

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
- Tiburon Baptist Church
- Trinity Community Church
- Westminster Presbyterian

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

OLIVE HARVEST 2005

This year, the Fourth Annual Gilead House Olive Fest will be held on November 25th and December 3rd. On November 25th, we will be harvesting olives at the Pine Ridge Winery's orchard in Rutherford (Napa). On the 3rd of December we will harvest at Ed and Merrilee Turley's home in Yountville. These harvest days have been a great time of fun, food, and fellowship as our volunteers work together to help needy, single moms and their kids in our community. Young and old are all able to help. We would like to extend a special invitation to the youth groups for Nov. 25th. It would be a great opportunity for kids from all across the county can meet one another.

Processing the olives into olive oil will be done in Nicasio on the two days following each harvest. We will need a "few good men" to help with the processing of each harvest. If you have a men's group, they might consider volunteering as a group to take a morning or afternoon shift on one of those days. We would like to know if anyone has a truck they could bring on the harvest days too.

A delicious lunch will be provided for all the volunteers who are helping to harvest or process with us. We will also be sampling the 2003 vintage of West Wind Wines and taking orders for your Christmas lists (proceeds to benefit Gilead House).

People can sign up at the Gilead House website (www.gileadhouse.org) or for more information, contact John or Cynthia Klock at 415-662-2466.

WELCOMING OUR NEWEST RESIDENTS

One of the new residents of Gilead House is Kiernan, a lively seven-year-old. He is full of energy just like any kid. Traci, Kiernan's mom is grateful to be living at Gilead House and is finding the atmosphere reassuring. "I want to work on my parenting and finance skills," she states. "I think that this is a good place to do that."

Traci recently found a job and has transitioned well into managing work and home life. Traci came to us from a homeless situation. She has shown us from the beginning that she is committed to making the changes necessary to provide a safe and loving home for Kiernan.

A BELATED WELCOME

This past spring, Amy and her daughter Amina moved into the Gilead House....

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GOD IS FAITHFUL

Our house manager, Bettye Brydon is a gifted woman who walks side by side the moms of the Gilead House daily. Her patience and wisdom are evident as the moms continue to learn. We asked Bettye to share one of her most recent and touching experiences. What follows is one of those experiences.

Bettye:

Recently at Gilead House one of the moms asked me about tithing. This is a young woman who had no faith or belief in God at all when she first came to us. Her question came as a result of attending church for a few weeks with some friends. For several weeks she had been observing how much money people were placing in the plate as it was passed. Each time it passed by her she wanted to put a large amount in but had only meager amount to give.

In her search for answers she asked me how much one should tithe and if God would even care about her pittance. A Bible story came to mind of the rich rulers who gave copious amounts of money, just to look good, from their impressive income. I told her about the contrast between them and the very poor woman who had barely enough to live on but still gave all that she had because she wanted to please God. I explained the condition of the heart and how God sees and knows the motive we have for all we do. She went away understanding no matter how small or how great her offering, if she gives with a glad heart, that is all God expects from her. She also asked for an easy to read Bible to help her better understand what people are talking about when they tell these stories.

I am so grateful to have opportunities like this with the moms of Gilead. God is faithful and He is at work in the lives of Gilead families.

Thank you for your prayers,
Bettye
House Manager, Gilead House

WELCOMING OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Last month, Suzan Sweet joined the Gilead House as our new Executive Director. Below she shares with us what drew her to the Gilead House, a brief bio, and what she hopes to accomplish.

Suzan:

I knew from the moment I read the advertisement on the Gilead House web page that God had been honing my skills for the past several years to prepare for this job.

After phone conversations with Gail Holmen; the President of the Board, and Cynthia Klock; Board Member, I proceeded with three interviews. Each time I left with such peace and certainty that this was where I needed to be.

Although a native Texan, I met my husband Jay while living in New York City and moved to our house in Mill Valley in 1984. We have three sons, Schuyler is a sophomore in college, JT is a Senior at Tam High, and Sam is a 7th grader at Mill Valley Middle School. We are all very active at St. John's Episcopal Church and consider it a vital part of our family.

My personal goals for the Gilead House are to enhance and strengthen the goals that support the mission statement as well as planning for the future growth.

I have had the pleasure of meeting with each of the Board Members, the Prayer Team and Bettye Bryton, our house manager. It is a pleasure to work with such a solid can-do team.

In time, I hope our paths will cross either picking olives or volunteering at the house. I do want to thank each of you that has taken Gilead House under your wing either in prayer, financially or both. With all of us and God's help, we are making a difference in these women and their children's lives.

~Suzan Sweet

A BELATED WELCOME (CONT. FROM P.1, COL 2)