



**Lazarus
House
Love
Letter**

Luke 16:19-31

WORKING TOGETHER TO OFFER HOPE AND A FUTURE

Holiday 2007

Volume X

Issue 4



**Upcoming
Events**

- **THANKSGIVING FEAST**
THURSDAY, NOV. 22
11:30 A.M.— 2 P.M.
(WE WILL EAT AT NOON)
SALVATION ARMY
1710 S. SEVENTH AVE.,
ST. CHARLES
- **CHRISTMAS BRUNCH**
MONDAY, DECEMBER 25
11:30 A.M.— 2 P.M.
(WE WILL EAT AT NOON)
FREE METHODIST CHURCH
214 WALNUT ST.
ST. CHARLES
- **LAZARUS HOUSE AUCTION**
SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 2008
DUPAGE EXPO CENTER

Message from the Executive Director



Lazarus House is blessed to have many children (17) of all ages and new space to accommodate them in our Women & Children's Center with its newly added four season sun rooms. We are also blessed to have many volunteers, among them is Betsy Penny, a retired special education teacher and an Alderwoman in St. Charles. Betsy has served on the Lazarus House Board all 10 years of our existence and has also been a tutor for both adults and children during that time. She is one of the key volunteers who is helping with an exciting new program we can now offer due to our increased space: the "Happy Homework" hour. Here's what Betsy has to say about this:

Lazarus is now providing after school homework sessions Monday through Thursday from 4 to 5 pm. The children come with their homework assignments and snacks to the beautiful sun room upstairs of the Women and Children's Day Center. The range of ages is from elementary through middle school, and the average number of students daily is about six. What is really great is that the students want to get their work done and are very appreciative of the volunteers who come to supervise and provide a little help. Most of the time all the kids need are a few reminders to not be too "chatty", help with clarification and some monitoring to be sure work is completed correctly and directions are followed. One of the funny experiences was the day with all girls, and they wanted to ban boys! They were reminded of laws against discrimination. Everyone had a good laugh. The volunteers find it a very rewarding and enjoyable way to spend an hour with some great kids.

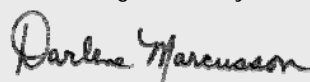
Our Board President, Mike Roberts, and his daughter, Paige, as well as retired teacher

Cheri Powell, also volunteer their time every week and are loving the experience. There are many other ways volunteers can help at Lazarus House, and if you'd like to find a way you can share your time and your talents, please call our Volunteer Coordinator, Donna Bauer, at 630-587-2144.

I'm sorry to tell you that business has been good at Lazarus House. Last year at this time we were averaging 58 persons every night in our emergency shelter, and this year we're averaging 64 men, women and children. One of our newest guests is here because his town home was foreclosed on, and we are concerned that this is a portent of things to come. We wish everyone had a home and the resources to pay their rent or mortgage so they wouldn't need assistance, but that just isn't happening. Please remember about our emergency rental/mortgage assistance program as well as our ongoing rental subsidy program. As we look forward to our annual Community Thanksgiving Feast, we consider all the ways in which we are so blessed!

We are able to bless others due to the generosity of many in our community, from the business owner to the little girl who brought her tooth fairy money last month. We want to share those blessings with our guests and our community, so whether you are in need or know of someone who is, or you want to share your blessings with others, please know that there is a place for you at Lazarus House. I wish you a very blessed Thanksgiving and hope you are able to spend part of it with us.

Serving Him with you,



Affordable Housing Meeting

Please join the Kane County Housing Action Coalition for its 3rd annual affordable housing presentation.

10 am-noon
Saturday, Nov. 10, 2007
Lazarus House
214 Walnut Street,
St. Charles

The Coalition will be releasing its first report on the state of affordable housing in Kane County. There will be informative presentations from individuals about affordable housing activities locally and throughout Illinois. For more information contact Liz Eakins of Lazarus House at 630-587-2144.



Luke 16:19-31

Lazarus House welcomes Donna Bauer

My name is Donna Bauer, and I would like to introduce myself as the new Volunteer and Special Events Coordinator. Although I am new to the Lazarus House staff, I am not new to Lazarus House. My husband and I have served as volunteers for the past 8-1/2 years, and I have had the pleasure to serve both in the Emergency Shelter and in the Women and Children's Day Center.

Professionally, I worked as a business event planner for the past 16 years, so when the opportunity arose to meld my professional background with something that spoke to my heart, I jumped at the chance. I want to thank Kim Bazant and Cindy Duff not only for their years of service to Lazarus House but also for the fine example they have set for me.

I am amazed and grateful for all the wonderful volunteers I am meeting, and I encourage all those who can serve as a volunteer to contact me. We still need volunteers, particularly in the Women and Children's Day Center. Please call me if you are interested in volunteering at 630-587-2144 or e-mail (donnab@lazarushouseonline.com).

April Auction Alert!

Plans are underway for the Annual Lazarus House Auction on Saturday April 19, 2008 at the DuPage Expo Center. Please look for your invitation in our next newsletter. If for some reason you do not receive the newsletter by the end of March, please contact us at 630-587-2144.

We need donations for the silent and live auctions as well as exciting "Gift Bag" raffles, which are new this year. For further information on donations, please contact Donna Bauer at 630-587-2144 (donnab@lazarushouseonline.com).



The Geneva High School SADD group helps create the Lazarus House Scarecrow, "A Circle of Friends," at the 22nd annual Scarecrow Festival in St. Charles.

A lost tooth, a big heart and the Tooth Fairy

Nearly one year ago, five-year-old Katie Das visited Lazarus House for a tour with her classmates. She saw the shelter, our sleeping areas, the kitchen and the CTL. Everything her little eyes took in that day went straight to her heart. Katie Das, like many visitors to Lazarus House, was deeply touched.

