

LIFESPRING MINISTRY CONNECTIONS

AN UPDATE FOR LIFESPRING MINISTRY FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS ON DEVELOPMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

FABIOLA GARRISON

IN THIS ISSUE

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FROM THE
DIRECTOR

ANNUAL BENEFIT
AUCTION

LIFESPRING NEEDS/
VOLUNTEER
NEEDS

LIFESPRING
GARDEN

*I*n October 2009 I had to take my four small children and leave our home after years of abuse from my husband. A generous family took us in temporarily to give me time to figure out what I was going to do. How was I going to get a job? How would I be able to afford child care? How would I be able to provide and take care of the kids all by myself?

For years my abusive marriage had brainwashed me with negative thoughts about myself and life itself! A friend told me about Lifespring and just seven days later I was admitted (which is a miracle, since the waiting list is usually very long). Lifespring was an answer to my prayers as I never wanted to be a burden to anyone and didn't want my kids to be in an unsafe environment. They offered me a break from all the uncertainty and the counseling helped with 'getting my brain back' as I worked through all of the emotional turmoil.

I can't say it was an easy road, but I can say with all my heart that God was by my side every step of the way. He gave me strength to keep going when I felt my whole world was falling apart. Through the practical skill classes and Bible studies He molded my character, strengthened my faith and showed me clearly that He's got it all under control! I got involved in a wonderful supportive church that I wholeheartedly call my family. In November of 2010 I graduated from the program at Lifespring and was grateful to be able to move into one of their apartments.



Fabiola and her children, Eliana, Jonathan, Anna and Sean.

It is now 2012 and I am moving out of Lifespring into my own place! I am currently working as a caregiver at a home healthcare agency. I love the the fact that I am making a difference in people's lives every day. Recently I finished the phlebotomy program at Waubensee Community College. Through God's grace I was able to go to school, work full time, care for my four children and maintain straight A's (I finished at the top of my class!). I am looking forward to obtaining a job as a phlebotomy technician, in God's timing, to provide more financial security for my family.

With God's help I was able to beat the odds and pull out of the vicious cycle of abuse. I have a lot more to learn and there are plenty of trials facing me every day, but a new foundation has been set. I am looking forward to what God has in store for us in the future!



FROM THE DIRECTOR

I trust you are enjoying these last few weeks of summer before the routine of school and fall schedules begin again. We've had a great summer at Lifespring, over 16 churches and small groups came to spend time with our families to provide crafts, picnics, Bible study and fellowship. We've also had the privilege of seeing three of our women graduate from the 12 month program since the spring. It is a blessing to experience this milestone with them, as the program challenges every area of their lives. Transformation is hard work!

I want to share with you a recent change we have made. As of July 1, 2012 we have changed the length of our program from 12 months to six months. After prayer, analyzing this past year, many conversations with others and looking at what other ministries are doing we believe this is the way we should go. We are finding that 12 months is too long for our women to "see the end," they are becoming discouraged and can tend to give up.

Our program will continue to be four distinct phases. We envision that phases I – III will take place within the six month time period where our women will complete their Bible studies, practical skill classes and find a job. Those individuals who are interested in continued mentoring and discipleship can proceed to phase IV for another six months for longer stabilization. We look forward to investing more in-depth training and teaching for those staying another six months. Pray for us as we implement this change. We continually seek God in all we do at Lifespring to love and care for those who are so close to His heart.

Thank you for taking a moment to read about the Lifespring updates. Check out our garden on the last page and don't forget the eighth annual Lifespring Auction is coming up in less than eight weeks. We look forward to seeing you there!

Lynda Dorsch

Lynda Dorsch
Director

Lifespring Ministry is a transitional living center for homeless women and children. We provide Biblical instruction and counseling, teach practical skills and prepare families to live independently in our community.

YOU ARE INVITED TO...

Overture of Life

*Lifespring 8th Annual Benefit Auction
Saturday, September 29, 2012
Pipers Banquets, Aurora, Illinois*

*Join us in an evening filled with music
and support the families of Lifespring Center.
The Lifespring Benefit
Auction includes a plated
dinner, live and silent auctions
and fun raffles.*

Learn more about sponsorship opportunities, hosting a table or donating an item for auction, call Lynda Dorsch, Lifespring Director at 630.952.1104 or email Sue Stanley-Castrejon at lifespringauction@waysidecross.org

LIFESPRING NEEDS

- ◆ Shampoo/Conditioner
- ◆ Toothpaste
- ◆ Diapers – size 4 & 5
- ◆ Pull Ups
- ◆ Hand towels
- ◆ Dish towels
- ◆ Bath towels/wash cloths
- ◆ Can opener – manual and electric
- ◆ Kitchen blender
- ◆ Aluminum foil
- ◆ Plastic wrap
- ◆ Sandwich baggies
- ◆ Kitchen containers for leftovers
- ◆ Powder laundry soap
- ◆ Spiral notebooks
- ◆ Two-pocket folders
- ◆ Highlighters
- ◆ Pillows – standard size
- ◆ Car seats
- ◆ Booster seats

VOLUNTEER NEEDS

- ◆ Child Care
- ◆ Exercise Leader
- ◆ Volunteer Coordinator
- ◆ Parent Mentor

A GARDEN: WHAT BETTER WAY TO OUTWARDLY SHOW THE BEAUTY OF WHAT GOD IS DOING ON THE INSIDE OF THE LIVES OF OUR WOMEN?

This is our second year of organic gardening and it is going swimmingly thanks to Master Gardener Alumnus, Nancy Carroll, members of the Naperville Garden Club, Deb Tritt, Chuck Prock, Jill Hsieh and the Transformations Bible study group from Community Christian Church. During the summer months and even into the fall our women are learning to incorporate these fresh vegetables into their meal planning. We also provide cooking and nutrition classes so our families can understand the importance of eating healthy.

As you can imagine, the nutrition education along with our weekly exercise class plays a vital role in the transformation process in our families' lives. We are grateful for the overwhelming hours that Nancy and crew give each week to make all of this happen. And, it's fun!



Lifespring Ministry, a Division of WCM, is located at
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