



Genesis House, Inc.

...a new beginning

Happy Thanksgiving, 2016



Message from Mary Allen – Founder and President of the Board of Directors

“Please, can you help me. I am homeless and on the street with my two children. We have no place to go tonight. I am afraid.”

“I need some place to sleep, I am 80 years old and my landlord evicted me. My money is gone. I have no family.”

Every day our Genesis House staff members respond to an average of 14 phone calls from frantic women, many with children, who are suddenly homeless for a wide-range of reasons. All our residents prior to coming to live at Genesis House have been homeless, desperate, and feeling that no one cared about them.

Genesis House, Inc. began providing safe shelter for women 39 years ago. We started in 1977 sheltering homeless pregnant women. The needs of homeless women has changed. Genesis House has grown to fit the current needs of homeless women and children.

“Sometimes our light goes out but is blown into flame by another human.”

—Albert Schweitzer

Today we provide emergency shelter for suddenly homeless mothers and their children, student mothers with children who need our help to continue their education as they work to become self-supporting, emergency shelter for suddenly homeless single women, plus pregnant women who are alone and in need of housing. Our age range of women residents this past year was 18 to 80.

We encourage our residents to find jobs, improve their education, rebuild their self-esteem, develop the ability to be self-sufficient, and live independently in permanent housing.

What a joy it is to have a resident tell me that she got an “A” on her college exam, passed her GED test, or found a job.

“I was hungry and you gave me to eat. I was naked and you clothed me. I was homeless and you took me in.” —Matthew 25:35

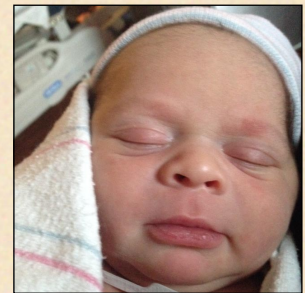
“Hungry not only for bread—but hungry for love. Naked not only for want of a home of bricks—but homeless because of rejection.” —Mother Teresa

As we clean up from Hurricane Matthew and prepare for Thanksgiving and the Christmas Holidays, I am feeling very grateful to our community that helps us provide safe shelter in our three beautiful shelter homes.

Please visit our website (genesishouse-shelter.org) and check over our list of needs and volunteer opportunities. Thank you for helping us with financial support.

NUMBERS

During the past year, Genesis House provided **16,275** nights of shelter, had **235** residents, and **8** births.



TESTIMONIALS

This past year, many of our residents and their families left Genesis House to live in permanent, supportive housing. Here are some thoughts and comments they left with us...

“For my family, Genesis House was not just a structure in which we lived and a roof over our heads. Living there gave me the opportunity to overcome the hardships in my journey. It offered a support group of kind and compassionate friends who guided me on my way”... student mother of two teenage daughters

“Genesis House was a place to stay while figuring out the steps to take in life. It is a place where others can relate as most are going through a rough time” ... single woman

“Genesis is the first book of the Old Testament and can be defined as a new beginning. That’s what Genesis was to me: A new beginning. I had to start over from the ground up. They gave me the tools I needed to rebuild my life. While I was there, I learned how to be accountable, I got a job, received some counseling... slowly but surely things started to get better. I left Genesis a reinvented mother and woman. I thank Genesis House for all they have done for me and my kids.”...mother of 3



Genesis House I is an emergency shelter for adult mothers with children who are homeless.



Genesis House II provides a home for homeless mothers and their children while the mothers complete their education.



Genesis House III provides shelter for homeless pregnant women, but occasionally shelters recently homeless single adult women who are in desperate situations.

IT IS THE MISSION of Genesis House to provide emergency shelter for homeless women and their children, long-term housing for student mothers with children, shelter for homeless pregnant women, and shelter for single recently homeless women. Genesis House, Inc. is committed to providing a safe, supportive, caring environment. Education, self-discipline, self-reliance, and independence from the welfare system are earnestly promoted. Counseling, personal improvement classes, and appropriate health care are obtained for all residents. Classes in childbirth and parenting are provided as needed.



Like to receive this newsletter as an email? Email us at 4genesishouse_ad@att.net and in the future we will send it to you electronically.

LIFESKILLS & ENGAGE

Melissa Vandett has joined Genesis House as our Lifeskills Program Director. This fall the focus of the Wednesday night classes is Parenting.

Genesis House applied and received a grant from The Shirley E. Noland Foundation. This grant supports a new pilot program we have named ENGAGE. This program is designed to help the women understand what their role is as a mother of a student — how to navigate Edline, go to Parent-Teacher conferences, etc. Kelley Wixted is our ENGAGE Program Director.

