



Message from the Executive Director

New hopes, new beginnings

As the Holidays approach and the old year draws to a close, we look forward to a new year with new hope and new beginnings. I'm sure we all hope that the economy improves in 2011. We at Lazarus House have watched with sadness as so many of our neighbors have been adversely impacted by the economy. We are so grateful to be available to help our neighbors in need, whether the need is advice about resources in the community that may be of help, including our rental/utility subsidy programs, or the need is shelter. We are here day and night, year round, to be a beacon of help and hope. We thank each of you for your support which enables us to keep our doors open and offer our neighbors a hand up, not a hand out. Please know it is our intention to continue to provide that help and hope into the future.

2011 marks a change for me personally, as I step back from my role as Executive Director and begin a new part-time role as Director Emeritus. My heart will always be at Lazarus House and I will always be available to help as I can, but it's time for me to spend more time with my already-retired husband. There are 38 of us on staff at

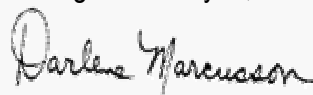
Lazarus House, some full time and some part time, but everyone is here for the same reason: to serve God and our neighbors. Each person brings their own gifts and talents and God has woven them into a wonderful tapestry of service. One of the brightest threads in that tapestry is Liz Eakins, who has been our Associate Director and who will become our Executive Director as of 1/1/11. She certainly has my support and endorsement and I was thrilled when our

"No matter who holds the title of Executive Director...what will always be true is that God is the head of this house..."

Board unanimously voted to appoint her Executive Director beginning 1/1/11. I invite you to turn the page and read, in Liz's own words, a few things she would like you to know about her.

As you will see, Liz is a very capable person who has a real heart for Lazarus House too. And no matter who has the title of Executive Director on the Lazarus House staff, what will always be true is that God is the head of this house called Lazarus, "And as of me and my house, we will serve the Lord." We thank God for the gift of Lazarus House and we thank you for your continuing partnership in providing care for our neighbors in need. May His every blessing be yours this Holiday season and every day throughout the New Year.

Serving Him with you,



Upcoming Events



- **THANKSGIVING FEAST**
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25
11:30 AM - 2 PM
TRI CITY SALVATION ARMY
1710 S. 7TH AVENUE
ST. CHARLES
THE BUFFET OPENS AT NOON
- **CHRISTMAS BRUNCH**
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25
11:30 AM - 2 PM
ST. CHARLES FREE
METHODIST CHURCH
214 WALNUT STREET
ST. CHARLES
THE BUFFET OPENS AT NOON

Coming in "2011"

Although it's a bit early to start ringing in the "New Year" we would like to share some of our event plans for 2011:

February 5th- "Hearts Support Housing", game night at the St. Charles Moose.

June - Kiwanis/Lazarus House Golf Outing.

July 4th - Great Western Freedom 4 Run/Walk.



We will soon be scheduling drop-off dates for Christmas gifts. If you would like to be part of our volunteer team to help with the receiving and organizing of gifts, please contact Donna at: donnab@lazarushouseonline.com or you may call the office at 630-587-2144.



Luke 16:19-31

In my own words...

A message from Liz Eakins



Like many of you, I felt God's "tap on the shoulder" to come see what Lazarus House was all about. (This will not be the first or last time I will plagiarize a saying of Darlene's – why argue with success!) I read with interest the early stories of this lady from St. Charles who led the community in this wonderful effort to be hope to those in our communities with the deepest needs.

Curiosity led me to volunteer once in awhile as my husband Ed and I raised our family of "my three sons" and led our busy lives of owning a business, attending college and working full-time. As God's plan would have it, I was led to complete my education by earning a Bachelor's degree in Human Services, at both Elgin Community College and Judson University. Early work in this field found me in privileged positions of service at a Two Rivers Head Start Agency and the Tri City Corp of the Salvation Army. It was through the latter that Darlene and I came to know and appreciate each other's dedication to serving those in need.

One thing led to another and a little over five years ago I was asked to join the staff of Lazarus House. Since that time I have served as our Women's Case Manager and for the past 4 ½ years as Outreach Manager. In that time the outreach programming grew from one to five different grants that address the prevention of homelessness in our communities.

