

Giving

... in Your Own Back Yard



The holidays are wonderful times to make new memories of family, food, friends, gifts, and fun. However, this time of year can also bring sorrow, stress, and over extended schedules. I know how irritated I can become vying for that last parking space or when time is closing in without having found that perfect gift for a loved one. I welcome each reminder that I receive to calm my heart and enjoy the beauty of the season—the spirit of giving. May this serve as a reminder to you to keep Christ at the center of all festivities.

Here at Acres of Diamonds (AOD) we help provide for the daily needs of our homeless women and children. God is faithful to meet these needs through the generosity of His children at

Christmas time and throughout the year. Are you called to be one of His vessels for giving to the work here?

Would you prayerfully consider how you might be involved? You can subsidize a Phase II apartment for any amount or duration. Our Capacity Building Campaign is in full swing and will add three apartments to Phase II. We have at least three residents who could really use a vehicle. And of course, it is the general fund that keeps the lights on and the home heated.

In addition, I am available to answer questions regarding diversified giving options such as stocks and bonds and planned giving.

So when the honking horns and the commercialism become too much for you, take a moment to thank God for his greatest gift to us, His Son Jesus! We pray this Christmas season will be filled with joy and peace for you and your family as you continue to keep Acres of Diamonds in your hearts now and throughout 2007.

Scott Baisch
Director of Development

Messages of Joy and Thanksgiving



... from residents living at Acres of Diamonds

Our current residents are very appreciative that Acres of Diamonds is here for them. The following comments are full of hope and thanks—very refreshing messages for all of our staff.

Calei shares her one month self evaluation: *"When I came I was hopeless and fearful. I wanted to change, but didn't know how. Now I am doing things that make me feel good. I'm turning dishonesty to honesty, fear to hope, self pity to gratitude, and changing 'have to's' into 'get to's'. I already have a full time job. I feel the program saved my life; the staff is my new family members and the guidelines are my structure. I am most filled with gratitude.*

The other day it took me nine hours travel time on the bus to and from work in Seattle because of the flooding. I left at 4:30 in the morning. It was cold. On the bus, on the way home, I saw someone with a warm white winter coat. I wished to myself that I could have a warm coat like that. Finally at 9:30 that night I went to my room just exhausted. Maria told me to wait a minute she had something for me. From a bag she pulls out the most beautiful, white downy, warm, winter coat I could imagine.

I'm thinking how did God do that? Someone had to donate it to Lenora, our night manager. Then Lenora had to think of me, to ask Maria to give it to me. And then it got to Acres that same night before I even got home from work. WOW."



Maria shares her one month evaluation: *"This program is a Godsend and so much more. I feel really blessed that I get to do this program. The staff, all of them, are angels sent from God. I learn something special from all of them each and every day.*

They are very inspirational and awesome role models. I think that there is nothing wrong with the guidelines. I am thankful for my Lord and Savior. I am thankful for the hearts of the staff because they impact me so much. I am thankful for my children that the boys are here. I am thankful that God has put AOD here. I am thankful for my new family, my job, my church, my roof, bed, and clothes! I am thankful for all the hard times I endured to get me here. My relationship and bond to my Father in Heaven is the most!"

"I just want to read my Bible all the time. Sometimes I have questions about what I am reading. So I have gone to each staff member and asked them. What is interesting is each staff person gives me usually a different verse about it. Funny thing is each verse is saying the same thing to answer my question. I think that is really neat."

Kerry says, *"Can we have our own Bible study at my house in Phase II? We would let staff come, but not lead. Each of us is really hungry for learning more and being a support to each other.*

One gal has just lost her mother, another needs support with her son and it seems all of us are interested in more than the two classes offered at AOD. We want to be able to just hang out and pray with each other and share what we are learning from God's Word."



No Unemployment!

Presently Acres has a full house. Eight women and their children are living in the Phase I home and four graduates and children are residents in Phase II apartments. It is a historical moment at Acres of Diamonds. Today, everyone in Phase I and Phase II are employed!



This mom has a part time job that she loves. It fits her crazy schedule of caring for her three children.

Erica accepted a new job taking care of a gentlemen with special needs. Being such a petite lady with a background in sales, I wondered how she liked her new job. After she had worked there about a week I asked Lynn what she liked best about her new job and what were her challenges. Lynn replied, "Well, Laura you know the man has cerebral palsy so he can't get around very fast and he is blind, deaf, and mute. I think we get along fine and the best part is we haven't had a single argument." She puts her hands to her face to hide her big grin.



From the Executive Director:

I so appreciate Pam Hogan who was recently re-elected President of the Board of Directors. All staff would like to publicly honor and give thanks and appreciation to Pam for her faithfulness, great attitude, dedication, and expertise as our board president. Pam has a very busy work schedule and personal time commitments, yet has voluntarily given much of her time to facilitating the growth God is doing at Acres of Diamonds. It is a pleasure to have a board with a heart for God's mission here and seeking Him for unity in decision-making. Pam is a delight to work with—we praise God for her!



Pam Hogan

Laura Wandoishima

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laura Wandoishima".

We are thankful for all our dedicated board members.

Newly elected board officials:

Board President: Pam Hogan

Vice President: David Glass

Treasurer: Arne Nelson

Secretary: Renee Stegemoller

Pastor: John Rodli

Prayer warrior: Vivian Zoller

Retiring Honorable member: Allyson Olsen

Advisory Board: Gerrit Boyle & Pearl Tadema

If you are interested in participating in this area, please call Laura at 425-788-9999

Many ask how they can participate in giving to Acres of Diamonds' families at Christmas. Please coordinate item gift giving through Jackie at 425.788.9999

Christmas Wish List

Individual Family Ideas

- Family devotionals
- Movie gift certificates
- Disposable camera
- Photo album/Scrapbook
- Phone cards
- Blankets (twin)

Stocking Stuffers for Children

- Bubble bath
- Praise CDs
- Pens, pencils
- Small toys/Games/Crafts
- Activity books/Reading books
- Sugar-free snacks
- Socks/T-shirts

Luxury Items

(14 Women)

- Hair color
- Make-up
- Bubble bath
- Shaving cream
- Nail polish / remover
- Contemp. Christian CDs
- Christian novels
- Gift Certificates
- Devotionals

For the Kitchen

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

www.acresofdiamonds.org

Pray for boys living at Acres

Your prayers are an awesome support for God's healing touches to be experienced at Acres. As you read the story, please lift this person up in prayer...

A ten-year old boy's violent behavior escalated to the point where the police needed to be called.

Another young, ten-year old boy resented coming to Acres. He doesn't get to see his father and he feels uprooted from his old school and friends. Now he is living in this big house with new rules and lots of other women and kids. He has to go to a new school and daycare. One evening in frustration and anger he began yelling at his mom. The mom asked the night manager to support her. She wanted to validate her son's feelings and at the same time remain firm, but she didn't know how to express her own emotions about their move and what all took place for them to need to be here. Please pray for healing for both of them.

Acres of
DIAMONDS

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

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