

Lifespring Ministry

a new way of life for women
who have lost their way...



History/description

Lifespring is more than a refuge, more than a building, more than a program.

One of six divisions of Wayside Cross Ministries, Lifespring is a not-for-profit Christ-centered organization located in Aurora, Illinois.

In 1928, Wayside Cross first opened their doors to serve homeless men in Aurora. Later, in the mid 1950's, four windowless rooms welcomed the first homeless women and their children to Lifespring's safe haven. In 1998, the ministry moved to a rehabbed convent on College Avenue.

The Women



The women come carrying the burden of homelessness caused by addiction, financial setbacks, or abuse. They may come unemployed or with children. They come bearing the generational cycle of poverty and homelessness, which Lifespring strives to break.

Within our walls, they find a loving and safe family environment to help them lay down their burdens.

Unfortunately, because of the rise of homeless families, the need is great. We turn away 12 single women and 24 families in the average month.



Facts

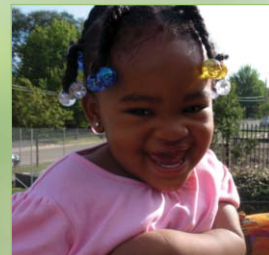
❖ Lifespring houses 15-22 adults and 1-20 children at any given time. The average woman is 26-years old and the average child is 3.5-years old.

❖ Supported by churches and private donors, Lifespring receives only 4% of its funding from grants or the government.

❖ The ministry serves as a long-term transitional program rather than an emergency shelter, teaching life skills to women who have lost their way. An army of volunteers join with staff to make this six-month program a stepping stone toward independent living.

❖ As part of this unique program, women receive Christian counseling, education, and support to prepare them for their future.

❖ The program consists of three phases with an additional six-months (Phase IV) offered to those needing additional stabilization.



Personal Story

Carolyn spent years on a merry-go-round of drugs and alcohol before God brought her to Lifespring in 1997. Feeling constrained by the rules at first, slowly the daily Bible study and counsel began to penetrate and heal her heart. The required chores introduced her to a new



and healthy lifestyle. As someone “sick and tired of being sick and tired” before she knew Christ, she found Lifespring to be a great gift. Today she is a member of her church, a mentor to other woman, and a ministry volunteer. Glory be to God!

The Lifespring Program

Phase One

- ❖ Entering Lifespring involves commitment. After a bed opens, women meet with staff, undergo assessment, begin Bible classes, and become acquainted with the rules and chores that make life together function smoothly.
- ❖ After the orientation of the first month, women dig into the program.





Phase Two

- ❖ Staff help women identify the crisis that brought them to Lifespring during this next two to three-month period.
- ❖ Women are connected to additional resources and services in the area.
- ❖ The women begin classes, job readiness preparation, professional counseling, continue Bible study, and help with meal planning, all in preparation for independent living.
- ❖ Living together offers opportunities to build trust and handle conflicts in a safe environment while practicing good communication techniques.

Phase Three

- ❖ During the final three months, classes are completed and a job search begins.
- ❖ Women learn to budget their income, time and energy. Bible Study and counseling continues, and residents meet regularly with Case Managers.
- ❖ Women are encouraged to build a deeper relationship with their church family.
- ❖ At the end of the six-month program, we celebrate!



Phase Four

❖ Women who succeeded in the six-month program are invited to continue for an additional six months for stabilization.

❖ During this phase, the women gain confidence in relationships, making friends outside of Lifespring. They are challenged to improve work habits, build a healthy lifestyle, and continue counseling and recovery.

❖ At the end of one year, a graduation takes place!



How to get involved at Lifespring

Pray! Pray for our staff, our women, and our work.

Then share your time with us.

- ❖ Befriend one of our women
- ❖ Answer phones, organize a closet
- ❖ Read to a child

Share your talents with us.

- ❖ Lead a parenting, nutrition or budgeting class
- ❖ Teach a Bible study
- ❖ Share computer skills or a craft lesson
- ❖ Tutor

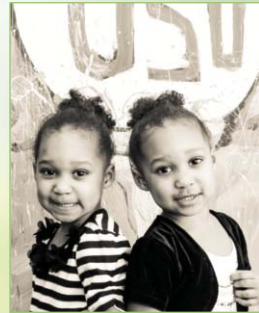


Share your treasures.

- ❖ Organize a food drive
- ❖ Donate from our online list
- ❖ Make a personal gift to Lifespring. Each gift makes a huge difference!

And then pray again...

To learn more about
volunteering at Lifespring,
visit us at waysidecross.org



Photographer - Myisha Boulware



Vision

To be a Christ-centered ministry pursuing excellence through transformed lives for God's glory.

Core Values

CHRIST-LIKENESS - We will reflect Christ's love with integrity in our thoughts, actions, ethics, and decisions.

COMPASSION - We minister to the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of a person with empathy and kindness in Jesus Christ.

COMMITMENT - We are committed to love God and our neighbors in need in accordance with the Word of God.

COLLABORATION - We partner and collaborate with like-minded churches, organizations and our internal ministries.

COMMUNITY - We are a passionate and competent Body of Christ for the betterment of our community.

Lifespring Ministry

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