



Summer 2018
Volume XXI Issue 2

Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

It feels as if I am bidding farewell to family. It has been my greatest privilege and honor to have been a part of the Lazarus House ministry for the past 13 years. During this time together we have supported our neighbors in crisis when they have come to doors of Lazarus House during their darkest hours. Together we have witnessed lives transformed. We have celebrated our guest's successes and mourned those who chose other paths. We have spent our holidays together at our Thanksgiving and Christmas day celebrations, and worked together at our 4th of July Great Western Freedom 4, our golf outings and galas to raise the important dollars needed to make this important work a reality.

It was one of the most humbling experiences of my life to be asked to lead God's precious Lazarus House a little over 7 years ago. I came to Lazarus House as the Women's ES Case Manager in June of 2005. Very soon after Lazarus House began to expand its scope of services to include the homeless prevention and rent subsidy programs which today compose our Outreach program. I was asked to manage and grow this area beginning early 2006.

As our founding Executive Director, Darlene Marcusson, began to look toward her own retirement she asked that I also assume the position as Associate Director. One thing led to another, and so here we are today. As I am preparing to exit, I admit to many moments of "When I'm gone, don't forget..." Although not "my baby," my service as Executive Director has taken over a big space in my heart and my life these past 7 1/2 years. I kind of feel like when I sent my kids off to college; just in reverse!

Collectively, we are Lazarus House to each other, our guests and the communities we serve. I am in awe of the dedication and selflessness each of you exhibit each day, in the million and

one ways you do. What a Team we are!!! I am sure you will all also agree with me when I say (and not for the first time) that one of the greatest blessings of God's call to serve Him in His ministry called Lazarus House is the vantage point we have all been given which allows us to see how good people are. Our staff is blessed beyond measure by trust placed in us by the thousands of you who volunteer and donate to this ministry annually, as together we serve our most vulnerable neighbors in crisis. Does it get any better than that? The days of serving here can be HARD! But with God's grace we all continue to show up, knowing we have been called in a very profound way to serve God and each other.

My wonderful husband and partner in life, Ed, and I are looking forward to taking life at a slower pace, which will allow some precious time together to enjoy each other, our grandkids (and of course our kids;-) and – well – whatever God has planned for us next! You might see us on the road someplace far away in our 1989 Ford camper (sounds much older than it looks; like me ☺). We have a "dream" of driving it to Alaska during the summer of 2019. We will see!

In closing, it seems important to note that it is a very exciting time for Lazarus House. As you know, we have recently purchased the 214 Walnut Street building, and are finalizing plans for the renovations which will allow all Lazarus House staff and activities to be under one roof. The future is very secure and promising. I will leave knowing God has brought to this ministry just the right people to serve Him and His most precious ones; most notably at the moment Leanne Deister-Goodwin, our new Executive Director. And – just as He always has – He will continue to provide for Lazarus House in all ways as long as we continue to remember to turn to Him for our every need.

Serving Him with you,

Upcoming Events

Watch Our Website For Details

GENEVA HIGH SCHOOL STAR ANNUAL GARAGE SALE
THURS-SAT JUNE 7-9
1050 DIVISION ST, GENEVA

GREAT WESTERN FREEDOM 4 RUN, WALK & KIDS DASH
WEDNESDAY, JULY 4
LEROY OAKES FOREST PRESERVE, ST CHARLES

LAZARUS HOUSE OPEN
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14
PRAIRIE LANDING GOLF CLUB
see inside for event details

Next Year– Mark your calendar:
LAZARUS HOUSE GALA
JANUARY 26, 2019
Q CENTER

"The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step."

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Summer, summer, summer




Great Western Freedom 4 ~ Run, Walk, & Kids Dash has something for everyone!

Registration is now open for runners and walkers who wish to participate in the 12th annual Great Western Freedom 4 at www.signmeup.com through July 1st. Day of registration is accepted for an extra fee. The Kids Dash is for children 12 and under and registration is on event day for \$5 per child. There will be plenty of prizes for all children and awards per age category dashes. All runner and walker fees and details are available at www.lazarushouse.net and www.signmeup.com.

So whether you compete on the USATF certified 4 mile course, join the 2 mile scenic walk, or cheer on the children in the Kids Dash, it's bound to be an energizing morning and a great way to start your holiday. Bring the whole family out to enjoy the races & vendors.

All proceeds from this event benefit Lazarus House and you can increase your giving by collecting pledges. Pledge sheets are available on the Lazarus House website.

Great Big Garage Sale June 7, 8 and 9th

1050 Division Street, Geneva

Summertime is here and it's time for the annual garage sale! The Geneva High School STAR group will host the sale in Geneva on June 7th and 8th from 9am-3pm and June 9th from 8am-1pm. Mark your calendars and please stop by to select some new treasures!

Donations are currently being accepted at the above address, but please hold donations of large items and furniture until after Memorial Day.



Lazarus House Open Friday, September 14th

Prairie Landing Golf Club, West Chicago

All new - new date, new course,
more fun for all!

