



**Upcoming Events**



- **ST. CHARLES ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE**  
SATURDAY, MARCH 12  
3 PM  
MAIN STREET  
ST. CHARLES
- **"GOLF FOR GOOD" BENEFIT GOLF OUTING & DINNER AUCTION**  
MONDAY, MAY 16  
ROYAL FOX COUNTRY CLUB  
4405 ROYAL & ANCIENT DR.  
ST. CHARLES
- **LAZARUS HOUSE OPEN HOUSE**  
SATURDAY, JUNE 11  
214 WALNUT STREET  
ST. CHARLES
- **GREAT WESTERN FREEDOM 4 5TH ANNUAL RUN AND 1ST ANNUAL WALK**  
MONDAY, JULY 4  
LEROY OAKES FOREST PRESERVE  
ST. CHARLES
- **TWO SUMMER GARAGE SALES**  
DATES TO BE ANNOUNCED
- **FOX VALLEY MARATHON RACES**  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18  
DONATE TO LAZARUS HOUSE AND GET DISCOUNTED REGISTRATION. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR DETAILS

**Message from the Executive Director**

***"Will winter ever end?"***

Those of us blessed with living in the region of the country that sees all four seasons can lose our perspective on things when we are in the "dead of winter." And as we all know, this too shall pass.

Just when we believe there will be no relief, the miracle of spring comes again.

The weather is one thing, but the loss of home, loved ones, faith, employment, health, unemployment benefits, health care coverage, etc., these are quite another. How grateful we are to be God's hands and feet to our neighbors who are experiencing their own personal "winter." Not knowing where else they could turn, 61 persons on average per night have come to Lazarus House this current fiscal year seeking shelter. In addition we are assisting, on average, 54 households (approximately 100 persons) per month to remain stably housed in our communities through the administration of five grant programs targeting rent and utility assistance for the most vulnerable.

***Just who are all of these people?*** Let me share with you a phone call I was blessed to receive just as I was sitting to write this message. A young woman, who is widowed and the mother of a small child, called to say a loved one gave her my Lazarus House business card and asked her to give me a call. I had talked to this "loved one" of hers the day before and this person told me how this mom was struggling to pay her utility bills. I shared this with her and her response was "Oh, we are doing fine." She did owe a few hundred dollars for her heat bill, and the electric utility company did mail a letter requiring her to pay a \$400 deposit due to two

tardy bill payments in the past 12 months (and if this deposit is not paid, her power will be disconnected), but they *would be fine*. Yes, things had been a little tight lately since losing her job due to her company relocating overseas. Her daughter's father died a few months ago, but she and her daughter were now receiving a couple of hundred dollars per month in survivor benefits. *They are fine*. And yes, she was so grateful for her wonderful little house that allows her, her daughter *and her disabled uncle* to live together as a family. *They are fine*.

What a privilege it was for me to share with this brave young woman the fact that we administer the Homeless Prevention Rapid Re-Housing (HPRP) grant that allows us to assist those who had previously been self-sufficient, but are now struggling due to forces beyond their control. She was concerned that receiving assistance would somehow be a mark against her in her efforts to become re-employed.

I assured her that no one need know she is receiving help, *so please don't worry*. In closing, she shared something she has on her heart: she wants to start a not-for-profit that could assist struggling families in providing birthdays for their own children. Maybe now that she's out of work, it's a good time for her to begin researching this possibility.

***"Will winter ever end?"*** we ask. My winter just came to an abrupt halt. Thank you each and every one who do all you do to support God's ministry at Lazarus House. What an extreme privilege it is to serve side-by-side with all of you.

Serving Him with you,






Luke 16:19-31

## Dig Out of Those Winter Blues

Look ahead to these spring and summer events that are just around the corner...



### March 12<sup>th</sup> St. Charles St. Patrick's Day Parade

Join us at 3:00pm **Saturday, March 12** for this annual parade. Come aboard our float "Lazarus House Leprechauns" or cheer us on from Main Street.

### June 11<sup>th</sup> Lazarus House Open House

Join us on Saturday, June 11 at our Open House to learn more about our programs and see firsthand what we as a community are doing to help our neighbors in need. More details will appear in our summer newsletter issue.

