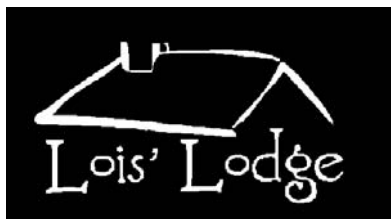


Crib Notes



November 2008

Executive Director
Debbie Durrell

Board of Directors
Deana Kocylowsky
Kathi Ingrish
John Marx
Falinda Farley
Zeritha McFadden
Diane Atkins
Rick Cammer
Amy Hundley

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 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's Desk.....

I wonder if you are like me – hesitant to turn on the news. Between the elections, the economy and the situation in the Middle East, these are scary times. And, as we all know, Charlotte is particularly vulnerable due to the banking issues.

Here at Lois' Lodge, we are making a special effort to focus on how much we have to be **thankful** for and how God is always faithful to meet all of our needs for this ministry and in our personal lives.

This also happens to be the time of the year when we hold our annual Lois' Lodge fundraising banquet. We have been prayerfully concerned about the timing of this important event. To be perfectly honest, our concern is not with how the state of the economy will affect the results of our banquet. We believe that this ministry **is in God's hands**. He, has and always will always be our provider. Our concern is for you, our precious supporters. Those of you that are used by God to accomplish His purposes in this ministry.

As we think about you, we wonder - is this a time that people will feel like going out to a special event. And, even though our event is completely financed through the generosity of underwriters, will our supporters feel that a dinner at Ballantyne Resort is too extravagant during this time when everyone is so concerned about their financial circumstances? Is anyone really in the mood to go to a celebratory banquet designed to increase ministry support? Please know that the staff at Lois' Lodge and the Board of Directors have lifted these issues up to the Lord in prayer, seeking His direction and guidance. He has led us to continue on with our planning and to trust him with the results.

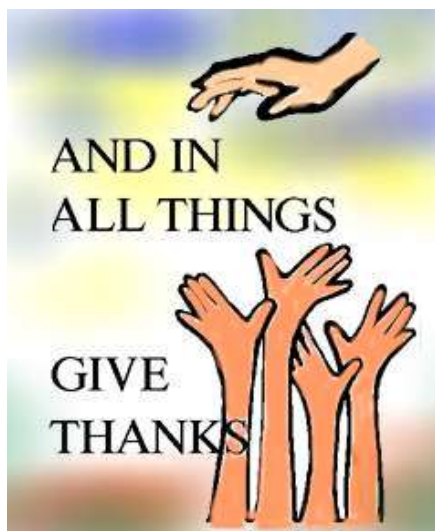
Chuck Colson from Prison ministries recently shared a story about a woman who told him that her husband had been heavily invested in the real estate market. When the housing market melted down, her family "lost everything they had - their home, cars, retirement, everything". When this woman finished sharing her situation with Chuck she reportedly turned to him with a radiant smile and said "It's been tough, but I have no fear. The Lord has a plan for me. I am totally at peace." Wow, what faith! And, isn't that how it is supposed to be for the Christian?

That peace which was communicated so beautifully by the woman, who had lost everything, is the same peace which the Lord has provided for us as we continue to seek His will for this ministry, for the upcoming banquet and for those who partner with us in his work. God has called us to "complete and utter trust in Him". This trust is much easier to embrace during the easy times. And it can provide a stunning witness to God's love in Christ when we trust Him during the challenging times.

The trials that we are currently experiencing are all a part of being humans in a fallen world. But as Christians we are called to be light in the darkness. As a result we must react differently to trials as a part of our witness to the world. It is our prayer that God will use the ministry of Lois' Lodge and these challenging times to let the world see how the "genuine faith of God's people shines all the brighter in the darkness".

Debbie

I am leaving you with a gift- peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid. John 14:27



Thankfulness By: Samantha Daniels, Volunteer

Every year, around Thanksgiving, we begin to go through the proverbial file cabinet in our minds. We take out moments, situations, people, and places; we begin to evaluate. We ask ourselves, “What am I thankful for?” As the warm scent of turkey, stuffing, and hot apple pie fill our homes we ponder this question and we often find many answers by simply looking around the room.

