

MIRACLES

"There is a man who searches the whole world for a fortune in diamonds. After decades of fruitless hunting, he returns home to find them in his own backyard."

MARCH 2007

A NEWSLETTER OF ACRES OF DIAMONDS

"I will not allow my daughter to grow up in a house of fear."



Before & After

My mother, being a mother who would have given her life for her children, never understood the ramifications of the fighting, the physical and mental abuse, the anger, etc. Eight years... I loved my step-dad, wanting his love and acceptance, but we lived in constant fear of doing or saying anything wrong—praying every night that we could just take our mother away from all of it. I used to have horrible nightmares of going to my mom's funeral. It was terrifying. I would wake up crying, imagining I could see him standing in the doorway—my personal "boogey" man.

However bad it got, my mom did all she could to keep us smiling and feeling safe. She would say, "Imagine yourself somewhere else, and the pain will only last a moment." It lasted a lot longer than I ever imagined. I HATED to see my mom hurting. Eventually I began to think this was how life was and that belief has stayed with me all the way into adulthood.

I entered into relationships with irresponsible men and eventually landed in my own domestic violence situation. At the first sign of violence, I left with my daughter—not knowing where we were going or what we were going to do. I was determined she would not live her life in fear. I ended up at a church, where the pastor saw my need and referred me to Acres of Diamonds. After a month at Acres, my mate and I decided to try again. I left against the advice of a wise woman who told me that sometimes God has

greater lessons for us, and we needed to hit bottom before we make the decision to change.

For a time, things improved. Eventually, alcohol and drugs took over our lives. The violence increased and I realized I needed to escape for my daughter's life as well as my own. Eight months later, and eighty pounds lighter, I remember lying on the floor, realizing that if I didn't change things I was going to die. I prayed all night for God to help me. I felt him answer me in my heart, telling me it was time to leave. I hoped I would be able to return to Acres. As we attempted to leave, my ex smashed through the door, attacking not only me, but my daughter as well. He was on a death mission. We escaped by God's grace—as Jackie puts it, "Very big Angels." I still have no memory of how we actually made it out alive.

As we came through the door at Acres, we knew we were home. We began to feel safe. We are taking one step at a time with Jesus. I am determined my daughter will never follow my footsteps and those of my mother. I am determined she will know God and never live in fear. Acres is giving me this opportunity once again to know Christ and build a new foundation in my life and my daughter's. The support and teaching help me to hold myself accountable for making positive changes. I am sharing this because I appreciate your prayers and want others to know there is help.

by His Grace...



Maria, a new Phase II resident shares: "By His grace the Lord has picked me up out of the pit and placed me in my first real family (Acres). Here, He has brought me tools to help me live, brought me close to Him and has given me security for the first time in my life. With all the different personalities at Acres, God has helped me learn conflict resolution. I experienced being loved here when I felt I was the least lovable. I am beginning to love others as they are, because I see that they need my love. I'm not saying it's easy, or I'm a 100% great at it yet, but I sure see a big change in me."



"Thanks God, for helping provide for our families to have our own apartments. We have fun together."



*"Living for God,
we can provide
a whole new heritage
for generations
to come."*



Karry, Phase II resident shares: "When I came here, I didn't even like me. I have come to a place of hope and inspiration from a place of depth of despair. Jesus has brought me back to not only being the child He made, but the mom I need to be. Acres of Diamonds has been a place of refuge, a school of learning, and a family of unconditional love personified! After being here for 13 months, I am amazed at how much being loved has made me realize that God really loves me. Now, not only do I like me, but I love me!!! I am able to pass this on to others. Most precious of all is that I can pass it on to my daughter!

Opportunities to help

Our Capacity Building Campaign is in full swing. We are moving forward with the renovation of three new apartments. Our existing apartments are completely filled with Phase II residents.

In January, we told seventeen families we had no openings. In February it was fourteen. Just how urgent is our Capacity Building project? In any given month, three more families could have shelter, and an opportunity to learn about the love Jesus has for them!

Sally asked if she could come back here to live where she knows she will be loved and healed. Since her best friend took her own life, she has called several times. It is difficult to tell her we still do not have room for her.

Lisa has faithfully worked her program over the last three months. She has mostly recovered from her breakdown. She's gained full-time employment, paid off some debt, and healed a great deal. Many of the requirements have been met for her to graduate to a Phase II apartment and we are ready to celebrate with her. She will graduate as soon as another unit is available for her.

The time is now. May we count on you for sharing the joy of making three more apartments ready for occupancy?

The Capacity Building Campaign will add three more apartments

Existing



After Renovation





Prayers Answered



O'Babie, our new therapy pup, loves unconditionally and brings happiness to our kids and their moms.

- This woman had a really bad toothache. We prayed for her. A good friend of Acres brought a group to tour and visit. Among them was a dentist who offered to help her with a free dental appointment.
- A ten-year old boy got a much-needed math tutor and mentor in a man he looks up to.
- A resident reports: I have really been praying for a good relationship with my mom. Today she text messaged me, "I love you." It made me so happy.
- Calei got a van from her grandmother. What a blessing to help her meet all her obligations and move forward.
- Two new young women moved in and are happy not to have to live at friends' houses or in their car. Both are working.



The children are getting along well. Friendships are forged here at Acres of Diamonds.

Involvement Opportunities...

All involvement begins with a presentation at Acres of Diamonds or at your site. Call for more information: 425-788-9999



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

laura@acresofdiamonds.org • 425-788-9999



A Non-Profit 501 (c)(3) organization

Email: info@acresofdiamonds.org

Phone: 425-788-9999

Fax: 425-844-1553

P.O. Box 1672
Duvall, WA 98019

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