

April 2009 Newsletter

# CRIB

# Notes

*M*y name is Amanda. I have 2 children, and I spent time at Lois' Lodge during my 1st pregnancy. When I went to Lois' Lodge, I was 16 and pregnant and really needed a place to go where I could reevaluate the path that my life was taking and assess my priorities. The positive impact of having good people around me that loved the Lord helped me to get my life back on track. I continue to draw from the staff of Lois' Lodge and the friends that I made there for support and guidance.

A lot has happened in my life since leaving Lois' Lodge. I made a plan to place my first child with a wonderful adoptive family. That was hard but, based on what I had learned through Lois' Lodge and the wisdom provided from God, I know that this was a good decision. I also got married to Jamel and now have a second little girl who is my inspiration and motivation to move forward and to be the best mother I can be. I now live at Jackson Park as a result of being referred there by Lois' Lodge. Jackson Park is a blessing. They have provided a stable place for us to live, loving support and encouragement and continued hope for the future.

Recently, a tragedy occurred in my life. My sweet husband Jamel was killed in a hit and run accident. But my strength comes from knowing that, because of the Godly influences in our lives, Jamel had made many positive changes. Jamel had gone back to school and was talking with an Army recruiter. He was working full time, and we had begun to save money for the future. Jamel was a wonderful father to our daughter. These are the memories that I hold close to my heart. Most of all, I have peace knowing that Jamel is in heaven and that when he died, he had a personal relationship with the Lord, Jesus Christ.



At the memorial service, I was given a \$1,000 check from Lois' Lodge. I recently learned that the gift was the result of a grant awarded to Lois' Lodge from Elevation Church. I hope to use this money to add to a trust fund set up for my daughter through Jackson Park Ministries.

Jamel and I had a favorite scripture, "Love never fails" 1 Cor. 13:4-8. I love you Jamel, and I know that you and God are with me and will provide me with strength to carry on. I know that I can also continue to lean on my sweet friends at Lois' Lodge for prayers, support and encouragement. Thank you Lois' Lodge and supporters of the ministry for all you did to help both myself and Jamel to turn our lives around.

With Love,

*Amanda*

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Our newsletter is an important link to friends of Lois' Lodge. We welcome your continued interest and support. We also ask your help in being good stewards of our resources. Please help us to conserve postage. If you would like to receive future copies of our newsletter by email, please send an email to: [dg\\_loislodge@bellsouth.net](mailto:dg_loislodge@bellsouth.net) with "e-newsletter" in the subject line. If you would prefer to discontinue receiving our communications, please email with "remove" in the subject line. Be sure to include your name and address.



# From the Director

At Lois' Lodge, we plant seeds into the hearts of the families and individuals that we encounter. God's Word provides us with a simple formula for planting the seeds of salvation. He doesn't lay upon us the responsibility for the harvest ...all He asks of us is to plant a seed. And then, because those planted seeds need nourishment, he sends others to fertilize and nurture that seedling. We all work together with one purpose. Paul says "Through us God caused you to believe. Each of us did the work the Lord gave us. My job was to plant the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God, not we, who made it grow!" Mark 4:1-20.

Amanda's Jamel was an example of this formula. For all practical purposes, when Jamel first became involved with Lois' Lodge, he was a gangster. He had dropped out of school and had been involved in gangs for a number of years. He reportedly had a bad temper and a negative attitude towards authority, which contributed to the development of a criminal record. Yet, God provided the staff at Lois' Lodge with the opportunity to see Jamel through spiritual eyes. We were able to see past Jamel's sagging pants, the "grill" and the tattoos and to see a soft heart which God was preparing for His purposes. Looking back, I can see supernatural elements to the relationship which developed between Jamel and myself. Although I would regularly challenge and provoke Jamel towards change, he was always respectful and considerate towards me. Every time he saw me, he could count on a review of a checklist including—Have you signed up for school? Did you get a job? He was also challenged regarding his spiritual life. Despite my provocation, Jamel would often give me a hug at the end of our times together.

As according to God's plan, those seeds which were planted through the ministry of Lois' Lodge, were then watered and harvested through our brothers and sisters at Jackson Park Ministries. I cannot begin to tell you how it blesses my heart to know that Jamel is in heaven with our Lord.

What an incredible experience it is to be a seed planter...and to watch God enable the nurturing of those seeds so that a harvest can be reaped. I would like to challenge you to join us in sowing those seeds of the Gospel, the seeds of salvation and new life. As we sow those seeds throughout our daily lives, those dull, dry landscapes will begin blossom into something beautiful like that which was seen in Jamel. Seed planting is the primary focus of the ministry of Lois' Lodge. At the very heart of the Great Commission is the command to "Go" and "Be witnesses" for Jesus' sake. Our staff has been called to sow the seed of the Gospel in the heart of every person that the Holy Spirit draws to this ministry. Our seed planters have dedicated their lives to winning souls everyday in every possible way to the glory of God. When we meet those that God sends to this ministry, we invite the spirit of wisdom and love to prevail in an atmosphere of friendliness and encouragement.

