

# THE GILEAD GAZETTE

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Christmas 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:

- BayMarin Community
- Church of the Nazarene
- The Quest
- Novato Presbyterian Church
- Tiburon Baptist Church

### PARTICIPATING CONGREGATIONS:

- Marin Covenant Church
- 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)



## THE SEASON OF HOPE

As we are rapidly approaching the Christmas season, it is easy to get caught up in the holiday mayhem. Buying presents, trimming the tree and planning family gatherings can consume our time and attention, and take our focus away from the true meaning of the season. However, the women and children of Gilead House provide an excellent reminder about the hope that comes with Christmas.

Janet and her three children moved into the Gilead House in October and are now looking forward with excitement not only to Christmas, but also toward their new future. The Gilead House has brought immense hope to this family by helping them to move out of a shelter just in time for the holidays. Within the year Janet plans to finish a medical assisting program and then move her family to a home of their own. This family has been blessed with a renewed sense of hope, which is evident in every aspect of their lives.

Heidi and Evan, another family at Gilead House, will be moving out in January. As a result of successfully completing the program, they too are filled with hope about finding  
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## CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE

Join us in the challenge! Last year we raised over \$20,000 with our Christmas Challenge. Can we beat that this year? Thank you for your gener-

## NEW MOM

Recently, Janet moved into the Gilead House with her 3 children, Dana 10, George 8, and Timmy 6. Their favorite aspect of the house is the safe family environment. They truly appreciate working with the other families, supporting each other in daily life. This safe family environment provides them with a source of comfort and hope for the future. Janet has said that she and her children enjoy cooking together and have been able to do this almost every day.

Janet is working with her children to set boundaries, structure, and routine in their daily lives. She feels that she can finally achieve a stable family life as well as her career goals as a medical assistant and/or nurse. The support and caring from the Gilead House has enabled her to gain more self esteem and "care for myself because others care for me." Janet nows believes that she can succeed and that "it is a real blessing to be at the Gilead House."

We believe that Janet is a blessing to the Gilead House.

## NEW STAFF AT THE GILEAD HOUSE

This past October, Mary Schindler joined the GH staff accepting our Family Advocate position. She meets weekly with each of the moms helping them track and set their goals as well as organizing and developing programs for the Gilead House.

Mary Schindler is a doctoral student, studying clinical psychology at Argosy University. She has a heart for helping people and experience in social services having been the manager of a group home for teenage girls. Her career in social services began in her college days while she attended Sonoma State University and worked as a counselor in a residential care setting with teenagers. Mary is native to Sonoma County, having grown up in Santa Rosa and currently living in Petaluma with her husband Ryan and their black Labrador retriever. She currently attends Petaluma Valley Baptist Church where her husband leads the high school ministry. Mary knows that God brought her to the Gilead House in order to show His love to those around her, while at the same time utilizing her gifts for working with people in need. Mary is very excited about working with the women and children of the Gilead House!

## SEASON OF HOPE (CONTINUED FROM P.1)

permanent housing and beginning a stable life using the skills they have learned from their stay at the Gilead House. We wish them the best and know that this will be a successful transition for both Heidi and Evan.

It is wonderful to hear the amazing stories of hope and success that emanate from the Gilead House throughout Marin County. This season provides an excellent reminder of the importance of expressing our gratitude to everyone who helps keep the hope alive for the women and children of Gilead House. An enormous thank you goes to all of the donors, mentors, volunteers and congregations that have pulled together to support this transitional housing program. We appreciate all that you do and look forward to a hope-filled new year together.

## CAR NEEDS

Recently one of our mom's lost her car to a broken transmission. The cost of replacing the transmission is overwhelming. She needs a safe car to transport her children and commute to school to Santa Rosa. If you know of anyone who can help with this repair or a car to donate please let us know.



VOLUNTEERS FROM ST. JOHN'S

## EXTREME HOME-MAKEOVER!

This month at Gilead House we experienced our own version of "Extreme Home-Makeover" when a group from St. John's Church in Ross came and re-vamped our playroom. The Missions Outreach Committee of St. John's eagerly undertook the challenge of transforming the playroom from an unorganized mass of toys to a functional and beautiful room designed for children. They planned, shopped and organized in preparation, then showed up on our doorstep one Saturday morning with their tools in hand. All day they worked hard building shelves, painting chairs, organizing art supplies and toys, hanging curtains, installing a new TV and DVD/VCR player, hanging bulletin boards, etc. When all the work was done, and the children, moms, and staff at Gilead House saw the new room for the first time, their excitement was contagious! They were amazed and speechless at the sacrificial giving of the St. John's volunteers.

When asked why the new playroom is special, one of the children at Gilead House responded, "I think the new TV and DVD player are so cool! We've never had a brand new TV and that makes me feel like we are important kids!" At Gilead House, we recognize that volunteers like St. John's reach out to us because of their love of God and for that we are especially grateful. Thank you for your donations including the new shelves, toys, TV, DVD/VCR player, boom box, curtains, art supplies, pillows, bean-bag chairs, etc. Also, thank you for being willing to come work along side Gilead House as we strive to meet the needs of children currently living in the house as well as those who will live there in the future. Your willing hands and hearts help us show those around us that we are all "important kids" in the Kingdom of God.

Many thanks to the volunteers from St. Johns!