At Our Door News
Spring 2020

Shelter

Nourishment

Thrift Stores

Education

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Memory Verse
“Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward them for what they have done.”
- Proverbs 19:17

Lazarus House Ministries
Opening Doors Out of Poverty
The Heart of Lazarus House - A Note From Jeff

When I say, “Let’s get to the heart of the matter,” what I mean is, “Let’s concentrate on that which is most important.” As I am still relatively new in my role, people often ask me about the direction I see Lazarus House taking in the next few years. My answer almost always includes the phrase, “We will focus on the heart of Lazarus House.” Our heart is a tapestry of ministries related to food, shelter, clothing, and vocational training tied together with a love of neighbor that can only come from above. In this newsletter, we share how basic care, carried out God’s way with love and respect, leads to Guest success stories (pg. 3) and we highlight the real heart of our programs (pg. 5).

We are grateful for our donors and volunteers; you are our lifeblood and keep the heart of Lazarus House pumping! On a personal note: Thank you, Ken Campbell, for your years of service, loving God and Guests!

Blessings,

Ken Campbell

Ken Campbell Retires; Liset Garcia walks “next to” his shoes!

When Ken Campbell, Food Services Coordinator at our St. Martha’s Food Pantry, landed on the Lazarus House Founders Board along with Brother Tom Pettite back in 1983, he certainly wasn’t imagining he’d be retiring from the same place at 75 years old in 2020! In fact, Ken volunteered here during most of that time while he and his wife Linda raised their six children. It was not until 12 years ago, during his ‘first retirement’, that he worked here full time. He talks of the core of Ministry being love, faith, joy and service. He says with a smile that “if we are doing this right, it doesn’t look like we are working hard!”

When asked why he is retiring, Ken responds calmly, “It is time for the next phase of what I tell my wife is 24/7 enjoying each other and God’s creation in northern New Hampshire.” But that’s not exactly true as he continued on to say how excited he is that he and Linda have found where they will continue their service at a local food pantry, shelter and parish!

In walks Liset Garcia admitting that she is both nervous and excited to step into this position, but clarifies, “I am not filling Ken’s shoes, I am walking next to them as God calls me to do this work using the way He created me uniquely.” Born in the Dominican Republic, and coming here at 12 years old, Liset says strongly, “Lawrence is my home, it’s me, it’s love” and she is ready to serve her people by working with community partners to provide healthy food in a welcoming, non-judgmental, family environment!

Liset’s faith is strong and her call to live it out as Food Services Coordinator is real. She shares that Ken doesn’t have to spend these few months transferring his institutional knowledge because he has been doing that for the five years they have been working together. “I’m ready,” she says with a smile!

We are grateful for Ken Campbell’s heart for this Ministry, and Liset Garcia’s heart to carry on that welcoming love for our Guests!

To say Farewell to Ken, or Hello to Liset, please call 978-332-5013.
Solid Ground = Solid Decisions

When Guillermo came to us only a few short months ago, he was using recreational drugs, unable to keep his medical condition in check and unmotivated to do the work of creating a better life for himself. His welcome into the family community and structured programming at the Shelter changed his trajectory quickly and markedly. In just two short months, Guillermo invites the drug testing he once feared - he says, “Go ahead, test me – I’m clean!” Because of the regularity in schedule and mealtimes, he has been able to take his medication as prescribed and is feeling much healthier and has more energy to focus on the next right thing on his journey. In fact, Guillermo is relying on many programs in Lawrence that will launch him back into self-sufficiency and good health. The advocacy team at the Shelter says, “We can see he is shining from the inside out – with bright hope in his eyes.”

Nutrition for the Heart and Soul

When a stranded and dejected couple walked through the Soup Kitchen door, they were met with interest in their predicament and care for their situation. The man had slipped, hit his face and had gone to the hospital to get checked out. Shortly after that visit, their car was impounded, leaving them stranded. They were offered a balanced meal in a warm and friendly environment – able to rest their hearts and begin to think through their situation. Our Advocacy Team jumped into action to provide support, guidance, needed clothing and winter coats. During their time in the Soup Kitchen, the man received a call that he needed to come back to the hospital due to something they found on his scan. The Lazarus House Team sent them on their way with transportation, having been loved and well taken care of, and an invitation to return if they needed or wanted to! Your generosity provides necessities and care WAY Beyond Soup Kitchen Nutrition!!