Want to become part of our Wednesday nights? There are many opportunities. You can come hold a baby, play with a toddler, tutor a student, or share your knowledge. Contact Kelley at 321-960-7433.

RECENT EVENTS

"Below Deck" Viewing Fundraiser.

Genesis House held a "Below Deck" Viewing fundraiser with some of the cast! Special thanks to Melbourne Beach local, Kate Chastain, for making the connection for us with the other cast members and City Tropics Café.



Trunk Show Open House. Jeanette Pitten graciously opened her home for an evening of shopping. Vendors representing various home-based businesses were available to sell their wares, and Genesis House was able to reap some benefits of those sales.

Volunteer Groups. We are blessed with volunteers too numerous to mention. But we would like to extend a shout out to volunteers from Covenant Presbyterian Church, First Baptist Melbourne and to Dr. Andy Zabinski and his son Drew for quickly jumping in and helping with hurricane debris. It was very much appreciated!

Kendyll Bliss Memorial. Each year the family of Kendyll Bliss holds a memorial picnic that raises money and collects supplies. This year guests were surprised with a passing plane pulling a banner that read, "Happy Birthday Kendyll 5/14/98-2/4/99 We Love You". We thank the Bliss and Ashwell families for holding this annual event to honor her and support Genesis House.

Eagle Scout Project. Joseph Hacker and his fellow scouts from Troop 380 designed and built a beautiful new swing-set at Genesis House II. It includes new swings plus a slide and rock-climbing wall.



Christmas in July. Genesis House held its 2nd Annual Christmas-in-July party at Ron and Kristen's house. All of the residents, Staff, a few Board Members and Santa Claus were there! After swimming and a BBQ, Santa arrived with backpacks filled with school supplies and a new outfit for each of the kids!



A Day at the Zoo! The generous and ever-supporting owners of CERTON, Tim and Kim Stockton, and their wonderful employees treated all the residents and the staff to a day at the zoo! The day started out with a motor coach picking up



everyone at all three houses and delivering us to the Brevard Zoo! CERTON also provided the funds for everyone to have a fantastic lunch. This gift of a forever memory will last a lifetime!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendar for the following future Genesis House events. For details on any of our events check our website at genesishouse-shelter.org, email 4genesishouse_ad@att.net or call Kristen at 321-288-4754.

February 2, 2017: Genesis of Art. The 4th annual evening of art, jazz and fun will be held from 6 pm to 9 pm at Lexus of Melbourne. We welcome back Watercolor Artists: Therese Ferguson, Jini James, Linda Neal, Frank Spino and J. Susan Cole Stone. Tickets are \$75 for an individual and \$125 for a couple. Sponsorships start at \$250.

Have A Heart Valentine Event. This is a mailing event that gives you the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets for a cruise for two.

February 18, 2017: Chocolate Hearts and Roses. The Council of Catholic Women at Ascension Church will be having a Fashion Show Luncheon at the Melbourne Beach Hilton benefitting Genesis House. Tickets are \$30. The event will be from 11:30 am-2:00 pm. For information, call Carolyn Paternoster at 321-480-6926.

Golf Tournament. Duran Golf Club will host the 12th Annual Golf Tournament in the spring of 2017. Sponsorships are available, starting at \$150.



CHRISTMAS WISH LIST

Gifts should be unwrapped, but gift bags are appreciated. We would like to receive gifts before Dec. 9 so the gifts can be sorted and wrapped. Any gifts received after Dec. 9 will go under the Christmas trees in the houses for Christmas morning.

For infants, toddlers, and school-age children:
Toys and clothes

For the mothers, pregnant women, and single women:
Sweaters
Sweatshirts/pants

Watches
Backpacks
Purses and wallets
Fluffy, warm bathrobes
Alarm clocks
Youthful costume jewelry
Warm PJs and night gowns
Bus passes

Gas cards
Gift certificates
Movie tickets
Your special gift ideas



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October 21, 2017: Genesis House 40th Anniversary Gala!

Plans are underway to hold a 40's themed dance featuring the Melbourne Swingtime Band. Come dance the night away as we celebrate this awesome milestone!

Genesis House, Inc., P.O. Box 2044, Melbourne, FL 32902 Tel.: 321-723-3133

E-mail: genesishouse@earthlink.net • Web: genesishouse-shelter.org • Facebook.com/GenesisHouseInc

Donations are tax deductible, 501(c)(3) EIN: 59-1595818. Florida solicitation of contributions registration number: CH12963