

MINISTRY

HIGHLIGHTS



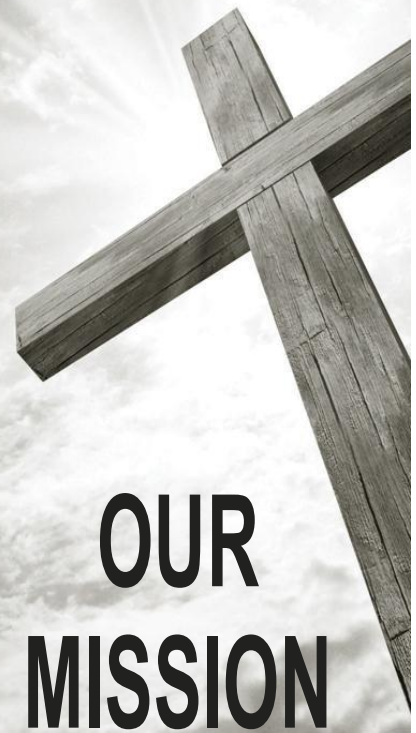
Our 14th Annual Benefit Dinner was Amazing! Thank You for Coming Out to Support Our Women and Children

On behalf of the women and children at Lifespring, we would like to thank everyone who supported us at our 14th Annual Benefit Dinner through volunteering, giving, and praying.

We are so grateful for the generosity of our guests and volunteers, and we treasure the fact you would come alongside us

as we allow God to work in and through the ministry here. Your efforts made the event a huge success.

It was an overall extraordinary event, and we are excited to see how God will bless the proceeds from the evening as we continue working with the women and children at Lifespring.



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

is doing at Lifespring. **STAFF HEARTBEAT** Connect with the staff's evolving stories and hear their heart for the ministry. **VOLUNTEER CORNER** Hear from one of our volunteers about why she serves at Lifespring.

GOATS AT LIFESPING Residents enjoy an afternoon playing with baby goats at Lifespring. **LOOKING AHEAD** Celebrate with us the work God

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THE STAFF HEARTBEAT

Prior to accepting a position at Lifespring, I was studying to obtain my Masters in Social Work and was working at an agency that provided substance abuse and mental health counseling to individuals coming out of IDOC or who were otherwise involved in the legal system.

I first heard about Lifespring when someone, who is now a dear sister in Christ, started attending my home church while waiting for a bed to become available at Lifespring. At this time, God was already beginning to do a work in my heart and giving me the conviction that I did not want to be someone who just provided a band-aid to those who were hurting.

When a part-time weekend position became available I was excited to join the work being done at Lifespring, and now that I have come on full-time, that excitement has only continued to grow. I love to get to witness God at work in these women's lives, and to help the women here wrestle with the Truth.

Heather Michael, MSW, CADC
2nd Shift Supervisor/Case Manager
Lifespring Ministry



In my many years serving in the ministry of Lifespring, the one thing I tend to reflect on the most is how God has used the ministry to grow me. My time here has helped shape my view of discipline and dramatically impacted how I chose to raise my children and run my household.

In my time here, I have seen God truly change women and have gotten to witness women continue to walk in Him up until their last moments. Though many women leave after only being here for a short time, it is our hope as a ministry, and my hope, that, if nothing else, the women would take the Truth that they have heard from the moment they enter these doors, with them.

I have confidence that God can do a work in their lives and am grateful that I can take part in speaking the Truth into their lives.

Marquerite Blitch,
Senior Case Manager
Lifespring Ministry



Lifespring entered my life about three years ago. I was working at Bath and Body Works when a family friend of mine suggested that I give Lifespring a call for a potential job opportunity. I have found, since being here, that there has been something special and unique about Lifespring. Lifespring has a way of pulling on your heart, to where it ends up having a ripple effect in your life. I have been able to find what fuels my desire to work - I love being able to come to work every day and share and listen to the word of God over a cup of coffee with some residents.