The privilege of serving at Lazarus House is not lost on me, or any of my 37 dedicated co-workers. As we enter this time of passing off the baton of leadership at Lazarus House, we are confident and fearless in our trust, first and foremost, in God who has our back every day and knows the needs of Lazarus House and the people we serve more than we could possibly comprehend. Second, it is with this same confidence and fearlessness that we are certain of the compassion and caring of all of you – the wonderful individuals, churches, businesses, clubs and others who join us in the privilege of serving our neighbors who are struggling. Thank you all for responding to your individual "tap on the shoulder". I look forward to the coming years of serving with you. Please keep Lazarus House in your prayers and thoughts as we move to the next chapter.

Join us for our Holiday Celebrations

We invite the community to share in our "potluck style" sumptuous buffets. All those wishing to provide a dish should bring it ready to serve, (hot dishes hot, etc.) in a disposable container approximately 15-30 minutes prior to the meal. Those interested in attending should cut out and complete the response form on the back of this newsletter, then return it in the provided envelope. We will post the types of dishes (stuffing, vegetables, etc.) and supplies needed on our website, www.lazarushouseonline.com. For questions contact donnab@lazarushouseonline.com or call the Lazarus House office at 630-587-2144.

Thanksgiving Community Feast

Thursday, November 25
11:30am-2:00pm (dining at noon)
Tri City Salvation Army
1710 S. 7th Ave. St. Charles
The buffet opens at noon.



Christmas Brunch

Saturday, December 25
11:30am-2:00pm (dining at noon)
St. Charles Free Methodist Church
214 Walnut St. St. Charles



A blessing we're thankful for...

A recent blessing came our way as a result of a survey we did with our guests. We wanted to share these comments from emergency shelter guests with you, so you can know what a difference your support makes:

- Lazarus House is the best place!
- I feel I get the best help available and beyond. My gratefulness is unspeakable and my life has been blessed.
- I think your system is most helpful and great to those who follow the program.
- I feel lucky the world has a wonder like the Lazarus House.
- I'm grateful to be here. The staff here is wonderful.

Interested in electronic communications from Lazarus House? Go to www.lazarushouseonline.com and look for the "Sign Up!" button on the right side of the website.





THE SPIRIT OF GIVING



**"The Christmas heart is a giving heart, a wide open heart that thinks of others first."
- George Matthew Adams**

Those of you with a "Christmas Heart" who would like to make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate can help here at Lazarus House this Christmas season. Lazarus House is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Cash gifts are 100% tax deductible. We have many gift opportunities available:

Monetary Gifts. We continue to experience the strain of our depressed economic climate. Your tax-deductible gifts are needed to support and maintain facilities. Rent, utilities, staff costs and repairs run several thousand dollars each month. Gifts of any size are welcome to keep the doors open 24 hours every day of the year. Here are some examples of how your gifts help:

\$37 provides one day of service to a shelter guest or outreach client

\$400 provides one day of staff & service at the Women and Children's Day Center

\$1,100 provides one month of service to a shelter guest or outreach client

\$4,000 helps keep Lazarus House doors open for one day

Memorial Gifts. A thoughtful way to remember those who made a difference in your life. When you make a gift in someone's memory, please provide us the name and address of a loved one who should receive an acknowledgement of your kindness.

Honorary Gifts. Perfect for those 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 a heartfelt acknowledgement of your gift.

Gift Cards. Guests enter our doors throughout the year. Gift cards help us extend Christmas giving to those individuals and families as well as provide for other needs such as back-to-school items or work-related requirements. Gift cards from stores such as Costco, Wal-Mart, Target, Meijer, Osco and Walgreens, enable us to meet 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 and wrap the specified gift to help ensure that each guest receives a few holiday packages to open on Christmas morning.



A Moonlight Serenade

Lazarus House extends a heartfelt note of thanks to FONA, Valley Ambulatory Surgery Center, Frank Advisory Services and Zimmerman Ford for their sponsorship to our recent "Moonlight Serenade" fundraiser. Grammy-nominated songstress Margaret Carlson and the Scott Stevenson delighted the crowd with their performance.



Photo compliments of Allan E. Goldstein, Gold Seal Photography



Lazarus House Holiday Response Sheet



YOUR NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ BEST TIME TO CALL _____

E-MAIL _____

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

Christmas Sharing

- I have enclosed a donation for the shelter.
- I have enclosed a donation in:
 Memory of: _____
 Honor of: _____

Please send the 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.**

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:



Lazarus House
 214 Walnut Street
 St. Charles, IL 60174

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