

Welcome

Local executive Scott Baisch, Acres' new Director of Development!

Formerly of Microsoft, WRQ, Datalight, and MetLife, lifelong Washington resident Scott Baisch is a native of Bothell and a graduate of the University of Washington. He brings proven sales and marketing expertise as well as substantial experience in money management and estate planning to his new role. His principal focus will be to

expand community awareness of and support for the innovative work of Acres of Diamonds in transforming homeless women and children into productive, stable, and self-sufficient members of the community.

Executive director Laura Wandoishima, who led the extensive months-long search for a proven executive to fill the post, said in announcing Scott's hiring, "We warmly welcome Scott to the Acres of Diamonds team where we know his expertise and standing in the community will be a tremendous blessing to the work God is doing here."

Describing his new effort with the groundbreaking charity, Scott used the analogy of moving on to higher education, "For me, this is like graduating from high school to attend university. I've been training in the "basics" in the corporate world and now I'm blessed to expand my skills for God's purpose at Acres of Diamonds to make a positive difference in people's lives."

"I've been training in the "basics" in the corporate world and now I'm blessed to expand my skills for God's purpose..."



“I’m really scared. I could be sentenced to 10 years...”

Ms “M,” an 18-year old girl, sat nervously in my office. Her feet rhythmically bounced up and down and her hands floundered between wringing together and wiping invisible fluff off her thighs. I consider her a graduate just for making the decision to come to Acres of Diamonds (AOD). A man in Lynden cared about her and is praying for her. He asked his friends and church to lift her up in prayer also. She refers to him as her “big brother.” He and his wife brought her to AOD from a 30-day rehab program she had recently completed.

She told me she was born addicted to drugs and by the time she was 11-years old she was a daily user. Prior to rehab, she can’t remember a day that she didn’t use. This short little fighter had learned that dealing drugs gave her money and the power she needed to survive. Her survival instincts in the drug world had dictated her life choices which led her down a path of destruction. She had three major drug related charges to face in the morning. We prayed for mercy.

She beamed as she told what happened in court. Her first charge was dropped because she had completed the Rehab program. The second charge was dropped because she is in a strict program at AOD which showed her making good choices. Her third charge included assaulting a police officer. The judge looked at her and said, “You know, I could give you 10 years just for this charge.”



“I was so nervous, I just blurted out, “Oh no your honor, I have a nine o’clock curfew at Acres and I can’t be gone overnight.”

Silence... and then the judge chuckled, “I’ll bet you do have to be back for curfew.”

She was given a fine of \$15.00 per month for a year and if she has no new drug charges for two years, they will allow her to wipe her record clean! *(She saw a few of her old friends there, but they were going to jail instead!)*

Everyone has a desire to graduate at Acres of Diamonds. We have abundant praises as we continue to see God’s handprint on family’s He brings here.

Graduation at Acres...

After living at AOD for 18 months, Ms. "S" graduated and moved out with her two daughters. She has come a long way. After 20 different short-lived jobs like delivering phone books, Mary Kay, distributing flyers on commission, walking dogs, cleaning houses, mail orders from home, making pizza deliveries, etc., she finally got a job doing emission testing in Redmond. She loves the job and already has a few months under her belt. After waiting almost two years, low income housing opened up for her in Woodinville. She and the girls could have their own apartment rather than share a bedroom at AOD. Her excitement soared at the opportunity. But she didn't have the money she needed to move in. She asked local church members if they would help sponsor her and within two weeks she had the needed funds (\$400.00).

As part of our program, we encourage each resident who is considering graduation from Acres to take a look at what their budget is and how the move will impact it.

After reviewing her budget, we could see she would be twenty-two dollars short each month. Additionally, no emergency funds had been designated for car maintenance or repair, lost hours if a child is home ill, or for additional gas money because of the increased distance to daycare and work.

We advised her to focus on how to have a healthy budget before moving out. Often when it was her turn to cook she impulsively bought pizza for the whole house. She is sweet and giving but could have used the house food and avoided spending her money. She moved out anyway and we wished her well.

Ms. "B" has three small girls. She has been saving all of her tips from her job for the last eight months. She has shown self denial and restraint (no pizza, fast foods, extra gifts, pretty nails) saving only for when they can move out. Daily she put all her change in a back pack hoping that when school was out, she and the girls could graduate to their own apartment. She had accumulated over \$600.00 in change. Recently, while at work, someone broke into a locked room and stole her backpack with all of her savings. After a search, our hearts broke for her and we asked God to reward her diligence and bring blessings by restoring what had been taken so she will be able to graduate as planned.





Thank you for
your prayer
support for
His children.

Young Ms. "T" finds she is pregnant and responds maternally by quitting smoking and drugging immediately. She is already implementing new boundary-setting skills. Repeatedly, she tells her parents "no" to an abortion, and "no" to clothing offers, and "no" to financial help so they can't hold these things over her head. She is now working full time and continues to stay "clean." This baby is giving her a focus and purpose to want to become a graduate.



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 • 425-788-9999



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