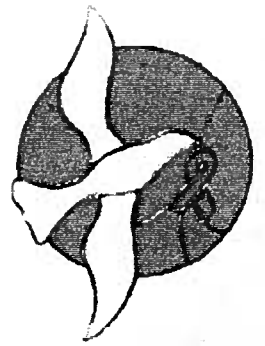


# House of Hessed

HIV/AIDS Transition House



November 7, 2000

Dear Friends of Hessed

It is time once again to update you and all of our friends in Christ as to how your prayers and donations are bringing about the kingdom of God! My name is Maresa Davidson and I share the night supervisor shift with Jason. I began my journey at Hessed as a Volunteer but have now been working part time here for approximately a year. I am excited to tell you about the ways I have seen God work since our last newsletter.

Many of you may know that several months ago we were forced to admit Dale into the hospital as he seemed to be deteriorating so rapidly. He *hated* being in the hospital and would cry when we would arrive and leave. His condition continued to deteriorate and we were advised by medical staff to leave him in the hospital as they believed that he would not make it past a couple of weeks. We all dreaded the fact that he would spend his last weeks in a place that was so impersonal. We concluded that he should come home and spend his remaining time surrounded constantly by his "family" (staff, volunteers and residents). His welcome home was a huge event - pizza, balloons, chocolate cake, all his favorite things.

Dale has been home for 2 months now. God is healing him physically and mentally. He has gained 30 lbs, can walk with help and is constantly cracking jokes and keeping us in stitches. He is better now than when he first moved into our home. If you could see the difference with your own eyes, you could never doubt the healing power of God again!

I asked Dale if I could use his name in this letter. He responded "Of course, I want my name out there so everybody knows about me!" Dale wanted to contribute to the newsletter and dictated to me the following:

*"I hated being in the hospital because I hate getting needles and plus Moe came in and gave me a chance to choose where I wanted to stay, either the hospital or at home with Palliative care, so I picked here. I picked here because I like it here. When I first arrived I got some help right away because these people care about me. At the hospital they just run around and don't pay attention. And here I do get attention because I work on them!*

*I think I am doing better since I got out of the hospital because now I get to go places. I go outside with the staff and volunteers. I get to look forward to doing stuff and I feel happy here. Plus my baby daughter gets to come and see me a lot, and soon she will get to visit me every week. I like the food here better than at the hospital - THAT'S FOR SURE!*

*If this house wasn't here I would end up somewhere else like the hospital or a care home. I would rather be here because I feel wanted here. I feel that my second family is here and they care about me.*

*I especially want to thank Cam (a volunteer)*

*for the time he spent with me when I first got out of the hospital. He was like a grandmother to me - knitting in a chair beside my bed. He made special efforts to take me places outside of the house.*

*My healing is God for sure. It's not the Devil because if the Devil was working on me I would be in bad shape. God is healing me because He cares about me and wants to heal me. I am his son."*

With exciting news often comes sad news. We have recently had to admit another resident into the hospital. Unfortunately, he has so many complications and is so sick that he will not be returning home. He is fully aware of the Lord's love and forgiveness and has made peace with this world. We all feel sad that we couldn't have him longer because he was such a ray of sunshine in our home. The staff has been taking turns sitting with him in the hospital to make sure his last moments are as comfortable as possible. Before he was admitted to the hospital, he was sitting with Moe in the dining room when he began to cry. When Moe asked him what was wrong he replied, "God has been so good to me by letting me live my last few months here." **THAT'S IT!!! THAT'S WHY I LOVE MY JOB SO MUCH!** The grace, mercy and love that God calls us to share with these people changes *us* - the people he calls to *do* it. This job is harder and more exhausting with each resident and sickness added to this house but it is also more rewarding! One particularly exhausting evening, I was feeding a resident in his room. I was suddenly struck with the notion that I am so lucky to be here. I can think of no other job that would provide the opportunity to sit with and care for people in the final stages of their life meeting all of their needs the best I can. Do you know what a fantastic time it can be? There is no pretense. There are no masks, games or secrets. These people know that they are leaving soon and have no time to be superficial. They love to reminisce, share their life experiences and teach you the lessons that they spent their lives trying to figure out. They *want* to discuss what things lie beyond this world. Where else would I ever get the opportunity to grow, change, learn and be challenged to such an extent? I thank God all the time for these people He wants to touch - and then I am humbled to realize that *I* need to be changed, regardless of the years I have spent knowing and loving him.

