



Lazarus House Love Letter

Luke 16:19-31

WORKING TOGETHER TO OFFER HOPE AND A FUTURE

Summer 2009

Volume XII

Issue 2



Upcoming Events

Please see pages 2-4 for more details on these events.

- **CHILLINI POD'S ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF**
SATURDAY, JUNE 13
1 P.M.
VFW POST 5036
ST. CHARLES
- **LAZARUS HOUSE OPEN HOUSE**
SATURDAY, JUNE 20
10 A.M. TO 2 P.M.
214 WALNUT STREET
ST. CHARLES
- **SWEDISH DAYS PARADE**
SATURDAY, JUNE 21
STEP OFF 1 P.M.
GENEVA
- **ART SALE TO BENEFIT LAZARUS HOUSE**
SPONSORED BY LA GALERIE
1:30 TO 4:30 P.M.
SUNDAY, JUNE 28
- **GREAT WESTERN FREEDOM 4 (RUN)**
SATURDAY, JULY 4
8 A.M.
LE ROY OAKES
FOREST PRESERVE
ST. CHARLES
- **ELLEN'S EXCELLENT SALE**
FRIDAY, AUGUST 7
8 A.M. TO 4 P.M.
SATURDAY, AUGUST 8
8 A.M. TO 2 P.M.
1110 UNION STREET
GENEVA

Message from the Executive Director



That's the number of households for which Lazarus House is currently providing a monthly rental subsidy through God's grace and special grants. About half of those households rely on Social Security Disability as a source of income. If it weren't for the subsidy program, most of the people living in those households would be living in shelter at Lazarus House. Of course they would be welcome, but I have no idea where we would put them. So far this fiscal year, we have served 329 different individuals at our shelter, and before the year ends, we know there will be more. How thankful I am for the subsidy program that allows people to stay in housing, and how thankful I am for our outstanding Outreach and Administrative staff who work so diligently to make this important program happen. Here's what our Associate Director, Liz Eakins, who manages our housing program, has to share about the program:

"In March, 2006, Lazarus House first assisted one household with ongoing rent subsidy. Little did we know that this number would climb to 46 households in just three years. We're privileged to be able to offer our communities four different grant programs to stabilize people in housing. These programs are:

1. **IDHS (Illinois Dept. of Human Services) Homelessness Prevention Grant.** This grant offers one-time emergency assistance to households in the form of rent, mortgage or utility assistance to households in Southern Kane County who have experienced a crisis beyond their control that has rectified itself (the household will be fine moving forward if they just receive assistance getting caught up).

2. **IHDA (Illinois Housing Development Authority) Rent Subsidy Program.** We are able to offer ongoing monthly rental assistance to low income households whose stable income qualifies them and they meet other required conditions. Residential requirements are the same as Lazarus House Emergency Shelter and Transitional Living Center (St. Charles, Geneva, Batavia and Western-Rural Kane County). This life-changing grant also addresses challenges folks may face in managing their personal finances in the form of mandatory monthly budget meetings with Lazarus House staff.

3. **IHDA Rental Housing Support Program (Round I, and soon to roll out Round II).** Acting as the lead agency, in collaboration with three other Kane County partnering agencies, we are able to offer ongoing rent subsidies for specific contracted rental units to very low income households.

4. **HUD (Housing and Urban Development) Samaritan Grant.** This grant targets a very specific group of individuals who have a disability that impedes their efforts at successful, long term independent living (Lazarus House service area only).

Our top-notch Administrative staff is continually re-searching new opportunities to offer households in our area the ability to remain housed and thus prevent the need for emergency shelter. In addition, our staff is very involved in developing and maintaining relationships with other service providers, as well as government entities, which allow up-to-date information and knowledge to be available to those who are struggling to maintain their housing in the community. Currently information is being processed on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and how the dollars coming to Kane County will be administered."

I am so grateful to Liz Eakins for her leadership on the Outreach program. Please be certain to get the word out to friends and neighbors that they can call 630-587-5872 for further information on any of the above assistance programs.

Serving Him with you,

Darlene Marcusson



It wouldn't be summer without

Ellen's Excellent Sale!!!

Five years ago, ten-year-old Ellen Wildman was volunteering at Lazarus House one evening with her parents. She saw all the children who stay here and realized they were just like her. When she went home she thought about the fact that she had more toys and clothes than she really needed, and so she asked her parents if she could have a garage sale and sell some of them, donating the proceeds of that sale to Lazarus House. So began ELLEN'S EXCELLENT SALE, which has become an annual summer event and a major fund raiser for Lazarus House.

