

ESTHER HOUSE REENTRY, INC. NEWSLETTER (#8) DECEMBER 2019

As we close this year it is time to reflect on our blessings of this last quarter and be thankful for the entire year. We have five Esther Women (plus two female Esther felines). I'm sure you are wondering how they are doing and where are they in their recovery today. 9+ months, 8+ months, 3+ months, 1+ month + almost a month. We have been



blessed to witness the wonderful transformation that can only take place when you turn your life over to the Lord. He created us and only He can transform us. One of our ladies joined us JUST before we began our **Daniel Fast** with our church, Calvary Chapel Villages. If you don't know what that is, check out the list in this picture to the left. We enjoyed learning about ancient foods like Farro which is one of the oldest grains cultivated by humans. Our newest member at that time said, "God really does have a sense of humor! When I was in jail, I would have given ANYTHING

for fresh veggies and fruit – now that's all I am eating – HA!" Well, it was a wonderful experience. We ate very healthy over the 21-day fast and we grew in our relationship with the Lord – just as Daniel did (see Daniel 10:2-3)

HERE WE GROW . . . Our ladies have been on a growing spurt – by acquiring coping skills and tools as the Lord transforms their lives (2 Corinthians 3:18) – growing in their recovery through daily meetings, meeting with sponsors, working their steps and developing Relapse Action Plans (Romans 12:2) – giving back to their community by providing more than 125 hours of community and volunteer service to "the least of us" (Matthew 25:40) – growing in faith as a believer and follower of Jesus Christ, while attending weekly Bible studies, attending worship service – growing in academia by attending Lake Tech College and completing 3 out of 4 GED tests (language, history and science), preparing to start at UCF in January, reinstating a cosmetology license, joining the workforce, being nominated and selected to the National Adult Education Honor Society – reuniting with family –



learning to submit by allowing Lord to lead and guide them into their future, developing Aftercare Plans (Jeremiah 29:11) – some learning to



develop weekly meal plans and cook meals for the first time, others honing their skills by cooking for a larger family – baking Christmas Cookies to give a tin to each Volunteer – providing love and support to each other through difficult times and losses – well . . . you get the picture – LOTS AND LOTS OF GROWTH!!!



AND . . . what do you give your Mom for her birthday when you are in a recovery program and can't go shopping or buy any gifts?

You do what one of our Esther Women did. You present her with your 6-month AA coin and your 6-month NA key tag. Then you watch the tears of happiness and joy flow down her face. Praise the Lord for the transformation of these precious women!!! Yes – we have been truly blessed to be able to witness the healing, growth, and transformation of these Esther Women in the year of our Lord, 2019.



FUNDRAISERS . . . take a moment to enjoy all the love and pictures we have posted on our website. <https://estherhouseentry.weebly.com/fundraisers.html>

The awareness of Esther House grows and so does the love – once people learn what we are all about and what God is doing in the lives of the Esther Women. We have been very blessed by so many. See the great pictures on our above website. A few are included here.



The staff at the Brownwood Van Heusen store chose us as their ministry where they collected cleaning supplies for us and also donated gently used Van Heusen clothing.

Village of Pine Ridge driveway party – second time this year they have chosen Esther House as their ministry to bless (see pix on the above website) and during a Little Pine yard sale one of the families donated their proceeds to Esther!!!



We continue to be blessed by the Wahoo Women Warriors who held a huge yard sale at their First Baptist Church of Wahoo and generously donated all their proceeds to the Esther House!!!



I had the pleasure of presenting the Esther House story to the WELCA (Women's Group) of the

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church during their Fall Fashion Show. They took up a love offering for us AND provided us with 10 of the most beautiful Christmas quilts. Check out our website for all pics.



I was invited to speak to the Department of Corrections, Leesburg to share our story, experiences, challenges and lessons learned with the Supervisor of Probation, Probation Officers and Staff. It was a wonderful opportunity to work hand-in-hand and partner with our colleagues who see our Esther Women on a regular basis.



