



Transitions

Be not conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...
Romans 12:2

\$6000.00 Matching Gift Received

As you may have read in the last Newsletter we had a contributor that had made a challenge to all our readers. Our anonymous benefactor was willing to match all new contributions dating from July 1, 2008 up to a maximum of \$6000.

Due to a great response from people and organizations we were able to reach that goal by the end of November and the \$6000 matching funds were received shortly there after.

A big "THANK YOU" to all who stepped in to make that happen.

Please keep up your faithful gifts. Together we are changing the world, one life at a time.

From the Director's Desk

Richard Sempel, Executive Director

Learning Through Others..

How many people can you think of that have influenced your life? I can recall a few. There was Miss Lavender my first grade teacher. She was the prettiest teacher in the whole school. I realized later that she was a bit misleading as she had me convinced that I was once a little tea pot not to mention short and stout. (I was always the tall skinny kid.) Then there was my high school drafting teacher, Mr. Malcolm. He was the only teacher that I know of that asked some of my old friends how I was doing when I had left school to join the Navy and was shipped off to Viet Nam. He actually seemed to care.

A common thread that seems to run through lives shrouded in addiction is that in the midst of poor choices and burned bridges there always seem to come along

someone that truly cares. A mother that never gives up on her offspring. Maybe a loved one that refused to give up on you. Or someone who has gone through what you are going through and from personal experience knows that it is possible for you to succeed. I find at Grace House that there are residents, staff and volunteers that know that recovery and overcoming an addiction are not a rarity, but a common occurrence.

Men at different stages of recovery learn how to benefit from the experiences of others. What initially seemed like an almost unattainable goal soon becomes a common obstacle that many have overcome. Seeing others succeed and being surrounded by people that are supportive in your journey erases many of the fears that come with change. Even those that occasionally seem to be taking one step forward and two steps back are a testimony to the redeeming

grace at work in their lives. I often wished that, as a parent, I could take my children aside and tell them that there were a lot of stupid things they would never have to do, because I had already done them. It would be great if they never had to fall and skin their knee or find themselves having to deal with the consequences of poor choices they had made. Sounds great, but it hasn't worked that way throughout recorded history.

But there is wisdom to be gained by the trials and errors of others. The Bible is full of what I call "you probably don't want to try this" adventures. History books show us how choices, both good and bad impacted the world. It is through the interaction and exchange with others that some of these paths can be avoided. In contrast we can also glean insights into what others have found to work in their lives.

Director's Desk Continued Next Page

Inside this issue:

\$6000 Matched	1
From the Director's Desk	1-2
Program Director takes BIG STEPS	2
Christmas 2008, Close-Up	3
Resident Update	4

WHERE YOU CAN HELP:

- Pray for the men and ministry of Grace House.
- Volunteer to become a positive influence in the lives of Grace House residents.
- Remember Grace House in your local mission's giving.
- Refer someone struggling with addictions to Grace House.

A few days ago I was listening to what Tony Dungy, the Head Coach for the Indianapolis Colts, had to say at the announcement of his retirement. One thing I noticed about this man is the humble way he handled success and how he is more than willing, almost eager, to explain what has worked for him. It was his testimony and nothing could change that. He spoke of His Lord; he used the name of God and referred to his times of prayer as being important to his success, not only as a coach, but as a man. He shared of the values that his parents had raised him to embrace and about the foundation of faith that he felt he needed to share with others.

Tony Dungy talked about the first meeting that he had with team owner Jim Irsay, and how they realized a common goal that went beyond football. They both wanted a team that would not only win games and hopefully a Super Bowl, but a team that would impact the community in a positive way. They desired a group of men that would be positive role models and reach out into the community. A team that would counter the so often negative influence of sport celebrities that seems to be common in our society. They realized that the only way to bring that about in others was to demonstrate it in their selves. Mr. Irsay said that he felt we were not humans having a

spiritual experience, but spiritual beings having a human experience. He compared the temporary to the eternal.

They each did their part, and the success of the past seven years was the fruit of their labors. They never got distracted from the common goal of making a positive impact on others.

As you read and hear of the changes taking place in the lives of men coming to Grace House how do you see yourself fitting in? How can you be that positive influence in the lives of others? What do you have to share with others that will help them in their daily choices?

Each of us has wealth to share. It may be in the form of prayer, or even writing a check. It may be just being willing to sit down over a cup of coffee and share what has and hasn't worked in your life. Whatever it is, if you don't share it, it will wither and die. We are told that if we quit producing fruit we will be pruned.

How sad it would be if Mr. Malcolm, Jim Irsay, Tony Dungy and others would have stopped desiring to be positive influences in the world. They did not boast in their caring, but rejoiced in the peace that loving others above themselves brings. How sad it would be if any of us fail to use the gifts that God has given us and refuse to answer His call.

Program Director takes BIG Steps

For more than three years Tyler Hoyt juggled two careers. He served as the Pastor of a Wesleyan Church in Wabash as well as the Program Director of Grace House. One certainty in life is change and Tyler made a couple of big ones at the close of last year. Some of us were blessed to attend the marriage ceremony for Tyler and his fiancé Annette Payne amidst the fall colors of Brown County on October 25, 2008. Then a few weeks later Tyler announced that he would be leaving his position at Grace House to accept a job offer with a company that would not only give him a much needed financial boost, but the medical insurance that he and his new bride were lacking.

Tyler continues to juggle between his new job and his church duties as well as doing projects on his and Annette's new home.

