

**Good  
Samaritan  
Home**

# New Beginnings

**Volume 10 Issue 1**

**July 2011**

## **GSH expanding!**

It's been a tough year for us. The Greenville City Council again tried to shut down our reentry housing program. But not only are we still doing ministry to ex-offenders in Greenville, but we have expanded our housing in two neighboring counties.

When the Ohio Dept. of Rehabilitation and Correction asked for more reentry houses in the Dayton region, in an act of faith, dipping into our emergency funds, **we purchased another house in Sidney that will now DOUBLE our number of beds.**

*There is no sliding scale of grace.  
In God's eyes, everyone deserves  
a second chance.*

**we purchased a 4-unit apartment building in the heart of the city. This will double again our outreach to ex-offenders needing housing and support.**



Why? We did this because the need for this type of ministry is overwhelming. But more important, we did this because, at root, this issue is about the moral and spiritual right of every person to have a second chance. **It is about GRACE.**

That is the basis of our legal system and, more important, it is the foundation of our faith.

**Helping hurting people, regardless of what sin they may have committed, is what the Church is commanded to do.**

Nonetheless, with all the criticism, rejection, and especially legal costs, at times we were discouraged. At times we were beaten down. At times we were even threatened—sometimes requiring police protection for us at city council meetings.

But we never quit trusting God to deliver us – and we never stopped moving ahead with our ministry to the “least of these” that Jesus said we are to serve if we take our faith seriously.

**We are focused simply on doing God's will, whether it is remodeling a deteriorating building, offering shelter to a homeless person or giving an ex-offender a chance to make something of his broken life.**

Doing God's will is often difficult. It is often unpopular—and the barriers can seem impossible. But Jesus said, **“I am with you always, even unto the end of the earth.”** With your support and prayer, we live that every day in this ministry.



Then two months later we were asked again to add more beds, but this time in Dayton. So again, in radical faith and commitment, this time draining our emergency funds,



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HOME**

*Welcoming the Stranger*

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## We need your help in practical ways

A house is not a home without all the furnishings that make it livable—and we need EVERYTHING for these two houses.

- 4 Couches
- 4 Loveseats
- 10 Chairs
- 4 Round dining tables/ chairs
- 20 single beds
- 16 dressers
- 3 electric stoves
- 3 refrigerators
- 8 coffee pots
- 8 microwave ovens
- 10 floor lamps
- 10 table lamps
- 12 rugs both 5x7 / 8x10

- 40 blankets
- 40 twin sheet sets
- 20 pillows
- 40 towels / wash cloths
- 10 sets kitchenware
- 10 sets dishes
- 10 set pots/pans
- Coffee mugs
- 10 sets drinking glasses
- 10 can openers
- Salt/pepper shakers / various kitchen tools
- 10 toilet bowls brushes
- 20 waste baskets
- Both large / small

## Long-time friend missed

From the beginning, our ministry has created a political tsunami in the community, with petitions to the city council, protest letters to the newspapers, reporters and television cameras parked on our porch for months.

In the midst of this firestorm of controversy, Kathleen Harley – who was 83 at the time and well past retirement age - appeared on our porch and said, *“Anyone who creates this much controversy must be doing something right, and I want to be involved.”*

That speaks volumes about her personality – and her faith.

And she defined faith as showing God’s love through acts of kindness and mercy. Paraphrasing St. Francis,

*“Where there is coldness, let me bring blankets. Where there is a dirty shelter, let me offer you a clean bathroom. Where there is loneliness, let me listen to you and make you feel welcome even though you may have committed a terrible crime in your past.”*



This sort of faith is personal, involved, in the trenches where people are hurting the most. It’s an emergency room sort of faith that says, *“I don’t care what got you here. I don’t care what you have done. I just want to help you heal.”*

But there was another side to Kathleen’s compassion. There was a shaft of tempered steel that supported her faith, that gave her the strength to speak truth to power.

At the height of the “summer of hatred”

last year, I remember Kathleen attending city council meetings – and sitting right up front, arms folded and frowning in extreme disapproval at the council members as only a grandmother can.

I would address council with research data clearly proving the proposed ordinance was a bad for the community, but Kathleen sitting boldly in the front row, spoke more about the meaning of social justice and absolutely about faith in action than anything I ever could say with my research data.

After five years on our board and nine years of friendship and support, Kathleen died in June at 92. And right to the end she was talking about new ways to help our ministry.

We will deeply miss her – but we know she is still speaking up for us, this time in heaven.