

# Lazarus House Love Letter

Luke 16:19-31

WORKING TOGETHER TO OFFER HOPE AND A FUTURE

Spring 2009

Volume XII

Issue 1



## Upcoming Events

- **ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE**  
SATURDAY, MARCH 7  
KICK-OFF AT 2 P.M.  
MAIN STREET, ST. CHARLES
- **DINNER AUCTION IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ST. CHARLES BREAKFAST ROTARY**  
SATURDAY, APRIL 18  
6 P.M.  
ST. CHARLES COUNTRY CLUB
- **FAMILY FUN FAIR AND EARTH DAY CELEBRATION**  
SATURDAY, APRIL 25  
10 A.M.—4 P.M.  
AQUASCAPE IN ST. CHARLES

## Message from the Executive Director

“Where there is ruin,  
there is hope for  
**TREASURE**”



This quote was sent to me recently and it really struck a chord. I thought about all those Indiana Jones movies where Indie is trekking through the jungle exploring crumbling ruins, and then suddenly he comes upon the most amazing treasure in the midst of the detritus. What a wonderful way for us to view the current economic crisis in our country, not as a hopeless ruin, but rather as an opportunity to discover real treasure.

At Lazarus House, we are discovering treasures all the time: the treasure of a small child bringing us their birthday money, the treasure of a new guest who felt helpless and hopeless but now realizes how much better their life can be with the help and support of Lazarus House, the treasure of a volunteer working at Lazarus House and sharing with us how much meaning their time here has added to their life, and what a blessing it has been. Real treasure.

In the midst of the worst economic crisis we have faced since the Great Depression, we treasure the help and support so many have been and continue to be, enabling us to keep our doors open and our neighbors safe, either by helping folks remain in their own homes, or by offering them a safe supportive home with us. Many of your neighbors are in trouble today, and many more will be tomorrow. Rather than feeling hopeless and helpless, lots of folks are finding meaning and a sense of empowerment in helping through Lazarus House, whether it's with

a financial donation or time spent volunteering. It's going to take all of us working together to bring treasure from the ruins we are in, and we invite you to work with us.

We are so grateful for everyone who has stepped forward to help, and especially the St. Charles Breakfast Rotary that is partnering with us this spring for a dinner auction. It will take place on Saturday, April 18 at the St. Charles Country Club. The Rotary is bearing much of the risk and responsibility for the many tasks to be accomplished, and they are donating half the profits to us. More information about this event can be found in the “Spring Ahead” article on page 2. We encourage you to participate, either by attending the event if you're able, or donating an auction item if that's possible. Checks for dinner auction tickets should be made out to the St. Charles Breakfast Rotary Foundation please, as they are handling the financial details, for which we are most grateful.

Another wonderful event is a family fun fair/Earth Day celebration taking place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 25 at Aquascape in St. Charles. Join us for a fun time of games, surprises and a tour of Aquascape, a fabulous facility which defies description.

“Where there is ruin, there is hope for treasure.”  
May you too find treasure in your life, the treasure of the blessing you will receive by helping others, and the treasure of realizing in the midst of these ruins, how blessed you are. We thank God and this community for the blessing of Lazarus House, a genuine treasure, and we invite you to discover the treasure for yourself by becoming involved.

Serving Him with you,

*Darlene Marcussen*

## Inside this issue:

“SPRING AHEAD”	2
A LETTER FROM A FORMER LAZARUS HOUSE GUEST	3
MATCHING GIFTS	3
BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP AT LAZARUS HOUSE	3
URGENT NEEDS	4

Unlock more details of fun upcoming events in our article “Spring Ahead” on page 2.





Luke 16:19-31



# Spring Ahead!!

It's safe to say that most of us are experiencing winter blahs and are just plain tired of winter! We need a glimpse of spring to look forward to, and Lazarus House can offer just that:



On Saturday, **March 7<sup>th</sup>** just a short time before spring's official arrival, Lazarus House will join other community organizations and businesses to celebrate **St. Patrick's Day**. Our float, "**A Lazarus House Limerick**," will join others in a parade down Main St. beginning at 2 p.m.



