



Message from the Executive Director

You just never know, do you? Really, just when you think you have someone figured out, when you've done all you can for them and they STILL keep making the same mistakes over and over again. At this point in the relationship, we at Lazarus House may be forced to ask someone to find other support options because we have pulled all of the proverbial rabbits out of the magic hats that God has placed at our disposal and nothing seems to be making a difference. Sadly we may need to say good-bye to our guest and wish them well.

Time moves on and days turn into months that turn into years. Then one of the calls received is a familiar name. They say they need a place to stay; that they have been through much since last staying at Lazarus House. They say they are different and that things will also be different this time. Will we please give them one more chance? Lazarus House staff takes this responsibility very seriously. We consult with one another, review old records, and if appropriate talk with others (with written permission always) who may have a clear view of the current circumstances of this person. It may be we determine this person was always in need of much more extensive services than we can offer, and if this is the case we will give them all the information necessary to connect them to these services. It may be that after judicious and prayerful thought we agree Lazarus House will give this person that one more chance.

This is exactly how things unfolded for "Mike" as he returned to us many months ago. Our past relationship with "Mike" can be best described as *interesting*. He was very young and wore his young man bravado with charm. Unfortunately his charm is not all he carries with him. He also faces very serious mental health concerns which

were just not a reality he was prepared to deal with a few years ago. Now, I need to tell you, we were wary at best when "Mike" first returned. He was still charming. But, something had changed. He had experienced consequences for his poor choices since we last met. He had matured through this process of "hard knocks." He now was willing to meet his disease and do what is necessary to prevent it from determining his future.

How blessed we all are that the decision was made to allow "Mike" to try again. He is linked to community services and programs that address the many needs and concerns that are unique to him. He is also fully utilizing all of the services that Lazarus House has to offer. "Mike" is a guest who is respectful and currently resides in our two-year Center for Transitional Living program. He is making plans for his future that include housing and educational goals that a few short years, and a world of life experience ago, he would have never dreamed of.

You just never know, do you? This past Monday one of our three Outreach Coordinators commented that they had received a whopping 26 calls that day alone (20 of these were calling for the first time) from folks facing a housing or financial crisis. These calls do not even include calls that came to our shelter case managers for those seeking shelter that day. Of all of these calls for help, you just never know!

God bless you and thank you again for your support and the privilege of serving with you as we serve those struggling the most in our community.

Serving Him with you,



Upcoming Events



- **GENEVA HIGH SCHOOL SADD ANNUAL GARAGE SALE**
THURS-SAT JUNE 9-11
1050 DIVISION ST., GENEVA
- **LAZARUS HOUSE OPEN HOUSE**
SATURDAY, JUNE 11
10 AM—2PM
214 WALNUT STREET
ST. CHARLES
- **GREAT WESTERN FREEDOM 4 5TH ANNUAL RUN AND 1ST ANNUAL WALK**
MONDAY, JULY 4
LEROY OAKES, ST. CHARLES
- **BROADWAY BOUND**
JULY. WATCH OUR WEBSITE FOR SPECIFIC DATE AND OTHER INFORMATION
- **FOX VALLEY MARATHON RACES**
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18
DONATE TO LAZARUS HOUSE AND GET DISCOUNTED REGISTRATION. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR DETAILS
- **ELLEN'S EXCELLENT SALE**
FRIDAY, AUG. 5, 8AM-4PM
SATURDAY, AUG. 6, 8AM-2PM
1110 UNION ST., GENEVA



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Luke 16:19-31

Ever wonder just HOW our programs help our guests? Check out a few ways we really give a 'hand up'



Education

Recently, our Education Facilitator Pat Elam put pen to paper to give an overview of what has been presented to our guests over the past year. We're happy to share some of her observations and future plans with you, too.

A 41-week series on "**Relationship Challenges**" just concluded and covered such topics as:

- Getting to Know Me
- Personality of the Addict
- The Destructive Cycle of Negative Thinking
- Qualities to look for in a Controller
- Signs of Verbal & Emotional Abuse
- Relationship and Codependency
- Relationships Without Losing Yourself
- Contrasts Between Healthy/Unhealthy Relationships
- Qualities of a Happy, Regret-Free Relationship

Other related subjects have also been discussed and periodically repeated due to their popularity and relevancy. The "**Boundaries**" and "**Safe People**" series have been especially effective and well-liked.

The common thread throughout these teachings is the ability to identify areas of need and take personal responsibility for relationship building.

And the classes are not just for women; Pat has noticed a greater attendance of men. All seem to have enjoyed a higher level of communication since attending on a regular basis. An upcoming group-discussion series will focus on habits and beliefs that have kept guests from making wise and healthy choices. And the **Conquering Codependency** series will be refined to stress the need for healthy relationships by confronting and changing behaviors. There is much for our guests to look forward to as they discuss and practice skills they will be able to use throughout their lifetime.

