



Crib Notes



March 2007

Leah's Story
The Director's Corner
Volunteer Spotlight
Meet Our Staff
Walk-A-Thon
The Heart of Development
Lois' Lodge Partners

Lois' Lodge 4th Annual Walkathon

Saturday, April 14th
Stumptown Park

*See page 5 for
additional details*

Lois' Lodge
1316 Hemlock Street
Charlotte, NC 28203
(704) 376-8550
Executive Director,
Debbie Durrell

**Please Check Out
Our Website
www.loislodge.org**



My name is Leah. I'm 19 years old. I came to Lois' Lodge this past July when I was just 2 months pregnant.

I met my fiancé, Mark at Appalachian State University in October of 2005. It was our freshman year of college and once we met we were inseparable. What drew me to him was the fact that he shared my beliefs as a Christian, which is hard to find in a college atmosphere sometimes, let alone in a guy. We became the

classic Christian couple I had always dreamed about, wanting to wait and be pure and having God at the center of our relationship. But, eventually the college life and independence that surrounded us swayed our values, and by June 2006 I found out I was pregnant.

Telling our parents was hard. Things were extremely rough emotionally and tense for everyone and I knew I had to find a way to move away from that tension and to focus on being healthy for myself and this growing baby. I chose to move to Lois' Lodge where I felt I could best have my needs met as a soon to be mom in an environment that supported my Christian faith. It was a move I felt God leading me to do, even though it was extremely hard to pack up my things and move to a place I hardly knew and without any family around. I was surprised to find I never really got homesick, except on my birthday. I think God's peace was with me the whole time and I knew that things would be ok and that it was for His Glory. I quickly made friends with the other girls and staff. I definitely treasure having known each of them. There will always be a few special friendships that will forever make my heart smile.

I've definitely learned that I have what it takes to make a good, home cooked meal, not from a box! My signature dish has become pot roast, which has always been one of my favorite mom made meals growing up. I have also come to value having my bed made and things being clean and looking nice. I feel like I am much more ready to take on my role as a wife and mom simply by knowing how to cook and clean.

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From the Director's Desk.....

Lois' Lodge continues to grow and evolve and we have hit the ground running in 2007!

Through our relocation we have developed the capacity to provide residential aftercare services. The program was jump started through a grant provided by United Way. Nancy King, who has worked as a residential coordinator in the Lois' Lodge maternity home, and was the Director of the Single Mother's ministry at Jackson Park, began serving in the newly created position of "Independent Living Coordinator" on January 7. In this role, Nancy is concentrating on working with clients in the maternity home and in our aftercare settings, to help them to be able to develop the skills necessary to function successfully outside of the Lois' Lodge residential programs. Focus is on financial stability; debt management; productive and consistent employment; furthering life skills and parenting skills; and maintaining emotional, physical and spiritual health. Currently we have three women residing in our aftercare settings. In contrast to the maternity home, where all of our programs are free of charge, the aftercare program has a fee for participation. These fees do not cover the expenses related to operating the independent living/aftercare program but they are a tool for helping the moms to begin to budget for future living expenses.

The aftercare opportunities are available to moms who have chosen to allow an adoptive couple to parent their child and to moms who choose to parent. We are excited to have the ability to build on skills acquired during the pregnancy period, through the aftercare program.

With this continued growth in the ministry areas of Lois' Lodge our operating expenses are increasing accordingly. And— for me, my faith also grows. Throughout my involvement with Lois' Lodge, the Lord has repeatedly called those of us that are in leadership positions in this ministry to



step out in faith and to trust Him to provide the means to accomplish His purposes here. The United Way has provided us with an opportunity to develop a strategy and to begin to serve clients through our independent living/aftercare programs. After the grant period we will be responsible for generating the funds necessary to sustain these initiatives. Unlike other, short term crisis pregnancy ministries that are able to begin to serve clients with one part-time or volunteer staff person

and a team of faithful volunteers, the expenses related to providing residential care can be overwhelming. And unlike the ministry of the local church we do not have a tithe base. But, we serve an Awesome God. I am continually amazed by the miraculous provision which comes through His faithful followers. Please pray and seek God's will regarding your participation in accomplishing His purposes at Lois' Lodge. As the ministry continues to grow, He may be calling you to help to provide the funds needed to support this growth. Please continue to join us in praying for the ministry of Lois' Lodge and for the women that we serve. I thank God for each one of you.

