



A Place of Refuge Ministries of South Wisconsin, Inc.

Quarterly Newsletter — Winter 2014

P.O. Box 240695

Milwaukee, WI 53224-9020

Phone (414) 438-APOR (2767)

E-mail aplaceofrefuge@aol.com

Website aporonline.org

JOIN US FOR A PLACE OF REFUGE MINISTRIES ANNUAL MEETING & MORTGAGE BURNING CELEBRATION!

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2014

ANNUAL MEETING 4:00 pm

Mortgage burning to follow

DINNER 5:00 pm

Brookfield Lutheran Church

18500 W. Burleigh

Brookfield, WI

Please RSVP at 414-438-2767 or aplaceofrefuge@aol.com
to help us plan for the meal.

From the Chairman

In 1999, A Place of Refuge was only six years old. Our Advocacy ministry had already grown rapidly and our Advocates were struggling to keep up with demand. But by far their biggest struggle was the growing problem of homelessness among pregnant women and their children. Most of the crisis pregnancy homes that had been in the area at the time we began our ministry had shut down. Our advocates were beginning to take women into their homes to get them off the streets. We knew something had to be done. And we knew that the "something" would require a HUGE leap of FAITH.

In October 1999, God presented A Place of Refuge Ministries with an opportunity to take such a leap by providing a temporary home for homeless mothers. Because the purchase of such a home presented new and significant financial and legal challenges, it was necessary to set up A Place of Refuge as a separately incorporated nonprofit organization with 501(c) 3 status.

On August 5, 2000, Refuge House was dedicated to the glory of God. Then following the hiring of a house manager, Refuge House welcomed its first guest on September 1, 2000. The first baby born to one of our residents arrived on September 9.

What a joy and blessing to be able to offer an extended care shelter where a family atmosphere can be enjoyed, preparation for independent living takes place, and most importantly, where God's love has been shared with women and children for almost 14 years. And what a joy and blessing you are!

Thank you to all the countless volunteers who have spent hours taking care of Refuge House throughout the years.

Thank you to our many generous APOR donors. Your gifts and response to this year's **Christmas Appeal** have enabled us to:

PAY OFF OUR MORTGAGE!

May the Lord continue to bless the work of Refuge House, those we serve, and all of you who support this loving ministry. I hope that you can all join us for the Refuge House mortgage burning on February 23, 2014.

In the name of the Lord of Life.

Pastor David Paape
APOR Board Chairman

Advocacy News

As always, winter is a very busy time for our volunteer advocates. In the last few months, 25 families have been added to our network of support..

Moms and their families were blessed with Thanksgiving and Christmas meals. Thanks to our generous donors and advocates, Santa arrived at the houses of many families in need as well. Our second set of twins has been born and more baptisms have taken place.



As ALWAYS, more advocates are NEEDED. Please consider joining us in this wonderful work and put your pro-life beliefs into direct action helping women in need. We'd love to see YOU in a picture like this.

For more information, please contact Liz Chizek at eichizek@gmail.com.

FROM REFUGE HOUSE...

We wish everyone a Happy New Year from the staff and residents at the Refuge House. All the residents had a wonderful Christmas together at the Refuge House. Lunch was provided by Andrew and Mary on Christmas day. We thank them for their time on a very special day. Ronne made a dinner of turkey, dressing and the trimmings for Christmas dinner. Wonderful gifts and gift cards were given to the moms and their children for Christmas. Thank you so much for your generosity.

Pastor Paape has taught Good News class for several Sundays at the Refuge House and additional Pastors from our Board of Directors participate once a month as well. In addition, the residents stay for Bible Study after service each Sunday. Thank you, Pastor

Paape for arranging the Bible study and each Pastor for participating.

Refuge House is currently full and we have moms on a waiting list. The need is always great. We have been blessed with the births of many babies at Refuge House. The most recent, a 6 lb 5 oz little girl born on January 26th. Mom and baby are doing well and had an extra day to rest up at the hospital due to the extreme cold weather.

Sue and Nancy, two of the board members, have taken on the monumental job of redoing the Refuge House application. They are reducing the application from 25 to 12 pages to make things clearer and easier for our applicants. Thanks so much Sue and Nancy.

During the Polar Vortex, a water pipe burst at the rear door of the house which cut off water to our upstairs bathrooms. Jennifer called Budiak and someone was here the same day of the burst. All of the extensive repairs that were needed were finished the following week. Board member Jennifer is in the process of getting estimates for repairs to the ceiling, floor and walls because of the holes. Thanks so much Jennifer for working tirelessly to expedite repairs.

We are currently in need of the following items:

- Women's toiletries...deodorant, lotion, shampoo, etc.
- Laundry detergent, cleaning supplies, wipes for kitchen and bathroom

Please go to our website at aporonline.org for a list of food items for our house pantry. We are in immediate need of all requested food items, and thanks so much for all donations.

Thanks so very, very much to the following donors for the Christmas gifts:

Zion Lutheran Church
St. Paul Lutheran Church
St. Eugene Parish
Our Savior Lutheran Church
African Methodist Church
Amy Baxter, Mary Kay Consultant
Mini and Jessica Manasi
Tim and Beth Young Eagle
Kim Zemple
Heidi Wightman

God bless all, and remember He is faithful.