On Saturday, **April 18<sup>th</sup>** Lazarus House will partner with the **St. Charles Breakfast Rotary** in a joint dinner auction. Join us at the St. Charles Country Club beginning at 6 p.m. and support "**Giving the Gift of Hope**". There will be a live and silent auction whose profits will be shared equally to give help and hope to the many in our community who need it. We will be accepting donations of items of all kinds for the live and silent auctions. *If you can help us by donating an item or have questions about donations please contact Donna Bauer at 630-587-2144.*

To be a part of "Giving the Gift of Hope," please return the registration portion of the enclosed invitation with a **check made out to the St. Charles Breakfast Rotary Foundation** in the provided Lazarus House self-addressed envelope. For questions, or to phone in your **reservations please call Lisa at 630-232-6822.**

On Saturday, **April 25<sup>th</sup>** friends of all ages are invited to join **Lazarus House** and **Aquascape** at a "**Family Fun Fair- Earth Day Celebration**".



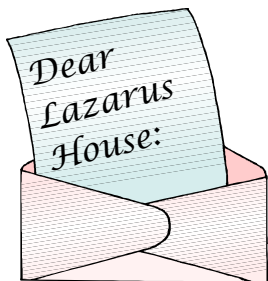
We invite the whole family to take part in the games and Earth Day events. There will be games for everyone - children of all ages and all those daring adults - prizes, food, tours of Aquascape, music, Earth Day activities, and just a whole lot of fun. The activities will begin at 10 a.m. and run through the day until 4 p.m. Join us to help support Lazarus House and celebrate "Earth Day".

## Oh, and a Glimpse of Summer:

On Saturday, **July 4<sup>th</sup>** Lazarus House will take its first "run" as host of the **Great Western Freedom 4**. This 4-mile competitive run, which is a USATF certified course and CARA registered, has been passed along to Lazarus House by The Greater St. Charles Education Foundation, which initiated and organized this race for the past two years. The race will begin at 8 a.m. at LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve at 37W370 Dean Street in St. Charles. Pre-registration is \$20 (race day fee is \$25) and includes a T-shirt. All proceeds will benefit Lazarus House.

