

# 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
- 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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## KATE'S GRADUATION

What a blessing to have one of our moms successfully graduate from Gilead House. "Kate" came to us after being in foster care since she was four. She was struggling with daily life skills; maintaining a job, managing her money, caring for her daughter, and relating in a more positive way with others. It is a joy to watch how she has grown in all those areas.

She once told me she knew she was an adult because she was no longer on welfare and had her child in a good pre-school. Those were lofty goals when she entered Gilead House. Many people, staff, Board members, prayer team, Life Skills teachers, her mentor Roberta Celia all loved her, guided her and gave her tools through classes, mentoring and role modeling to help her reach her goals.

After participation in the Gilead House program for one year, Kate was able to graduate and experience a wonderful celebration with all the trimmings. We sent her off to her first apartment at Hamilton. Several individuals and groups generously contributed to the furnishings since she moved into Gilead House with only clothing for herself and daughter.

Roberta and Sandi Class, our Family Advocate will continue to meet with Kate regularly. She will stay connected by continuing to attend our Mom's Night In. She has a special place in all of our hearts forever.

~ Suzan Sweet  
Executive Director

## WELCOMING OUR NEW FAMILIES

As I sat during dinner this evening at Gilead House for Mom's Night In I was overcome with the obvious love and support for our two new arrivals. Laughter, conversation and smiles abounded while dinner was shared with about 10 women who understand that life at best can be difficult.

Nicole and Susan, new moms at Gilead House, both expressed their concerns and need for healing and safety. They feel that they have found it at Gilead House. When talking about their children, both women smiled and displayed great affection and hope for the future.

Nicole with her two daughters aged 8 and 9, has been at Gilead House for about two months. Born in Mexico City and raised in Mexico her face lights up when she talks about the World Cup Soccer games. She wants to go to school and become a nurse.

Susan, mother of a 13 year-old son and an 11 year-old daughter is expecting a son in August.

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## **KATE TAYLOR: REFLECTIONS**

May 11, 2006

When I applied the second time to Gilead House in March 2005 I was living at Days Inn. When I moved in, I did not have structure with Alina. I didn't have anything together for Alina, no schedule; my full attention was not Alina. My life was not going any place.

My best friend came into Gilead House at the same time with her son, and she got kicked out because she broke the rules of the house. I was feeling lost because I was in the habit of running from situations that did not work for me at that moment. I started looking for an apartment to move in with Tiffany. I was trying to rescue her and find an apartment for our two families, and it occurred to me that I was doing all the work, and for what, another dead end?

That was the sign that I needed to get my life together and not depend on others, I had to figure out my life. I knew I had to make changes in order to make a difference for my daughter.

I went through a court battle to get Alina. The Gilead House prayer team was praying for me when it was tearing my heart out at the thought of losing my daughter. The whole staff and my mentor, Roberta, surrounded me with love and prayers.

First I got a job that didn't work out. I was never completely certain why my jobs did not work out. Then the staff at Gilead House put a big team meeting together with all my counselors and mentors to get a long range plan. I was so excited when I got my job 9 months ago at Costco, and it is the longest job I have ever had. This is the first time I have ever gotten any benefits with a job too.

I have learned so much at the Life Skill Classes. Valerie taught me the when-then rule which has helped me to parent Alina better. I picked up lots of helpful tools to make me a better parent in her classes.

When I came to Gilead House my finances were a disaster. I would spend all my money on random stuff. Now I manage my money lots better. Bettye at Gilead House and my mentor, Roberta, helped guide me to freeze the on going interest on my credit cards and enabled me to set up a long term pay back schedule. I have been able to pay off my debt and clear my credit.

There are so many things I have learned at Gilead House. I know how useful the curfew, rules and structure have been for me and my daughter. For all my hurdles, different people at Gilead House walked and

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## **KATE...**(CONT. FROM P.2, COL 1)

talked me through it. I used to get mad and threaten to move out, Gilead House taught me to sit down and talk to them not just yell. I have learned when it gets tough I don't have to get mad and leave. Gilead House has taught me how to be a grown up, given me tools, helped me learn to be more responsible. I have also had so much fun at the Mom's Night In.

Suzan & Cynthia urged me to get my name in the lottery at the Hamilton Bay Vista apartments. Although I was number 336, Suzan called every month since November to see if I had moved up to make it into one of the 220 apartments. Three months ago I knew I lucked out getting my first apartment. I was so excited I was jumping around and screaming that I definitely had my own place.

Gilead House has been a blessing. I would be in the same position if it weren't for Gilead House. I was a mess and wanted something different.

I needed to be there for my daughter. I knew I wanted to be at Gilead House and was ready to work the program.

I came in with a little support team and now I have a huge one. Gilead House has changed my life. I am so lucky to graduate from this program.

Thank you for supporting me and other moms that want to change their lives to make a better life for their kids.

~Kate Taylor, Gilead House Graduate

## **WELCOMING...** (CONT. FROM P.1, COL 2)

She and her family have been at Gilead House for about three months. Her children seem to be thriving for which she is grateful. Susan, a teacher, is hoping that she will be able to teach soon after her son is born.

"We are going to call him David," she told me. Seems appropriate that the name David be chosen for it is a biblical name that means "beloved."

## **SHOWERS OF BLESSINGS**

We are so blessed with your generosity. The Gilead House could not be successful without your support. Many thanks to Tiburon Baptist Church, St. John's Episcopal Church, St. John's Monday Moms group, the Stubblefield family, Gail Tierney, Kathryn Fong, and the Novato Soroptomists for the furniture and wonderful furnishings for Kate's apartment.