Your sister in Christ, Debbie

"I tell you the truth, if you have the faith as small as a mustard seed you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you". Matthew 17:20

Lord— When we grow weary, please help us to remember that we do not have to do your work through our own strength. There is great power in even a little faith, when You are with us. When we feel weak or powerless as Christians, help us to examine our faith, making sure that we are trusting not in our own abilities to produce results, but in Yours. Thank you for your miraculous provision at Lois' Lodge and thank you for those that you send to come alongside us to accomplish your purposes in this ministry. AMEN

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While at Lois' Lodge the staff worked with me to secure a job at one of the large banking companies in Charlotte, through a temporary agency. The opportunity was supposed to last only a week. A week turned into a month, and one month turned into many. By the grace of God, somehow this job held out through the entire time I was at Lois' Lodge and I was able to save up over \$3000 towards my upcoming role as a mom and wife.

Mark and I have both have participated in counseling through Lois' Lodge and it has helped us to work on our relationship and to prepare for marriage and a child. We're eagerly awaiting this little one's arrival. We have both also grown spiritually and believe that God has provided us with a testimony to help others. Mark recently proposed, and of course, I said yes! We are really excited about becoming a family. He's going to be an awesome dad.

I definitely treasure my time at Lois' Lodge. I have felt like I have needed to soak up all the time that I can get because I know that this won't be my 'home' much longer. Now my place is with Mark and our daughter as we create our own little family. I thank God that He's given me the opportunity to better prepare my heart, mind and bank account for that role through Lois' Lodge. I would like to thank all of the staff, volunteers and supporters of this ministry for making this possible.



Born February 22, 2007, 8 lbs, 2 ounces, 18 1/2 inches long.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Andrea Johnson

"Having Andrea as a mentor has been one of my favorite parts of my stay at Lois' Lodge. Not only did it provide me with a night a week to enjoy a few hours of fun, but Andrea has been such an encouragement and help throughout my stay. Her whole family opened their doors and hearts to me and I enjoyed spending time with them and seeing an example of what a true Christian family looks like. I believe God knew what He was doing, as always, when he paired us together. We clicked instantly and I've always enjoyed our talks and hearing her advice. I love how she always points me back to God in any situation, whether to praise Him or to seek Him. She is absolutely wonderful in every way and I hope she will continue to touch other girl's lives at Lois' Lodge." Leah



Why Andrea became involved with Lois Lodge: "Through our personal adoption journey, God developed in me a heart for his unwanted and abandoned children. He bent my heart towards a love and desire to help the moms who, in time of crisis, through a variety of circumstances are faced with difficult decisions about these children of His."

We are thankful that the Lord has blessed us with Andrea and others like her who serve as volunteers.



Meet Gerry and Eileen

Gerry & Eileen Potoka come to Lois' Lodge as houseparents with a wide range of training and experience. With almost 34 years of marriage, they are the birth parents of 2 boys (now 30 & 27) and adoptive parents of 1 girl (now 31), as well as grandparents of 2 of the "world's cutest and smartest boys", ages 8 & 5. Along with parenting their own children, Gerry & Eileen have been foster parents for DSS and the Goodwill Home and Mission in New Jersey. They have also served as foster parents in South Carolina for children with a history of abuse and/or emotional dysfunction.

The couple moved to Columbia, SC in 1987 in order for Gerry to attend Columbia Bible College (after 14 years as a steel mill crane operator in PA). After Gerry graduated God led the family into a 9 year bi-vocational pastoral ministry of Charlesboro Baptist Church in Lancaster County, SC. Next the family relocated to Charlotte, NC where Gerry served as the pastor for Covenant Baptist Church for the next 6 years. During their involvement with Covenant Baptist, Gerry and Eileen became volunteers with a ministry named El Roi (the God who sees). They served as spiritual mentors and relief houseparents, and provided long-term aftercare housing and programming. In the fall of 2005 Eileen became the Program Director of El Roi Ministries, moving the ministry from Pageland to Charlotte, to serve the needs of adult women victims of childhood abuse. El Roi is a 13 month residential treatment facility designed to provide services for adult women of childhood sexual abuse. All of these past experiences have provided valuable training and experience to equip this couple for their new role as houseparents at Lois' Lodge. God has given Eileen a gift and passion to encourage, mentor, and disciple women of all ages. She has a heart for reaching out to young women in crisis. Gerry has a supporting role in Eileen's ministry to women, providing a positive male role model of a godly husband and father. He also serves as the spiritual leader of the Lois' Lodge household. We thank God for sending this couple to serve at Lois' Lodge.