### May 16<sup>th</sup> "Golf For Good"

Are you golfers out there finding yourselves staring out the window looking for that first robin to appear, looking for a sign of green showing through that blanket of white covering the ground or are you just wanderlust with the vision of driving off the tee to that first green? Quit dreaming about it and register to be part of one of the first golf outings of the year.

The St. Charles Kiwanis and Lazarus House are partnering on a Benefit Golf Outing and Dinner Auction on Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup> (that's less than 2 months away) at the beautiful Royal Fox Country Club in St. Charles, 4405 Royal & Ancient Drives. The event will benefit both agencies equally.

See the enclosed invitation for cost and RSVP information. To register, complete the enclosed registration form and return it with a **check made out to St. Charles Kiwanis Foundation** in the enclosed envelope. Contact Michael Larson at 630-624-0229 for registration or general questions.

If you would like to donate an item for the live or silent auction, contact Donna Bauer at [donnab@lazarushouseonline.com](mailto:donnab@lazarushouseonline.com) or 630-587-2144.

To participate in one of the MANY sponsorship opportunities, contact Bryan Ducey at 224-678-8838.



### July 4<sup>th</sup>

### Great Western Freedom 4

### 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Run & 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Walk

Mark your calendar for this annual event at 8am Monday, July 4<sup>th</sup>. This 4-mile run will be held on the shaded Great Western Trail in LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve in St. Charles. **A scenic 2-mile walk is new this year.**

Pre-registration fee is \$20 for the run and \$15 for the walk. Dry-weave t-shirts guaranteed to the first 150 registered runners and cotton blend t-shirts to the first 50 registered walkers.

Registration will open soon at [www.signmeup.com](http://www.signmeup.com). Participants are encouraged to collect pledges.

Sponsorship opportunities start as low as \$100. Details to follow in our next newsletter or online at

[www.lazarushouseonline.com](http://www.lazarushouseonline.com).



News

Hang on to your stuff! Two garage sales for Lazarus House are planned for this summer. No dates yet, but watch our website and next issue for details!



## A guest's own words of help and hope

*It warms our hearts when a guest understands and appreciates the mission of Lazarus House.*

*The following reminder list was written by a guest who resisted help for many years, but the Lord finally led him to the place where he can obtain the help he needs and contribute to the peace of the House.*



### Our Mission

Our mission is to provide hospitality, food, safe shelter, and support services to persons connected to our community who are homeless or in need. *May all who enter feel the love of Jesus.*

### My Reminder List

#### What does Lazarus House do for me?

- Provides a roof over my head
- Lazarus House feeds me
- I can do my laundry for free
- I have a warm place to sleep
- I have a bed to sleep in
- I am able to shower every day
- I have a place to shave
- A place to brush my teeth
- A place to use the washroom
- I can get a lunch every day
- I have a locker for my belongings
- I can watch television-news-weather, etc.
- Provides me with all personal hygiene I need
- Medication for headache, toothache, minor pain
- Medical needs
- Plenty of support to help me stay sober
- I can charge my cell phone
- There is always staff and counselors to talk to when something is bothering or troubling me or just to listen
- They provide classes to help me better understand how to get back on my feet again or to give me advice on what to do or where to go, point me in the right direction

#### Things I do to show my gratitude to the Lazarus House

- Behave myself, stay sober, mind my own business
- Show kindness to others
- Volunteer for chores
- Do not criticize other guests or say hurtful things
- Keep negative comments to myself
- No horseplay
- No war stories
- Set a good example
- Don't touch anyone's belongings
- Work on me
- Do what I am asked
- If I am having problems or difficulties with another guest, talk to a staff member. Don't let it build up. Build ups create grudges
- Stay away from negative talk
- Never make threats

## Please help us keep our mailing costs down



If you've moved, received duplicate copies of this newsletter or no longer want to receive our mailings, please call us at 630-587-2144 to help us reduce our printing costs.

Sign up for electronic mailings, by going to the "Sign Up!" button on our website, [www.lazarushouseonline.com](http://www.lazarushouseonline.com).



Look inside for the upcoming  
**Golf Outing & Dinner Auction Benefit invitation**



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