Throughout the winter and summer weeks that followed, Katie attended dance class nearby the shelter. As she and her family passed by, she would remind her mom of her tour and of the donation she had brought with her that December day: *"Remember when we took laundry soap there?"*

Although Katie mentioned Lazarus House after those dance practices, her mom Michelle was still a little surprised at what happened just a few weeks ago on a Monday evening.

Katie lost her first tooth that day and was eagerly awaiting a visit from the Tooth Fairy.

Michelle Das asked her daughter what she wanted to do with the money that would inevitably be left under her pillow that night.

Katie replied with a question: *"Do you think we could ask the Tooth Fairy to bring \$35 dollars to give to Lazarus House?"*

Pleasantly surprised, Michele told Katie that since hers was a special request, she would e-mail the Tooth Fairy and see what she could do.

A few hours later after sleep had settled over the Das household, the Tooth Fairy exchanged Katie's first tooth with \$20. In the morning, Katie and her four-year-old sister, Kristen, emptied their piggy banks and collected a total of \$44.77.

Katie came to Lazarus House to deliver the donation, accompanied by Kristen and her mom. The guests were thrilled to hear Katie's story and assured her that her donation was not just regular everyday money. *It is magic, because the Tooth Fairy brought it,* they told her. And she was thrilled!

Katie was sent a Lazarus House pin, which she proudly wears and show others, all the while talking about her experience with Lazarus House.

Thank you, Katie for having such a heart for our house and our neighbors in need. We can't think of a better ambassador!



Katie & Kristen Das

Enjoy holiday celebrations with the Lazarus House Family

The concepts of thanks and giving are never out of season at Lazarus House as we witness the generous gifts of time, talents, prayer and financial resources this community extends to us each day. The holidays present a wonderful opportunity to deepen this incredibly rich bond among our supporters, staff and guests through unique celebrations that bring us together in true fellowship.

We cordially invite you to break bread with our extended family during our annual Thanksgiving and Christmas meals. Past participants often remark about the joy and renewal they experience as we celebrate our many blessings and the hope we hold for the future.

If you would like to provide food, the meals are potluck style and always result in a fun, taste-tempting feast. Food should be brought ready to serve – hot foods hot, etc. – in a disposable container approximately 15-30 minutes prior to mealtimes. If you are interested in attending our holiday festivities, or participating in our Christmas Sharing program, please cut out the response

card on the back of this newsletter and return it in the enclosed envelope. Please direct questions to the Lazarus House office at 630-587-2144 (info@LazarusHouseOnline.com).

Thanksgiving Community Feast

Thanksgiving Day
Thursday, November 22
11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Salvation Army
1710 S. Seventh Ave., St. Charles



Christmas Brunch

Christmas Day
Monday, December 25
11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Free Methodist Church
214 Walnut St., St. Charles



Christmas Sharing with our guests adds meaning to your holidays



Nothing against ties and knickknacks, but if holiday gifts are losing their thrill, consider our Christmas Sharing Program, which offers a wonderful opportunity to experience the true meaning of giving. Here are some important ways to share your blessings this Christmas and make a real difference in the lives of people who are working hard to set new directions:

Monetary Gifts. We are always in need of additional funds to support, maintain and improve our facilities. Our guests benefit from the changes we are able to make from cash donations. Here are some examples of how monetary gifts can help our guests:

- **\$30** buys prescriptions, a general medical clinic visit or one counseling session.
- **\$41** buys one day of food, shelter, case management, referrals to services and help with specific needs such as GED registration.
- **\$60** will help offset costs for job training and education or help a newly-hired guest buy a work uniform and shoes.

Honorary Gifts. Perfect for those friends and relatives who seem to have everything and appreciate helping others. Make a donation in their honor, and we'll send a heartfelt acknowledgment of your gift.

Memorial Gifts. What better way to remember those who made a difference in our lives? We'll send an acknowledgement to whomever you designate so that you can share the fond memory of that special person.

Gift Cards. Guests enter throughout the year, and gift cards help us extend Christmas Sharing to those individuals and families as well as provide for other needs such as back-to-school necessities or work-related requirements. Gift cards from stores such as Wal-Mart, Target, and Meijer enable us to meet these specific needs. Please place a sticker on the gift card to indicate the card's monetary value.

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

Auction Items. For those of you who think ahead, you might want to consider a donation to our spring auction. Funds raised at our annual auction help us to continue to meet the needs of those in our community who are less fortunate.

We will once again be scheduling drop-off dates for Christmas Sharing gifts. If you would like to be part of our volunteer team to help with the receiving and organizing of gifts, please call the office at 630-587-2144 (info@LazarusHouseOnline.com).



Lazarus House
214 Walnut Street
St. Charles, IL 60174

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Lazarus House Holiday Response Sheet

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ BEST TIME TO CALL _____

E-MAIL _____

Annual Community Thanksgiving Feast

- I would like to come and eat.
Number of people attending _____
- I would like to provide food or supplies.
Please call me and tell me what I can bring.

Annual Christmas Brunch

- I would like to come and eat.
Number of people attending _____
- I would like to provide food or supplies.
Please call me and tell me what I can bring.

Christmas Sharing

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 and under \$50 and under
- \$25 and under



- In lieu of a present, I have enclosed a gift card to be used at a later date. **Please place a sticker on the card indicating the value**
- In lieu of a present, I have enclosed a cash donation for the shelter
- In lieu of a present, I have enclosed a cash donation in memory/honor (circle one) of:

Name _____

Please send an acknowledgement to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____