

**ESTHER HOUSE REENTRY, INC. NEWSLETTER (#12)
DECEMBER 2020**

PRAISE THE Lord!!! 2020 is behind us and we more than survived it – we thrived in it!!! Our Lord touched us in ways we couldn't have imagined. We pray that you have been as blessed. Many of you have been in our prayers for safety, health and comfort. Yes, like everyone else, we were inconvenienced but the Esther House turned lemons into lemonade. We took every precaution to protect the Esther Women and the Esther Volunteers. We have been blessed without any incident and pray for God's continued protection as we head into 2021.

We Love You!!! We Support You!!!

We have been blessed by food pantry donations from *Beyond the Wall* this year. What better way to show our love and support of them than to attend their first annual fundraiser "*Harvest of Gold.*" Of course, winning some of the prizes made it a LOT of fun!!! Kathy was our big winner (5), Val and Maria (1 each), Judi and Pat (a big fat ZERO - HA!!!) A great time was had by all (even the losers!!!)



Val is # 146, but hidden



Kathy, with artist of painting she won



Trick or Treat and Happy Birthdays

For the first time since opening the Esther House, our neighborhood had fun ringing our doorbell for Trick or Treat. This gave the Esther Women great joy to be able to hand out candies and talk to the children. We also had fun celebrating birthdays for our previous Esther House graduates – SISTER STRONG!!!



This is What Success Looks Like!!!

We are so happy for and proud of our Esther Graduates for their One Year Anniversaries!!! What wonderful role models they are for our current and future clients. We continue to hold you in our prayers for "one day at a time" because "it works if you work it"



**Our church received a car as a donation which has been gifted to Val
God is soooooo good. Amen? Amen!**



Give Thanks With a Grateful Heart - Give Thanks to the Holy One

We are thankful and grateful every day at the Esther House, but . . . it is almost difficult to describe the love the Esther House received during this time of thanks giving. *Beyond The Wall Food Pantry* blessed us with food items for our Thanksgiving Dinner. Just picking up the food was an amazing experience – from the second I entered the Heritage Community Church parking lot I was greeted with cookies / hot chocolate / prayers / a throw blanket / turkey / fresh veggies and more. Not to mention the huge smiles from everyone along the way. The love shown by the children and adults was so heartwarming I had tears streaming down my face by the time I reached the end of the line (well, really almost since the beginning of the line but they were *really* flowing by the end).. Then . . . as if this wasn't enough . . . our neighbors on both sides of our house blessed us with baked goods for desserts. THIS is what Jesus meant when He said, "Love your neighbor as yourself." (Mark 12:31)



In the days leading up to Thanksgiving, our volunteers were working side-by-side with our Esther Women sharing cooking advice and many heartwarming stories from their past. It was truly a pleasure to watch this as they prepared for their Thanksgiving company. YES!!! Esther House opened its doors and hosted six people from our church. This was the first time hosting for the women – and they were serving nine people Thanksgiving dinner!!! Their families were AMAZED at what they had accomplished. Of course, we knew they would do great!!! Our house was filled with wonderful cooking smells, laughter and hospitality.

To ensure everyone felt safe during the uptick of COVID, our dining was . . .

ALFRESCO



Following our daily tradition, we sang our Give Thanks song – giving praises to our Lord. New friends were made . . . stories told . . . And . . . no one left the table hungry thanks to the wonderful cooking and hosting by the Esther Women.



Merry Christmas

We had two opportunities to give back during this holiday season. We packed up many hygiene samples and provided them to our *Leesburg Probation Office* who distributes these much needed supplies to those who are homeless



and to *Samaritan's Purse - Operation Christmas Child*- notice the little hats crocheted by one of our Esther Women.





Thanks to the generosity of our volunteers the Esther Women were blessed equally with many gifts Christmas morning. It didn't matter if she was with us only for 3 weeks or for 13 months. Our God does not show favoritism (Romans 2:11), nor do we.



Our neighbor surprised us with a Honey Baked Ham gift certificate and we were also able to provide delicious Christmas and New Year's Eve and Day dinners. To top it off, we were blessed with turkey and a huge load of fresh fruits and vegetables from *Beyond the Wall*. *Our Esther Women truly felt the love.*

Our Needs . . .

VOLUNTEERS!!! Our Volunteer needs continue to grow in 2021. We have had significant decreases this year. We are hoping to backfill them and have a new need for transporting one of our Esther Women to and from college four afternoons a week (8 slots). Can you pick up one of these slots and drive her to or from? Are you able to stay overnight once a week and serve as a Night Mom? If not, do you have four consecutive hours once a week that you could serve as a House Mom? No? How about four hours once or twice a month? If you tell two friends and they tell two friends and they tell two friends, perhaps we can fill our open shifts. Won't you pray about it and see if the Lord is calling you to serve Him while He fulfills His plans for the Esther House?



Thank You Thank You Thank You . . .

You have continued to bless us with donations this quarter, even during this difficult time of COVID. It is YOU who make this ministry possible. May God continue to bless you as you bless others.

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

† Individuals

♡ Individual private donors

† Food Support

♡ Beyond the Walls

♡ Community United Methodist Church

† Churches and Groups

♡ Calvary Chapel Villages

♡ Community United Methodist Church and UMW Circles

♡ Faith Presbyterian 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