

# ESTHER HOUSE REENTRY, INC. NEWSLETTER (#9)

## MARCH 2020

We closed the year and the decade – WHEW! I'm sure, like us, you were all wondering how this decade is going to unfold. We are pretty excited for how God is going to continue to use us to fulfill His Plans for the Esther Women and Esther House. We pray that you will be a part of His transformation as well.

**Giving Back – Volunteering and Community Service** – The faces of the Esther Women glow after returning from serving in the community. They love giving back to others. Between working two full days setting up and selling at a local garage sale for a ministry friend; setting up and distributing



clothing, household items, prayers and love at a local church's Matthew 25 ministry; followed up with making and handing out macaroni and



cheese to the homeless at the Ocala – our Esther Women spent almost 100 hours serving our community this quarter. Add to that, one of our Esther Women LOVES to crochet during any spare time. Check out the prayer blanket she made for our church friend who had undergone a hospital stay. First we all prayed over it and then we blessed our Sister in Christ when we saw her in church.



When she is not in class, doing homework or chores one of our Esther Women is blessing others with her crocheting skills. Babies at Leesburg Hospital need “tummy time” blankets (left) and those who live in the forest need mats to sleep on (right). Have YOU ever crocheted plastic bags together to make a sleeping mat? (Notice Ellie has to approve the mat first!!!).



It's not uncommon to see multiple projects being worked on at the same time 😊 She no sooner finishes one project, then starts onto the next.

**This** is what Jesus meant when He said, *“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”* (Matthew 25:40)

What is your God-given talent, skill? Can you bless someone else during this time of self-quarantine?

We had a bit of fun with **Valentine's Day treats**, a trip to the salon to use the **mani / pedi Christmas gift cards** and of course, top it off with a treat at **Peach Wave**.



## **THIS IS WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE!!!**

***“Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!”*** (Psalm 47:1)

It was with mixed emotions that we watched two of our Esther Women “leave the nest” after completing the Esther House Reentry program. We remember the first day we welcomed them into our home – how we loved on them, cried with them, and laughed with them. We watched our Lord Jesus Christ transform them into Daughters of the King. We’ve watched them grow and flourish. Now we get to watch them spread their wings and begin the rest of their lives.



A special **THANK YOU** for all her efforts in and preparing all the food Esther Woman. A **HUGE Presbyterian Church** for hosting this special



and shout out to **JOHANNA** planning, decorating, cooking for the celebration of the first **THANK YOU** to **Faith** the use of their facilities and event.



Our first celebration was wonderful for many reasons. Of course we were thrilled to celebrate the first Esther Woman to complete our 12-month Christ-centered reentry program. But, I would be remiss in not acknowledging all the volunteers that contributed to this success. During my presentation I asked each group to stand and remain standing until I finished calling all the roles. Those seated were the Esther Woman’s invited guests. It truly does take a village and we had over 40 volunteers serving our Lord in these roles: InsideOut Jail Ministries – Chaplain and Sponsor, Counselors, Program Facilitators, House Mothers (Day and Night), Transportation Friends, Tutors and the Leadership Team (who also filled other roles). These women give selflessly and regularly of their time and energy. We celebrate them also – *THIS IS WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE!!!*



In case you missed hearing about the winner of the fundraising sponsored by our **Wahoo Sister Warriors** . . . we had a lot of fun and are very grateful to all of you who bought a ticket . . . or 10 or 20 or 30 !!!

The ticket was drawn during the Sunday night Wahoo Sisters Bible Study . . . and the blanket was delivered – causing a HUGE smile. **CONGRATS JAN!!!**

The proceeds of the fundraiser were given to the Esther House – THANK YOU!!!



**COVID-19 . . . corona virus** – Of course, none of us could have anticipated a worldwide pandemic or the affects it would have on every person throughout the world. We know, “*God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.*” (2 Timothy 1:7) We are praying for all our family and friends that you remain safe, healthy and find something special to do with all this newly found time on your hands. Those of us who are able, continue to serve the women at the Esther House, at the same time taking every precaution to not bring this disease into the house. Once the DOC advised they were terminating onsite meetings and classes effective March 13<sup>th</sup>, we followed suit and began social distancing. When this is over, we will catch up by holding our second celebration and enjoying use of the remaining Christmas gift cards.

**Who Is in Our Spotlight this quarter???** Our service providers, that's who!. We have some wonderful companies who not only support us, but are Christian based companies as well. "The Lord demands fairness in every business deal. He established this principle. It is a horrible thing for a king to do evil. His right to rule depends upon his fairness. The king rejoices when his people are truthful and fair." (Proverbs 16:11-13 – TLB) It's truly wonderful when one of our providers asks "how do you pray for 'so and so'" WOW! It is an awesome feeling when they are asking me how we are praying for our neighbors and others. ONLY praying people would ask that question. We have been blessed.



We have had **Dove Plumbing** gut our hall "*Faith*" bathroom when the drain under the tub leaked into surrounding bedrooms, replace our shower valve and faucets, replace the broken pipes; **Rodger's Handyman** replaced our aged bathroom window. I had hoped to be able to show you a picture of our newly renovated bathroom BUT that is not to be – we have been struggling with getting the tiling done. We are now waiting for the fourth tiler to show up!!! Hopefully next quarter we will have a picture of a working hall bathroom 😊. With monthly septic issues we met with **All-Out Septic** who replaced our septic tank and installed a larger drain field. Repairs and replacements are constant in our older homes. But Paul tells us in Romans 12:12, "*Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.*" We have a list of additional repairs that will be knocked off one-by-one after we complete what we have in progress. Stay tuned . . .

**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!!! So many of you have blessed us this quarter:**

- Individuals
  - ♡ In memory of Nancy Theroux
  - ♡ Individual donors
- Food Support
  - ♡ 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
  - ♡ Acquisition and Distribution Diva
  - ♡ Calvary Chapel Villages
  - ♡ Community United Methodist Church
  - ♡ Faith Presbyterian Church
  - ♡ First Baptist Church of Wahoo and Wahoo Sister Warriors
  - ♡ Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
  - ♡ Sacred Fire Ministries

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