

# Lazarus House Love Letter

Luke 16:19-31

Working Together to offer hope and a future

Holiday 2011

Volume XIV Issue 4



## Upcoming Events

- THANKSGIVING FEAST**  
 THURSDAY NOVEMBER 24  
 11:30 AM - 2 PM  
 TRI CITY SALVATION ARMY  
 1710 S. 7TH AVENUE  
 ST. CHARLES  
 FOOD DELIVERY 11:30 - 11:45  
 THE BUFFET OPENS AT NOON
- CHRISTMAS BRUNCH**  
 SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25  
 11:30 AM - 2 PM  
 ST. CHARLES FREE  
 METHODIST CHURCH  
 214 WALNUT STREET  
 ST. CHARLES  
 FOOD DELIVERY 11:30 - 11:45  
 THE BUFFET OPENS AT NOON
- "ALL SHOOK UP" BY**  
**FOX VALLEY REPERATORY**  
 YOUTH ENSEMBLE  
 NOVEMBER 11-13 AND 18-19  
 PHEASANT RUN THEATER,  
 TICKETS: 630-54-6342 OR  
 WWW.TICKETMASTER.COM  
 DONATIONS TAKEN AT END OF  
 EVENT FOR LAZARUS HOUSE

## Message from the Executive Director

Let the little children come...

Dear Friends,  
 I give up! In my efforts to portray the life of Lazarus House, I really try to be careful to reflect accurate numbers. A mere three weeks ago I reported our number of children served was a whopping 44% over one year ago. Today, that percentage increase over children served in October 2010 is a staggering increase of 94%.

These kids are arriving with parents who have completely run out of options. Grandparents they had moved in with have lost their own homes to foreclosure. Or, they have lost jobs or unemployment benefits have exhausted and their landlords are beginning to tire of yet one more tenant unable to pay rent. In many cases the parents of these children have illnesses so serious that supporting and caring for a family appear to be insurmountable responsibilities.

When a family with children calls Lazarus House "home," rest assured that these kids benefit from the generosity and caring of a community who will not let them down. One of the first things done with a case manager is to make certain that all kids who need to be in school are enrolled. If they are fortunate

enough to attend local schools, they are always welcome with open arms. If they choose to remain in the school they most recently

attended (which by federal law they are guaranteed the right to do if they wish), transportation is put in place to be certain that child's education can carry on seamlessly as if their world as they knew it did not just recently come to an abrupt halt.

We have a team of dedicated volunteers who tutor homework hour every Monday through Thursday. Our staff is certain that these families maintain a regular schedule of sleeping,

waking and other daily tasks to offer the security of routine in what could otherwise be a very chaotic situation.

But what about the parents? We understand that the time we have with a family is precious. We will do whatever it takes to address mental and physical

health concerns, education deficits, lack of money management or parenting skills, past domestic violence victimization and other challenges that may be preventing this family from living the blessed life God has planned for them. We are passionate in our efforts to be certain our guests have access to any and all opportunities.

With gratitude for our wonderful partnering agencies, our dedicated volunteers and all of the kindness of our supporters, we are not anxious about these growing numbers. God has never failed Lazarus House, and we are confident He will sustain all the work He has yet to accomplish.

Serving Him with you,

*"When a family with children calls Lazarus House 'home,' rest assured that these kids benefit from the generosity of a community who will not let them down."*



## Looking for the perfect stocking stuffer?

Check out our website for unique Christmas gifts for children and adults. This season we're featuring a few of our favorite things, like the calendar to benefit Lazarus House, uniquely designed by Joe McMahan of McMahan Builders, and a book for kids of all ages, The Pillow Story, by local author, Rick Moser. Quantities are limited so be sure to get details at:



www.lazarushouseonline.com



Luke 16:19-31

# Lazarus House Holiday Response Sheet

YOUR NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ BEST TIME TO CALL \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

## Christmas Sharing



I have enclosed a cash donation for the shelter.

I have enclosed a donation in:

Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send memorial/honorarium acknowledgement to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed a gift card to be used at a later date. *Please place a sticker on the card indicating the value*

## Wrapped Gifts

I would like to purchase a present for a Lazarus House guest this Christmas. Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ gift tag(s) in the amount of: \$10 & under    \$ 25 & under    \$50 & under

## Annual Community Thanksgiving Feast

I would like to attend and share dinner.  
Number of people attending \_\_\_\_\_



I would like to prepare/supply \_\_\_\_\_

## Annual Christmas Brunch

I would like to attend and share dinner.  
Number of people attending \_\_\_\_\_



I would like to prepare/supply \_\_\_\_\_

## Join us for holiday celebrations

We invite the community to share in our self-serve "potluck style" holiday buffets. You may come and eat with the community, and/or choose to bring desired food and supplies to make these holiday feasts special for so many. Those wishing to provide a dish should bring it ready to serve, (hot dishes hot, etc.) in a disposable container about 15 minutes prior to the meal. Those interested in participating, should cut out and complete the holiday response form to the left and return it in the provided envelope. We'll post needed dishes and supplies on our website. For info/sign-up, call our office at 630-587-2144 or e-mail Julie at:

[juliep@lazarushouseonline.com](mailto:juliep@lazarushouseonline.com).

