

ESTHER HOUSE REENTRY, INC. NEWSLETTER (#11)

SEPTEMBER 2020

We are blessed with Volunteers who continued to provide support, and follow our safety procedures. They came, facilitated classes, covered shifts – day and overnight. Many gave more of their time by covering multiple shifts. All we had to do was ask and they responded. Not only were they called by God . . . they answered that call . . . they understood the need to make sure we did everything in our power to keep our Esther Women safe and free from disease. PRAISE THE LORD!!! We couldn't have kept our doors open without them!!! We thank the Lord for each and every one of them and for His protection during this very difficult time.

Bitter Sweet

When we have spent almost a year loving on our Esther Women it is always bitter sweet to see them “leave the nest.” But when you get to see such a beautiful surprise welcome home between mother and son (not to mention Sissy, the dog, getting in on the action) you know God's hand is in it. It is part of His master plan and we get to be a tiny part of it.

Covid-19 has played havoc with the education of our youth – Go to school? Home school? Bell home school? That is the question parents are facing today. Then – how to juggle their decision with their jobs and other responsibilities. We are proud to be flexible in weighing the needs of the family against a few more weeks in the program. We couldn't be happier for Lori and her son, Aiden, or more thankful to Lori's parents for the outstanding role models and parents they have been during Lori's stay with us.



But the biggest compliment of all is when our Esther Ladies WANT to return and that's what Lori is doing. She joins our weekly Bible study, attends meetings at the house and ZOOMs a few of our classes. (Or . . . just MAYBE she's coming back to put some lovin' on her baby, Ellie 😊). Either way . . . we praise the Lord!!! Our door is always open to you!!! You have excelled and continue to be, a great example of an Esther Sister.

Always Learning . . .

Lori completed her two classes in Legal Studies during the summer semester, receiving excellent grades, at UCF, then began her fall semester of four classes (WOW). Mother and son are now studying together 😊

July

4th

We had great plans for fun and festivities to celebrate Independence Day – but Covid-19 got in the way. To their credit, our Esther Ladies never skipped a beat and enjoyed working together to make a festive meal. Each of the ladies shared in the preparation. And . . . the House Mom got to enjoy a delicious meal too!



As you can see . . . not everyone was involved in the preparation. Some were “just hangin’ out” watching others do the work



or taking a nap inside their favorite bag 😊

Giving Back . . . Clothing



We always find it so rewarding when we can bless someone else during their time of need. We were able to supply a pregnant woman with more than a week's worth of clothing (not pictured) as she left for a transition home where she would be able to deliver her baby in a safe environment. We learned that her other two children were also in need of clothing, so we partnered with our great friend and Esther House Volunteer, who supplied the children's clothing through her church's Matthew 25 ministry.

It is such a beautiful thing to watch the coming together of God's people for the good of others.
PRAISE THE Lord!



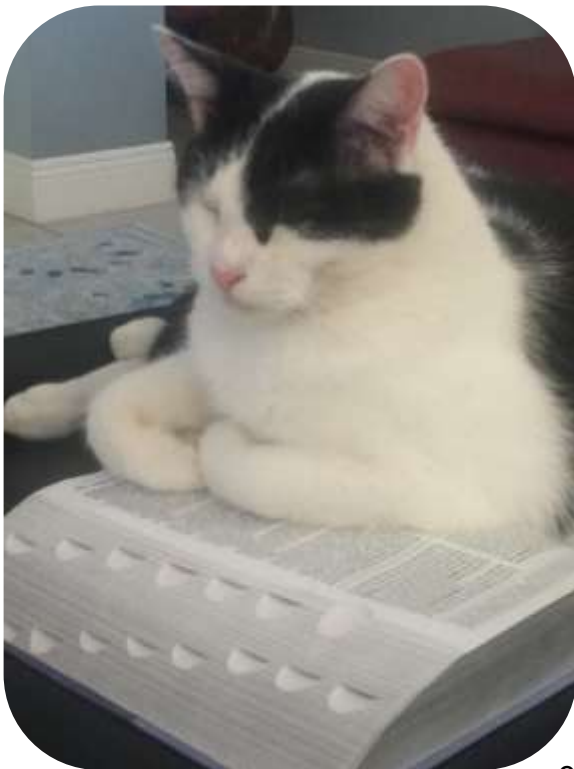
Ready . . . Set . . . DOT DOT DOT !!!