In September 2010, "Brenda" called the Lazarus House Community Resource Center. Her unemployment exhausted at the end of March 2010. She had used up all of her savings paying for three months of rent and now was behind in rent for the last three months. She was 60 years old and had been looking for work since she first became unemployed. She had applied for Social Security benefits on behalf of her deceased husband, but would not be able to receive them until November 2010. She didn't know where to turn until her landlord told her about an article she read in the newspaper about a **Homelessness Prevention/Rapid Re-housing grant** that could possibly help her. The grant her landlord read about is known as HPRP, and is offered through Lazarus House. After calling and talking with the Outreach Coordinator, Brenda gathered for an initial appointment. She had been very hesitant to ask for it. Brenda required and could not believe we were able to help her with her past due rent. She was blessed even more when her Social Security benefit began she would be able to make her rent payments on her own. While a HPRP participant, "Brenda" signed up for food stamps received case management, and received information on resources in the area that potentially could assist her. Through HPRP Brenda was able to remain housed in her home and at the end of the year became 100 percent self sufficient and returned to paying her rent on her own. This is one of 50 households that this grant has assisted since the fall of 2009 and we are grateful to serve people like "Brenda."

Outreach

all the necessary documents and came in never needed help like this before and met all the criteria the HPRP grant re-able to help her with her past due when hearing her rent could be sub-

her Social Security benefit began. Once



Sun, fun and support for Lazarus House in the good old summertime

Lazarus House Open House

Come visit with staff and board members at our annual **"Open House"** on Saturday, June 11, from 10am to 2pm. Learn more about the programs at Lazarus House, tour our facilities; all our buildings will be open for visiting. Come to see first hand what we do as a community to help our neighbors in need. We'll throw in the lemonade and cookies.



Great Western Freedom 4 Run/Walk



What is the 4th of July without fireworks and the 5th Annual Great Western Freedom 4 Run and 1st Annual Walk? We can supply the run/walk. Join area runners and walkers on July 4th at 8am in the picturesque LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve in St. Charles. Registration available at signmeup.com. Forms are available on our website or at Lazarus House. Sign up and start the 4th with "a bang!"

Garage sales galore



What is summer without a Garage Sale? We've got two! On June 9-11, the Geneva High School SADD group will host a garage sale at 1050 Division St. Geneva to benefit Lazarus House. Donations are being accepted; large items and furniture please drop off after Memorial Day. And, on August 5 and 6, the annual "Ellen's Excellent Sale" at 1110 Union St. Geneva will return for its 8th year. Donation drop-off information will be available on our website. Visit the SADD sale and Ellen & friends to shop for treasures and some "tasty treats".

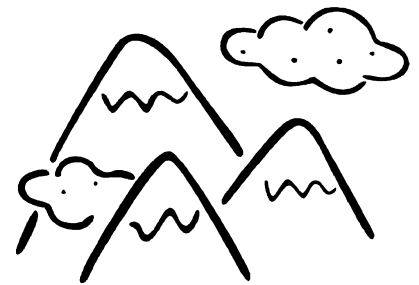
Don't miss future Broadway Stars



For more whistles and bangs in July (specific date and time will be available soon on our website), spend a evening with Future Broadway Stars at the Arcada Theater St. Charles. Reviews from the past two years have been; "amazing talent, totally awesome evening, unbelievable performances, etc." Don't miss this dazzling and explosive evening of entertainment to benefit Lazarus House.

Blessings flow all the way from Colorado

Lazarus House was blessed in March by a group of high school girls from Colorado here in Illinois for a Bible Quiz competition. Their leaders decided to find a place to do some service work while the group was in St. Charles for the competition. They found Lazarus House on the internet and called to see if they could come for a few hours to do some work. Not only were we blessed by the painting that this group did in the Women and Children's Center, but also by their presence. Their joy and laughter filled the place as they worked. It was such an encouragement to the guests to see that people would come from far away to reach out and help.





Thank you for being our community

At Lazarus House, we know it takes a community of dedicated caring people to help our neighbors in need. And we want **YOU** to know that we recognize you each and every day.

You are the wonderful gentleman who came to assist overnight and now is here two overnights every month because "it blesses you." **You** are the thoughtful couple who have come nearly every week for several years laden with cases of soda to treat our guests and to sit and talk, offering friendship and compassion. **You** are the kind lady who for many years has diligently made a stop each Monday morning at a local grocer to pick up donations and drop them off at Lazarus House. **You** are the business that has blessed Lazarus House with donations of food seven days a week for several years. **You** are the "angels" who make every holiday "special" for every child at Lazarus House and the "angels" who make birthdays special. **You** are the lady who has herself needed help and is now here each week "playing it forward!" **You** are the family who shared your family time with our women and children offering a "Game Night" each month. **You** are a member of the congregation from the churches who once or twice every month provide the hot dinner meals and sack lunches. And, **You** are the child who asked for a donation to Lazarus House in lieu of a birthday gift. Thank you for your help and support!



If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please call us at 630-587-2144. Sign up for electronic mailings by going to the "Sign Up" button on our website, www.LazarusHouseOnline.com.



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