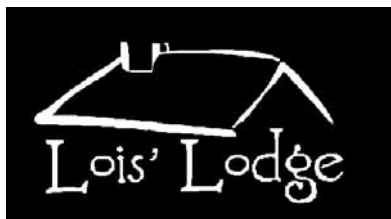


Crib Notes



March 2009

Executive Director

Debbie Durrell

Board of Directors

Diane Atkins

Rick Cammer

Falinda Farley

Kathi Ingrish

Deana Kocylowsky

John Marx

Zeritha McFadden

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.



Kelsey Shares Her Story

Hi! I'm Kelsey and I'm 18 years old. I moved into Lois' Lodge on August 4th 2008. When I found out I was pregnant, I knew I could not live at home with my parents any more so I went to the H.E.L.P Crisis Assistant Pregnancy center in Monroe. They told me

all about Lois' Lodge, so I filled out an application that afternoon. I also knew someone who used to live at Lois Lodge when she was pregnant, and she told me what an awesome place it was.

Lois' Lodge was not what I had expected it to be. I had never lived away from my parents before, so I was very nervous and shy in the beginning. But as the weeks passed I got more comfortable with the other girls and the staff. Then I really started to like it there. I learned so much from living at Lois' Lodge. Before I moved in I had never even done my own laundry! I definitely learned how to be more independent.

During my time at Lois' Lodge, I chose to place my baby for adoption. I found a wonderful couple through Christian Adoption services. I am so happy with my decision to place my baby because I know she will have the best life possible. I knew that I was not ready to parent a baby yet.

I will always treasure the time I spent at Lois' Lodge. I have made life long friends with the residents and the staff. I cannot thank Lois' Lodge enough for all the help they gave me! I hope to volunteer and someday help girls who find themselves with an unplanned pregnancy who are considering placing their babies for adoption.

Kelsey recently came back to Lois' Lodge to share her experiences about adoption with other young women who are making decisions regarding their future and that of their babies.



The Directors Corner

Debbie Durrell, Executive Director

At Lois' Lodge we do not make it a practice to send out urgent or overly-dramatic appeal letters. We are careful stewards of the funds we have, and we want to be careful stewards of our relationship with you. Therefore, it would only be in special circumstances that we would approach our faithful friends with a notice regarding financial concerns.

Several weeks ago we received an email from the state of North Carolina indicating that they are running low on State Maternity Funding for the balance of the fiscal year, ending June 30, 2009. And that as a consequence all incoming applications will be prioritized and only approved if funds become available. This affects us at Lois' Lodge in several ways. Although we have steadily decreased our dependence on state funds, our 2009 budget has been developed with a projection of approximately 20% of our income coming through state funding. Many maternity homes in the state of North Carolina are totally reliant on this state funding in order to operate. The largest maternity home setting in the state will not accept clients unless they are eligible for this source of funds. As a consequence, when these funds dry up, other maternity homes often refer their prospective clients to Lois' Lodge. The state of North Carolina also refers most of the inquiries that they receive to us during these times. This is because, at Lois' Lodge, we have always been committed to serving clients regardless of their funding eligibility. We anticipate being deluged with referrals due to this new circumstance. Also noteworthy is the fact that we have seen that our contributions from individuals decrease monthly since last fall. Income for January 09 is approximately 30% less than it was for January of '08.

We are not in a panic, however. God was not taken by surprise by the recent economic downturn, and we are not going to suddenly begin telling you that the sky is somehow falling. It is not. ☺

Our board and staff will be taking appropriate financial measures to lower costs without cutting services to our clients. In short, we will do all we can. We know that in order to continue to reach out to women and families facing unplanned pregnancies with the hope of Christ and the truth of His life, we will need to continue to count on friends such as you to partner with us to provide the means to sustain this wonderful ministry.

We are asking - if you are able- that you consider either a special gift at this time or that you take the steps now to become a monthly partner with this ministry. I've reviewed our finances and project that- with an infusion of approximately \$27,000 over the next few months- we will be back on track and prepared to press on with our mission. You may be able to give a large portion of this amount, such as \$10,000 or \$20,000; or it may be that you can give \$25, \$50 or \$100. Each of us- if we ask the Lord what He would have us to do- will find our role in this endeavor. We're convinced of that. Will you join us in simply asking God what He would have you to give and join us in this effort?

We've enclosed an envelope in this newsletter for your gift, and if you have any questions, feel free to give me a call at 704-376-8550. Together- through one time gifts and monthly gifts and most importantly, through God's leading- we believe we will move past this bump in the road. Thank you in advance for considering this request. We look forward to hearing from you. *Debbie*



6th Annual Walk-A-Thon

Make a Difference - Walk for Life!