You can learn more about all of the Lois' Lodge staff by going to our website: www.loislodge.org

Did you Know?????

- *The United States has the highest rate of teen pregnancy, birth, and abortion in the fully industrialized world.*
- *Four in ten girls become pregnant at least once before age 20— over 900,000 teen pregnancies occur annually.*
- *Every hour nearly 100 teen girls get pregnant and 55 give birth.*
- *About 40% of pregnant teens are 17 or younger.*
- *79% of births to teen mothers are out of wedlock.*
- *8.3 % of students report having sex before age 13.*
- *Some 52% of all mothers on welfare had their first baby as a teen.*
- *Nearly 80% of fathers of children born to teen mothers do not marry the mother.*
- *About 1/4 of teen moms have a second child with 24 months of the first birth.*

Please partner with us to make a difference...

4th Annual Walk-A-Thon

Would you like to give back to the community and make a difference in the lives of women experiencing an unplanned pregnancy?

This annual event is a great opportunity to raise awareness as well as funds which will sustain the work of Lois' Lodge and allow for continued expansion of programming to minister to women, their children and families

Please join us for a 2.2 mile walk through the beautiful town of Matthews, North Carolina. This is a wonderful activity for the whole family. Please consider helping in one of the following ways:

Become a Sponsored Walker For additional information or to register please visit our website www.loislodge.org

Sponsor a Walker Donate online or Send your tax-deductible donation to:
Lois' Lodge 1316 Hemlock St. Charlotte, NC 28203



Date of Walk	Saturday, April 14th
Place	Stumptown Park 120 South Trade St. Matthews NC
Time	Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. Prayer/Announcements 9:00 a.m. Walk begins at 9:05 a.m.
Distance	2.2 Miles
Contact Information:	Dawn Guptill Phone (704) 376-8550 email: dg_loislodge@bellsouth.net

REGISTRATION GOING ON NOW!

The Heart of Development

Dawn Guptill, Development Coordinator

How do you feel when people ask you what you do for a living? I LOVE IT!

I love to tell people about the work of Lois' Lodge. The opportunity to serve the Lord in ministering to women facing the challenges of an unexpected pregnancy and their yet-to-be-born children is an incredible blessing.

An equal blessing has come in an unexpected form. Sharing with others how they can join God at work. God is at work through the ministry of Lois' Lodge. He is touching and changing lives in our clients, their families and their futures. Though God doesn't need us to accomplish his work, he uses us. What a joy, God uses us!

That is the heart of development. Building relationships with God's people, sharing the needs of the ministry and giving people an opportunity to be a part of God's great eternal plan.

Development is only as successful as the relationships that are built. As a friend of Lois' Lodge you can help. Here's how:

- Help us to raise awareness about our ministry. Host an informational dessert for your circle of friends.
- Facilitate a meeting between us and your Pastor or church staff. The support of Church community brings much needed strength to our work.
- Participate in our Walk-A-Thon and other special events. There is strength in numbers. The more participants, the more we spread our message and raise the funds necessary to sustain our work.
- Serve as a volunteer. My grandmother always said "many hands make light work". Our needs vary from administrative to cleaning to teaching. Time commitments are flexible to meet the needs of your family and our ministry.
- Give financially. Your ongoing financial support provides the security of knowing that the ministry needs will be met.

