



Sharing Hope Ministry

# Sharing Hope N • E • W • S

**JULY 2007**

**ISSUE NO. 42**

—PHONE NUMBER—

Sharing Hope Ministry  
358-7803

—ADDRESS—

P.O. Box 19985  
Amarillo, Texas 79114

—WEBSITE—

www.sharinghopeministry.org

—STAFF—

April Riggs, Executive Director  
april@sharinghopeministry.org

Leigh Link, Secretary  
leigh@sharinghopeministry.org

—STATISTICS—

Total *Life Recovery Bibles* Distributed:  
**42,242**

Total Bible Study Workbooks Distributed:  
**20,931**

—VOLUNTEERS—

Pen Pal Volunteers: **16**

Office Volunteers: **37**

Prayer Group Volunteers: **4**

Stepping Stones Volunteers: **5**

Visitation Team Volunteers: **10**

Teaching Team Volunteers: **10**

—BOARD OF DIRECTORS—

Brenda Blakley, President

Sammye Stark, Vice President

Connie Hodges, Secretary

Chris Brady

Jim Burgess

Brenda Burns

Shirley Daniel

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George Snell

Vonnie White



## Patsy's Place

Transitional Home

### *A New Way of Life*

Patsy Britting was one of the driving forces behind Sharing Hope when the ministry was first established in 1999. Patsy was passionate about witnessing to incarcerated women in our area and reflected God's love through her actions. Patsy and many other dedicated volunteers visited inmates regularly and provided services to the women in Potter and Randall County Jails as well as sent Bibles and study material. Patsy dreamed that one day additional support would be available to assist these women once they returned to our community. In 2006, Sharing Hope established a benevolence fund in honor of Patsy's work and dreams, for the purpose of providing emergency assistance to qualifying ex-offenders who endure extenuating circumstances on their way to establishing a new life, free of the negative influences of previous social structures. Our hope was that this fund would eventually assist us in establishing a transitional home.



Sharing Hope Ministry has now begun plans to provide a transitional house in Amarillo for recently released women who are returning to our community. Our goal is to provide a safe and stable Christian environment for women who have been active with Sharing Hope while incarcerated and have shown a desire to change their lives through a relationship with Christ. For the women who reside at Patsy's Place, they will learn a new way of life. In addition to Bible studies, the women will have classes on job training, interviewing, financial planning, budgeting, parenting, health and nutrition, other life skills and cognitive thinking. The program at Patsy's Place will provide participants with the skills, support and self-esteem necessary to re-enter our communities as competitive workers able to live independently, clean and sober.

### *Why is Patsy's Place Needed?*

*The Texas Department of Criminal Justice reports that without any assistance, nearly 80% of women will re-offend within 18 months of their release. However, if these women receive and participate in a faith-based program while incarcerated and in a faith-based aftercare program upon release, the recidivism rate has been reported to be as low as 38%.*

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**graphicdesigns**  
by kim

806-622-8399

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# Patsy's Place

Transitional Home

The incarcerated woman is typically a single mother, with little education and few job skills. Often times, she is recovering from an addiction and her incarceration is a direct result of her chemical dependency. Over half of the women in prison have suffered from either physical or sexual abuse, which in most cases occurred when they were children. Upon release from prison, these women may struggle to find a stable home that they can return to as they begin transitioning back into the community. Most released women are classified by the government as homeless as many need immediate assistance with shelter. Unfortunately, most of these women are released back into a community where they are ill-equipped to start a life free from drugs and crime. Statistics show that these women will return to crime if they cannot cope any other way.

*I start my day running for my drug testing. Then I go see my children, show up for my training program, look for a job, go to a meeting (AA), and show up at my part time job. I have to take the bus everywhere, sometimes eight buses for four hours a day. If I fail any one of these things and my Parole Officer finds out, I am revoked. I am so tired that sometimes I fall asleep on my way home from work at 2 a.m. I don't mind working hard... that's part of my recovery. But this is a situation that is setting me up to fail. ~a 26 year old woman*

There are many obstacles that normally face a released woman who is often overwhelmed with the basics. She must find adequate housing, a job, work to regain custody of her children, and participate in required treatment groups. The demands on these newly released women are immense. For many women this is done without the positive support of friends or family. The conditions surrounding them have not been resolved and in many cases are worse than before. These women have not received services to address underlying problems or to assist them in making changes. With no other support, many times the released woman will return to an abusive relationship and to her addictions as the only recourse to meet her financial obligations and to mask her physical and emotional pain.

