



Becky's Story...

A Resident Shares... at our Benefit Breakfast

"Good Morning – My name is Becky and I am a resident at Acres of Diamonds. I've lived here with my three children for almost 14 months already. This is not my first time at Acres. I first came to Acres right after I had lost my apartment in Bellevue due to drug use. I came while still using so I was asked to come back when I was clean and ready. Again I left everything behind, pissed off with my girls and left. I never thought of this place again until a month or two later when I received two voice mails, out-of-the-blue from Jackie Gould, hoping that things were well with me and my girls, and that prayers were being sent our way.

After 6 months of hotel hopping and other short-stay shelters here and there, I went back to my parents' in Fall City for one week where I had to take care of some legal issues. The courts were breathing down my neck about drug & alcohol treatment and fines. This week-long break gave me enough time to clear my head a little bit and to put things in perspective. I had three girls to think about, I was looking at jail time if I didn't get in compliance with

the courts. Then I thought about those two voice messages from Jackie and she was the first person I called. She welcomed us back with excitement and open arms. This time I was ready. To this day I'm finishing a year of drug and alcohol treatment. I've ended my probation and paid off fines. I've been able to keep a continuous job for 6 months. I got my driver's license back and have received a beautiful gift from God – a '94 Honda Accord. I have made life-long sober friends, a relationship with God, and finally, an understanding on reality and life. I want to leave a positive legacy to my family and friends.

My goal now is to continue in my positive growth and to be a graduate of this program. I've seen so many women come and go already. When those women who have left are ready too I'm sure they'll be back. And I'll be there to tell them my story and maybe it might help them to change."

Thank you!

We wish to thank all of our community supporters for participating in our breakfast event and for your ongoing support...we could not be here without YOU!

Notable mention...

Dianne Brudnicki from the Northwest Art Center taught our residents to make mosaic mirrors, out of glass pieces and stones, which were used as centerpieces at the breakfast, then auctioned off that morning. Though the endeavor seemed ambitious to AOD staff, the project produced beautiful and colorful works of art. At the breakfast, Dianne shared the symbolism that beauty can, and frequently does, come from brokenness as in the lives of many of our women. It meant so much to the residents to be able to contribute in such a meaningful way!

Our 11-year old resident (left), Ashley, has her mosaic displayed at the Foundation's studio on Main Street in Duvall.

About the Artist

"I am the oldest of the kids here at Acres of Diamonds. I'm 11 and I try real hard to be a good example to the other kids who are all so much younger. I like living here because everything is fun, like making the mosaic mirror. My mom says there have been a lot of changes since we moved to Acres 11 months ago. All I know is that it feels good to come home here."



2005 Christmas Wish List

Our entire list can be found at www.acresofdiamonds.org. Here are a few ideas you'll find there.

Stocking Stuffers for Children

Bubble Bath	Praise CDs
Pens, Pencils	Small Toys
Activity Books	Reading Books
Games	Sugar Free Snacks
Crafts	Socks / T-shirts



For the Kitchen

- Blender
- Teflon pans
- Large baking pans
- Dish clothes & towels
- Plastic storage bowls
- Paper towels
- Trash bags (13 gal)
- Baggies
- Foil
- Dish soap (for sink)
- Liquid hand soap

Program Needs

- Bible Study Curriculum (\$8.99 per book)
- Family Walk Devotional Book (\$12.99 each)
- Teen Study Bible for New Christians (\$25.00 each)
- Donations toward Phase II subsidy (any amount)
- LCD Projector for PPT Presentations

Important *Milestone*

1st ANNUAL *Benefit* BREAKFAST

Acres of Diamonds held its first major fundraising event on Wednesday, October 5, 2005. It was a glorious day! We were blessed with 170 in attendance. Those who joined us learned the nature of Acres' service, listened to the volunteers & staff who provide the service, and heard from those being served, our residents. The following ladies were eloquent and heart felt in their words to the new neighbors in the audience:

Allyson Olsen, Benefit Chair
Laura Wandoishima, Executive Director
Pearl Tadema, Founder, Acres of Diamonds
Dianne Brudnicki, Director of NW Art Center / Volunteer
Barb, Acres Resident
Becky, Acres Resident



Pearl Tadema, Breakfast Speaker and Founder of Acres of Diamonds

Including all the gifts received before, during, and after the breakfast, along with in-kind (materials / services) values and pledged gifts, **our 1st Annual Benefit Breakfast raised \$43,000 and counting.** More gifts are on their way.

We wish to recognize our Table Captains and Sponsors. *Thank you for your support, generosity, and faith in our work.*



List of Table Captains:

Allyson Olsen, Board Member & Benefit Chair
Dianne Brudnicki, Northwest Art Center
Jean Ann French, AOD
Sparky Taft, Dynamic Results Media
Fred Croson, BIT
Jon & Laura Fleming, former AOD board member
Rick Chesmore, Chesmore-Buck Architects
Jim & Barb Sullivan, First Fruits
Pearl Tadema, Founder, Acres of Diamonds
Pam Hogan, President of AOD Board
Stuart Thieme, Vice President of AOD Board
Arne Nelson, Treasurer of AOD Board
Mary Ann Dunbar, Wooden Cross Lutheran Church
Kim Loveall-Price & Howard Finck, Redmond Rotary
Alice Westgate, Bellevue Christian Reform Church
Cindy Wray, Overlake Christian Church
Sally Jo Holmes, Washington Cathedral
Roselyn Olson, St. Luke's Lutheran Church



Sponsors:

BIT	Mark Selland
Chesmore Buck Architects	Rick Chesmore/Dave Buck
Cinda Peters Design	Cinda Peters
Digi Ads	Tim Kelley
Duvall Fitness Center	Joe Culver/Darren Carrido
Dynamic Results Media	Sparky Taft
First Fruits	Jim Sullivan
First Presbyterian Church, Bellevue	Rich Leatherberry
Northwest Art Center	Diane Brudnicki
Overlake Christian Church	Cindy Wray/Elaine Morris
PartyLite—Live It Up!	Barbara Collins-Young
Rich's for the Home	Jim Van Norman
Westminster Chapel	David Sanders





Diamond in the rough...

Newest resident to Acres, Hayden Dewey, a little boy born to Billie on September 30, 2005.



Ways to help...

CONVENIENT MONTHLY DONATIONS:

Via your employer

United Way & Boeing – write in Acres of Diamonds Combined Campaign for government employees

Via personal accounts

MasterCard or Visa Auto Debit

Proceeds benefit Acres of Diamonds
For more information call 425-788-9999

www.acresofdiamonds.org

NEED A TAX DEDUCTION FOR 2005?

Donate Your Vehicle:

Running or not—all paperwork handled for you!
Car • Truck • Van • SUV • Motorcycle • RV • Boat Trailer • Airplane

Proceeds benefit Acres of Diamonds

Call: 1-800-320-0476



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

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