We have the seeds that guarantee a harvest of souls but they must be planted. Won't you join us at Lois' Lodge or through your own sphere of influence to become a seed planter today?

Debbie



## *Love's Garden*

by Ellen Robena Field

*There is a quiet garden,  
From the rude world set apart,  
Where seeds for Christ are growing;  
This is the loving heart.  
The tiny roots are loving thoughts;  
Sweet words, the fragrant flowers  
Which blossom into loving deeds,  
Ripe fruits for harvest hours.  
Thus in our hearts the seeds of love  
Are growing year by year;  
And we show our love for the Savior,  
By loving His children here.*





## Meet Rose Plesz

I have always had a heart to serve so after moving to Charlotte from Ohio in 2003, I knew God would find the right place, the right people and the right time for me to serve.

It didn't surprise me a bit when I sat next to a woman representing Lois' Lodge at a network meeting I attended. What intrigued me most was the heart of the organization. The location was close to my home, so I took the brochure and "tucked it away" with other brochures I had received that day. But God spoke loud and clear that it was not to be "tucked away" when the brochure kept finding its way mysteriously to the top of my desk. I finally made the call and knew instantly this was the place I would call "home" and serve in whatever way was needed.

Like many of the young ladies that call Lois' Lodge home, I too found myself single, pregnant and scared at a young age. I was engaged to be married at the time, but the emotions that I went through, the uncertainty of my future and shattered dreams were the same and real.

I felt a connection with Lois Lodge and knew that God leading me here was no mistake. He was going to use my story for His glory. Allowing Him to lead the way, I've had the wonderful opportunity to mentor these beautiful women and share a part of myself through a workshop designed to rekindle dreams, self confidence and God's love with the women who are a part of this blessed organization. Little did I know 28 years ago that what seemed to be a very dark period in my life would become the highlight of my life! Thank you, Lois' Lodge, for the opportunity to share a part of myself and to be a light amidst the darkness!

## The Red Envelope Project

The Red Envelope Project could result in millions of envelopes heading to the White House over the next month to protest President Barack Obama's pro-abortion policies. Based on the red tape students are using to cover their mouths in silent abortion protest, a pro-life advocate developed the idea to send an empty red envelope to the White House to protest abortion. Purchase your red envelopes and send them to President Obama at The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave, Washington, D.C. 20500.



## Upcoming Events

### **Volunteer Orientation**

April 9th at 6:30 pm

Learn more about becoming a volunteer.

Contact Dawn at 704.376.8550

### **Lunch & Learn**

May 15th at 12:00 pm

Spend your lunch hour with us.

Attend an informational presentation and receive a tour of our facilities. Lunch is complimentary.

Reservations are required.

Contact Dawn at 704.376.8550



# Take Action

## How you can help:

### Food Drive

Feeding a house full of expectant moms takes an army of help! Your small group can help by planning a food drive.

### Room Mom

Remember your days in elementary school, when the room mom brought great treats to your parties? We need volunteers to provide healthy snacks for our Monday night classes.

### Lamp posts

We are looking for a volunteer (or small group) to purchase and install lamp posts in front of our Mom Shoppe and administrative offices.

### Painters

A few of our rooms are in need of a good coat of paint. Volunteers will provide their own supplies, time and talent to help us spruce up the place.

## Lois' Lodge Wish List

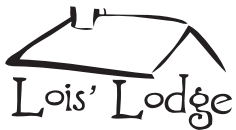
- Premie baby clothing
- Stroller/car seat combo
- Postage stamps
- Office supply store gift certificates
- Reusable water bottles

Check out the new volunteer opportunities listed on the website at [www.loislodge.org/volunteer.html](http://www.loislodge.org/volunteer.html)

## Every Gift Makes an Impact!

It is the collaborative support of the community, giving of their time, talents and treasures that make Lois' Lodge such a special place. Your financial support will help sustain the work of Lois' Lodge in providing loving support to women and families in crisis. Make your tax-deductible gift through our secure website at [www.loislodge.org](http://www.loislodge.org) or return in the enclosed envelope.

Crib Notes is published by Lois' Lodge, in conjunction with Lippi & Co. Advertising, Inc. © 2009 (704) 376-2001 | [www.lippi.com](http://www.lippi.com)



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