A PUBLICATION FROM LIFESPRING MINISTRY // June 2018

# MINISTRY ELGELS

#### SAVE THE DATE



## OUR MISSION

To honor God by loving and serving the afflicted and powerless through sharing the Gospel of forgiveness and hope in Jesus Christ by empowering them to be disciples of Christ.

#### **ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS**

HEALTH AND WELLNESS Open Door Clinic offers their services to residents at Lifespring. SUMMER IS HERE The change of season can

be a temptation to our women. JOB REFERRALS NEEDED Please consider Lifespring when you hear of a potential job opening. CHILDREN'S CHOIR Aurora Christian's kindergarten classroom sings for program residents.





## SUMMER IS HERE



SUMMERTIME CAN BE A MINEFIELD OF TEMPTATION. SUMMER IS OFTENTIMES ASSOCIATED WITH PARTIES, OUTDOOR MUSIC FESTIVALS, BARBECUES AND OTHER EVENTS - THIS CAN BE A PARTICULARLY HARD SEASON FOR OUR WOMEN TO STEER CLEAR OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG USE.

At Lifespring, staff is very aware that summer can be a hard time for our women in recovery from substance abuse. For many of our women, they have often spent previous summers under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol. This can make having a sober summer feel like a daunting task.

Preventing relapse can be particularly difficult during the summer months because it is a time when our women oftentimes feel more relaxed and less disciplined with their behavior and daily routines.

Fortunately, at Lifespring, we have full confidence in the redeeming power of the Gospel. As such, when a resident is struggling with the urge to return to substance use, we are quick to bring them back to the Word for wisdom and understanding.

At Lifespring, we have real discussions with the women about the temptations that come during summer and the importance of being equipped with truth so that the Holy Spirit can enable them to exercise self-control.

We also do not wait for temptation to arise or for one of our residents to seek out help with any triggers or urges. As a mandatory part of the curriculum, our women participate in a biblically based relapse prevention group every Monday and Friday evening.

In addition to the relapse prevention programming provided to the women in house, our residents also have the opportunity to concurrently participate in outpatient substance abuse

treatment with one of our local partnering treatment providers (Breaking Free, Inc. and Gateway Foundation) as part of our Safe in Place program as there is need.

Potential residents also have the opportunity to enter our program as Safe in Place if they are still testing positive for substance use upon admittance. This is determined on a case by case basis.

If you know of any women struggling with addiction, who could benefit from our program, please instruct them to contact Lifespring by phone at (630) 851-0187 to complete our intake process and be placed onto our waitlist.

## ... ENCOURAGING, COMFORTING AND URGING YOU TO LIVE LIVES WORTHY OF GOD, WHO CALLS YOU INTO HIS KINGDOM AND GLORY.

1 Thessalonians 2:12



Lifespring Is In Need Of Job Referrals For Our Program Residents

During the first three months, program residents receive life skills training that prepare them for employment, to return to school, or to enroll and participate in occupational or vocational training programs. However, due to a number of factors, such as criminal histories, lack of employment history, and/or gaps in employment, connecting our residents to hiring employers can be difficult. If you know of any employers who would be willing to offer jobs to our residents, please reach out to us as our residents would be immensely blessed. Please contact Case Managers Marquerite Blitch or Heather Michael by phone at (630) 851-0187 so that those referrals can be made known to our residents.

### **ROLLING UP OUR SLEEVES**



Together, staff works to provide safe shelter, case management, job training, and compassionate care centered on demonstrating the Gospel to the women who come to participate in our program. Meeting that mission often means rolling up our sleeves to complete tasks around the facility so that we are ensuring we are being good stewards of the resources God has provided to us.

#### INTERNSHIPS AT LIFESPRING

Are you passionate about working with women who are impacted by homelessness? Here at Lifespring, we have been blessed to have women come in and dedicate a period of service to contribute to the work being done here. Most interns are college and graduate students earning academic credit. Most internships run through the academic year or during the summer.

Our history of seeing hurting women make real heart change is not only due to the people who work here - it is in large part thanks to the incredible interns and volunteers who give of their time that make this all possible. If you're interested in interning at Lifespring, please reach out to our Program Coordinator, Morgan Baumert at mbaumert@waysidecross.org or by phone at (630) 952-1103.

#### **NEEDS LIST**

Hand sanitizer Deodorant Razors Body Wash Toothpaste Toothbrushes Hi lighters Back packs Colored pencils **Tab Dividers** Tylenol Large Ziploc bags Aluminum Foil Adult cold medicine Pepto-Bismol Large Plastic Bins Milk Crates Hangers Alarm Clocks 120-180 Watt Lightbulbs **Cooking Spices** Jelly Pasta Sauce Cereal

## MEET CHERNICE



Chernice came to Lifespring in January 2018 with her two young children, Marvell (5) and Chernia (1), seeking shelter after months of spending a couple of nights here and there with anyone who would take her and her kids in. Chernice's homelessness was brought about when her husband was incarcerated in Wisconsin due to his gang involvement.

Chernice did not come to Lifespring seeking to have a personal relationship with God, but that is just what she found during her time here. Chernice states that "she has learned just how much she was living a life of sin" and that she "is grateful that she has learned what it means to have a right relationship with God."

Though Chernice does not know how long she will stay in the program, she desires to take what she has learned and will continue to learn, to raise up her children in the Word. Please keep Chernice and all our program residents in your prayers as we continue to minister to them.

# CHILDREN'S CHOIR

At Lifespring, we love music and we love children, so it's not surprising that we would accept the offer of Aurora Christian's kindergarten classroom to come sing for our women and children. The children





filed cheerfully into our chapel on a Friday afternoon and put on such a sweet performance. It was a welcomed break in routine for our program residents, and there were many smiles to be shared.

Thank you Aurora Christian Academy for thinking of us and for being a blessing to our women.

## HEALTH AND WELLNESS

AT LIFESPRING

The women and children who reside here often lack sufficient access to health care treatment. Chronic health problems and inaccessibility to medical care are known to increase school absences and limit employment opportunities. That is why, at Lifespring, we strive to mitigate these concerns.

Connecting our residents to state funded medical insurance and getting them connected to low cost healthcare providers in the community is one of the top priorities when a resident first enters our program.

Here at Lifespring we are also grateful for community organizations, such as Open Door Health Center of Illinois, that also cares about the health of our residents. Open Door has partnered with us to offer health screenings and health education to our women.



#### OUR MINISTRY NEEDS YOUR PRAYERS AND SUPPORT

Lifespring Ministry is dedicated to not only providing food and shelter to the women who come to us in need each and every day, but to also help women see their need for a Savior. Your gifts can make a huge impact. Your gifts help provide hope, healing, and life change as our women learn to make a heart change. Please consider making a real and meaningful difference in the lives of those most in need in our community.

CONTACT THE MINISTRY DIRECTOR, JODY CANTEY AT JCANTEY@WAYSIDECROSS.ORG OR CALL (630) 851-0187 TO SEE HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

GATHER AND GO NIGHTS Please join Lifespring Ministry for a night of prayer, ministry updates, and to learn how to get involved. The Gather and Go Nights occur every 12<sup>th</sup> day of the month from 6:00-7:00 PM.

SIX MONTH CELEBRATION On Monday, August 13, 2018 at 5:00 PM, Lifespring will be celebrating four women who have completed six months of the program.

ONE YEAR GRADUATION On Monday, September 3, 2018 at 5:00 PM, Lifespring will be graduating one of our residents.

ANNUAL AUCTION Save the Date! Our annual auction will be on Thursday, September 27, 2018 at 5:00 PM at Danada House.

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