



**Upcoming Events**

- **ST. CHARLES DOWNTOWN PARTNERSHIP, "ALL DECKED OUT"**  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14  
2-8 P.M.  
NEW PARKING DECK, WALNUT ST.
- **23RD ANNUAL ST. CHARLES SCARECROW FESTIVAL**  
OCTOBER 12-14  
ST. CHARLES LINCOLN PARK
- **THANKSGIVING FEAST**  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27  
11:30 A.M.-2 P.M.
- **CHRISTMAS BRUNCH**  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25  
11:30 A.M.-2 P.M.



**Message from the Executive Director**

**KEEP THE LIGHTS ON**

June 30 always marks the end of our fiscal year, and as we close our books, it appears that we have a significant deficit in funding for shelter operations. Thanks be to God, we do have some cash reserves to draw on, but clearly we cannot continue to spend more money than we are taking in indefinitely. We all know that our economy is not good, and we have noticed a drop off in financial support these last few months across the board, including donations from individuals, churches, foundations, businesses and the government.

At the same time, we are experiencing very high numbers of guests and requests for help. Recently we've had 70 or more men, women and children staying with us, and new people in need are calling or showing up daily. We are committed to being there for our neighbors in need and not turning anyone from our community away, so obviously the logistics of this situation don't bode well:

**Fewer resources with more demand for those limited resources equals financial distress.**

What can we do? First, I'd like to talk about what we DON'T want to do:

1. We don't want to turn away anyone from our community who is in need.
2. We don't want to lay off any of our faithful staff. Layoffs would not only impact our staff and their families very adversely but also impact our guests, as we cannot operate 24/7 unless we have adequate staff to keep the doors open.
3. We don't want to tell any of our guests that resources for their essential needs no longer exist.

But, without additional resources, the cuts we would need to make in our already lean budget may mean that some of those things would become necessary. We are all hopeful that the distressed economy in our country will turn around soon, but

realistically that may not happen for some time. In the meantime, we need to figure out a way to cover our everyday operating expenses that pay for unglamorous but absolutely essential things such as utility bills that will keep our lights on.

How can you help? Currently, it is costing us \$49 per person per day to operate. That includes expenses for our emergency shelter, transitional living and rental assistance programs. Can you afford to adopt a day or part of a day?

What we need are folks who want to stand with us to help their neighbors in need, and are willing to write a check every month to help us keep the lights on. All donations are tax deductible, and you will know that in these difficult financial times, you have done something to make a real difference for your neighbors in need.

We ask that you prayerfully consider a monthly commitment. Mark your calendar and send a contribution each month to us at Lazarus House, 214 Walnut St., St. Charles, IL 60174.

A good way to remember is to write a check to Lazarus House when you're writing a check for your own rent or mortgage, knowing that your gift to us helps your neighbor who is struggling to stay housed or has already lost their housing.

We also ask that you continue to hold us in prayer. God has faithfully provided for us these past 11 years, and we have every confidence that He will continue to do so. However, we also know that God uses His faithful people to accomplish His purposes. "Let your light so shine before others, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father in heaven" -Matthew 5:16.

Thank you for helping us **keep the lights on.**

Serving Him with you,



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Luke 16:19-31

## Mission Ministries blesses us with JOBS FOR LIFE

**M**ission Ministries has volunteered to offer an exciting, optional program, JOBS FOR LIFE, to our guests. This program teaches practical life skills which translate to the workplace and help the participant develop into an employee of excellence. Tom and Beth Matson from Mission Ministries will spearhead this effort, and they will also involve Christian guest speakers from various walks of life who are willing to share their story of blending their

faith and Christian work ethic with their work life. If you might be interested in being a guest speaker, please contact Tom and Beth at 630-761-6541. For some time we've had a part time employment specialist with us to augment the work our case managers do in helping people with employment issues, and of course we always make good use of the Illinois Employment and Training Center as well as Elgin Community College and other job training programs. But to be able to offer JOBS FOR LIFE adds a new dimension to the support available to guests in achieving the goal of helping people regain and retain successful, independent living.

### Our heartfelt thanks!

As we go to press the St. Charles Country Club charity golf benefit event is underway.

We are very grateful to the St. Charles Country Club for naming Lazarus House as a beneficiary of the proceeds.

Thanks St. Charles Country Club!