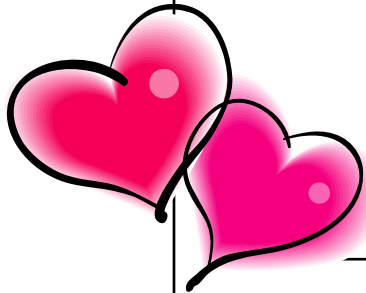
A Word of Thanks

Bryan Cook, a local graphic artist recently volunteered many hours to re-design the Lois' Lodge brochure. Thanks Bryan, you're great! You can check out some of his work at bryancook.com.

Church at Charlotte Women's Ministry, this outstanding group of women have adopted our ministry for a season and have been busy blessing the clients at Lois' Lodge.

Grace Sunday School Class of First Baptist Matthews, our friends from the Grace class are our "secret friends". They come in by stealth to mow our grass, wire our shed and many other projects. The Lord sees your work even when we don't. Bless you!

We could go on and on and on. Thank You to all of our friends and ministry supporters. There is much work to be done - it is a joy to serve with you!



Current Needs

Some prefer to serve, some prefer to give, some love to shop at Wal-Mart! Here are some needed items:

Copy Paper
Plastic Food Storage Containers
Bottled Water
Several Swifter Mops
Christian Music Cd's and books
Life Application New Living Translation Bibles
Postage Stamps
Non perishable food items
Digital Camera
Security System for 3 of the homes
A new van to transport clients
Storage space

Volunteer Needs:
Spring landscaping and yard management for maternity home, office and aftercare homes.
Administrative Volunteers
Cleaning Team
eBay Volunteer

WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU!

As Lois' Lodge continues to grow we are in the process of evaluating our history and planning for the future. It is our desire to be faithful stewards of all that God entrusts us with. That includes both resources and friends.

Please take a moment to help us update our records. If you wish to continue to receive our Crib Notes Newsletter (either by regular mail or email notification), or if you wish to be removed from our contact list please contact us at (704) 376-8550 or dg_loislodge@bellsouth.net

You can also take our online survey to help us better understand how to communicate with you.



Giving Just Got Easier Introducing our EZ Gift Program

It is our desire to make your giving as easy as possible. We are excited to announce a new giving option.

Available beginning on March 15th will be our EZ Gift option. With this option your gift can be securely transferred each month from either your credit card or bank account directly to Lois' Lodge.

I hope that you are as excited as we are about this option. This will reduce costs associated with postage and paperwork both for you and our office, helping us to be the best stewards that we can be of the gifts that the Lord has entrusted us with.

For more information contact Dawn at (704) 376-8550 or visit our website at www.loislodge.org.



Become a Partner in God's Work

The regular monthly support provided through the generosity of our Partners provides the security of assuring sustained funding so that the work of Lois' Lodge will continue and expand.



- _____ Yes, for .5 per day, \$15.00 per month, I will become a partner with Lois' Lodge (\$180/ annually)
_____ Yes, for .83 per day, \$20.00 per month, I will join my spouse in becoming a Partner (\$300/annually)
_____ Yes, for 1.67 per day, \$50.00 per month, I will join my spouse in becoming a partner (\$600/ annually)
_____ The Lord has blessed my family and I would like to share that blessing with Lois' Lodge. I will become a Lois' Lodge Partner by pledging _____/month.
_____ I would like to make a one time donation of: ___\$2500, ___\$1000, ___\$500, ___\$100, ___ other
_____ My company will match my donation to Lois' Lodge.

Company Information: _____

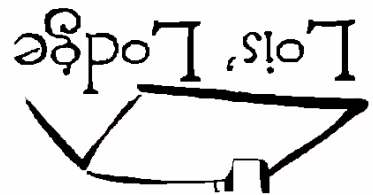
Under United Way's Specific Care program, donors have the opportunity to direct their gift to the causes that are important to them. You may designate to Lois' Lodge by identifying our 501C3 number (#56-2077047), along with our address and phone number on the United Way application.

Name: _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Phone #: _____ Email Address: _____

1316 Hemlock St.
Charlotte, NC 28203



Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage Paid
Matthews NC
28105
Permit # 29



A family-style home in Charlotte,
North Carolina for women facing the
challenges of an unexpected pregnancy

Lois' Lodge, Inc. is a non-denominational, Christian organization that provides practical love, care, and support to women experiencing the challenges of unexpected pregnancies and to their unborn babies.

<http://www.loislodge.org>