Our feasts are self-serve so we can minimize the work and maximize the time for fellowship. We have LIMITED volunteer slots. To volunteer, call the office at 630-587-2144.

## Make a difference with a gift

Those of you who would like to "open your heart" this Christmas season, please consider making a difference in the lives of those less fortunate here at Lazarus House. Lazarus House is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Cash gifts are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

We have many gift opportunities available:

**Monetary Gifts.** The economic climate is bringing more people to our doors. Your tax-deductible gifts help to support our guests and maintain operations. Gifts of any size are welcome to keep the doors open 24 hours every day of the year. Here are examples of how your gifts help:

**\$45** provides a day of service to a shelter guest

**\$315** provides a week of service for a child or adult

**\$775** provides a month of service to an outreach client

**Honorary Gifts** Perfect for friends, relatives and teachers who seem to have everything and appreciate helping others. Make a donation in their honor, and give us their name and address so we can send an acknowledgement of your gift.

**Memorial Gifts** A thoughtful way to remember those who have passed. When you make a gift in someone's memory, please provide us the name and address of a loved one to whom we can send an acknowledgement of your kindness.

**Gift Cards** Gift cards from stores and pharmacies such as Wal-Mart, Meijer, Target and Walgreens, enable us to meet specific needs of our guests year round. Please place a sticker on the card to indicate its monetary value.

**Wrapped Gifts** Our staff creates gift tags from our guests' wish lists. You can request one or more of these tags, purchase and wrap the specified gift to help ensure that each guest receives a few gifts to open on Christmas morning.

## Guest Stories

### Lazarus House programs provide a continuum of care

*Programs work together providing hope for those who come through our door*

“Barry” came to our emergency shelter after losing his long-term job as a bus driver and after months of trying to maintain his apartment on his own. Additionally he had a health set back with a heart condition and didn’t know where to turn. With the help of Lazarus House, he was able to have a place to stay and supportive services to get him back on his feet. He began receiving unemployment benefits and after a period of time was able to move to the Center for Transitional Living at Lazarus House. While in transitional living, he got his name on a subsidized housing waitlist for the Rental Housing Support Program offered through the Lazarus House Outreach Program. After being on the waitlist for several months, “Barry’s” name came to the top. Now “Barry” is living stably in subsidized housing in this community and is able to look for employment. Barry was lucky. He is benefiting from one of our Outreach grants that continues to be funded. Unfortunately, many of our Outreach grants are ending. **Please help us raise funds for others.** See our LOVEbug Contest details on page 4.

### Goal setting, training help guest overcome odds

*Guest takes advantage of opportunities to build a better future*

“Steve” came into our shelter last year because he was on leave from his job due to medical issues and couldn’t afford to remain in his housing. One of the main things that “Steve” needed to address was his medical issues. He began medical treatments and made steps to become healthy physically and emotionally.

“Steve” attended every class and training that he could at Lazarus House and other community resources. He took part in money management training, employment and job search training, relationship classes, one-on-one job coaching, one-on-one financial counseling, and computer skills training. He worked closely with his case managers and followed their leading and advice. “Steve” worked his way up to the Transitional Living program at Lazarus House and continued to be successful there. He completed his medical treatments and then focused his energy on financial health and emotional health. “Steve” saved money to pay down debt and improve his credit score. “Steve” also took steps to address his anxiety and other emotional issues.

As a result of his hard work, “Steve” was approved for the rental subsidy program (run through Lazarus House) and is now living stably in an apartment -- his own place to call home. “Steve” took advantage of the opportunities provided at Lazarus House, and became a changed man. He came to Lazarus House with very few options because of his circumstances, but now has many options in front of him and the hope of a bright future because he is physically, emotionally, and financially healthy.

### Our network of volunteers and agencies make a difference

*Lazarus House case managers tap a network of contacts to meet the individual needs of our guests*

“Clay,” a 54-year-old truck driver arrived as a guest at Lazarus House in mid-June. He had been a truck driver for many years, but due to health issues he can no longer pursue that line of work. He had applied for Social Security disability but his claim had been denied before entering Lazarus House. He is appealing that denial with the help of an attorney.

“Clay” stands out because he has not given up and he is pursuing solutions to his problems with vigor. Shortly after entering Lazarus House, he completed an assessment which led to a referral to Renz Substance Abuse Counseling for outpatient treatment. He also was referred to Ecker Center for Mental Health where he receives therapy and psychiatric services along with medication. He also receives medical services through the Greater Elgin Family Care Center.