## Middle Eastern cultural awareness

**M**ost of us are aware of how important it is to be respectful and sensitive to cultural differences, and yet there are times when, despite best intentions, mistakes are made due to lack of knowledge. As more refugees from the Middle East arrive in America, it is incumbent on us, especially those of us who work in ministry and the helping professions, to equip ourselves to the best of our ability with the knowledge needed to provide culturally appropriate care. To that end, our friend, Dr. Amaal Tokars, will present a seminar titled:

**“The Middle Eastern Refugee: How to Serve with Cultural Understanding”**

**7 to 8:30 p.m.**

**Tuesday, Oct. 28.**

**Lazarus House, 214 Walnut St., St. Charles**

**RSVP to: 630-587-2144**

We are very grateful to Dr. Tokars, who is on staff at the Kendall County Health Department, for her willingness to help our community be better prepared for the possible influx of people who may be relocating to our community. Everyone is invited to attend this informative evening which is free of charge.



**Swedish Days Parade:** From the start to the finish, parade watchers “valkommened” the first Lazarus House Swedish Days float with cheers and applause.

## Ellen's Excellent Sale: garage sale or community event?



Darlene Marcussen and Ellen Wildman work together at the kick off of the annual sale that has become a true community event.

A 10-year-old's dream to turn unneeded items into a garage sale to benefit those in need has grown just as that girl has. Ellen Wildman has matured into a wonderful 15-year-old and her garage sale has matured into a community-wide event. In these hard economic times, as the number of men, women and children Lazarus House has grown to over 70 some nights, the community rallied around Ellen's dream and raised \$7,700 to continue providing safe shelter and services to those in need. No longer a little garage sale, Ellen's dream has grown into a Community Event to help those in need!

Keep the lights on

## Lazarus House Bracelets

The ladies of Lazarus House are busy making beautiful bracelets which were designed by a local artist who is a friend of Lazarus House. These bracelets will be offered for sale at \$15 each during the St. Charles Downtown Partnership, "All Decked Out" celebration, Sunday, Sept. 14, 2-8 p.m. at the new parking deck on Walnut Street in St. Charles. Our guests feel good about making these bracelets because they know this is one way they can help Lazarus House to "Keep the Lights On". If you are unable to visit us at our information booth on Sept. 14 but are interested in purchasing a bracelet, email Donna Bauer at [donnab@lazarushouseonline.com](mailto:donnab@lazarushouseonline.com).



## Fiscal Year 2008 At a Glance

**O**n a daily average, Lazarus House served 62 people. This translates to 22,654 nights of shelter for the year. Compared with the prior year, this represents:

- a 23% increase in service nights to children.
- a 6% increase in shelter nights for women
- a 3% increase in shelter nights for men.

For the first time ever over half (51%) of the nights of shelter were provided to women and children.

Nearly 68,000 nourishing meals were served, some to our guests and some to others in need from the community.

About 72 % of our guests were in our emergency shelter. The other 28% were in our transitional living unit, where they can stay up to 2 years, provided they are case management compliant, to

rebuild their lives and transition to independent living.

Average daily cost to care for a guest (includes food, showers, lodging, personal hygiene items, case management, and, as appropriate and needed, clothing & prescriptions is estimated to be \$46. If we also factor in the cost of running our outreach programs, the cost moves up to \$49 per day.

Our homeless prevention/rental assistance programs helped over 1,300 callers needing referrals or financial assistance. With grant funds, the program administered:

- *Ongoing* rental assistance subsidies to 36 different households
- *One-time emergency* utility/rent assistance payments for 56 households.

We can't imagine how many more people would be at our shelter if we didn't help the at-risk people with our homeless prevention services.



Luke 16:19-31

WORKING TOGETHER TO OFFER HOPE AND A FUTURE

We're on the Web!

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

**Lazarus House**

214 Walnut Street  
St. Charles, IL 60174  
Main: (630) 587-2144  
Outreach: (630) 587-5872  
Fax:(630) 587-2540  
E-mail: [info@LazarusHouseOnline.com](mailto:info@LazarusHouseOnline.com)



## Lazarus House Shopping List



To most of you, this will look like your weekly shopping list -the items you use daily and never seem to have enough of. The only difference for us is that we must have enough for about 70 people each day! We would be very grateful if you can help us by providing some of the items from this shortened list or by visiting our website, [www.LazarusHouseOnline.com](http://www.LazarusHouseOnline.com) for a more detailed list.

- |              |                               |
|--------------|-------------------------------|
| Milk         | Laundry soap                  |
| Orange juice | 33 Gallon garbage bags        |
| Paper towels | Kleenex                       |
| Toilet paper | Cereal                        |
| Borax        | Sugar-free powder drink mixes |

Items may be dropped off Monday-Saturday, 9a.m. -9p.m.

Non Profit  
Permit #206  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
St. Charles, IL

Lazarus House  
214 Walnut Street  
St. Charles, IL 60174