Working here, I have been able to see the women grow each week. I am able to see them walk down the hallway with more confidence in themselves, that there is a Heavenly Father who loves them, knowing that their past does not have to define them, and that we have grace from God, is rewarding. When you can see the transformation in the women that is a beautiful experience to witness.

Morgan Baumert, MSW
Program Coordinator
Lifespring Ministry



LOOKING AHEAD



God continues to bless this ministry in ways that are beyond measure. We have seen God transform and restore brokenness and raise women up to be faithful women of God. Among the many ways God is moving here, we were blessed to witness the baptismal of a former resident

(see above). She now lives in one of Lifespring's four apartments and serves as a resident assistant. As we look ahead we also cannot help but think about the plans He has in store for us: ways in which He will continue to grow and stretch us, ways in which He will bless us, and ways in which He will continue to be working out each and every one of our stories at Lifespring.

JOIN OUR TEAM

We are currently looking for individuals to fill our third shift and weekend positions. Third shift hours are Sunday through Thursday 10:00 PM- 6:30 AM. Weekend hours are open for discussion. If you are interested, or know someone who would be a good fit for the positions, please reach out to our director Jody Cantey by email at jcantey@waysidecross.org or by phone (630) 952-1105.

I will listen to what God the LORD says; he promises peace to his people, his faithful servants - but let them not turn to folly. Psalm 85:8

GOATS AT LIFESPING



Lifespring has been blessed this past year to have volunteers come in and lovingly serve our women and children. Recently, Lifespring had the pleasure to have baby goats on the grounds. The goats' presence provided our women and children exposure to agriculture and nature and offered an experience many of them had never had before.

Whether it is bringing goats to Lifespring or volunteering to teach a Bible study, Lifespring is in need of your time and talents. Some of our most pressing needs for volunteers are currently:

MENTORS FOR OUR RESIDENTS

CHILDCARE PROVIDERS

For more information on how to get involved, visit our [website](http://www.waysidecross.org) or contact Morgan at mbaumert@waysidecross.org to get started!

Janet came to faith six years ago and through her hunger for the Lord's word, almost immediately knew she needed to find a place where she could share her faith and help those in need. In the midst of praying for God to show her a place where she could serve, she became aware of Lifespring when she found out a friend from her past was a resident. Janet did some research, prayed, and knew God had a plan for her at Lifespring. Since becoming a volunteer, Janet has hosted Bible studies, scheduled play dates with the kids of Lifespring (to give the moms a break), and currently does one on one mentoring. Janet, along with her husband Craig, also spend ten months a year working with a team of other volunteers and staff to plan and host the annual Lifespring fundraiser.

Here is what Janet has to say about her time at Lifespring and what it means to her:

- Volunteering at Lifespring has been rewarding and heartbreaking, but mostly I feel contentment when I think about my time serving there.
- Rewarding because I have a past of struggling with addiction, divorce, teenage parenthood, and other struggles that, by the grace of God, I have overcome. It is rewarding to be able to share my story and allow God to use it to help others.
- Heartbreaking when women come into Lifespring and aren't YET ready to make a change in their lives and leave before completing the program.

Contentment because even when someone leaves early, I know that God's will shall be done in their lives. I know that no matter how much I may want to "save" these women, they are God's to save and all I can do is trust in God! I have faith God will use their experiences at Lifespring to help guide them to His ultimate plan for their lives. Contentment because so many women DO complete the program and God allows us to be part of that transformation!! GOD IS GOOD!

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 12th day of the month from 6:00-7:00 PM.

GIVING THANKS VOLUNTEER CELEBRATION This month's Gather and Go Night will be a combined celebration for our volunteers. Please Join Us!

ONE YEAR GRADUATION On November 29th AT 5:00 PM please come out and support one of our program graduates.

TOPGOLF FUNDRAISER On March 10th from 2:00-4:00 or 4:00-6:00 PM, Lifespring will be hosting its 2nd Annual Fundraiser at Topgolf, located in Naperville, IL.