Sharing Hope Ministry, Inc. has seen the growing need for aftercare for women who are released from incarceration and who return to our community. Our goal is to provide a transitional shelter located in Amarillo to provide a safe, stable, Christian environment. This will reduce criminal recidivism and alleviate chronic homelessness by providing both short-term and long-term housing, establishing mentoring relationships, equipping women with life skills, and assisting clients in securing stable employment to help them become self-supporting.

Many ex-offenders have already made the internal changes through establishing a relationship with God and truly desire to become a new person through Him. However, even those with the deepest commitment will endure the hardships of being released into a failing system. Sharing Hope Ministry's goal is to give women the resources to live a positive and productive life through Christ.

## Be a Part of Patsy's Place

Prayer – email [leigh@sharinghopeministry.org](mailto:leigh@sharinghopeministry.org) to be placed on the prayer team. Prayer requests and praises will be sent by email each month.

### Current prayer requests are:

- That the right location for this house will be found.
- For the design of the program
- For the grants and financial support needed to purchase the home

### Praise!

- Sharing Hope Ministry has secured operating funds to cover the first year's cost of running Patsy's Place.

### Immediate Needs

- Funding for the purchase of a home for seven to ten women and staff members.
- A passenger van

### Future Needs

- New or “gently used” furniture and appliances for the house
- Bible study teachers
- Continuing Education teachers – financial planning, auto maintenance, or any basic skills.
- Additional Stepping Stones volunteers who are willing to complete training to provide Christian encouragement as these women progress through our program.

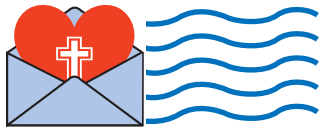
## Give a Hand, Buy a Foot

### Show a Woman a New Way to Live

Now there are several ways to show a hurting woman a new way to live in Christ. It's as easy as providing a piece of the house that will be the safe and stable Christian environment as she starts learning a new way to live, or by providing the *Life Recovery Bible* to incarcerated women.

With our “**Give a Hand, Buy a Foot**” program, you can help us provide Patsy's Place piece by piece. \$50.00 will purchase a square foot of property that will provide a loving Christian home for these women who desire to re-enter our community as Godly and productive members. All donors will be acknowledged on a permanent display. Individuals or groups may wish to purchase an entire room for the house in their name or in honor of a loved one. Please feel free to contact the Sharing Hope office for more information about how you can be a founding member of the program that can change our community.

We've made giving even easier. Use the optional Bank Draft Authorization form and each month your designated donation will be deducted from your account without the effort of writing and mailing a check.



Sharing Hope Ministry, Inc.

P.O. Box 19985 • Amarillo, TX 79114

# DONOR CARD

I want to be a part of showing hurting women  
a new way to live in Christ

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Give a hand, Buy a Foot:**  I want to provide a piece of Patsy's Place – \$50.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ feet = \$\_\_\_\_\_.

I would like to provide the Life Recovery Bible (\$15.00) to incarcerated women or women in rehabilitation facilities – \$15.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ women = \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Draft my bank account each month for this amount \$\_\_\_\_\_.  
(Please complete the bank draft authorization below.)

### BANK DRAFT AUTHORIZATION

I authorize Sharing Hope Ministry to initiate debit entries to my checking account named below.

(You may attach a canceled check or deposit form in lieu of filling out the bank information requested below, but your signature is still required.)

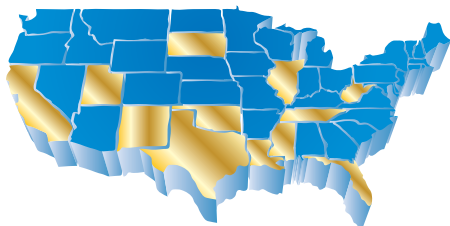
Depository Name \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Transit/ABA No. \_\_\_\_\_ Account No. \_\_\_\_\_

This authority remains in full force and effect until Sharing Hope Ministry receives written notification from me of its termination in such time and in such manner as to afford Sharing Hope Ministry a reasonable opportunity to act on it.

Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_



## EXPANDING OUR BORDERS!

Sharing Hope Ministry welcomes South Dakota and West Virginia to our area of service. Correctional facilities from these two states have been approved to receive Sharing Hope Ministry services. We are now providing the Life Recovery Bible and studies to women in twelve states!

Our expansion is possible through those who support Sharing Hope financially, and by the volunteers that give their time to send each woman a Life Recovery Bible, studies and Christian words of encouragement.

## TICKETS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR THE SHARING HOPE QUILT

The Sharing Hope Quilt is finished and ready for display. Donations of \$2.00 each or 6 tickets for \$10.00 will give you a chance to win this fabulous quilt.



