

February 2003

Hi Everyone:

Hope all is well in every corner of your world. I thought it would be nice for you to hear what life at Hesed is like from the perspective of one of our long time residents.

From our weekly house meetings, to our sit down dinners every night, strange as it may seem the seven people that reside at House of Hesed are one unique family. With one live in staff member and six residents, that until moving into the House of Hesed didn't even know each other: and believe me over the past three years that I have lived at Hesed I have seen some personalities clash big time !!! But, for the most part we seem to have been lucky and have a great group of residents that for the most part all click socially. A miracle you say, no, just lots of love, caring and respect seem to be the combination that so far has made for a very peaceful stay at the House of Hesed. I have been a resident for 3+ years and have found that any void in my life prior to Hesed has now been filled by my decision to move to the House. I've taken on the responsibility of the supper meals, preparing them with the utmost care and feeling and so far I haven't poisoned anyone, just kidding, I am a pretty good cook, making a wide variety of meals that everyone can enjoy, even the vegetarians.

When I first came to the House of Hesed all I did was stay in my room. I really wasn't well, but thanks to the ongoing support of the staff and volunteers who took the time to invest in this ministry, and all of us residents, who have in the past and are now benefitting from their dream come true.

Thank You, A Resident

I really want to say thank you to this resident. Not only does he make the most excellent meals, but he contributes greatly to life here at Hesed in every way and is a most considerate, respectful caring individual. We thank God for him and are very Blessed to have him here. He's an amazing person & we love him.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

It looks like the renovations on the new house are scheduled to begin in March which will be both exciting and chaotic at the same time. We are really excited that God is blessing us with this expansion but are also overwhelmed that He trusts us with this extra responsibility. We often feel that we can hardly keep up with the house we already have. Please keep us in your prayers. We need God to bring us more volunteers who will be committed to spending specific blocks of time with us so that we are able to schedule meetings and appointments around a specific schedule. More residents will mean a need for more staff and volunteers. The money we receive for this expansion project only covers the costs of the renovation and not staff wages. We will have to double the number of staff we now have and so please pray that God will provide the money we need to cover the additional housing costs and the hiring of double the staff.

One way we do cover the cost of staffing is through continuous fund-raising. I have been applying to various foundations in the past few months and have been consistently turned down - a bit discouraging. However, just this week we were told that the Safeway on Sargent and Maryland chose us as their "Charity Challenge" recipients. They will hold various fund-raising events in their store as well as put collection boxes at each of their registers. The Staff, Volunteers and Residents are asked to get involved in the various events. So you may see us there on "Charity Checkout Day" or "Pizza Pops and Soda Day" and whatever fun event they put on to raise money for us. At this present time they have a shopping cart full of groceries that they are raffling off. All proceeds go to us!!! These activities are something we are all excited about and are happy to do as a day out together.

We are selling "**Safeway Community Caring Books**" for \$20.00 that are valued at \$22.00 plus tons of extra air miles. If any of you already shop at Safeway this is a good way to support us at no cost to yourself (they donate back \$8.00 for every book sold)- so come on give us a call.

The **cookbooks, "Spiritual & Sizzlin"** (that have been in the works for so long now that I am embarrassed) are finally finished. I want to thank everyone who took the time to contribute and send in their favorite recipes. Please phone us to order your copies of the cookbook.

Don't forget to pick some up for your friends and family (we have to sell 500). They are selling for the low price of \$10 - a real bargain in my opinion considering all the good recipes. I want to state clearly that I (Maresa) in no way had anything to do with the name of the cookbook. But would like to thank Drew for his creativity & Moe for encouraging it.

I think that is pretty much it for the fund-raising activities at the moment. We plan to start contacting churches again to see if we can get more financial and volunteer support now that we have exhausted the foundation applications. Moe is working on putting together a concert for sometime in the spring - so we will keep you posted on the progress of that.

God Bless!

Maresa

(FAMILY NEWS (

In this case, by "family" , I mean the Davidsons. I'm pleased to announce that Maresa & Dion will soon be welcoming a little bundle of joy to their family. NO! Not another dog, or a kitten. Maresa and Dion are expecting a baby, a human baby! The "wee Davidson" is expected to make a grand appearance sometime in April. Maresa will be starting maternity leave at the beginning of March and our own Cam Tucker will be filling in for her here at the Hesed.

We sincerely wish Maresa, Dion and the "wee Davidson" every rich Blessing, joy & happiness. Watch for baby pix in upcoming newsletters!!

☐Congratulations to our Richard Badalotti who married his beloved, Sharon Mann on December 28. Congratulations you kids, we wish you all the best. ☐

☐THANKSGIVING ☐

We, here at Hesed are so richly Blessed it just blows us away ! We give God all the Honor and Glory but there are also many people who contribute to this ministry in so many ways. The following are but a few of the people who so encourage and Bless us.

☐ Meredith (magic fingers!) TenBruggencate who unbelievably comes every Friday to give our residents a massage and sometimes the staff & volunteers as well!!!

☐Peter & Anne TenBruggencate (yep, Meredith's Mum & Dad) for generously giving of their time and other "resources" to help us out around here.

☐The amazing Jurgen Michael Severloh (sorry Jurgen, I couldn't find those 2 little dots that go over the "u") for not only being amazing & funny & encouraging but also generous, thoughtful & kind. We love our new "toy"!!!

☐The Safeway store on Sargent for adopting us and for being the friendliest bunch of Safeway staff ever. They really seem to enjoy their work & I think they know every customer by name.

☐Susan Ready, for recovering all our kitchen chairs, baking cookies and for being great fun !

☐Henry & Nettie Harder for making Sunday Feasts and for being so loving & encouraging

☐Joe Podosky for all the hard work he does around here. He keeps the place ship shape, and spoils the dogs rotten. We really appreciate all that he does for us.

New Direction for Life

presents

jolin & Godspeed

March 8, 2003 @ 7:30
Transcona Country Club
2070 Dugald Road (at Plessis)

Praise & Worship, Refreshments, Silent Auction

\$12.00 per ticket

Doors open at 7:00 (rush seating)

Tickets available:

New Direction 452-1826, Grace Café,
Hull's family Bookstore, Inspirational corners

Proceeds will be used by the Resource and outreach program of New
Direction for Life Ministries

HOUSEKEEPING STUFF

- If you would like to receive our newsletter via email, please phone us with your email address. It'll help us out by saving \$ on postage, and it's environmentally friendly in that we are not using as much paper.

- Please let us know if you no longer want to receive this newsletter. Just phone the office or write and tell us you want to be removed from our mailing list.

- Did you just buy a DVD player and don't know what to do with that old VCR you no longer need? Well, we'd be happy to take it off your hands. Sometimes we just want to rent a movie and hang out, especially when it's minus 40 below. Actually, we don't just want to "rent" a movie we want to "rent" a movie and "watch" it, which is when a VCR comes in real handy !!! So if you do have a VCR you don't want and would like to donate it to us YIPPEE ! Give us a call.

We are most sincerely grateful to all of you for your support, prayers, love, encouragement, laughter, hugs, food, household repairs, financial support etc. etc. etc. Thank you for caring and for sharing. **Please continue to lift us up in prayer !**

God Bless & Keep you

Love, moe