

LIFESPRING MINISTRY CONNECTIONS

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

HONORING THE WOMEN IN OUR LIVES

As Mother's Day approaches, we reflect on how important mothers are to us! They sacrificially care for us and provide support that only a mother can give. Our moms at Lifespring come to us with the same hopes and expectations that you and I have. They desire their children to be safe, do well at school and find meaningful relationships in life. Sadly, past hurts and unresolved issues often mean these dreams never become a reality.



At Lifespring we want our moms to be the best they can for themselves, their children and ultimately for God! Bible studies, counseling and practical skills such as

parenting, budgeting, cooking, nutrition, computer skills and much more are offered to help heal from the past and prepare for the future.

This Mother's Day you can honor your mom in a very special way. By sending the enclosed coupon to us with a gift, you will help families become whole again. With your receipt you will receive a special card like the one pictured here to give to your mother or another woman who has impacted your life.

Thank you for caring for the families at Lifespring.

Lynda Dorsch

Lynda Dorsch
Lifespring Director



INSIDE: "A GIFT IN YOUR HONOR HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THE FAMILIES OF LIFESPRING MINISTRY, AURORA, IL."



You can make a difference in the lives of our moms at Lifespring.

SERVING OTHERS NOW

*F*rom homelessness, drugs and ungodly relationships, to a life in Christ – that’s where God has brought me.

I was homeless in 2000 with my five year old son, Joseph, and ended up coming to Lifespring Ministry. This is where my journey with Jesus began and in 2001 I turned my life over to him. The biggest thing that Lifespring taught me: that being a Christian is all about a personal relationship with God through Jesus. I got into a Bible believing church where I serve to this day.

So much has happened these past 13 years. My son is 17 now, I was married in 2003, and I now have two daughters. God has allowed my husband and me the privilege to help other women who struggle with the same things I struggled with in my past. I found out that in helping others, God helps you! We’ve been volunteering at Lifespring in any way we can by babysitting, providing transportation to those needing to get to work, doing auto repairs for some of the residents and even taking families into our home



Tina and son in 2001.

Tina and family today.

temporarily until they could get into Lifespring. Often I have the chance to talk with the women currently in the program and former residents of Lifespring and encourage them to stay true to God’s Word. We are to lift up and be builders of one another; this is what my mentor instilled in me.

II Cor 5:18 says, “And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given us the ministry of reconciliation.”

That’s what Lifespring means to me, bringing you back to life in Christ.



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.

WHAT BETTER WAY TO SHOW GOD'S LOVE

God called me to serve at Lifespring in early 2008, and it has been one of the greatest gifts I have known. Looking back on the whole of my life, I can see how God has always been preparing me for a time such as this.

Though I started in the Adopt-a-Friend Program and organized projects for Lifespring, it did not take long for me to hear God whisper that more should be offered. So, I wrote and started leading a study on perseverance two afternoons each month and started leading a Self-Esteem Bible Study two evenings a month in 2010. At that time I also started doing Phase Three's One-on-One Bible Study when the opportunity presented itself. Now almost three years have passed in which I have served in this manner, and my life knows a beauty and my journey a fruitfulness that can only be of God.



My increased time at Lifespring allows me to meet ladies as soon as they arrive and begin to encourage and pray for them. Knowing these ladies and their children is a privilege. Whatever gifts I have to offer by God's grace and provision is nothing compared to how they have blessed me in return. The opportunities to share how God works in our lives (both in times of peace or strife) as we walk through His word allows the ladies and me to experience mutual encouragement as proof that none of us are alone.

I have said before that I have learned to embrace the blissful ambiguity of the unknown concerning what better things God would have me do, and then embrace them as my own. I continue to remember to give thanks for the time, talent and treasure God provides by endeavoring to joyfully pour them out into Lifespring, as well as other areas of my life. This has become a truth of great value at my place of employment. At my last annual review in January, my supervisor and one of the owners noted how God allows my volunteer work to benefit me, which flows over into my professional work. I was told that it is a good and fruitful thing that



should be allowed to continue. Having said all this, "God is good" truly becomes an understatement.

If how God has worked in me can encourage anyone who feels the slightest call to serve at Wayside Cross Ministries, I urge you to start today. God's word is the ultimate encouragement. I offer you the following three passages of scripture that have been foundational to my service for more than a decade: John 3:16 (from where I draw nourishment for my faith); 1 John 4:4 (the means by which I persevere); 1 John 4:19 (the reason I serve at Lifespring and at work).

Jen Sheldon

2013 WALK A MILE IN MY SHOES

Over 214 walkers came out on a chilly Feb 9th morning for the seventh annual Walk a Mile in My Shoes event. This unique winter walk not only provided awareness to the community of the plight of the homeless but also brought in over \$15,000.00 for Lifespring and our Urban Youth Ministry. Thank you to all who walked, gave financially and volunteered to make this day a success!



AS ONE OF OUR SUPPORTERS AT LIFESPING, HERE'S SOMETHING YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS!

Saturday, May 18
Aurora Gardeners' Plant Sale
8 a.m. to Noon RAIN OR SHINE
Aurora Transportation Center
233 N. Broadway

Kick-off the planting season as downtown Aurora welcomes the Fox Valley Garden Club back to the Aurora Transportation Center.



Stroll through a farmer's market style sale that features over 40 vendors with an array of plants, flowers, vegetable plants, garden art and gardening-related items. Proceeds from the sale help fund local horticultural community projects.

Free admission. For more info or vendor space, visit www.foxvalleygardenclub.com

Lifespring 9th Annual Benefit Auction

There's no PLACE like HOME

Saturday, October 5, 2013
Piper's Banquets

Mark your calendar!
Watch your mailbox
for details to come!

LIFESPING NEEDS

Food items

- ◆ Canned vegetables
- ◆ Canned fruit
- ◆ Soup
- ◆ Pasta – macaroni, rice, spaghetti
- ◆ Sugar
- ◆ Flour
- ◆ Breakfast Cereals
- ◆ Spices
- ◆ Walmart gift cards

Dormitory Needs

- ◆ Children's vitamins
- ◆ Adult vitamins
- ◆ Fish oil supplements
- ◆ Antibacterial cream for cuts and scrapes
- ◆ Exercise mats for exercise classes
- ◆ Bathroom hand towels
- ◆ Scrubbing brush for washing dishes
- ◆ Baby wipes
- ◆ Feminine pads
- ◆ Toilet paper – 1 ply please



Lifespring Ministry, a Division of WCM, is located at 517 College Avenue, Aurora, Illinois 60505
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