The quilt was assembled by five very talented volunteers, Bonnie Green, Carolyn Holmes, Linda Stafford, Carolyn Williams and Annette Watkins. We also want to thank Janice Johnson for providing some of the supplies. This quilt is a stunning Christmas themed quilt with many special touches like appliqué and embellishments.

Tickets are available through the office and we are asking our volunteers to help sell tickets to friends, family, church and business associates. Come by the office to pick up tickets and a picture of the quilt.

## Christmas in October Sponsors

This year, Sharing Hope Ministry is attempting to find area businesses and/or individuals to underwrite the fundraising costs associated with the "Christmas in October" Gift and Craft Show. Our goal is that all proceeds from this event will be available to allow the ministry to distribute the Life Recovery Bible and study materials to incarcerated women and women in recovery. A sponsor packet is available upon request to anyone interested in sponsoring this event. Please contact the office at 358-7803 or co-chair, Wanda DeVoll at 674-7156, with any questions.



# Christmas in October



*Christmas in October is scheduled for October 6th and 7th at the South Exhibit Hall of the Civic Center. We still have booth spaces available to area crafters or businesses.*

There will be many volunteer opportunities and we would love for you to call the Sharing Hope office at 358-7803 and let us know where you would like to serve. We are looking for volunteers in the following areas:

- Sponsors to underwrite a portion of the fundraising costs.
- Workers to help during the event
- Volunteers to provide food for the Bake Sale
- Volunteers to help make bows before the event
- Fluffer's and Foofer's to work displays for the bake sale
- Sharing Hope booth volunteers
- Provide Christmas or Fall containers, clear cellophane, decorations and ribbons for the Bake Sale
- Be on a team that distributes posters in area businesses
- Wood-workers who can assemble 3-5 sandwich type boards to be used for advertising in and around the Civic Center.



P.O. Box 19985  
Amarillo, Texas 79114

Non Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Amarillo, Texas  
Permit No. 237

## Sharing Hope Supporters - April-May 2007

Sharon Albracht  
Mike and Darla Andrew  
Ambassador's Class  
Anonymous  
Larry and Susan Bailey  
Scott and Alicia Bailey  
Letha Banks  
Jerold & Karlana Barry  
Donna Bishop  
John Blakley  
Church of the Living God  
Keith & Frances Clark  
Lezlie Cooper  
Shannon Cornell  
Larry & Delores Cross  
Paul and Linda Endres  
Faith City Mission  
Fisherman Class  
Bob and Connie Garrett  
Michael Graham  
Hillside Christian Church  
Jack & Susan Hicks  
Gary & Patty Humphrey  
Jeff's Greenhouse  
Ken & Janice Johnson  
Jeannie Kuhlman

Keith & Betty Labus  
Lamplighters Class  
Penny Lawlis  
Leigh Link  
Elizabeth Maddox  
Margaret Moore  
New Beginnings  
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Stout Gold & Silver  
The Almost Everyday Cafe  
John & Diane Tolk  
Debra Tomes  
Douglas Toulouse  
Westcliff Bible Church  
Elnore Wheeler  
Kin and Vonnie White  
Marvin and Wilda Willis  
Mickey and Judy Wilson

Women of Grace  
**IN MEMORY OF:**  
**Charles Stafford**  
by Keith & Darla Banks  
by Sandy Blacksten  
by John & Brenda Blakley  
by Kay Cleaver  
by Milfred & Billie Davis  
by Gary & J'Melle Fletcher  
by Bev & Marge Gambrel  
by Bob & Connie Garrett  
by Evanelle Hart  
by M/M John Hart  
by Earl & Carolyn Holmes  
by Louise Hudson  
by Ken & Janice Johnson  
by Dr. & Mrs. Maurice Mann  
by Penny Mann  
by Jack & Peggy Martin  
by Donna McClure  
by Sue Offill

by Lewis & Birdie Palmer  
by Douglas & Jackye Perkins  
by Michael & Anne Powell  
by Jimmy Rigdon  
by Claudia Sams  
by Fairy Smith  
by Jerry & Barbara Smith  
by Byron & Earlene Stiles  
by Paul & Sharon Stradley  
by June Wilson  
by Pat & Patsy Winfrey

**Eldon Swift**  
by Ken & Janice Johnson

**Velma Webb**  
by Gary & J'Melle Fletcher

**IN HONOR OF:**  
**Aurene Bevers**  
by Mrs. Kay Stargel

### HELP NEEDED

A volunteer with a strong back is needed. We need someone who can carry the boxes of Bibles from the garage to our workroom and then stock our shelves. The shelves need to be stocked about every two to three weeks. Give us a call if you can help