As luck would have it (**NOT!!!**) we experienced another major issue in the house. This time the pipe underneath the bathtub gave up its life causing a flood in the surrounding bedrooms. What did we do? We prayed (and consolidated all into one bathroom). God showed up – just like He always does!!! Helping Hands of NCUMC and Faith Presbyterian Church blessed up with donations to cover the costs for the demo of the tub, surrounding tile, replacement of the large underground pipe, replacing the 50+ year old faucets that we've had fixed multiple times, and ordering a



tempered glass window for safety. Once the window arrives, we can continue with the labor and tiling to replace the tub area with a walk-in shower with safety grab bars. When we pray and turn it over to God, not only does our faith increase, but also the faith of those around us as they observe what He does when we ask. Thank you, Lord!!! Stay-tuned for pictures of the completed project in the 2020 March Newsletter.



Christmas Eve morning started with the Esther Women reading their devotionals in their bedrooms behind closed doors. This gave one of our Counselors the opportunity to decorate the dining room and set the table with a beautifully homemade breakfast by candlelight.

Christmas morning began with Scripture readings, followed by singing our Give Thanks song and praising God for sending us His Son.



Many of you wanted to be a part of blessing the Esther Women with Christmas gifts and signed up on our gift list ensuring equity among the women. A few yard games, movie and restaurant gift cards topped off the individual gifts. These will be enjoyed as family events. All gifts were given



anonymously. Thank you for your generosity. They had the best Christmas morning – lots of squealing in delight and even tears of joy. Each gift was their “favorite one”. It was a challenge wrapping so many gifts - as you can

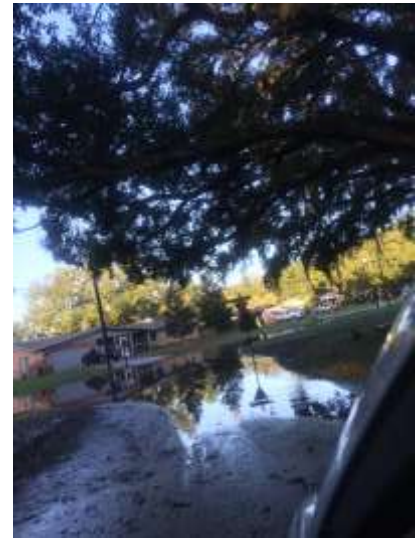
see!!!



Who Is in Our Spotlight this quarter??? *Our Transporters.* WOWOW – what a YEOMAN job these ladies have done: driving our Esther Women to/from: medical / dental / chiropractor and ophthalmology appointments, daily recovery

meetings, weekly Bible study and Church, job interviews and employment. **Thank you to all of you for all you do for the Daughters of a King!!!** Proverbs 11:25 tells us “*The one who blesses others is abundantly blessed; those who help others are helped.*” We

thank God for each of you!!! Thank you to *our volunteers, Johnny, Craig and Dave* for screening in our front porch to protect our fur babies from escaping and for taking down our privacy fence on the side of our house. It seems the storm drain in the street continues to back up when it rains and needs to be accessed along the property lines. This has been an ongoing issue we’ve experienced since 2017, so it will be interesting to see how the town plans to solve the problem.



THANK YOU!!! So many of you have blessed us this quarter:

➤ Individuals

- ♡ In memory of Roscoe Wenrich
- ♡ Individual donors
- ♡ Individual – AA books
- ♡ Judi’s birthday – donations through Facebook’s Network for Good

➤ Food Support and holiday meals

- ♡ Beyond the Walls,
- ♡ Episcopal Church Women of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
- ♡ St. Vincent de Paul Food Society at St. Timothy’s Catholic Church
- ♡ Food Pantry at Community United Methodist Church

➤ Churches and Church Groups

- ♡ Calvary Chapel Villages
- ♡ Community United Methodist Women
- ♡ Faith Presbyterian Church
- ♡ First Baptist Church of Wahoo and Wahoo Sister Warriors
- ♡ Helping Hands of New Covenant United Methodist Church
- ♡ Sacred Fire Ministries
- ♡ WELCA of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

➤ Groups and Corporations

- ♡ IBM Retired Employees Grant
- ♡ Residents Encounter Christ of Central Florida
- ♡ Van Heusen – Brownwood Store
- ♡ Village of Largo Paper and Plastic Group
- ♡ Village of Pine Ridge and Little Pine
- ♡ Your Cause (Gap)

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