“Clay” applied for and received a temporary medical card from the Illinois Department of Family Services. With the guidance of his primary physician, he is using this opportunity to obtain MRI’s and other tests and appointments with a neurologist, orthopedic doctor, and optometrist. Test result data will increase the likelihood that his Social Security appeal will be successful.

Recently, “Clay” began appointments with a caring dentist who provides free services to Lazarus House guests. “Clay” went to his Lazarus House case manager recently with the incredible news that the dentist, with the help of a dental lab, will provide dentures at no cost to “Clay!” Needless to say, “Clay” was on Cloud Nine that day. When “Clay” is approved for Social Security disability, he will have the opportunity to move to the Lazarus House Center for Transitional Living (CTL) or perhaps obtain a private apartment with some rental assistance obtained through Lazarus House Outreach.



# Help us **Win a Car** to fund **Outreach**

Over the past months, many of you have enthusiastically voted us into the final round of the LOVEbug3 contest to win a 2012 Volkswagen Beetle. We need your help again in December so we can win this Beetle. The car will be used as a fund-raising tool for our Outreach program, which provides rental assistance to needy households.

**Be ready to vote every day, December 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>**



## First Time Voter Only

- 1: Go to [www.LoveBugContest.com](http://www.LoveBugContest.com)
- 2: Click register to vote on top right corner, complete registration and submit. Check your email account for confirmation. Click on link, then "Click Here" to view and vote.
- 3: Choose and vote for one individual.
- 4: Click Non-Profit.
- 5: Vote for Lazarus House, wait for acknowledgement of your votes.

## Everyday Voting

- 1: Go to [www.LoveBugContest.com](http://www.LoveBugContest.com)
- 2: Click "Log In", enter your email address and password, check box Remember Me and submit.
- 3: Click Vote Now
- 4: Choose and vote for one individual.
- 5: Click Non-Profit.
- 6: Vote for Lazarus House, wait for acknowledgement of your votes.

## Help Us Raise Money for Rental Assistance through the LOVEbug3 Contest

Lazarus House provided a record level of rental assistance funding to needy households this past fiscal year. Sadly, the funding is dwindling and shelter is the only option we can provide many people. We would like to raise money to help fund future rental subsidies, but **we need your help!** In December,



we will be in the final stage of voting to win a Volkswagen Beetle through Fox Valley Volkswagen's LOVEbug3 contest.

**Help us toward a victory by voting online every day in December.** Voting details are to the left. If we win the car, we will raffle it off and use proceeds for our Outreach program.



Lazarus House  
214 Walnut Street St.  
Charles, IL 60174  
630-587-2144  
[www.lazarushouseonline.com](http://www.lazarushouseonline.com)

Non Profit  
Permit #206  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
St. Charles, IL

October 26, 2011

Dear Lazarus House Volunteer,

Beginning the Spring of 2010 our founding Executive Director, Darlene Marcusson led the staff of Lazarus House and our wonderful partners in service, Tri City Health Partnership (TCHP) and Delnor Hospital, as well as the Kane County Health Department, in developing a protocol that would allow for screening all Lazarus House guests and staff for exposure to Tuberculosis. Beginning June 2010, this protocol has resulted in the successful screening of all of these individuals

Since the time this protocol was implemented, Lazarus House has served over 600 individual persons with shelter. For the first time in the 1 ½ years since the screening implementation a case of TB has been identified. This case was found extremely early (within three days of admittance to shelter, and once TB was suspect, the person was moved to a different, appropriate facility), which translates to this person posing an extremely low ability to transmit the disease to another person.

However, we feel it is important to recognize that we must be continue to be diligent in our screening efforts and to communicate updates to allay any concerns we all may have.

The KCHD is recommending TB skin testing of all staff and guests who were present at Lazarus House during the time this case was in shelter (10/10, 10/11, 10/12 and the morning of 10/13/11). In addition the KCHD is suggesting testing of any "Super Volunteers" (those who volunteered at Lazarus House more than eight cumulative hours during the time the case was in shelter – 10/10, 10/11, 10/12 and the morning of 10/13/11).

If you fall within the category of persons who were present at Lazarus House, but for less than eight cumulative hours during the period identified, the KCHD is not recommending testing. The Kane County Health Department will be on site at Lazarus House on October 28<sup>th</sup> and Monday, October 31<sup>st</sup> to provide education and to answer individual questions. If you or your health care provider has further questions or concerns, they can contact:

Claire Dobbins, RN, MS, Director, Disease Prevention. 630-208-5152

If you have any immediate concerns or questions, please contact Liz Eakins, Executive Director at: 630-587-2144. For more information on Tuberculosis, please go to: [www.idph.state.il.us](http://www.idph.state.il.us) and click on "Health Beats", and then "Tuberculosis". God bless each and every one of you for your dedication to serving the neediest among us.