I (Maresa) have been working with Vicki Dyck (the Office Assistant for ourselves and New Direction For Life Ministries) on some corporate sponsorship proposals and some fund raising events for the near future. Although this is a Christian ministry, we are just not getting the finances we had hoped for and are unable to staff the house the way we need to. We are trying to be creative in the way we keep this house running. **Our volunteers have been fantastic!** We would never be able to do this ministry without them. We could always use more people around the house in whatever way God might press on

your heart. The residents just love to see new faces and have different conversations. (I think we may bore them now). We have no way of knowing whether or not you are in a position where God has blessed you with the ability to give towards this ministry, but we hope that if your time and finances are limited that you will remember us in your prayers. There are several areas in particular that we could certainly benefit from prayer:

1. Randy (one of our residents) will be speaking to young people again this year about AIDS prevention and the consequences of acquiring this disease. You may recall his story from one of our previous newsletters. Please pray that his message will have an impact on the lives of these teens - it often means more if they see the results with their own eyes.
2. Please pray that the letter sent to various foundations would be received by these people as a cause worthy of their donations so that we can continue to make a difference in society in the name of Christ.
3. The staff and Volunteers often feel that we are overwhelmed by all of the different needs and lack of time to try to meet them. Pray that the Lord would give us strength to press on towards His goal.
4. Please pray that we have the wisdom of Solomon.

I would like to end this letter with a story sent to our office by Vicki just today. It reminded me again of my purpose.

*A few years ago, at the Seattle Special Olympics, nine contestants, all physically or mentally disabled, assembled at the starting line for the 100-yard dash.*

*At the gun, they all started out, not exactly in a dash, but with a relish to run the race to the finish and win. All, that is, except one little boy who stumbled on the asphalt, tumbled over a couple of times, and began to cry.*

*The other eight heard the boy cry. They slowed down and looked back. Then they all turned around and went back. Every one of them.*

*One girl with Down's Syndrome bent down and kissed him and said: "This will make it better." Then all nine linked arms and walked together to the finish line.*

*Everyone in the stadium stood, and the cheering went on for several minutes. People who were there are still telling the story. Why? Because deep down we know this one thing: What matters in life is more than winning for ourselves. What matters in this life is helping others win, even if it means slowing down and changing our course."*

God bless you for all of your love, support and contribution to this ministry. We are all in this together.

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Maresa Davidson on behalf of  
House of Hesed Staff



I just want to thank Maresa for doing this newsletter. She has been a tremendous Blessing to us from the moment we met. Maresa always goes the extra mile. Her heart & commitment are definately with the people we care for in this ministry. We love you Maresa, you're a BLAST!!! Moe

**P.S.**

**If anyone has an extra freezer chest lying around that they would like to donate - we would be eternally grateful!!!!**

**THIS LETTER IS DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF OUR FRIEND GEORGE WHO PASSED AWAY ON WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 8. GEORGE ONLY LIVED WITH US FOR 2 MONTHS, BUT HE FILLED OUR HOME WITH HIS PRESENCE. HE HAD A VERY MISCHIEVOUS TWINKLE IN HIS EYE, AND A WONDERFUL SENSE OF HUMOR. GEORGE DID NOT HAVE TO SAY A WORD TO LET US KNOW EXACTLY HOW HE FELT OR WHAT HE WAS THINKING. HE COULD SAY IT ALL WITH HIS EYES! WE ARE GOING TO MISS HIM VERY, VERY MUCH, BUT ARE ALSO GRATEFUL THAT HE KNEW AND LOVED THE LORD. WE HAVE NO DOUBT THAT HE IS UP IN HEAVEN DANCING A JIG AND ENJOYING HIS FREEDOM! WE LOVE YOU GEORGIE BOY & WE SURE ARE GOING TO MISS YOU. THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES!**