

MARCH 2006

A NEWSLETTER OF ACRES OF DIAMONDS

"We  
touch  
lives  
and  
those  
lives  
touch  
us."

## *From* a long-time board member

"I was called to Acres of Diamonds to make a difference. I joined their Board to affect that difference. Six years ago I saw an organization that was delivering great services and had a mission I could align myself with, though it was underfunded and lacked leadership.

The time I spend working on Acres issues is my chance to give back something for all of my many blessings. The work that Acres does reaches the people in our community that need it most — single homeless mothers and kids. I enjoy the work with Acres because it has direct impact on the mothers and kids we reach. "We touch lives and those lives touch us."

Arne Nelson / Board Treasurer



### **BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED**

Acres of Diamonds needs caring individuals to serve as board members.

*If interested, please call Laura at 425-788-9999*

## God Brings Healing, Change & Victory

**12 months ago:** "I have to have a nap during the day. My life is hard. I will drive somewhere and sleep in my car if you won't let me sleep here."

"I can't tell the state I quit my job because if I do, my kids won't have daycare."

**Six months ago:** "Why are you guys being so mean? You're making it so hard to live. How am I supposed to look for three jobs every single day? You just want me out of here, huh?"

**Last night:** "I absolutely love this new job. I would not have this amazing state job without you guys. No one has ever believed in me and pushed me like you have. At first I thought you just wanted me gone, but then it clicked and I realize that you are doing this for me. No one has ever loved me that much before. Thank You!"



## From a Faithful Partner:

I am a 72 year-old grandmother. In my early 40's, I found myself divorced, raising two children, and having to work to supply our needs. I know what it is like to be a single parent and to live within a tight budget. If I had not known the Lord and the support (emotionally and in deeds) from my fellow church members, I don't know how I could have made it.

Therefore, I support Acres of Diamonds to give single women (most with children) an opportunity to have their lives changed (and those of their children) to get to know Jesus as their Savior as "a present help in trouble." At Acres, lives are changed with help in finding a job or maybe with additional schooling — help that sets an example to the children. I pray for them and for those who are on their own to find a church that teaches God's Word. I pray for them to find people who will love them and to whom they can return that love.

*Froukje Boyle*



## From a Volunteer

I am grateful for the opportunity to spread the news about Acres of Diamonds. As a prayer minister, I am greatly honored and privileged to get to watch ladies' changes first-hand. While they are living here in this safe place, I see the Lord healing them and gently ushering them into slowly increased responsibility.

What an inspiring journey they are on! How does a person come to trust a Father, when trust and dependability have not been routinely available in their lives? How does one scrape what is left of her dignity off the street and humble herself even more by asking for help? These decisions require a great deal of desperation and grit. I'm grateful for all the rooms at Acres. I thank you for your prayers concerning all of these beautiful and brave women. You have a role in their success.

*Michelle Nilsen / Prayer Minister*

## From Volunteer to Staff

I was called to volunteer here in a very clear way. I'd attended a grant writer's class where Acres of Diamonds was represented, and I felt a definite pull on my heart to get more information. Within



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ten days, our church had a presentation from Acres. At that time I said 'OK God, I get it'. I started volunteering two nights per week supervising kids for the Bible studies. It's hard to describe, but every time I came I felt as though I was being 'carried' through the evening and was so energized by my time there.

Within two months, I was asked to help out with some of the night management shifts. I did not feel qualified, but God only asked me to be willing. I derived so much joy (and still do) from having a positive impact on women's lives and, amazingly, I've always gotten back so much more than I've ever given. Three months later I was offered a full-time, Program Manager position. That was three years ago.

For me it's home – I was made for this position. What's not to love? I get to be witness to the incredible work of healing that the Lord does in the residents here. It has a way of sparking a daily expectation to see His hand moving!

We love to talk about all God is doing here. If you'd like to hear more, you are welcome to come out for a visit and a tour.

*Having fun in Christ*  
*Jackie Gould / Program Manager*

## *Touched Lives*

**"I've grown so much** while here that, when I got knocked down at work, I didn't get up and hit him back. And I didn't lose my job!"

**"No one made me do it.** I just went in and talked to them about the missing DVD's I'd rented, and they really worked with me. They could have charged me \$300 in late fees, but they allowed me to just purchase previously viewed ones to replace the ones I lost. It feels so good to have that taken care of."

**"Thank you so much for my beautiful car.** This feels better than winning the lottery, simply because I didn't win out of luck, somebody cared about me, my children, my needs. Thank you, generous donor."

**"Memorizing God's Word** is really hard for me, but I know I need to do it, so I made a little tune to help me. Wanna hear?"

**"I watched my mom stay in an abusive relationship** for years, and I didn't have to do that because I had some place else to go."

**"I always said yes to everyone,** even if I didn't want to give em' a ride and use my gas. In Boundaries class it surprised me that I really can say no."

**"I accomplished the first goal I ever wrote down.** I now own a Bible, provided by a staff member."

**"Thanks for helping me make the connection** between paying my rent on time, and having a place to live."

**"I really like school** but I seriously think that story problems should be against the law!"



## Birthday Wish

"Mommy, I wish I could have a guitar and get music lessons for my birthday. I want to help keep the kids calm when you have class and sing to them."

"I simply do not have the money to cover the expense of guitar or piano lessons or gymnastics or Little League. Maybe you can do that in a few more years. Sorry."

### ***If this was your child's birthday wish, what might you do?***

- A teacher could come here to teach lessons. Thursdays are good nights.
- A gymnastics teacher or coaching team could come and work with eleven children. (ten are under the age of seven) Exciting!
- Cover the cost of a child's wish by writing a check.

[www.acresofdiamonds.org](http://www.acresofdiamonds.org)

## Reach out and Touch...

*Acres of Diamonds is always grateful for monetary contributions, but these women and children benefit as much, if not more, from the personal interaction of a volunteer. If you can reach out and support their efforts and share in their joys, please call to find out how your special gifts can be used to help.*

*To offer your time, call Laura at 425-788-9999*



**If you would like information about our PrayerNet, email or call:**

**[laura@acresofdiamonds.org](mailto:laura@acresofdiamonds.org) • 425-788-9999**

Acres of   
DIAMONDS

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