Ronne Murray,
House Manager

REGARDING THE CURRENT SITUATION WITH THRIVENT FINANCIAL:

As many of you know, Thrivent Financial became embroiled in a controversy when it was found that they had allowed the nation's largest abortion provider, Planned Parenthood, to be listed as an option in the Donor Choice program as well as giving to Planned Parenthood and NARAL (National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League) through their Corporate Financial Gift Multiplier program.

In response to the outcry from pro-life members, Thrivent has temporarily suspended the donor choice accounts of the two Planned Parenthood organizations that were designated to receive funds AND fifty-three crisis pregnancy centers that were listed as Donor Choice options as well.

Please note: A Place of Refuge Ministries has NOT been suspended. We are not certain as to why we were not included in the suspension, but we suspect it was due to our running a shelter as well as an advocacy service for moms. Regardless, you can still (at least at this time) designate your Donor Choice funds to A Place of Refuge Ministries. If you plan to do so, we recommend you do it as soon as possible.

A Place of Refuge Ministries, like the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, is carefully monitoring this situation and awaiting a final decision from Thrivent regarding their future giving decisions. We will issue further statements at that time.

A Place of Refuge Ministries **greatly** appreciates the support shown to us by many local Thrivent Chapters, their leadership and their volunteers over the years. We are praying for you all at this difficult time.

Blessed Again Resale Shop

We are frequently asked how the store is doing financially. While there has been concern in the past over financial difficulties the store has had, we are pleased to report that recent changes have created a great deal of improvement. Blessed Again is now consistently providing enough income to A Place of Refuge to make it a true blessing to the ministry...as well as to moms who shop here and to the neighborhood as a wonderful Christian witness for life. The Board of Directors has renewed our lease

Mark Your Calendars Now for LifeWalk
Saturday, June 14, 2014

Fun Family Activities & 1.5 mile walk

Time: 9:00 a.m. Coffee & Snacks, Children's Activities & Registration
10:30 a.m. Walk Begins
Lunch for Participants Following the Walk

Host Location:
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
7821 W. Lincoln Ave.
West Allis, WI

To register for the walk & obtain a sponsor sheet call 414-438-2767 or visit aponline.org
Prizes for most sponsors & most sponsor money collected

and we continue to be grateful to our volunteers, donors and shoppers for making this happen.

If you haven't been to the store in a while, please stop in again and see all the wonderful changes. Donations drop in winter so we do have room for some additional larger items....especially furniture.

And we can always use additional volunteers. We have a wonderful group that truly enjoys working together and we would love to have you join us. Call Maribel or myself at 414-464-9099 for more information.

God's Blessings,
Betty

Blessed Again Resale Shop
7624 W. Hampton Ave.
Milwaukee, WI

Memorials and Honorariums

FROM:

Diana Lund
Delores Weiss
John Veldey
Pete & Lois Roller
Michelle Scharenbruch
Geraldine Hoffmeier
Christy Groskreutz
Terry King & Margaret King
Mary Steinbrenner
Carol L. Dummer
George & Sandy Dengel
Claudia Zarnoth

IN MEMORY OF:

Allan Lund, husband
Nancy Sharpe
Jeannette Veldey
Imgard Pipkorn
Isabelle Brandt
Arthur C. Hoffmeier
Sue Olsen
Michael Loushin
Sarah Jane Natzke
Duane H. Dummer
Doug Dengel
Art Zarnoth

Memorials and Honorariums, *con't.*

FROM:

Clarence Puranen
Larry A. Hauser
Doris Camann
Harriet Pedersen

Dan & Cindie Zehnder
Rev. Mark Wangerin

Dr. Glenn Kraft
Flo Meissner
Daniel & Eunice Szpiszar
Carolyn Freiberg
David Brandt
Rev. William E. Fischer

FROM:

Kim Kostuch

IN MEMORY OF:

Kate Puranen
Evelyn J. Hauser
Pastor Frank Camann
Marguerite & Lester
Pedersen
Our 3 babies
Norman & Kathryn
Wangerin
Sharron Kraft
John Meissner
Walter Dobberfuhr
Ewald & Susan Timm
Lois Brandt
Elsa D. Fischer, wife

IN HONOR OF:

Jesus

Michelle Scharenbruch
Bob & Marlene Brueckner
Sharon Stehli

Wes & Janet Block

Paula & Keith Ott
Sherry Voight

Karen Ninnemann
F. John & Carol Evert
Miriam Berner

Ada Lowe
Andrew & Brenda Vechart
Rev. Edwin Suefflow

Vicki Rick

Phyllis Landry
Pastor Dave Paape
Thanks offering for family
& friends
Ellie & Jerry Maynard 50th
Wedding Anniv.
The gift of Life
My wonderful mom & my
husband's wonderful mom
Connie Nelson
Pastor David Paape
Joanne Fairchild 80th
Birthday
Rev. Dave & Barb Paape
Geraldine Vechart
Fritz & Robin Theilacker
wedding
Joe & Phyllis Budiack,
Caroline Budiack, Rudy &
Pam Budiack, George
Zilka, Steve Budiack,
Duane & Cathy Rick,



A Place of Refuge Ministries
of South Wisconsin, Inc.
P.O. Box 240695
Milwaukee, WI 53224-9020

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Milwaukee, WI
PERMIT NO. 1



***A Place of Refuge Ministries
of South Wisconsin, Inc.***

A Network of Caring People ~ A Caring Place

P.O. Box 240695
Milwaukee, WI 53224-9020

Phone (414) 438-APOR (2767)
E-mail aplaceofrefuge@aol.com

**Help Line for Pregnant Women
(414) 476-6333**