A golf outing at the beautiful Prairie Landing Golf Club in West Chicago. All proceeds from this new outing will benefit Lazarus House 100%! Watch our website for more detailed information about sponsorships and how you can make your reservations. We are accepting donations for sporting tickets, golf items, and trips for our raffle baskets. Need more info? Please contact Darlene at darlener@lazarushouse.net



WCC
ES Men

Lazarus House Guest Stories

CTL
Outreach

It was a cold winter day when “Rachel” arrived at Lazarus House. She was wearing a very thin coat and it just happened that we had received a donation that day of a few nice winter jackets so right away she was able to warm up. “Rachel” has a wonderful outlook on life, an easy laugh and a warm smile that she shares with everyone. This was middle-aged “Rachel’s” first time living by herself and she was nervous. She was nervous about sleeping that first night next to strangers. She was nervous about putting herself out there with an employment search and potentially being rejected. She was nervous about the possibility of not staying sober and going back to a life that robbed her of lots of things. One would never have known this about “Rachel” as she is a woman who attacks problems head on and with fierce determination. She is organized and gets right down to business, looking forward and not at the past. Within one month of being here, “Rachel” had secured a job, took care of a past legal issue, re-established relationships with two important people in her life, accepted treatment in an attempt to stay on a sober path and will be moving into the CTL program this week. The weather is now turning warmer and it’s so nice to see “Rachel” leaving Lazarus House each morning with bright cheerful lipstick and a positive attitude ready to see what lies ahead of her.

“Maxwell” came to Lazarus House in December 2017. He reported having a falling out with his previous roommate, as well as substantial grief from the recent deaths of several relatives. “Maxwell” had no job, no health insurance, and no more than seventy-five cents to his name. Working with our Employment Specialist and his Case Manager, “Maxwell” attended a group hiring at a local employer and was hired two weeks after moving to LH. He has adapted to this position and has maintained the job since, finding it challenging and rewarding. He has also maintained motivation to address the grief and stress in his life that began before he came to LH. He has attended multiple grief counseling and mental health sessions since coming to LH, reporting that this has helped to reduce the emotional burden brought on him by his losses. “Maxwell” has also secured health insurance through his current employer and added a second job to his weekly work routine. Since arriving at LH, he has also used his case management meetings to build up his budgeting skills, allowing him to save the bulk of his hard-earned money. “Maxwell” displays a consistently positive attitude and strong work ethic, taking full advantage of all opportunities to move closer to his goal of independence while at LH. He has recently applied to move into the CTL program and all LH case managers agree that he is an excellent candidate for this next step. “Maxwell” remains congenial and sociable among LH staff and guests alike, helping out with chores around the ES and contributing to uplifting, fun conversations during meal times. Since his arrival, he has benefited greatly from all LH has to offer and remained an active contributor to our community.

“Peyton” arrived at Lazarus House about nine months ago after the family member he was living with lost their house to foreclosure. When he arrived he had little sense of purpose, one bag of clothes, no savings, no insurance and no source of income. With a lot of guidance “Peyton” was directed to and qualified for Medicaid. After discussions with his Case Manager it was ascertained that applying for Social Security at the age of 63 would be the best way to have a source of income, because he had been injured years before and not able to find adequate work since. Once “Peyton” was approved for Social Security, he moved to the CTL and continued to progress. “Peyton” felt he struggled with computers and has taken opportunities to become more proficient. By maintaining well-controlled spending habits from good use of his budgeting, he increased his savings tremendously. He was able to purchase a vehicle and still maintain an increasing savings. After less than a year “Peyton” feels comfortable moving to independent housing and has found a place on his own where he feels he can be successful for the first time in many years.

“Sarah” came to Lazarus House 6 years ago, homeless and spiritually broken. She had been moving from place to place, living a life of hopelessness she would not wish on anyone. “Sarah” believes finding the Emergency Shelter at Lazarus House was a blessing that gave her the determination to go to any lengths to never again be homeless. As a result of her time as a guest at the Emergency Shelter she was able to become a participant in one of the grant subsidy programs offered. Since then, “Sarah’s” life has changed dramatically. With the aid of the Outreach program, “Sarah” has been able to find employment and has an apartment that she has made her “home.” With the assistance of her weekly case management meetings, she’s learned how to budget and has been able to save enough money to purchase a car. “Sarah” has a strong desire to stay healthy and become independent. She continues her connection with Lazarus House by stopping in at the WCC where she likes to spend time and often shares her experience, strength, and hope with other guests. In “Sarah’s” words, “There is a feeling of safety and unconditional support that I get whenever I am at Lazarus House and for that I am eternally grateful.”

Lazarus House
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Working Together to Offer Hope and a Future

LAZARUS HOUSES LOOKS TO EXCITING FUTURE

This past October, Lazarus House was presented with the exciting opportunity and challenge to purchase the 214 Walnut Street building. This would allow us to bring all our programs and services under one roof.

LH leadership proceeded with the purchase and is planning renovation/retrofitting of this expanded space for our needs. This obviously presents an exciting challenge for LH to launch a community capital campaign initiative and raise the funds to accomplish these goals.

There has been lots of planning over the past few months and a strong Campaign Leadership Team has recently been recruited including: Dr. John Mason, JC Gonzalez-Mendez, Tom Hansen, Dean Barrett, Steve Figi, Steve Sager, Carolyn Hanna, Lynette Anderson, Jack Saylor, Sue McDowell, Cris and Tom Anderson, and Betsy and Mike Penny.

More information on this exciting initiative will be forthcoming in the months ahead.



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