Amazon Smiled - no really... AMAZON SMILED!!!

Recently, our regular Amazon delivery guy was perplexed at the increased number of packages coming into Lazarus House. In fact, he commented, “Wow – you guys have been doing a lot of shopping these days.” Our office manager assured him that we, as a not-for-profit, were NOT shopping and went on to explain that when we have urgent needs, we post on Social Media providing links for much needed items for our Guests. She explained that these packages were all donations from people who “cared and clicked” our Amazon Smile link to order from a list of urgently needed items. The driver was amazed – that the many packages he had been bringing in each day were donations from kind hearts who just didn’t want others to suffer. He stayed a little longer that beautiful afternoon – chatted to our team about the work of Lazarus House and went home with an “Amazon Smile” and the link to donate! Thank You for inspiring this young man!

When we say SHELTER - do you think House?

Think again! Laughter and conversation ring out in the dining room at the Shelter while waiting for a volunteer-prepared breakfast – three families had met downstairs well before breakfast to chat, tell stories and share their family experiences. Still another group was found in the corner of the Soup Kitchen at lunch time, deep in what appeared to be a meeting – only to discover that a few people from the Shelter had gotten together to start a “book club”... A beautiful community-building book club!! Still another Guest took the time and care to make origami animals for the Guests staying in out of the frigid cold at the emergency overnight Shelter.

When we say Shelter, we think Family! And we thank you for providing that!
I am so proud of the Lazarus House Team, who through their work demonstrates Jesus’ love for those in need. They delight in and celebrate helping people experience the things many of us take for granted like love from family and friends, opportunities to succeed and even being called by name. This level of care, concern and respect is the foundation upon which this Ministry was built – it will be experienced by our Guests whether at the Shelter or the Soup Kitchen, the Food Pantry or Thrift Stores, at Culinary Training or Transitional Housing. I encourage you to read the Story Snaps in this newsletter to better understand how this plays out in the lives, changed lives, of our Guests and the people who interact with Lazarus House – how our donors provide fertile ground for Guests to thrive, be accepted where they are and shine uniquely.

God Bless You,

Chair of the Board, Lazarus House Ministries

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LAZARUS HOUSE
Calculated Giving

DID YOU KNOW?

With the strong performance of investment markets in recent years, it may be particularly advantageous to make gifts of securities.

If you own stocks, mutual funds or other securities that have increased in value, and you have owned them for more than a year, it can be wise to use them to make charitable gifts.

The new tax laws retained the special tax benefits that come with making charitable gifts in this way.

You may still claim a deduction for their full market value, not just the amount you paid, and you do not have to pay capital gains tax that would be owed if you sold those securities and then donated the proceeds.

The combined savings of both regular income tax and capital gains tax can make giving securities especially attractive. This opportunity is available to everyone, whether or not they itemize their deductions.

If you would like to further explore the tax benefits of gift planning, please contact us at giftplanning@lazarushouse.org or call Kelley Granahan, Director of Development at 978-269-5212

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Love Multiplied!

Recurring donors make an impact on our Guests’ lives EVERY month of the year. They are a special group of supporters.

One such donor, Beverly Eskel, who has been donating in this way since 2001 says, “This way of giving is a no-brainer. Life gets busy. This is easy and one less thing to remember”. Another of our recurring donors added “I wasn’t sure if my modest donation at the end of the year was doing much good. Spreading my gift out over 12 months makes it more manageable for me to give more. It works for me, for Lazarus House and for the Guests.”

Recurring gifts aren’t just convenient for our donors; these gifts provide a consistent and reliable source of funding that allows us to plan ahead and do the most good for our Guests.

Some benefits of becoming a recurring or sustaining supporter:
1. Hassle-free, safe, secure automatic donations from your credit card
2. The knowledge that your donation is put to work immediately
3. The ability to change or suspend your donation at any time
4. Customized giving levels and frequency of giving

Please call 978-269-5215 or stewardship@lazarushouse.org to enroll or have your questions answered.