As I look around the room at Lois Lodge on a chilly October night, I am beginning to see people that I’m thankful for. I’ll admit I was a bit intimidated when I first began to volunteer at Lois’ Lodge. I didn’t exactly know how the girls would perceive me. They might wonder why I even care or what I’m doing there. However, the more and more I listen and talk to the girls, the more at ease I feel. Take every preconceived notion and throw it out the window. These girls have drive and ambition. They strive to be successful, and caring mothers.

I actually had the opportunity to sit down with each of the girls and ask them what they are thankful for this Thanksgiving season. I was overwhelmed by their grateful responses.

I was nervous the first day I arrived to volunteer at Lois’ Lodge. The first girl I spoke with was 19-year-old Sarah. Since we are both the same age it instantly felt like she could be one of my friends. *She told me, "I'm thankful for everything. If it weren't for Lois' Lodge I wouldn't be in school or have a job. They've helped me so much to become a good mom."*

Maria, one of the girls (age 15) said, "I'm thankful and blessed that they (Lois' Lodge) took me in and just everything they have done for me."

Mary (age 14, who spent most of her life in the foster care system) answered, "I'm just thankful for Lois's Lodge and the staff. I'm thankful that I'm in this good environment."

Serena, (age 17) is one of Lois' Lodge's newest clients. She said, "I'm thankful for the support of my family and having the people at Lois' Lodge for help. I'm learning how to be more independent."

My eyes glance around the dinner table at each girl. As we eat dinner and chat about the day’s events I realize how blessed I am to have the opportunity to get to know this group. I don’t want to be sappy but I truly am thankful for having met all four of these girls. I think they are all beautiful young women with loving hearts and I know they will all be amazing mothers.

Would you like to bless others with the talents and time God has blessed you with?

Consider Becoming a Volunteer!

Learn more at a Volunteer Orientation. Upcoming dates: 11/ 13, 12/11, 6:30 pm

For more information contact Dawn at 704-376-8550

or dg_loislodge@bellsouth.net

Announcements

It's a Boy!

Born August 30th.

Mom is parenting her child with the help of family and friends. Her goal is to get a job and further her education.

It's Twins!

Born October 23rd to a non-residential client who has been participating in classes through our Mom Shoppe. Not only has she gained important skills but she was able to earn items that she needs for her babies.

New Believers!

We are thrilled to announce that we have 2 new sisters in Christ. Both are residents of our maternity home. One came to faith on September 10th and the other on October 25th.

Baptisms!

2 clients were baptized on October 25th. For them it was an outward expression of their new life in Jesus Christ.. Staff and friends were present to support these young women in their faith journey

**YOUR SUPPORT
MAKES IT
POSSIBLE!**

Your generosity is saving babies and changing lives by supporting expectant moms in their time of crisis.

Please send a gift of support today.

Donate Online

<http://www.loislodge.org/donate.html>

**"Only one life, 'twill soon be past:
only what's done for Christ will last"**

C.T. Studd, Missionary

We are extremely grateful to the Lord for providing for the needs of this ministry even in light of a struggling economy. Thank you to our friends who continue to give out of their love for the Lord and their desire to be a part of his work.

Some of our ministry friends shared these thoughts about why they partner with us...

"It has been such a privilege to support women who are choosing life, and to be involved with an organization that truly shows Christ's love to women and men who are at a crossroads. The deep level of caring and commitment of Lois' Lodge in serving these women is inspiring, and it is such a joy to hear the testimonies of families who have been touched by their compassion."

Anne Moore, Donor and Volunteer

"We give, even during these turbulent economic times, because we like to support a Christ centered organization which can provide assistance to women. As an added plus, this gives us an opportunity to give to a faith-based organization where my company will also provide matching funds!"

Malcolm & Tracy Hiltz, Donor
Powell, Ohio

Meet Diane Medeiros Former Chair, Lois' Lodge Board of Directors



My husband Bob and I have been married for 27 years and have two children. Our son was 2 yrs. old and daughter six months old when they arrived together on a Nov. day in 1988. They are biological siblings

and the Lord gave them to us through the gift of adoption. As you can imagine life was a wild ride those first months after they came into our family and into our hearts.