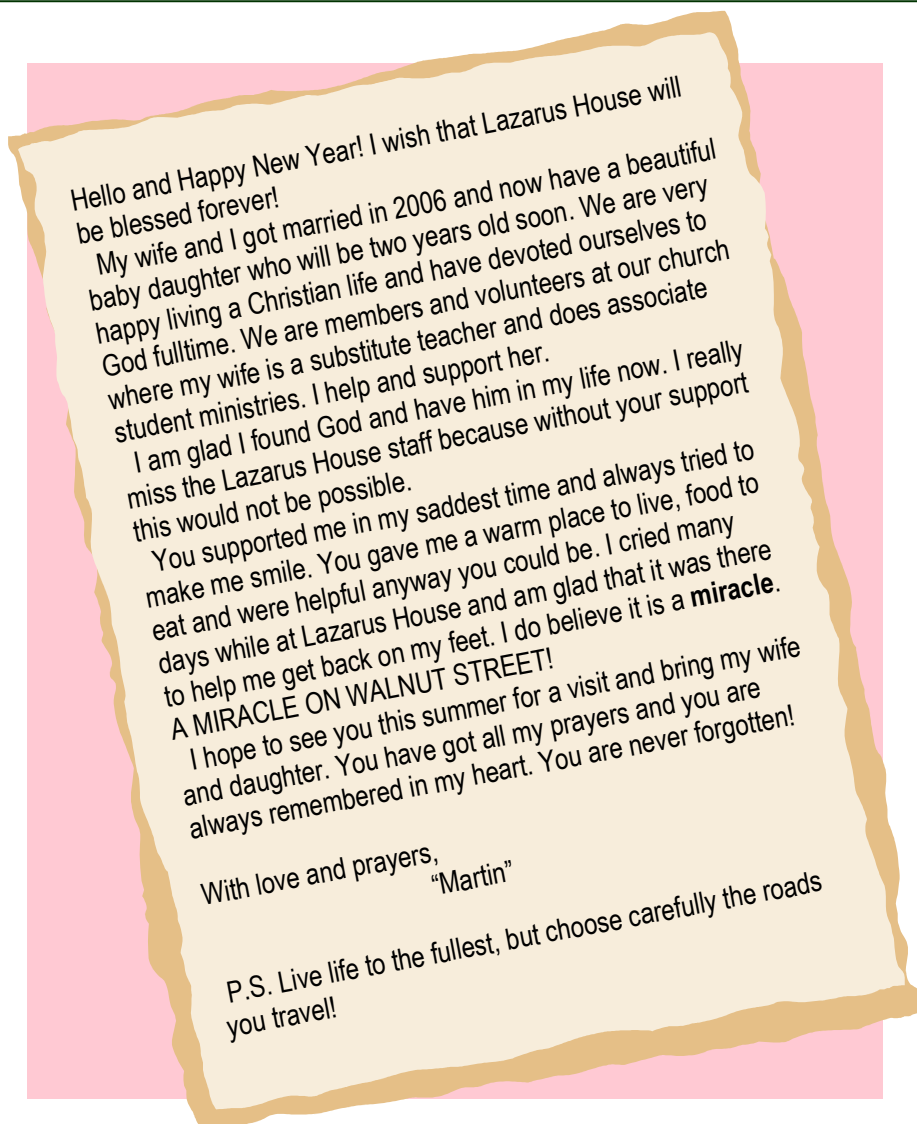


*We hope to see you and your family at these fun-filled, family-friendly events!*



Recently we received a letter from a guest who lived in the Center for Transitional Living (CTL) from 2003 to 2005. During that time, he worked through the pain of divorce and separation from his children, job change and a worsening physical impairment. He worked with his case manager on the very difficult issues that, at times, seemed insurmountable. He also wondered where God was in the midst of his trials.

When "Martin" left the CTL, he moved out of state to live with family members. On occasion we would receive a Christmas card from him with brief updates. This is the most pleasant by far!



## Matching gifts welcome

We are deeply grateful to this community for its ongoing support to help us "keep our lights on." We are vigilant with our resources, but we do anticipate financial challenges in the year ahead. If you are blessed to work for an organization that provides matching gifts, please consider applying for a match to a Lazarus House gift. Our office staff will be happy to provide any required documentation. Just call us at 630-587-2144.



Please use the enclosed Lazarus House envelope to send your tax-deductible gift to us. You may also use this same envelope if you are responding to the dinner auction. Lazarus House staff will give all auction responses to the St. Charles

Breakfast Rotary Foundation for processing.

## We're looking for book discussion leaders



Do you enjoy reading plus the opportunity to discuss others' perspectives, experiences and responses to books you have read and enjoyed? If so, please consider leading a

book discussion group at Lazarus House!

Meetings will be on a monthly basis, either late afternoon or early evening. A short story or chapter from a book will be discussed. There will be two groups: one for women and one for men.

St. Charles Library will provide book discussion tips, author info, book reviews, and book lists.

If you would like more information on this exciting new program, please contact Mary Cella at the St. Charles Library, 630-584-0076, extension 248.

Visit our  
Website at:



[www.LazarusHouseOnline.com](http://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](mailto:info@LazarusHouseOnline.com)



*"Where there is ruin, there is  
hope for treasure."*

*Lazarus House grocery list*

We would be very grateful if you can help us by providing some of the items from this list or by visiting our website, [www.LazarusHouseOnline.com](http://www.LazarusHouseOnline.com) for a more detailed list.

- |              |                               |
|--------------|-------------------------------|
| Milk         | Laundry soap                  |
| Orange juice | 30 or 33-gallon garbage bags  |
| Paper towels | Kleenex                       |
| Toilet paper | Tub margarine                 |
| Borax        | Sugar-free powder drink mixes |

Items may be dropped of Monday-Saturday, 9a.m. -9p.m.  
Thank you so very much for your support!

Look inside for your invitation to  
"Giving the Gift of Hope" dinner/auction!



Lazarus House  
214 Walnut Street  
St. Charles, IL 60174

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