

“Moving People From Homelessness to Hope”

Spring 2013

Easter Arrives at the St. Francis House

Each year, we are so blessed to receive donations of Easter Baskets, toys and candy for our youngest guests.

These blessings show each of our children the love of our community by providing them with a gift of love, which is what Jesus gives to us each day.

Thank you to all the businesses and volunteers for making Easter a special day at the St. Francis House.



Drew, Alicia & Sydney – Volunteers for Easter Baskets



CONTACT INFORMATION

1301 E. Austin
Sioux Falls, SD 57103
605.334.3879
www.stfrancishouse.com

Table of Contents

Easter at St. Francis House.....	1
Guest Story/ Testimonial	2
Community Support Thank You.....	3

HELPFUL DONATIONS

Coffee
Coffee Creamer/Sugar
Butter/Margarine
Cold Cereals
Bags of Chips for Sack Lunches
Sliced Cheese
Cooking Spays
Dishwasher Tablets
Grated Cheeses
Fresh Produce
Plastic Sandwich Bags
Aluminum Foil
Napkins
Laundry Soap
Cleaning Supplies
Postage Stamps
Diapers
Gift Cards (grocery, Walmart, phone, etc.)
Office Supplies (copy paper, etc.)
Over the Counter Medications

GUEST QUOTES

"After staying at the St. Francis House for several months, I am now ready to move into my own apartment. I have been able to pay off some old bills, while still saving some money for an apartment. I am finally ready to move on to my next stage in my life."

"Thanks for remembering my kids during Easter. I just could not afford the time to ride the bus with them to the store to get items and the extra money to buy these treats. I am so blessed to have such a strong support system."

"We love our new home at the St. Francis House. My kids get a nice bed to sleep in, good food to eat and staff that really care about all of us."

Guest Story/Testimonials

I was asked to write a little story about what it has meant to me to be given a the chance to be a resident here at the St. Francis House and what lead me to be here, so here I go.

My story begins from the time I was a little girl I had a lot of abandonment issues, my parents were divorced when I was young, my mom went her way, always partied, was never home, left my brother and me home alone to fend for ourselves, never any food anything. So she eventually lost custody to my dad who was working two jobs, so he was never home, although we had food and a home, I still never felt loved or wanted.

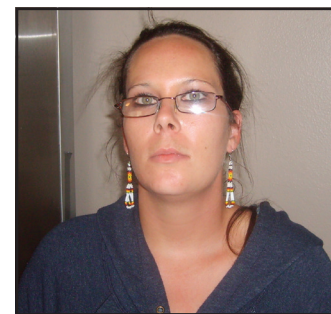
Around the time I turned eleven, I met a group of older people who gave me the attention I was looking for that is when I began to drink and began drinking a twelve pack a day. One day, my brother came to me and asked if I wanted to smoke a joint, wanting to fit in with him and his friends made me feel accepted and I liked it a lot. This is when my life began to spiral out of control. I ran away from home at thirteen, was gone for three months and nobody came to look for me, cops never called, to me that said they don't care. My heart was broke, faith shattered. When I turned fourteen I met a new group of people who at one point in time I called friends, they introduced me to crack cocaine and I became completely numb to the world around me and I found that feeling I had been seeking for all those years, I continued

to smoke daily even at school never had any fear of being caught.

When I was sixteen I then was introduced to meth, I finally found my love; it was my everything in my life. I thought I was invincible nobody could touch me. I always did my own thing, I was still living with my dad, but he never had a clue as to what I was doing, my brother in the mean time moved to Texas so I basically had the freedom I wanted. This continued for years. When I was eighteen I got pregnant with my first son and gave birth at nineteen. I was able to stay clean through my pregnancy and for six months afterwards, but I was always tired and felt that I needed meth to help with daily life, so I went back to it. Shortly, after I had my son, I met a man who at first I thought was going to be good to the both of us. He helped me out in the being and through the pregnancy of my daughter, until she was born, then he showed me his true self. He was never home left me and the kids at home with nothing, no diapers, food, heat, lights, phone, car, but when he did come home he would always have drugs.

So for me to be able to feel wanted by him, I would get high. By the time I was twenty one, I was pregnant with my third baby and so deep into my addiction that I had no regard for anything. He was born with meth in his system and this began my involvement with the law.

My kids were taken and I was charged. I was placed in treatment instead of going to jail, and was able to stay



sober for only three months. I battled with the courts for over a year, but finally decided it would be best if I gave my kids what they deserved, a life that I was not able to give to them. Even though I loved them more than anything, I knew I was not ready to stop using and with no family to help out, I did what was best for them.

After losing everything that was important to me, I dove even deeper into my addiction. I was always fighting with my boyfriend who extremely abusive, I felt I had no way out, this continued for years day after day I became more lonely than I had ever been meth was my only friend. This trend went on until the summer of 2009, I found myself in trouble with the law once again and this time I did not get off easy. Prior to being arrested, I had gained the trust and respect of the family who had adopted my kids, so when the truth came out, and I was still using, I lost my connection with my children.

