



Transitions

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

Race for Grace 5k Run, Walk

It was an overcast Saturday morning with the threat of rain but that did not deter the 92 people that registered to participate in the *Race for Grace*. Surrounded by friends and family, these folks showed up as a sign of support for Grace House.

It had been three years since the last *Race for Grace*. This year it was organized by a group of students from Indiana Wesleyan University. Their dedication showed as they developed a plan and followed through with it to make the fundraiser a big success. Sponsors were recruited, sign up procedures were developed, courses were laid out, volunteers gathered, and the word was spread. Their dedication was really apparent as the team reported to Matter Park at 5 a.m. on that dark, damp morning.

After a few words of encouragement and a pray, the men, women and children started off on the designated routes. A little less than 17 minutes later the first runner crossed the finish line to the encouraging cheers of those awaiting his arrival.

All would finish the race with only a couple of aches and pains. A closing ceremony was held, prizes awarded, and all left knowing that they had contributed to the on-going ministry of Grace House. Thanks to all for your support.

More than \$2200.00 was raised through the event.

From the Director's Desk

Richard Sempel, Executive Director

Separation

Have you ever noticed how hard it is to separate from someone or something that you have grown accustomed to having around. We can recall the death of a loved one, a shattered marriage, children moving out and moving on, or a military or job assignment. Some are part of the natural process and some a tragic occurrence. But for you, life goes on.

Then there are those things that you work to move on from: boot camp, school, financial obligations, extra weight, an unhealthy habit, an abusive relation-

ship, an addiction, a prison record, bad memories, a trauma filled childhood, a bad reputation. Some you manage to set aside, others you carry much too long.

Welcome to the world of "overcoming"

Welcome to the world of "overcoming." I am sure you can add many of your own things to the list. Maybe we could get a law passed that makes poor choices, and as I like to call it "doing stupid," illegal. No. We already have prison overcrowding. They sure don't need you and me

there. Besides who would be left on the outside?

Now you may not be a Bible reader, but you have to admit it does contain some pretty sound principles to live by. It tells us that we are to "forget those things which are behind and press on to that which is ahead." (Philippians 3:13). Then we are told to "put our hands to the plow and not look back." (Luke 9:62). In the midst of all this we are to remember to "set aside all the junk in our life that causes us to stumble." (Hebrews 12:1). Think about those instruc-

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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 by becoming a mentor.
- Remember Grace House in your local mission's giving.
- Refer someone struggling with addictions to Grace House.

Director's Desk Continued

tions and then align them with how you are able to accomplish all of them in your life. If you are like me, some days are good, some days not so good.

Now put yourself in the place of someone who may have overloaded their life with poor choices - someone who has disappointed friends, family, and loved ones over and over again. Someone who, no matter how hard they want to change, keeps relapsing into "doing stupid." Where does hope and desire become overloaded with disappointment, frustration, anger, rage and possibly violent actions towards themselves or even others?

I was at a Grant County Drug Court graduation recently and heard one of the graduates speak of how the first step to her success in the program was to change the "people, places and things" in her life. These are common words of wisdom shared in the "recovery community." But she went beyond hearing them and put them into practice. Her desire to change empowered her to make those changes. But that alone wasn't enough. She said that they had a support team ready to help her through the adventure. She had people willing to forget her past and invest in her future.

I assure you there were just as many, if not more, that were will-

ing to hinder or completely destroy her efforts for positive change. I don't know how many times I have had people recognize one of the residents at Grace House and say something like "I can't believe you let him in. He is never going to change." I just smile and say something like "Maybe, but he deserves the opportunity to try."

... men whose priorities have changed from the selfishness of addiction, to the giving of themselves .

I know, nice story, but what's it got to do with me? You, dear friend, have been called as an ambassador of change. I believe that we all would like to see the world around us change for the better. All of us talk about it, and some even work towards that change. But we are all called to participate in the process.

In our society people participate by voting, volunteering, mentoring, praying, giving of their money, needed items or themselves. You see, people seeking change need something to change with. If I grew up a cannibal and was convinced in my heart that I needed to change my eating habits, wouldn't it be helpful to discuss it with someone other than another cannibal? How about if someone told you they were trying to overcome a caffeine addiction? Would you ask them to meet you at Starbucks where you could discuss it over a cup of coffee?

You are a vital part of change. Sure, you are not perfect, but don't you care enough to invest in the life of someone that others may have given up on? Every month Grace House faces a financial battle. As serious as this is, we realize

INVEST IN A LIFE

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

How about sponsoring a bed for a week, a month or even a year.

(Call for details)

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

that it is only a distraction from the work we are called to do. Maybe you can give financially on a regular basis to help alleviate this concern. Another option would be a man willing to befriend another man who is trying to change. Not just while he is at Grace House - but beyond. Can you demonstrate a healthy marriage or lifestyle to someone who is seeking change? Are you willing to invest in someone else's life?

