

April 2010

# Shelter Ministries

## CURRENT NEEDS

- Cleaning Supplies
- Bedding for twin sized beds
- Personal Hygiene products for both men and women

## FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As I write this, the weather is beautiful, perhaps setting a record for this time of year. With such a wonderful example of the coming warm days of spring and summer, it's hard to think about anything negative that might be going on. While the nice, warm weather bodes well for the coming days, the financial needs of our clients haven't disappeared under the rays of sunshine. Without sounding really bad with the metaphors, the reality of it all is overwhelming. The only advantage for some here in DeKalb County is that it won't be so cold with the gas and electric shut off.

The stark reality for many is a horizon of storm clouds. Benefits from the state and federal government are running out or have run out totally. While that continues to be the reality of what is going on here in our community, there are exciting things going on here at the Long-term Recovery Center. We have added 9 new residents to our program in the last three weeks, including three children. The stories for each vary slightly, but the common thread for each of them is that they are sick and tired of being sick and tired. They are willing to look at a different way of living their lives.

Currently, all of our in-house clients have a history that either involves the law, addictive behaviors, mental illness or a combination of two or all three. We know from past experience that until there are no ropes left to grab on to in their own strength, our human condition typically won't allow us to seek a different direction for our lives. Most, if not all, of our residents have tried the same things over and over expecting a different result. By the way, that's the definition of insanity.

The other issue we must deal with here at the Long-term Recovery Center is what aspect of their lives are they running from; running to drugs and alcohol to numb a painful experience in their past or the hopelessness of the future?

I want you to know that the dollars you commit to this ministry are being used to change lives. It takes a significant amount of capital to sustain our program. Imagine what your electric, water, and gas bill might be for a family of 12 adults and 3 children. We are indeed fortunate that the cold weather is behind us, but cooking, washers and dryers and showers continue to produce expenses and we need your financial help .

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## SHELTER MINISTRIES

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**We're on the Web!**

*See us at:*

**shelterministries.org**

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When one looks at a program such as ours, there is the inevitable sense of wondering if lives are truly being changed. Please let me share with you a success story of a woman who has used this life changing approach.

**Testimony:** *"I was born and raised in Northeast Indiana. Both of my parents were drug addicts. When I was 9 years old I found my mom's marijuana. I took some and smoked it. A year later I tried alcohol and liked that too. By the time I was fourteen; I was drinking and smoking pot every day. By sixteen, I was using cocaine regularly. I felt justified in getting high because that's what my parents did.*

*I started dating a guy who liked to party as much as I did. After a year we moved in together. We had our first child when I was nineteen. I had two more children by the time I was twenty-three. I continued using drugs and alcohol. Around that time someone gave me some Oxycotins, a powerful painkiller. At first I used the pills to cope with the pressure of three young boys, but soon I needed them just to function 'normally' every day.*

*To support my habit, I stole my parent's credit card. Within two weeks I racked up a bill of over \$11,000. My parents pressed charges. I spent five months in the county jail and another four months in an alternative rehab program. A week after being released, I was using again. My parents found out, and my children were taken from me. I could not bear the pain of being alone without my boys so I turned to something harder—heroin. I didn't care anymore.*

*Probation told me that I had a choice—back to prison for seven years or find a program that would take me in a different direction for my life. It wasn't a difficult decision. I had no interest in religion, but I did not want to miss my sons' childhood. So, after an in depth interview as to my desire to change, I entered the program.*

*At first it was hard for me to understand how going to Bible study, attending church on Sundays and during the week, and memorizing Scripture were going to keep me from using heroin. I questioned and debated everything. I did not realize that in order to get Jesus into my heart, I had to first get Him into my head. I had to get to know Him.*

*One Wednesday after Bible study I suddenly found myself jumping in with both feet. I asked Jesus to be my Lord and Savior. Joy replaced anger and resentment! Hope and peace filled my heart.*

*I had some struggles in the program. There were circumstances that made me want to leave. The rules are strict, but I now realize that's what I needed. I learned to rest in the truth and that God is watching over my boys. God has given me three children, and put within me a desire to be a godly mother and raise my sons to be godly men. To Him be all the praise and glory!" -Stephanie J.*

All things are possible with God! He can change the life of the most rebellious among us and then use that person as a testimony of change and light in a world of darkness. This is the kind of work we are doing here at the Long-term Recovery Center. These life-changing events do not occur over night. We ask for a commitment of at least a year to change their stinkin' thinkin' to honoring the Lord and becoming the child of God He wants them to be.

We count on your financial support and prayers to provide such a program here in DeKalb County. Won't you help us and the Lord keep it going for all those who the Lord will bring to us?

Thank you for your support in the past and thank you in advance for your support in the future.

Rev. Joe Laher