We moved to Charlotte in 1993 and made sure that we were part of a church family. My husband attended Reformed Theological Seminary in the evenings and I was a stay at home mom. Eventually I felt that I needed to be involved in a ministry of some sort and began to pray that God would lead me where he wanted me to serve him. Lois' Lodge had just found a home in Matthews that was perfect for their vision to serve women in crisis pregnancy and it was about that time I first heard of Lois'. We had always held a strong pro-life position so it was a natural pull for me to volunteer at Lois'. Things moved much more quickly than I had anticipated and before long I was on the Board of Directors. What a stretch this was for me as I was sure I had little to offer, only my willingness. As the ministry grew so did my confidence and a few years later I was asked to be board chair.

Lois' Lodge has had 3 board chairs and the 2 preceding myself were pastor's wives. I was sure they had asked the wrong person as I had few connections and prefer working behind the scenes rather than in a leadership role. And I am quiet in a group of people. I can tell you I really wrestled with myself and the Lord over this but he made it clear that I should accept the position. It was uncomfortable, I was not able, but since HE is able the ministry has grown and impacted many women and their families and I have had the blessing of being a part of his work.

Bob and I had always prayed and had devotions as a family on a daily basis and made sure our son and daughter were brought up in a Christ centered home. We had our short comings as parents and we made our mistakes along the way too, but we did place our focus on bringing them up in the ways of the Lord. Really, life was going along quite happily for the most part. Shortly after I became the board chair of Lois' we began to face the challenges of a teen pregnancy in our own home; not through Lois' Lodge, or the daughter of a friend, but our very own daughter. She became pregnant at age 16 and her baby girl was born when she was 17. I wish we could say we handled everything in a model way, but I cannot. There were tears, fears, and many conversations that I wish I could take back now. And I found that I had a pride issue that I was totally unaware of. The Lord spent months dealing with me on that issue.

Shortly into our daughter's pregnancy I went to the board of directors and told them of our family situation and offered to resign in my position of chair. I cried a lot that night, and do you know what those dear friends of mine did? The board and Debbie surrounded me and prayed for us as a family and then they told me I was still board chair. I will always remember the feeling I had that evening when the body of Christ responded in love to a hurting person – me.

Eventually our emotions settled down and we were left with a grief for the hopes that we had held for our daughter's young life. Everything changes when you experience a teen pregnancy and it changes all over again once that child is born. Our daughter chose to parent and we became, and still are, part of that incredible journey. Since early in our marriage my favorite Bible verse has been Romans 8:28 which promises us that, "We know that all things work together for good for those that love the Lord and are called according to his purpose". Through the years we had seen this occur in our own lives and the lives of others. Before our grandchild's birth we had no idea the joy that was just around the corner. Once our granddaughter entered this world and we held, fed and loved her we found the 'good' in this situation. She is now three and whenever we see her our world lights up. She is one of the biggest joys in our life and our little sunbeam. We are so very thankful for her life and our daughter's choice to see her pregnancy through to full term.

Being on the Board of Lois' Lodge has been an honor and a blessing. We are incapable of out giving our God. He always turns it around and blesses us back in ways we could never have predicted. For one thing, I am no longer computer illiterate! It started with my being forced to do e-mails (yes, I was that far behind the times) and even progressed to creating word documents and surfing the net. And I made so many friends at Lois' who have come alongside me when our family needed a support system.

Thank you all at Lois' Lodge (Debbie, the staff, board members and volunteers) for what you do in the lives of others in the name of Christ. Your work for Jesus extends far beyond the women and babies you serve, impacting others in ways you may never fully know and bearing fruit of eternal value.

Most of all I am grateful for my God who accomplishes far more than we could ever ask or think and uses such a person as myself in such a place as Lois' Lodge. To him be the glory!

The staff and board of Lois' Lodge extend sincere appreciation for Diane Medeiros and her sacrificial service as a board member and the board chairperson for this ministry. Diane's term on the board has been completed. But, we are looking forward to her continued involvement as a volunteer.