Ellen is joining our Board of Directors this summer and will serve as our student representative, replacing the graduating (and heading off to DePaul) student representative, Kristina Karl. Ellen has been a joy and delight and has helped at Lazarus House in many ways other than her annual sale. Here's what Ellen has to say about her sale:

"Ellen's Excellent Sale is a great way to get involved in your community. Last year, we raised a grand total of \$8,000! As you can imagine, we need a lot of items donated to raise that much money for Lazarus House. Donations such as household items, books, furniture, and teen accessories are extremely appreciated – we welcome

almost anything that you would find at your everyday garage sale.

The only things we do not accept are clothing and shoes. If you have something you would like to donate, please drop it off at my house at: 1110 Union St.

in Geneva. We will not be accepting these donations until the week before the sale. Please call ahead at (630) 208-7816 if you would like to drop off items. All donations are tax deductible. We hope you can join us!



There are lots of helpers on hand at Ellen's Excellent Sale —come and meet the team and join the fun!

**Ellen's Excellent Sale
1110 Union Street, Geneva**

**Friday, August 7
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

**Saturday August 8
8 a.m. to 2 p.m.**



To all of our friends...

Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to all of you who donated, attended and volunteered at our "Giving the Gift of Hope" dinner-auction and our first "Community Family Fun Fair Earth Day Celebration."

In addition, we extend a very special thank you to:

- **St. Charles Breakfast Rotary Foundation** for the opportunity to partner with them this year and for all their hard work in making the event successful.
- Our friends at **Aquascape in St. Charles** for hosting our first "Community Family Fun Fair Earth Day Celebration," and to the **St. Charles Moose** for providing and grilling the hot dogs and burgers for this event.



We need your support!
Sun-filled days bring fun-filled ways to help Lazarus House

Roll out those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer

"Those days of Open Houses, Parades, 4 Milers and Garage Sales." Okay, we've taken some poetic license here but hopefully you get the idea that as you roll into summer we would like you to keep these Lazarus House events in mind:

Lazarus House Open House



On Saturday, June 20, summer's official kick-off weekend, we will open the doors of our Emergency Shelter, the Women and Children's Day Center and the Community Resource Center for our "Open House" from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Come visit and enjoy refreshments with some of our staff and Board members while you learn about the programs and what we are doing as a community to help our neighbors who lost or are in danger of losing their homes.

Swedish Days Parade



Top off the first-of-summer-weekend by being at the Geneva "Swedish Days Parade" on Sunday, June 21. Cheer and wave as the Lazarus House float rolls by with other floats and bands from community organizations. Step-off is at 1:00 p.m. beginning on Anderson Blvd., moving down State St. and onto to Third St. Be there and wave us on!

Art Sale



Before rolling out of June, immerse yourself in the world of fine art on Sunday, June 28 at an Art Sale sponsored by "La Galerie" of Downtown St. Charles, to benefit Lazarus House. The sale will take place at the new Bickford of St. Charles Assisted Living Center, located at 3875 Campton Hills Dr. St. Charles from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Don't miss the opportunity to own a Kinkadee, Delacroix, Rockwell or Pino at 30% to 50% off the regular price. 20% of the price of each piece sold that day and 10% of the price of any piece sold at the gallery up to July 31 will come to Lazarus House.

4-Mile Run on July 4th



Run into July for the Great Western Freedom 4. Join area runners on Saturday, July 4 at 8 a.m. at Le Roy Oakes Forest Preserve, 37W370 Dean St., St. Charles, for a 4-mile competitive run on a USATF-certified, CARA-certified and Fox River Trail Runners circuit course.

Advanced registration fee is \$20 or \$25 on race day. Interested runners may sign up online at: www.signmeup.com or find a registration form on our website, www.lazarushouseonline.com. The first 150 pre-registered runners will receive T-shirts and goodie bags. Prizes will be awarded. All proceeds will benefit Lazarus House.

*Be sure to stop by **Ellen's Excellent Sale** on August 7th or 8th! (see page 2 for details).

Visit our
Website at:



www.LazarusHouseOnline.com

Lazarus House

214 Walnut Street

St. Charles, IL 60174

Main Phone: (630) 587-2144

Outreach Phone (630) 587-5872

Main Fax: (630) 587-2540

Outreach Fax: (630) 587-0785

E-mail:

info@LazarusHouseOnline.com



One 'spicy' way to help Lazarus House

Kick-start the hot days of summer by tasting the chili at Chillini Pod's 17th annual chili cook-off, Saturday, June 13th at the VFW Post 5036 (intersection of 3rd and State streets in St. Charles). **Be sure to arrive promptly when tasting begins at 1 pm** . This event ends when chili runs out. Cost is \$5 to enter and taste. All proceeds benefit Lazarus House.



You'll find lots of ways to help us and our neighbors in need in this summer issue of our newsletter. Please take a look inside for a detailed description of upcoming events for the whole family that will offer sun-filled fun and benefit Lazarus House!



Lazarus House
214 Walnut Street
St. Charles, IL 60174

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