oil we were able to produce brought in over \$6,000 dollars in donations!

And that story has been repeated time after time during the history of Gilead House. Serving at-risk mothers and children in a house that operates 7 days-a-week, 52 weeks-a-year is not easy, but it would be impossible without the countless individuals who have moved furniture, donated cars, mentored residents, stuffed newsletters, and much, much more. We offer our thanks to every one of them, and we offer an invitation for others of you to join the team.

Right now, Gilead House is blessed with lots of help in maintaining the house, but we need volunteers in some other critical areas, including professional services such as:

- legal advice
- tax and financial consulting

(cont. p.2, col. 2)

## ONE OF OUR MOMS

Heidi and her son Evan came to Gilead House in January of 2004. When asked what is her favorite thing about living at the house, she says it is the presence of God that she experiences from the moment she walks through the door. "It's never been like that in any home before, and it's made all the difference."

During the week, Heidi works at Travel Smith outfitters. Her schedule varies from full-time to part-time depending upon the season and that has created a challenge around predictable income. But it's a good job for now. Ultimately Heidi's long-range goal is to become a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW). In the meantime, she and Evan, who's four and very active, are having fun. On the weekends, Evan scooters, roller blades, and skateboards—anything with wheels! In their quieter moments, they spend time with Grandma, read books, and go to the library or movies.

(cont. p.2, col. 2)



## STEPPING OUT

Children seem to develop so quickly, (particularly those at the Gilead House)! One of the easiest ways to see kids' growth is by the size of their feet. The footprints that we see today around the house will soon fill the big shoes as working adults and leaders in our community.

The needs of the community are growing at the same rapid rate we see the Gilead House children progress. Homelessness in Marin County is alarming. The Gilead House gets 3-4 calls a week from mothers who need a home for their children and hope to survive. We are at our service capacity with one house. That means in one year, we are turning away over 200 local families who have no home.

The Gilead House is ready to step out and extend our services, but is in need of your help. With prayerful consideration, the board of directors and staff are in motion planning an expansion. We hope to double the number of families served within the next year. Instead of turning families away from the Gilead House, we want to open the door to more.

Two things that you can do: First, pray for the Gilead House. Looking for the most efficient way to expand means using resources wisely. God has given people a wealth of resources in all areas of life. We hope to be a bridge between the gifts of the community and those in need. Next, think about what you can do. As you are helping another life, you are experiencing the breadth and growth of your own. We are the hands and feet that help bring hope into this world and can make a difference by partnering together and stepping out along this journey.

### UPCOMING EVENT:

This coming Fall we will be hosting the 1st Annual Gilead House Golf tournament.

## MANY HANDS (CONTINUED FROM P.1)

- real estate
- mentors for residents
- childcare providers

We urge you to consider getting involved. If you're interested, please give us a call or drop us an email, and we can work together to find your role in the Gilead House family!

## ONE OF OUR MOMS (CONTINUED FROM P.1)

Heidi's learned a lot already living at Gilead House. She says, "I've learned patience and persistence. It's all about follow-through – I used to give up too easily. Now I know that if I stick with it, everything will work out well in the end."

Also, Heidi loves her mentor, Gail Tustin, and says, "Her enthusiasm is contagious!" They meet at least once a week and having kids almost the same age really helps. Welcome Heidi and Evan!

## SHOWERS OF BLESSINGS

Again, the Gilead House was blessed with countless gifts through the Holidays and the first months of the year. We thank all who donate on a regular basis or with a special one-time gift. We function each day because of your help! Special thanks to the following:

- The Schow Foundation Christmas Challenge was a huge success! The matching funds were multiplied by many who were up to the challenge! Thank you Schow Foundation!
- We have been blessed with a new house manager, Ginny Rose. Ginny is a member of Novato Presbyterian Church and graduating with a Masters of Divinity from the San Francisco Theological Seminary this May. Welcome Ginny!
- Other special gifts: Three cars for the three moms, kitchen cooking equipment, a vacuum, a rebuilt computer system, home made blankets for Gilead House children, Easter baskets by Brownie Troop 971, an Easter egg hunt by the Crossings Church youth group, all who purchased Olive Oil, many volunteers that give time mentoring, teaching parenting classes, and praying with the prayer team, Jeff Bradshaw's fishing trip, and a gifted intern who teaches an art program with the Gilead House children each week.

Many thanks!