

The Villa Voice

Volume 3 ❖ Issue 7

P.O. Box 1588 ❖ Sand Springs, OK 74063 ❖ (918) 245-4075

September, 2003

Time Lost . . . Time Found

"When I first came to DaySpring, I was scared. I always had a place to lay my head, and now I was really on my own . . . but thank God for that experience."

Few would thank God for the experience of being homeless, but Misty is an exceptional individual. Born with a growth disorder called Turner Syndrome, Misty spent her childhood participating in a government-sponsored clinical study. Like other girls with Turner Syndrome, Misty was aware that she was different. She was small. The difference became more evident as her classmates and friends hit puberty and their growth spurt. Misty fell behind—in size and in motivation.

Her self-esteem suffered and her feelings of rejection became more intense when her parents divorced and she was shuffled from school to school and from relative to relative. She found acceptance in the wrong crowd and began to use drugs to ease the pain of a broken heart. She dropped out of high school and struggled to make ends meet. When she came to DaySpring, she had no job, no home, no hope.

After meeting with DaySpring's caseworker, Brenda Collins, and with a little encouragement, Misty decided to return to high school at age 27 and pursue her GED. In just two months, she was ready to take the exam and on August 22nd she received good news—she passed! Her caseworker wasn't surprised, "Misty has a good attitude. She always has a smile on her face. She sets goals and pursues them."

When Misty came to DaySpring, she wrote, "I am a good person. I try to help others when I can. I am kind-hearted." She hopes to use these natural attributes to help other people overcome obstacles the way Miss Brenda helped her. She's considering social work as a career and has already enrolled in Tulsa Community College.

Meanwhile, DaySpring Villa will continue to be the support that Misty needs to accomplish her goals and realize her dreams. She may have lost everything, but with DaySpring Villa, she will be given back some of the time she has lost. Because of DaySpring, Misty can say, "Living at DaySpring has not only brought me back to reality, [it] has also brought me back to God."✿

*"I cherish everything that I have
because I lost everything—my family,
time, education, dreams, everything."*

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"...the DaySpring from on High hath visited us, to give light to them who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace." Luke 1:78b-79 (KJV)

DaySpring Celebrates 8th Year

The doors of DaySpring Villa were flung open this summer in celebration of eight years of shelter ministry in its current location. The Open House drew visitors from area churches as well as the secular community. Many came to see the newly-refurbished adolescent wing which houses pregnant and/or parenting teenagers. The ministry has been in operation one full year and currently houses four teenage girls and three babies.

Others came to remember the contribution of Claroby Gravely. Miss Gravely was a staff member who passed away earlier this year. **Gene Howard** of First Baptist

Church, Tulsa, together with other volunteers, led the effort to renovate her former living quarters through donations given in her memory. The suite will be used to house guests of the staff in residence.

An Oklahoma Red Bud Tree was also planted and dedicated in memory of Claroby Gravely. It was donated by Miss Gravely's Sunday School class at First Baptist Church, Tulsa. ~



Houseparent Diane Richards visits with a colleague in the newly-decorated reception area of the Adolescent Pregnancy and Parenting Program.

In Memorial . . .

(Donations received as memorials)

Sharon Strauss: Mr. Glenn McKinley

Dave Hackett: Mr. & Mrs. Todd Mitchell

Elsie Patterson: Ms. Dorothea Sternke, Ms. Norma Dowell

Marie Mueller: Mr. Alan Ratliff

Florence Grothusen: Mr. & Mrs. Alan Ratliff

Larry Brewer: Mr. & Mrs. Todd Mitchell

Claroby Gravely: Ms. Elizabeth H. Lanier, Mrs. Tennie Bright,

Ms. Brooke C. Plasterer

Jan DeBusk: Mr. Ron DeBusk



It's a Good Thing

Good News for the women and children of DaySpring: Tulsa Transit has changed their route and now stops at DaySpring's door! No longer will guests have to walk a mile down the road to the nearest bus stop. Thank you, **Tulsa Transit**, for making life a little easier for DaySpring's guests.

Summer means Vacation Bible School! Thank you to the children who raised \$2,492.30 in offerings for DaySpring Villa. They come from **Haikey Park Baptist Church-Tulsa, Southwood Baptist Church-Tulsa, Olivet Baptist Church-Tulsa, Harvard Avenue Baptist Church-Tulsa, Silver Spring Church-Dewar, and Magnolia Baptist Church-Magnolia, Arkansas.**

The absolute best thing that happens at DaySpring is the change that takes place in an individual's life when they embrace Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. This summer three women made professions of faith and eleven renewed their commitment to Him.

DaySpring provided food and shelter to a total of 87 women and children during the summer. The Adolescent Program housed four teenage girls and three infants.

The **Women's Ministry of Memorial Baptist Church-Tulsa** has published a cookbook *Serving from the Heart*. Proceeds from the sale of the cookbook will benefit DaySpring Villa. You may contact Memorial Baptist Church, 918-744-0079 for your copy. (Cost \$10, if mailing add \$2 for postage). Thank you, ladies of Memorial, for once again *serving from the heart*.