Saturday, March 28, 2009, 9:00 am
Freedom Park, Charlotte

Family Friendly Event!
Live Music
Children's Activities

Come walk with the Charlotte Eagles Soccer Players
Free soccer clinic at 8:45 for all children of registered walkers



Get Involved:

1. Walk & Raise Sponsorships
2. Donate to Walk
3. Recruit a Team to Walk

All registered walkers will receive a t-shirt and be entered into a raffle to win prizes

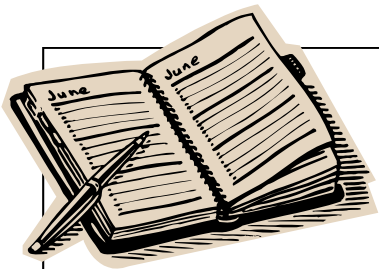
Register to participate online: www.loislodge.org



Lois' Lodge is a ministry that provides residential and non-residential support services to women facing an unplanned pregnancy.



Sponsorship Opportunities are available. Call 704-376-8550



Upcoming Events

March	Walk-A-Thon, 3/28, 9:00 am
April	Volunteer Orientation 4/9, 6:30 pm
May	Lunch & Learn 5/15, at noon
June	Volunteer Orientation 6/11, 6:30 pm
July	Lunch & Learn, 6/17 at noon
August	Volunteer Orientation 8/13, 6:30 pm
September	Family & Friends Cookout, TBA
October	Volunteer Orientation 10/8, 6:30 pm
November	Banquet of Hope 11/19, 7:00 pm

Ministry Needs

- ☞ Cleaning supplies
- ☞ 100 Calorie Snack Packs
- ☞ Non-Stick Cookware Set
- ☞ Stroller/Car Seat Combo
- ☞ Repair work and shelving for a closet in our Mom Shoppe
- ☞ Someone to clean out a dryer vent near the roof
- ☞ A volunteer (individual or group) to provide cleaning services for our Mom Shoppe

Praiseworthy News!



Two clients are pictured here with Pastor Kelvin Smith of Steele Creek church of Charlotte after their recent baptism.

Retired Donor Murray Hiltz Shares His Thoughts about Charitable Giving

As a contributor to Lois' Lodge, there are strategies I use to allow me to make larger contributions. Possibly some of these ideas could be helpful to other Lois' Lodge supporters.

In 2009 donors 70.5 years old or older can make gifts directly from IRAs to charities with no tax on the withdrawal. This can be meaningful if you pay income taxes. I have done this each year that it has been allowed by the IRS. You can request a form from the IRA administrator

My employer, FM Global, will match donations to tax exempt charities (limits apply). This means that if I write a check for \$1,000 to Lois' Lodge, FM Global will send a check for \$1,000. Many organizations in the Charlotte area will do the same. Most organizations will match donations made by retired employees such as me.

Thanks to Murray and many others who give to support Lois' Lodge ~

**You make our work possible!
Please consider making a donation today**

To Donate Online

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



The Mom Shoppe is Reaching the Community With Practical Love & Support

Since Opening in May of 2008, over 50 women and families have been served through programming at the Mom Shoppe. Women from all over the Charlotte and surrounding area are finding the Lois' Lodge Mom Shoppe to be an invaluable resource.

Monday night classes include childbirth, pre-natal, parenting and adoption. We also offer life-skill classes such as food safety, menu planning, roommates & apartment renting, stress & time management, beauty from the inside out, job skills, finance management and First Aid/CPR. Thursday night Bible studies are also open to women in the community. All classes are taught by volunteers and most supplies are donated.

Recently one of the program participants shared her testimony. She is excited to tell others how she had benefited from the many classes available to her. She has also been able to shop for baby clothes, diapers and formula that she eared through our voucher system.

You can be a part of this important program through volunteering or donating new baby items. We are also looking for sponsors to underwrite Infant CPR classes for the clients at a cost of \$25 per person.

If you would like to help, or if you know someone who needs our services, please contact us at (704) 376-8550.

What if Lois' Lodge had a penny for every time you searched the Internet?

There's a easy way to raise money for Lois' Lodge. Just start using GoodSearch.com as your search engine and online shopping mall. Every time you search the Internet or make an online purchase at one of their partner merchants, Good Search makes a donation to your favorite nonprofit and it's powered by Yahoo! so you get great search results!

Search the web with www.goodsearch.com and money from Yahoo advertisers will go to Lois' Lodge without you spending a dime