Remember those people, places and things that so need to be changed? **You are needed as much as Grace House.** You can demonstrate changes to those seeking help so that they may run the race with their eyes fixed on the goal. You see, it's hard to pace yourself in a race if you don't know what the finish line looks like.

Prayerfully consider your roll in the ongoing work of Grace House. Take the action necessary to help bring about positive changes to men, their families, and the community.

Van-Tastic Opportunity

Do you have a 7-9 passenger mini van that you would like to donate to Grace House?
Grace House is a 501 (c) 3 Not for profit organization.

What is this?

See page 4



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

Everyone comes with pre-conceived 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 Resident Timothy Stansberry:

How did you first hear about Grace House?

“I had driven by the location several times and, when in treatment at Milestone Services, I heard people speaking about Grace House.”

When did you become a resident of Grace House?

“April 5, 2010.”

How many times have you enrolled at Grace House?

“This is my first time.”

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

“That Grace House offered a solid foundation for those wishing to change.”

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

“That was a huge positive for me.”

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

“A dorm setting with men sharing showers and bathrooms.”

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

“Mentally, physically and spiritually I was doing pretty well. I had been in recovery for four months. My mind was open and I believe that my higher power brought me here for a specific purpose.”

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

“Anything that would bring me closer to God and strengthen my recovery.”

What most surprised you about Grace House?

“Having my own room and bathroom. How nice Grace House is inside and how much I enjoy starting the day with devotions. Plus the friendships of Don Hardwick and Richard Sempel.”

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

“Being away from son and family.”



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

“Grace House offers men who are serious about recovery the opportunity to get their lives headed in a healthy, spiritual, physical, mental and emotional balanced style of living. Living a life free from their addictions.

The biggest impact Grace House has had on me is sharing each morning with God. This prepares me for the day God has blessed me with. The morning meditation in God’s Word keeps me obedient to my Higher Power. It reminds me that God gave His son on the cross for my sins and this worlds sins.

Each day I must do my best to serve God and be mindful of His Word. By living for God I try to live my life to please Him. Morning scripture and time with God are part of my life that I will practice each day long after I have left Grace House.

“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.

VISIT OUR WEB SITE

www.gracehouse-marion.org

Staff Member Moves On

John Farmer came to Grace House in December 2007 seeking change. His life had fallen apart. His drug use had brought him to what he felt was the end of his rope.



John, like so many others, came to Grace House not knowing what to expect. He didn't know if it was even possible to change. He soon learned that setting aside the old life was not going to be easy.

As John pressed on he discovered that his priorities were shifting. His goal was no longer to just please himself. He realized that he could not only change, but that what he was experiencing was available to all who sought to change! Though his journey was hard, he made it a point to encourage others along the way in their journeys.

John attributes his change to what he describes as "building a personal relationship with God." That is the key that he so willingly shares with others.

It was soon apparent that John had unknowingly come to Grace House for more than his personal recovery. He had also come to influence positive change in others by living the changes that were occurring in him.

John Graduated the program on May, 13, 2008 and in July of that year was selected to fill a staff position at Grace House. His personal experiences, both good and bad were powerful tools in his ministering change in others. These experiences were invaluable in opening doors which allowed him to speak into their lives.

In addition to his staff position with Grace House, John also had other employment to help meet his financial needs. John's desire to see others succeed, and a clarity of focus, was soon recognized by his employer. He quickly moved through the ranks and

was trained and promoted at a steady pace. Recently John was offered a supervisory position which meant more money to help care for his two young boys as well as positioning him to be a greater influence in the lives of others.

What is a blessing for John, and his employer, is bittersweet to us here at Grace House as with the new position came the need for him to say good-bye to Grace House.

He will be greatly missed, but we rejoice in knowing that his change is contagious and that he will go on to impact the lives of many.

Thank you, John, for your faithful service.

Be on the lookout...

Grace House banks have been distributed throughout the community. When you see one remember to donate your "Change for Change".

If you would be willing to place one of these colorful banks in your business or office please feel free to contact Grace House.



Current Resident Status:

Capacity.....	10
Current Residents	6
Number in Phase 1....	3
Number in Phase 2.....	2
Number in Phase 3.....	0
Graduates	1
Residents Employed Upon Entry...	2
Residents Currently Employed.....	2
Men Served Since Last Newsletter..	9
Known Relapse Since Last Newsletter ..	2
Graduates Since Last Newsletter....	1
Former Residents Continuing to be Actively Involved ...	3

Immediate Needs

Liquid laundry detergent , bath & kitchen towels, wash cloths. coffee, new pillows.

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.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFUL SUPPORT

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