Throughout all of my struggles, I was always lucky enough to be able to keep a job so with help from my boss, I was allowed to live at the hotel where I worked for no cost.

In 2010, I was admitted to a halfway house for the first time and within a

Billion Automotive Continues Mission to Provide for the St. Francis House

The St. Francis House opened our door in March, 1987 with the leadership of Dave Billion Sr. Throughout our 26 years of operation, the Billion Family has continued to be supporters of our efforts to provide a safe and warm home for those that are homeless. During these years, the Billion Family has instilled ongoing assistance to our home through the support of their employees.

In previous years, employees of Billion have done food drives during the Christmas Party to provide for our guests and families. This year, the employees



selected the St. Francis House to be a charity to receive a check for \$5,000 instead of having an annual Christmas Party. The guests and families are grateful for the generosity of the Billion Family and their employees.

First Lutheran Women Provide for the Guests of the St. Francis House



The First Lutheran Church Women gathered paper products, tooth paste and tooth brushes for the guests of the St. Francis House. We are so blessed with your continued support of our mission for the past 26 years.



Thank You Hy-Vee

The St. Francis House is grateful for being selected for the Helpful Smile Program. The proceeds from this project, will assist with the needs of our families and children. Thank You!

SAVE THE DATE

10th Annual Fundraiser
Monday,
September 23, 2013

- In Memory Of:**
 Christen & Mark Graeber
 Jackie Fredericks
 Margaret Harris
 LaRita Tebbe
 Rev. Solomon Grunelch
 Sr. Del Rey Thleman
 Gladys Benson
 Lora DeWald
 Dennis Vogel
 Kayla Ruby
 Katherin Wulf
 Vic Mortensen
 Ervin Oberloh
 Debra Freking
 C. Nick Cruce
 Helen McGuire
 Janet Ruffen
 Jeffrey Gieblink
 Howie Slemomsma
 Glen Horton
 Alice Gruhke
 Janet Basman
 Dianne Serfling
 Bill Hass
 Ruth Neeben-Colman
 Don Dunham Jr.
 Richard Baker
 Max Law
 Chance Rieger
 Deloris Walz
 Gladys Scott Mitchell
 Edith Cannon
 Lucille Jacobson
 Morine Persing
 Harry Poletes
 Linda NasVase

In Honor Of:

- Kelly Family
 Lynne, Jean & Claudia
 Margaret Farrington
 Polly Greg
 Father Morgan
 Father Vetter
 Leone Vogel
 Daniel's Confirmation
 Dawn Rang



NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
 U.S. Postage
 P A I D
 Permit # 7283
 Sioux Falls, SD



Quad-Multi Family Housing



Main Shelter



Dudley Duplex



Tri-Plex

Board Members:

- Gloria Paulin,
- Stephanie Marin,
- Tom Wingert,
- Tom Schmidt,
- Sr. Mary Thomas,
- Sarah Sachen,
- Travis Benson,
- Justin Smith,
- Teri Katzenberger,
- Jennifer Morrison, Kory Holt,
- Julie Becker - Executive Director

TESTIMONIAL • From Page 2

short time, I was working seven days a week, going to treatment three days a week, and AA twice a week. The whole time, the little bit of family that I had left, was dying off. My dad became deathly ill spending weeks in the hospital, my brother who returned from Texas in 2001 was diagnosed with cancer and my mom who I had finally gotten the chance to know and become friends with passed away in March of 2010. My life was falling apart and felt I had no control over it. My heart and faith was again shattered. I was released from the halfway house on April 30, 2010 and although I was given tools to help me stay sober at that time, I still wasn't ready. I left with no money in my pockets and basically nowhere to go.

On May 5, I relapsed and ended up back at

the halfway house, which started my in and out process of every institution in Sioux Falls. I either failed or was kicked because financially I was not able to do it and had nobody to help out. I felt like I would never be able to make it!

So in September, 2010 I went on the run, which was scary. I was caught in January 2011 and from there went to prison. I spent three months but that was long enough for me to realize that I want to change my life for the better. Upon my release from prison I went to another half house which didn't help me at all still saved nothing at all, after five months, my Parole Officer told me about the St. Francis House, which at first I thought was just another half way house but soon came to find out I was wrong, very wrong.

I spent ten months at the house and was never

been happier. This is the first in my life that I have felt I have been given the proper chance to be somebody.

The staff has shown faith in me, listened when I most needed it, told me what I needed to hear even if I didn't want to hear because it was necessary for me to know.

I have been given life skills and I cannot even express the gratitude I have for my new life. Finally I feel like a person that I will be okay. When I left, I had saved enough money to stand own two feet and the confidence it takes to remain sober and move forward.

To me, the St. Francis House makes a person feel like a member of a family when you do not have one of your own. They have helped me to want to stay sober for the first time and like the person who I am today.