Tyler came to Grace House when it was in its infancy and stepped up to the plate to develop it into what it is today. Tyler will be dearly missed by all of us at Grace House.

Thank You for your faithfulness to Grace House, the Community, and to your Lord and Saviour.

VISIT OUR WEB SITE

www.gracehouse-marion.org

"Saving Grace" 12-Step Meeting

Big Book Discussion ~ Open Meeting ~ Non-Smoking

Hosted By: **Grace House for Recovery**

Every Thursday @ 7:00 p.m.

"*Giving Back*" is an important part of the recovery process. It is with this important step in mind that the Grace House Board of Directors, staff and residents have opened the doors of our beautiful home to those in the recovery community.

If you or someone you know is seeking positive change in their life feel free to attend.



**Christmas
2008**

Close-up

Program Graduate Floyd Rea

This area of the newsletter is reserved for testimonies of individuals who desire to share their Grace House experiences.

In this edition you will read the observations of one of the many university students that volunteer at Grace House.

They all come with preconceived ideas of what to expect at Grace House. They all leave having been both blessed and being a blessing to others.

The following is taken from a recent interview conducted with Grace House Graduate Floyd Rea:

How did you first hear about Grace House?

From people in the "AA" community before Grace House even opened up. They were looking for help and start up support.

When did you become a resident of Grace House?

On May 9, 2008

What had you heard about Grace House prior to your first visit?

That it was a great program. That it brings addiction recovery, structured living and Christianity together in a way no one else does in the community.

Were you aware of Grace House being "faith-based" and how did that affect your decision to seek residency?

Very positively. My faith was one of the things I needed to get back on track in my life.

What did you expect to find when visiting Grace House for the first time?



I expected to find a group of men with an honest desire to change their lives while holding each other accountable and uplifting one another.

How would you describe your state of mental, physical and spiritual condition when you first arrived at Grace House?

Mentally confused, physically tired and spiritually discouraged.

Close-Up Continued Next Page

What were you searching for in your life that brought you to Grace House?

I was searching for help and support to get set free from prescription drugs and a right relationship with God, my wife, family and friends.

What most surprised you about Grace House?

Richards terrible guitar playing and singing early to wake us up in the morning. The ability of the men to point out each others shortcomings, but still forgive one another.

Other than abstaining from drugs and alcohol use what was the hardest requirement for you upon entering Grace House?

Getting out of bed early in the morning.

Please share what you found Grace House to be and how your time there has impacted your life.

I found Grace House to be exactly what I needed. I was led to repentance, challenged spiritually in ways I never would have anticipated. My time at GH established friendships with several others that are essential to my life, recovery and some of the best friendships I have ever had. Friends that will love, support, encourage, and challenge me to be a better man. I was challenged and encouraged by Richard, Tyler, Jody, John and Dog-gone Donnie. I found Richard Sempel to be the most compassionate man I have ever known.

Resident Update

A lot has happened at Grace House since the last newsletter. We seem to go through cycles as the old nature is peeled away. Regrettably we had one man relapse; however he is now at the VA Medical Center in Indianapolis getting back on track. We realize that his faltering is sometimes what is needed to fine tune a persons focus on positive life change.

The Holiday season is not always a joyous one for men in recovery. Some of the residents were able to spend time with family and friends but the majority of them spent their holiday at Grace House. They decorated the house, put up a tree and fixed special meals. Those who had nobody to share the time with found that they had a new family here at Grace House. Some of them said that it had been many years since they observed a holiday season clean and sober.

Current Resident Update:

Capacity.....	10
Current Residents	10
Number in Phase 1....	3
Number in Phase 2.....	2
Number in Phase 3.....	1
Graduates	4
Residents Employed Upon Entry...	0
Residents Currently Employed.....	3
Men Served Since Last Newsletter..	8
Known Relapse Since Last Newsletter ..	1
Graduates Since Last Newsletter....	2
Former Residents Continuing to be Actively Involved ...	2

Grocery Needs

- Breakfast Cereal
- Coffee
- Canned Goods

Our Thanks go out to those of you who were able to stop by and drop off special foods and other items. The men were stunned to come down for their morning meeting and see a stack of gifts under the tree. Each one bearing a tag addressed to each resident by name and indicating the gift was from our friends at Affordable Housing Corporation. Then on Christmas eve the men opened their gifts to find a beautiful red "hoodie" sweatshirt embroidered with the Grace House Logo. (See Photos in this issue)

Holiday times can be very stressful for men seeking positive change in their lives. Thank you for your prayers and the love you extend to Grace House. Together we are making a difference.

Immediate Needs

- Linens: Sheets (long twin), pillows, bath towels, wash cloths.
- We have a counter top donated and need the following to install a sink in the basement;
- Laundry/utility sink,
- Faucet and plumbing, (pex and PVC),
- Counter base cabinets

HELP WANTED

Do you know of an individual, group or organizations willing to financially sponsor men desiring to enter the Grace House program?

Prior to entry men are required to pay \$200 to cover their first twelve days at GH. Many desire the change and cannot afford the initial payment.

Help us to keep the lights on and to allow an applicant to begin his journey to recovery.

Please remember Grace House in your thoughts and prayers. Victories do not come without a battle. It is through your faithful gifts and prayers that lives are truly being "transformed by the renewing of their minds." If you would like to have the ministry efforts of Grace House presented to your group or organization please contact us.

**Grace House for Recovery
P.O. Box 284
Marion, IN 46952
(765) 674-5990**

gracehousefr@sbcglobal.net



THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFUL SUPPORT