



GRACE HOUSE

August 18, 2014

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GAZETTE

Dear Friends,

The spirit of community collaboration is alive and well in the Itasca County! Grace House recently hosted Community Café while the Itasca Resource Center was closed for flooring repairs. Community Café Coordinator Jan Gunderson and her team of dedicated volunteers efficiently prepared and served 108 meals during the two days Grace House functioned as a temporary host site. It was an honor to "pay it forward" to Community Café, which provides 1000's of free meals each year to people in our community who are experiencing hunger.

Collaborations with area businesses and nonprofits enable Grace House to provide onsite workforce preparedness and financial literacy classes to guests on a weekly basis. Our STRIVE Project is expanding dramatically through the development of a new partnership with Northland Counseling Center (NCC). Staff from NCC's Northern Opportunity Works Program will assess the occupational skills and interests of our guests while providing information on income-earning opportunities for those receiving Social Security benefits.

We've also teamed up with Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation (GRACF) to help current and former guests achieve personal and professional goals through a variety of occupational scholarships and education grants. Together, we're working to remove financial barriers that frequently prevent our guests from pursuing careers which require expensive training and ongoing certification.

Grace House's new programming would not exist without community collaboration. To thank our agency partners, donors and volunteers for their incredible support, Grace House is sponsoring an old-fashioned **Community Block Party next Saturday, August 23**. We'll serve up free brats, chips and refreshments from Noon until 2:00 p.m. Please make plans to join us for an afternoon of great food, camaraderie and musical entertainment.

Best wishes,

Sherry Shadley

Executive Director

P.S. We invite all Itasca County motorcyclists to rev up their bikes in support of Grace House's **September 13 "Faith, Home & Charity Ride"**. This inaugural motorcycle rally kicks off at 11:00 a.m. at the Deer River Vets Club. The ride includes four educational stops before concluding with a BBQ dinner at Lawrence Lake Liquor on Scenic Highway 7. There is a \$20 entrance fee and prizes for riders who raise \$30 or more in donations. For more information or to register for the "Faith, Home & Charity Ride", please contact Peg Christensen at (218) 326-2790 or christensenpeg@yahoo.com.

Scholarship Fund Established For Grace House Guests

A generous donation from Lawrence Lake Liquor will be used to establish the Barb James Memorial Scholarship Fund to provide tuition assistance to Grace House guests who are pursuing post-secondary education.

Managed by the Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation, Grace House will award two \$500 scholarships each year—one in the fall and one prior to the spring semester. Eligible recipients include current Grace House guests and those who have stayed at the shelter within the past two years. Scholarships may be used to obtain Associates and Bachelor degrees as well as occupational certificates (e.g. Certified Nursing Assistant, Commercial Driver License, etc.) from any Minnesota university, community college or trade school.

The scholarship fund was established to honor the memory of Barb James, who passed away suddenly February 13, 2014. Ms. James and life partner, Bernie Dehn own Lawrence Lake Liquor. A retired educator, Barb was a passionate literacy and human rights advocate. She envisioned a world free from discrimination and one that offers equal opportunities for housing, education and employment.

The first Barb James Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Grace House guest Salina Goodwin by Ms. Dehn last Wednesday, August 13, 2014—the six-month anniversary of Barb's untimely death. After meeting Ms. Goodwin and hearing her plans at Itasca Community College, Ms. Dehn enthused, "I'm really happy about the scholarship! And a day that otherwise would've been very difficult was very special."

Over the next few weeks, we will work to create a charitable giving option that allows donors to contribute to the Barb James Memorial Scholarship Fund via Pay Pal through Grace House's website (www.gracehousemn.org). We'll keep you updated on our progress as we move forward with this exciting new scholarship program!

Important Dates to Remember:

August 23, Noon-2:00 p.m. — Grace House Community Block Party

August 25 @ 1:00 p.m. — Afternoon Volunteer Support Meeting

August 26 @ 5:30 p.m. — Evening Volunteer Support Meeting

September 2 @ 1:00 p.m. — Monthly Church Coordinator Meeting

September 8 @ 5:30 p.m. — Volunteer Training & Orientation

September 13, 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. — "Faith, Home & Charity Ride" Motorcycle Rally Fundraiser

Top Five Critical Needs List:

1. Coffee
2. Hamburger
3. Twin-size zippered mattress covers (for bed bug prevention)
4. Reams of copy paper
5. High efficiency laundry detergent