

592 S MAIN ST LIMA , OHIO

GUIDING LIGHT

LOVING KINDNESS

QUARTERLY UPDATE

SPRING 2016

Many still do not know what Guiding Light offers. Let me share with you who we are:

SUMMARY OF HOW GUIDING LIGHT FUNCTIONS:

Truth for Youth dba Guiding Light Ministries is a 501©3 Non-Profit Organization. It is a faith-based organization currently housing women who need help becoming self-sufficient. Within the housing units, there is a Life Skills Program to allow for training and growth on how to manage a home efficiently.

We currently have 3 homes designated for such purposes. The first is the **Guiding Light Home**. It serves pregnant women and young mothers with children as priority. Second, **Resting Place** is a Life Coaching and Residential Center for women. The **Light House** is a transitional house for women who are in recovery and need assistance with Life Skills Training.

Each house will have a Faith Based Approach. Every Sunday, ladies from the homes attend church. This is voluntary but highly recommended at the Light House. Each lady will be required to meet Monday through Friday at 8 am for Therapeutic Morning Group. This helps with team building and assists with making the day more productive. It allows for staff to understand what each lady has on her agenda and how we can assist. Each resident will be required to attend a cooking class, sewing class and Wednesday night Support Group called "Girl Talk". They also attend a Bible Study. This too is voluntary but highly recommended at the Light House. They are encouraged to seek further education outside of home as well as counseling.

There is an Emergency Shelter option available for all residents that allows them not to participate in classes. They will continue to complete chores, dinner night and on laundry schedule but are there temporarily until housing is available. There is a different fee for such needs.

The program has been found to be effective for women who are serious about getting on their feet. Aside from having to follow rules and assist with household duties, women who have goals and achieve them, have a higher level of healing, recovery and better ability to function as a productive citizen in society. Interviews are done to determine if the lady is willing to follow through with requirements and to achieve their highest potential.

Julianne Frankhouser Guiding Light Director

We are getting ready for the 2016 "***Evening of Inspiration***" for Guiding Light Ministries. The ladies have the opportunity to share their story as well as how God is changing their lives one day at a time. They will speak of how their lives have been touched through our housing program. Please plan to attend this wonderful event this fall, as more details will be provided very soon!

CONTACT INFORMATION:

We run all business through our 592 S Main St location in Lima, Ohio

Business Line: **567.289.5724**

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GUIDING LIGHT MINISTRIES CONTINUES TO PROVIDE A LIFE SKILLS PROGRAM THAT AIMS TO MEET A VARIETY OF NEEDS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY. WE ALSO RECEIVE CLIENTS FROM MANY SURROUNDING COUNTIES.

WE ARE OPEN TO ASSISTING ANY AGENCY THAT SENDS US REFERRALS. WE UNDERSTAND THE VALUE AND NECESSITY OF COLLABORATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES.

Needs List

- Plastic bins with lids for storage.
- Kitchen tools and utensils (can openers, pots and pans, silverware sets, dish sets, etc.)
- Kitchen appliances (microwave, crock-pot, etc.)
- Baby items for care-packages for pregnant mom (baby wipes, baby lotion, soap, towels, etc.)
- New or gently used large baby items (car seats, booster seats, etc.)

This list was created by one of our current residents, Krista.

AMANDA'S STORY

As I think back, my life started going downhill as early as elementary school. I was an overweight child who was bullied and made fun of, causing me to feel depressed and isolated. I was sad all of the time. I was a People Pleaser and always got good grades.

I received a scholarship for college. You would think I would be on my way to success. I started partying and drinking. This made me feel good and numbed the pain from my earlier days. I liked drinking. Unfortunately, my grades suffered so I lost my scholarship and dropped out of college. My drinking was out of control. **Alcohol took over my life.**

Alcohol has caused me a lot of pain disappointments. I now have 5 DUIs on my record and have been to jail. I have been to rehab centers and nothing has worked. I was court ordered to wear an ankle bracelet, take classes and get treatment. Those things forced me to live in reality.

I really believe it was **God working on my behalf** when I almost gave up trying to find a place to go. I prayed one night and Julianne Frankhouser called me the next day to tell me she had an opening at Guiding Light.

Since being there I have been able to attend consistent AA meetings, go to classes, start on medication to help me and do what the court has required of me. **Guiding Light gave me time to get accustomed to my new life and structure.** The staff has been supportive. I was determined to do what I needed to do. I really was fearful of relapsing so I was grateful for the ankle monitor.

I am now gainfully employed and am managing my life. I am starting to find myself and enjoy life more. I see the difference in my life and continue to do all that I need to do to get it back. I have thoughts of returning to college. For now I want to seek housing and maintain my job. I have also been building a healthy relationship with my family members to regain trust and support.

I am happy to be at Guiding Light. I will be the first to admit I had a problem but know there is always **HOPE** even when you feel like giving up. In less than six months I can see my life taking a positive turn for the good.

Friends & Supporters:

Please keep Guiding Light in your prayers. It is prayer that changes things and is the most powerful key to the sustainability of our ministry. We continue to live by Faith. We operate by donations only and are grateful for everyone who has donated over the years to help us meet the needs of the community.

We have provided some statistics on the following page for your review.

STATISTICS: These are the statistics gathered from opening April 1 2013 through March 18 2016 2016.

16 women in recovery from drugs and/or alcohol (includes pregnant women).

10 domestic violence survivors.

4 clients with a history of human trafficking

100% of all residents; voice one or more of the following:

- Growing up in a single-parent home.
- Having a tumultuous relationship with their mother.
- Suffering from the absence of their mother.
- Suffering from the absence of their biological father or any father figure.

We have assisted a total of 73 women from the ages of 15-71 since our opening. This count includes one-night stays up to several-month residencies.

29 pregnant women from ages 16 to 35.

1 lost pregnancy during residency.

37 Clients had their child(ren) residing with them during their stay.

26 unwed mothers from ages 17-43

13 mothers who did not have custody of their children

Of these, 2 mothers gained custody while living at Guiding Light

3 women ages 55-71 have received short-term assistance due to abandonment or a breakdown in familial support.

Of these, all were able to obtain their own apartment.

42 clients who smoked cigarettes (pregnant or not).

5 court-mandated clients, remaining clients were voluntary.

16 Teenagers including 19 years and younger

Of these, 10 were pregnant.

1 Teenager supported during day hours only.

9 minor clients.

5 clients receiving Social Security or Disability benefits.

26 African Americans

44 Caucasian

3 Latino or Spanish background

18 clients enrolled in G.E.D. classes while residing at Guiding Light.

10 clients continued working towards their high school diploma while residing at Guiding Light.

2 enrolled in college before arrival

The remaining clients already had their diploma or G.E.D., and were encouraged to pursue further education, skill training, certification, etc.

40 residents were able to find employment while residing at one of Guiding Light Ministries homes. All residents are required to search for employment opportunities during their residency.

Those that are pregnant may not have been able to obtain employment and left right before child was born or right after.