Director of Development

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You are ALL THAT ... and a bag of chips!

What do we REALLY do for our Guests through your generosity? What is the heart of the programs we focus on for the good of our Guests? What does whole-person care look like at Lazarus House? You continue to provide the “ALL THAT” for each and every cherished Guest and we are so grateful!

Lazarus House Emergency Shelter

Or “home” as many of our Guests call it. A place filled with welcome, support, emotional and physical safety, and cheerleaders for Guest success. A family. You provide advocacy services, volunteer-prepared breakfast and dinner, bagged lunches, crisis intervention housing, income and savings management programs, budgeting help, housing and parenting workshops.

ALL THAT and a safe place to sleep!

St. Martha’s Food Pantry

Every Wednesday is a community meet-up as many of our Guests have described it. You provide a weekly shopping experience offering the luxury of choice for anyone who comes to our door. That choice comes with a hug, a welcome, togetherness and engaging conversation. It comes with prayer for those who ask. The pantry also provides emergency food distribution, holiday food orders, culinary training space and event space.

ALL THAT and a bag of groceries!

Thrift Stores

Shoppers are welcomed with respect, dignity and kindness and are offered an experience of choice in a warm, clean, well-appointed shopping atmosphere that is usually reserved for those of greater means. As one mom put it, “We love coming here. My kids get to choose what they want, and finally they are wearing the right sizes.”

ALL THAT and a pair of pants!

Good Shepherd Soup Kitchen

Where everybody knows your name at daily breakfast and lunch sittings! Where each guest is welcomed as important and unique. Where there are professionals to care for Guests’ needs: nurses, health insurance enrollment, barbers, advocates, and community resource specialists. Where Guests can get thrift store vouchers for a winter coat. Where a hot shower, personal care items, diapers and formula are available.

ALL THAT and a hot meal!

Capernaum Place Transitional Housing

Hope and accomplishment happen here for once homeless Guests. Each family is welcomed to stabilize and build a bright future. Holiday parties, surprise gifts and loving the children are part of the life at Capernaum Place. Advocates hold regular accountability meetings with each family to ensure goals are being met and dreams are being realized. Courses and guidance in financial asset building, parenting, budgeting, and life skills are foundational to the program.

ALL THAT and an apartment!

Emergency Winter Overnight Shelter

Bed and breakfast! A night protected from the bitter cold.

All are welcome at the overnight shelter for a warm comfy night’s sleep, loving community, volunteer chaperones, hot chocolate and an evening snack. Hot showers, personal care items, fresh dry socks, underwear, sweatpants, blankets to keep and a hot breakfast in the morning.

ALL THAT and a cozy cot!

Lazarus House Soup Truck

Fridays and Sundays, January through March – a collection of volunteers make 150 meals, 5 gallons of soup, drive the soup truck to two known Lawrence stops, give out “blessing bags” of personal care items and blankets, interact with Guests, serve the meal, and return to the Shelter for clean up! Guests are blessed by the camaraderie, nutrition, and the knowledge that they are loved and cared for.

ALL THAT and a bowl of soup!

Culinary Training Program

Taking the step to join a culinary class – excellent! Learning to cook – wonderful! Having a skill that will lead to self-sufficiency – priceless! Students experience 10 weeks of culinary training by local chefs who donate their time and expertise. Students then launch into paid internships where they gain invaluable on-the-job experience. Many graduates are hired by the companies with whom they interned; others start their own businesses.

ALL THAT and a ServSafe Certificate!
Lazarus House Math

Our Core Programs

Respect + Dignity + Guest Fortitude = Lives Changed

Soup Kitchen & Food Pantry

Nutritious Food + Family Atmosphere + Guest Fortitude = Lives Changed

Thrift Stores

Dignified Shopping Experience + Affordable Necessities + Guest Fortitude = Lives Changed

Shelter & Capernaum Place

Safe Beautiful Space + Advocacy + Life Skills + Guest Fortitude = Lives Changed

THANK YOU for being part of the equation... and the solution!