



# GRACE HOUSE

September 8, 2014

Volume II: Issue 11

## GAZETTE

Dear Friends,

"Get your motor runnin'/Head out on the highway"... The lyrics to Steppenwolf's "Born to Be Wild" is the theme of the 1<sup>st</sup> annual "**Faith, Home, & Charity Ride**", an educational fundraiser benefitting Grace House. Members of the American Legion Riders will rev up their engines **Saturday, September 13** during a 60-mile ride to raise awareness of Greater Minnesota's growing homelessness epidemic. There is a \$20 entrance fee per person to participate in this sober motorcycle rally.

Registration for the "Faith, Home & Charity Ride" kicks off at 11:00 a.m. with a chili feed at the Deer River Vets Club, home of American Legion Riders—Chapter 1. Each stop along the "Faith, Home & Charity Ride" route has a direct correlation to homelessness or Grace House's programming. Charitable gambling proceeds from Deer River Vets Post 122 have been used to support Grace House's efforts to temporarily house Itasca County's extensive veteran population.

At Cohasset's Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, riders will tour one of the eight local churches that served as emergency overflow shelter sites this spring when Grace House reached maximum occupancy. Our Redeemer Lutheran also sponsors Ruby's Pantry, a surplus food program that supplements limited food budgets for area seniors, low-income families and guests of Grace House.

Affordable housing champion, Rep. Tom Anzelc will greet participating riders when they stop at Grace House. Rep. Anzelc fought diligently for passage of a landmark \$100 million affordable housing bonding bill. Beacon Hill, a 48-unit affordable project, is slated for construction in Grand Rapids next spring, pending approval by Minnesota Housing Finance Agency.

Lawrence Lake Liquor on Scenic Highway 7 serves as the final destination of the September 13 "Faith, Home & Charity Ride." Participating riders will feast on a BBQ dinner sponsored by Tike's Fresh Meats. A recent donation from Lawrence Lake Liquor proprietor Bernie Dehn is being used to establish the Barb James Memorial Scholarship to honor the memory of her business and life partner who passed earlier this year. The Barb James Memorial Scholarship Fund will enable Grace House to award two \$500 scholarships each year to current and former guests pursuing educational and occupational advancement.

If you're not riding, join us at Lawrence Lake Liquor where **pulled-pork sandwich plates will be sold** from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. A **meat raffle will be held at 6:00 p.m.** to raise additional scholarship funds.

Best Wishes,

*Sherry Shadley*

Executive Director

### Volunteer Spotlight:

This month, we salute Bob Wagner for his many years of service to Grace House. An overnight volunteer, Bob has been filling shifts since Grace House was established in 2006. He is a long-standing member of Zion Lutheran Church. Bob jumped at the chance to sign up as an overnight volunteer during the weeks Zion Lutheran served as one of our overflow shelter host sites this spring. A former public school administrator from Estherville, Iowa, Bob and wife Mary Ann moved to Grand Rapids many years ago to enjoy their retirement in scenic Northern Minnesota. Although he retired many years ago, Bob continues to serve as a substitute teacher. Bob recently celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday! He keeps mentally and physically fit by reading every newspaper he can get his hands on and by bicycling every chance he gets. We thank Bob for his unwavering commitment to Grace House, and for proving that age really is just a number.

### Please Mark Your Calendars for These Important Dates:

September 13, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. — “Faith, Home & Charity Ride” from Deer River to rural Bovey

September 13, 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. — Pulled pork sandwich platters for sale at Lawrence Lake Liquor

September 22 @ 1:00 p.m. — Afternoon Volunteer Support Meeting

September 23 @ 5:30 p.m. — Evening Volunteer Support Meeting

October 6 @ 1:00 p.m. — Monthly Church Coordinator Meeting

October 13 @ 5:30 p.m. — Volunteer Orientation & Training

We congratulate Grace House Program Coordinator, Tara Venema, on the **birth of daughter Paisley Rae**, who was born September 2 at 8:08 a.m. She weighed in at 7 pounds, 1 ounce and measured 20 inches long. We welcome Paisley to our Grace House family, and look forward to Tara’s November 1 return from maternity leave.

### Top 5 Critical Needs List:

1. High Efficiency Laundry Detergent
2. Women’s new underwear in sizes 6, 7 & 8
3. 85% lean ground beef and boneless buffalo chicken wings (both on sale for \$3.99/lb. at Cub Foods)
4. Large backpacks for our guests
5. Shredded mozzarella cheese