

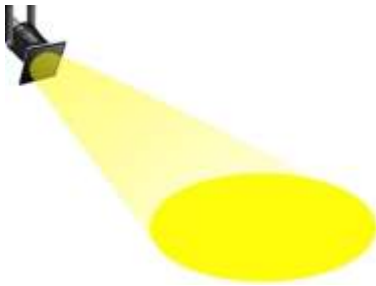
ESTHER HOUSE REENTRY, INC. NEWSLETTER (#5)

MARCH 2019



We've been quite busy since we've written to you last and once again the time is just flying by. On November 1st we celebrated our one year anniversary of purchasing the Esther House. It was hard to believe that a year had already gone by – the renovations were behind us – the program had been tested and women had been welcomed. We learned many lessons along the way. Since then we have analyzed each step along the way and made adjustments to our program and policies which we believe have enhanced our ability to fulfill His plans for His Ministry.

Our enhanced program has been underway since the beginning of the year. We have received positive feedback from our clients, facilitators and counselors. Additionally, those we work with in the Reentry field have had nothing but good things to say and one group in particular is quoted as saying, "It is the best I have ever seen and I've seen a lot of programs!" Our clients are telling us that they are actually enjoying the structure and the content. They remind us that being idle is their enemy so they are enjoying the homework from the morning and afternoon classes, along with the daily recovery meetings. So while we know we still have a lot of work to do to fine tune and test our changes, it is nice to hear recognition and confidence from those in the Correctional Ministry field who specialize in Reentry and from our clients who are benefiting from the changes.



Who Is In Our Spotlight???

Our partners in the Reentry field which include: Sumter County Detention Center Reentry who has assisted in vetting potential clients, distributing our application, setting up interviews and assisting during the release process thereby reducing the wait time during pickup; Inside Out Jail Ministries in Orlando who volunteer their time and have assisted us by vetting potential clients and distributing our application, scheduling teleconferences to communicate with and interview potential clients in the 33rd Street Jail, facilitating delivery of offer letters to those in the Judicial System and providing door-to-door transportation for released clients; the Mentors in the Sumter, Lake and Orange County Detention Centers who volunteer their time each week with incarcerated women encouraging them to stay grounded in their Christian faith and facilitating classes while awaiting court dates and release; Florida Department of Corrections (Probation) in Tavares and Leesburg, and the Judges, States Attorneys, private Attorneys and Public Defenders we have had the opportunity to work with over the past several months.

As of this writing we have five Esther Women occupying the house. Well, perhaps I should clarify that . . . we actually have three who are attending daily morning / afternoon classes – doing homework, attending one-on-one counseling – attending daily AA / NA meetings, weekly Bible Study and Church – doing household chores and even having a little fun along the way. And then . . . there are our two four-legged furry ones – our Esther Kitties, Esther Louise and Ellie Blue who are growing up. They have given us countless hours of joy and laughter. They truly are "therapy pets". On their end (no pun intended) they have experienced their Veterinarian visits with poking, prodding, shots, flea treatments and becoming legal (obtaining their licenses). They underwent their "female surgeries" to ensure we don't have any additional kitties joining the household unexpectedly 😊 and became

"cone heads" while their stitches healed. As you can imagine that was quite a chore keeping their cones on once they figured out how to get them off. The Esther Women were very loving and nurturing during Kitty recovery time by attending to their every need.



We asked . . . He called . . . You answered. We continue to be blessed by so many. This newsletter we give a warm thank you and shout out to our donors over the last two quarters:

Acquisition and Distribution Diva, Amazon Smile, Beyond The Wall Food Pantry, Calvary Chapel Villages, CUMC United Methodist Women, CUMC UMW Rebecca Circle, Episcopal Church Women, Facebook – Network for Good, Faith Presbyterian Church, Hope Lutheran – Women of Hope, Karing Krafters of St. Timothy’s Catholic Church, Residents Encounter Christ, NCUMC Helping Hands, Sacred Fire Ministries, St. Timothy’s Catholic Church and Demshar’s Restaurant, St. Vincent de Paul Food Society of St. Timothy’s Catholic Church, The Gap - Be What’s Possible, and countless individuals as they donated food, provisions, clothing, and money. Again, thank you to our volunteers who have provided thousands of hours of service and transportation since our first Esther Woman walked through our doors.

You can visit us at <https://estherhouseentry.weebly.com/> Donations may be made to Esther House Reentry, Inc., P.O. Box 682, Fruitland Park, FL 34731. Please continue to keep us in your prayers.

Blessings and love . . .
Judi Courter, Executive Director