We have been teaching ourselves this new technique of "dot" painting. We love that everyone has their own creative style.



One of our precious Counselors, who has been with us weekly, came to say good-bye to the Esther Sisters because she was moving back "home." They wanted to show her how much she is loved, how thankful they are for all she has done for them. What better way to display the uniqueness of their personalities? Why . . . with DOTS, of course!!! She took these hand-made coasters with her to her new home – small enough not to cause additional packing and big enough to evoke wonderful memories of their time together.

We love you Miss Jeanne!!!
 We thank you for your ongoing devotion to E.H. since 2017 - even before we opened our doors. You spent time developing, then facilitating "Time For a Change"; you spent four hours every Monday and Tuesday morning teaching the ladies on "Changed For Good", you counseled during your one-on-ones and "Walking the 12 Steps with Jesus." You showed the Esther Sisters love and the power of prayer. You will ALWAYS remain in our hearts and prayers. We miss you!!!



We love our church and have looked forward to the time when we could attend in person. Until then we held "church" in our living room each Sunday morning. We have been faithful to our Lord – continued daily morning devotions, Scripture reading, prayer time and writing in the "Esther House Thankful" journal. Each evening meal begins with our thankful song "*Give thanks with a grateful heart - give thanks to the Holy One - give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son . . . and now let the weak say I am strong - let the poor say I am rich - because of what the Lord has done for us . . . give thanks, give thanks, GIVE THANKS!!!*"

As soon as we all begin singing our thanks – one of our Esther Queens, Ellie Blue, jumps up on "her" kitchen chair and watches us. It is really quite cute. Maybe it's because she knows dinner follows and someone might drop a morsel or two in her direction . . . but we like to believe she enjoys praising the Lord with us 😊

Can You Hear It ???



That's the sound of laughter echoing through the Esther House. Oscar Wilde said, "Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery that mediocrity can pay to greatness." Well, that's probably true! But for us at Esther House, flattery is when our Alumnae WANT to return and spend time with their Sisters whom they have grown to love. It is so beautiful and such a joy to watch our Esther Ladies entertaining –



planning and cooking the meal. Then waiting, with anticipation for the arrival of their guests. (I think they even sat in their "usual" seats - 😊)



We are blessed with the best Esther Ladies. Whether it's a work day or a birth day – they are always smiling, loving on each other and showing us their love. We praise the Lord for choosing our Esther Ladies.





One of the local county jails did an excellent job in testing for COVID (some do not test at all). Because of this (and an extra precautionary test on the outside) we were able to welcome a new Esther woman during this COVID crisis. After a few weeks I usually present these medal



coins for encouragement. Since we partner with our probation officers as part of our program, I thought it only fitting to

give this honor to Officer White. He gave a talk of encouragement and read the Serenity Prayer from the back of the Women in Recovery coin. God has blessed us with such a wonderful partnership.

This quarter our spotlight – after our **Lord and Savior** for all He has done to keep us safe, healthy and connected during this most difficult time – is on **Miss Jeanne** as she transitions into her new life. She is a great friend and we thank her for her love, compassion, kindness, gentleness, deep faith in our Lord and three-year devotion to the Esther House. **God bless you, Jeanne. WE LOVE YOU!!!**



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

"The one who blesses others is abundantly blessed; those who help others are helped." Proverbs 11:25. We thank God for you!!!

† *Memorial Donations (past and present) in the name of:*

- ♡ Nancy Theroux
- ♡ Roscoe Wenrich
- ♡ Bob Wenrich
- ♡ Mildred Jones
- ♡ Barbara Wenrich

† *Family Foundations and Trusts*

† *Individuals*

- ♡ Individual donors

† *Food Support*

- ♡ Beyond the Walls

† *Churches and Groups*

- ♡ Anonymous Donor
- ♡ Sacred Fire Ministries
- ♡ Calvary Chapel Villages
- ♡ Faith Presbyterian Church
- ♡ GAP – Your Cause Match Program

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