Just as Christmas time tends to prompt people to give generously to the ministry of DaySpring Villa, so does summertime beckon volunteers to give a helping hand. Many indoor and outdoor projects were completed thanks to the efforts of students and adults from as far away as Louisiana and as near as Sand Springs. Blessings to all the volunteers who gave of their time this summer. The time you gave is as valuable as any tangible donation. ~



Kerry Satrom, freshman at Baylor University, volunteered this summer at DaySpring Villa as part of Mission Tulsa. Mission Tulsa is sponsored by the North American Board (NAMB) and offers mission opportunities in Tulsa's inner-city. Visit NAMB's website for more information, or contact Wanda Satrom, Project Coordinator, at 918-492-6925.

Geeks To the Rescue



Who are these people? For their true identities, see them in a more normal setting below.



Nicole Kerr, Tara Fulton, Lily Jeane & Allison Berry take a break to enjoy a picnic during the July 4th festivities at River Parks.

Geeks to the Rescue!

Staff Transitions:

Rod Stauffer, member of Eastwood Baptist Church-Tulsa, now works as DaySpring's part-time maintenance man.

Jo Ratliff, has retired after eight years of service as bookkeeper. She remains the editor of *The Villa Voice*.

Jana VanderTook, Supervisor of Volunteers has taken a position at First Baptist Church, Tulsa.

Creative Giving

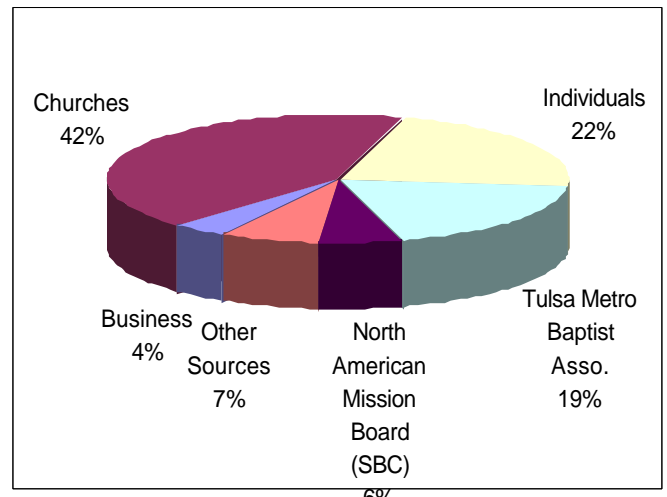
We are thankful for the monthly financial support we receive from area businesses like **Pryer Machine & Tool, LuGreg Trucking, and Advantage Glass**. As the chart below reflects, DaySpring Villa benefits monetarily from the contributions of the business community. However, often times the contributions received are not monetary and are not reflected in a giving analysis. For instance, **Gold Medallion Senior Housing & Health Care** recently motivated their employees with this statement: *Don't be a chicken and hide under a mushroom—Bring soup for DaySpring Villa!* As a result, they collected over 200 cans of cream of chicken and mushroom soup!

Another area business that regularly contributes to DaySpring is **J. Jill Clothing Store** in Woodland Hills Mall. After-sale merchandise and excess inventory is donated regularly to DaySpring Villa.

Last year at Christmas time **Chico's Department Store** gave profits from the sale of an "angel pin" to DaySpring.

Keep DaySpring in mind whenever you have opportunity to suggest a beneficiary of your employer's desire to help others. Also, begin to think now of how you and your fellow co-workers can make a cooperative effort. The ideas are endless, and so are our needs.~

Sources of Funds for 2003



A letter from the Director . . .

To put it bluntly, how much does it cost to rescue a life? Take Misty, for example, featured on the front page of this newsletter. What will it cost to help her reclaim what she has lost and set her on a path of self-sufficiency?

At press time, DaySpring Villa will have invested approximately \$1,525 in seeing that Misty is housed, fed and counseled. According to our statistics, it costs approximately \$25 per day per individual to provide for each woman's and child's physical, emotional and spiritual needs. Has there been a return on that investment? Yes. Misty has completed her GED. She is enrolled in Tulsa Community College. She has made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ, and she is holding down a job.

How much more will it cost to see her through? It's hard to say. She will be given enough time to save a nest egg. Her advocate, Brenda Collins, will see to it that she has adequate housing in which to move. One thing is for certain: it takes a community to rescue a life. Yet, it costs the community way more to do nothing than it does to intercede. As part of this community, won't you help us?

DaySpring Villa is struggling during the ongoing economic downturn. We have seen a decrease in giving over the summer months. Last year at this time, we were honored to have been selected as one of the ministries to which the children of the Southern Baptist Convention gave their Vacation Bible School offering. It made all the difference. That emphasis alone brought in over \$12,000! We realize, of course, that we cannot be selected to be among the chosen ministries every year. I only mention it to remind you of the difference that can be made when individuals—even children—combine their efforts into a single campaign.

This newsletter offers some ideas as to how your women's ministry, your co-workers, your civic organization might join together in a concerted effort to impact the ministry of DaySpring Villa. I hope that you'll read it and that you'll be challenged to give creatively.

I do not enjoy being so blunt, but in order to help Misty and 17 other women who are currently living at DaySpring, I'm asking you for your help now. Thank you.

Sheila D. Mitchell

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DaySpring Villa

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