

# ESTHER HOUSE REENTRY, INC. NEWSLETTER (#6)

## JUNE 2019

Each quarter I start off with how busy we have been since our last newsletter . . . well, this time is no different. When I reflect back on each three months it always amazes me at how much has been accomplished and how much growth we observe. As you can see on the left, we have had many



milestones in addiction recovery by celebrating first days – 30 days – 60 days and 90 days – from both alcohol and drug addiction. Our Esther Women are now welcoming and encouraging newcomers, sharing their stories and serving others in the meetings. We handed out Certificates of Completion for some of our classes and have made tremendous progress on the rest. Our coping classes are opening the wounds of the past and our Lord, along with our counselors, are healing those wounds and deep hurts. Weekly visits by Pastor Steve and Roz, Christian Maturity class, Bible studies and Sunday church are revealing a deeper understanding of the Word. He is working wonders here!!! This is just a snapshot of what keeps them busy from 6:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. each day.

April was packed with joy! It began with a surprise birthday party for one of our Esther Women during our Bible study at CUMC. A few days later we spent the day at the Holy Land Experience where they watched the Bible come alive. What a wonderful day we all had! We went non-stop and only missed one activity because we stopped for a great Mediterranean lunch.

We celebrated the one-year anniversary of the House Blessing and enjoyed looking at all the pictures from that previous event – and took a few new ones 😊



Easter was filled with starting with a HUGE with hair products and all the House Moms. It see and hear the joy as each item. But the best was the immersion took place after church

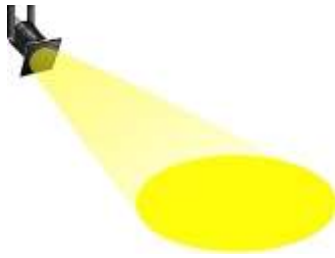


blessings basket filled goodies from was exciting to they examined part of the day baptisms that service. The

Esther Women had been fully prepared for this. Pastor Steve had been coming weekly explaining the Scriptures about baptism. Each person being baptized went into the water with full knowledge and understanding of how their life was going to change because of their decision that day. And what better day for this to take place than on Easter Sunday. Halleluiah!!!

May was a tough month with many of our House Moms heading back North or “across the pond” to return to their homes. There were special dinners prepared and tearful goodbyes with promises of writing. That left plenty of shifts to be covered by the remaining volunteers and openings for the new House Moms the Lord is calling into service. June has included tours and attendance at other local churches to thank them for their support; trips to local parks for nature walks; starting community service and jobs.

**Speaking Engagements** I've had several opportunities to continue to tell our story and promote awareness to the surrounding communities. These have included meeting with the Community Relations Representative Pam Jones, from the U.S. District Representative Daniel Webster's Office; the Spirited Singles Sunday School Class at NCUMC; the 8:00 and 10:45 services at Wahoo Baptist Church; Church Women United – Lake County; interviewed by a Master's University Student about Reentry.



**Who Is In Our Spotlight???** Did you ever ask for something and then be surprised at the depth of the response? Well, that is what has happened. When I presented to Wahoo Baptist Church Pastor Paul ended with “So what can we do for you? Of course – money – that’s always the easy answer”. My request was simple “include the Esther Women – make them feel a part of you” and “Oh yeah, I’d like that tee-shirt too!” And



that’s exactly what the Women Warriors of Wahoo have their mission to do. They have planned monthly events to the Esther Women (with enough time for us to build it into schedule). They have enjoyed a day of fun painting (see the left), made a special visit to the Esther House to get to the women, see where they live and take them out to a fun



made it include our cross on know lunch at

Stavros Pizza. Last week we were blessed with a full day retreat at Trinity Ranch where the theme was Renew, Restore, Refresh (and eat, eat, eat!!!). Oh! And BTW . . . we got the tee-shirts!!! Or should I say we each received 3 different tee-shirts!!! Thanks WWW for showing up, showing out, turning the Esther Women into Warriors and just loving on them!!!

How do you thank someone who has been there every step of the way since the beginning? Who has been available 24 x 7? Who has driven to the house at midnight and at 2:00 a.m.? Who has hugged countless shoulders, wiped away millions of tears, listened to testimonies and stories no one else has ever heard, put salve on wounds? Who has encouraged, loved on, laughed with, cried with, prayed with and taught multiple coping classes? Personally, I don’t know how. What I do know is that God has big shoes to fill for such a petite lady. You will always be a part of Esther House and always be a part of each woman whose lives you have touched. Thank you and God Bless you Dr Nan for all you have done and all you mean to us! Enjoy your “retirement”

A BIG thank you for the new kitty condo – Esther and Ellie love living in a palace. A HUGE thank you to Craig and Johnny for screening in our front porch so these kitties (a/k/a “hooligans”) don’t escape and meet nose to nose with the unleashed dogs in the neighborhood.

**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 quarter: Beyond The Wall Food Pantry, Calvary Chapel Villages, Church Women United, Community UMC, Episcopal Church Women, Faith Presbyterian Church, First Baptist Church of Wahoo, Karing Krafters of St. Timothy’s Catholic Church, Sacred Fire Ministries, St. Vincent de Paul Food Society, Women’s Warriors of Wahoo, and countless individuals as they donated food, provisions, clothing, and money. Thank you to all our volunteers for their hours of love and support.

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