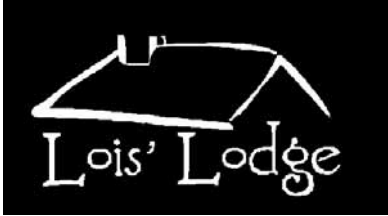


# Crib Notes



March 2008

“ Parents- don't be naïve. Despite the fact that your kids truly believe that they know more than you, the teenage brain *is not fully cooked.* ”

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

[www.loislodge.org](http://www.loislodge.org)

## God's Masterpiece



My name is Melissa. I will be 18 soon and I am a resident of Lois' Lodge. I was in another maternity home setting prior to coming to Lois' Lodge. I came here because I felt that I wasn't getting help to make good decisions in the other place that I was staying.

At that time I was convinced that I was going to parent my baby, but I had no plan. The father of the baby lives in Missouri. He claimed that he would be involved but he also was not working on a plan.

Lois' Lodge told me that they would help me to explore the options of both parenting and adoption. The staff at Lois' Lodge, along with the staff at the adoption agency and my family helped me to realize that adoption was a positive choice for my child. Jim and Lisa, the adoptive parents that I have chosen have 2 biological twin girls, age 5. The girls are going to be great big sisters. They love little kids and are very excited about having a little brother. Lisa is going to be with me while I am in labor and Jim "will be sitting in the waiting room". If it wasn't for Lois' Lodge, I would never have been able to develop an adoption plan for my baby. I really think that if I had stayed at the other place I would have ended up on the street and my baby would probably have been taken away from me by Social Services.

I got my GED while at Lois' Lodge and my plans for the future are to go to college and to become a Respiratory Therapist. I have made good friends at Lois' Lodge. One of the past residents has served as a mentor to me. She placed her daughter with an adoptive family. She and her little girl are doing great. She has gone back to college. The staff at Lois' Lodge is WONDERFUL! They listen to your problems. They are very supportive of my adoption plan but are also supportive of the girls that choose to parent.

I volunteered at a nursing home during my stay at Lois' Lodge. I have also been attending church regularly and my faith is really beginning to grow. I will continue to go to church after I leave. I hope I will be able to come back and visit often. I love my baby and I want for him to have a good life. Thanks to Lois' Lodge, I am confident that he will.

We are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago.  
Ephesians 2:10



Jess and Justin

## *From the Director's Desk.....*

My baby girl is getting married in July. And *Praise God*, she will be wearing white. She has saved her heart and her virginity for her future husband. I am so grateful for this. As most Pastors know, when you are in ministry the devil loves to go after your family and to attack you in the very areas that you are trying to affect. I have known countless families who have been involved in crisis pregnancy ministries and have had daughters and sons who have ended up experiencing an unplanned pregnancy. I cannot tell you how thrilled I am that my sweet children have been able to stay strong in this area.

It is the heart of Lois' Lodge that women would not experience unplanned pregnancies. We see the heartbreak that is cause by this circumstance. Based on my experience of working teens for many years, I believe that I have gained some knowledge on this subject that I would humbly like to share with you. And, my own children have taught me a lot!

- Parents- don't be naïve. Despite the fact that your kids truly believe that they know more than you, the teenage brain *is not fully cooked*. As a consequence teens cannot see the bigger picture. They live for today. Most don't fear illness, disease and death. If they did they wouldn't participate in risky behaviors such as smoking, drinking and using drugs, text messaging friends while they are driving (did you know they are doing that?), etc. Most are not worried about pregnancy. If they have sex one time without "using protection" and do not get pregnant, they have their confirmation that it will never happen to them.

And, I wish doctors would stop telling girls that because of cysts, irregular periods, bladder and/or gastro-intestinal problems, crooked body parts etc. they *may* have a hard time getting pregnant someday.

Once again, this convinces them that THIS WILL NOT HAPPEN TO THEM.

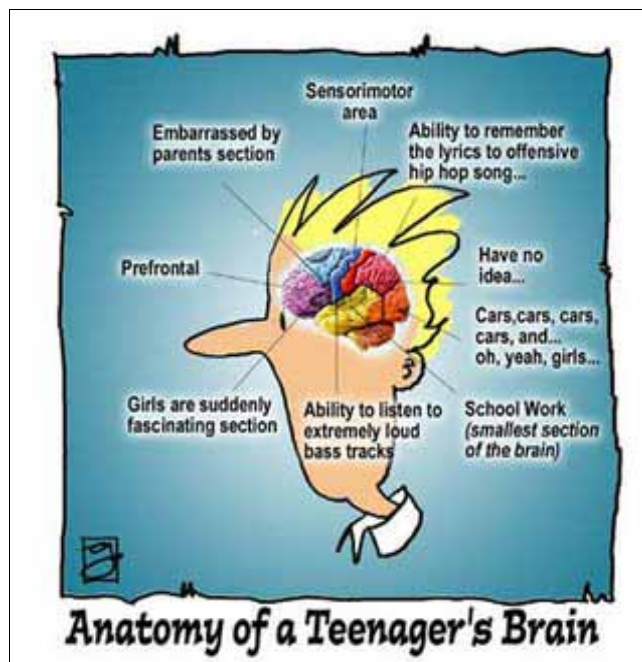
- On the other hand, I believe that a lot of us do not give kids enough credit. Young people today have not evolved into a group of monkeys that no longer can control their bodily urges. When I was growing up (before there were home computers, CDs, DVDs, even cell phones- am I old or what?) our parents told us that we were not to have sex before marriage, PERIOD. And, if we had a healthy fear of our folks and of God, we were able to choose to abstain! Basically, Jess and Justin, my daughter and son, grew up the old fashioned way. They were told- if you have sex before you are married you will be beaten! They never really believed that would happen. In fact, when they were little they used to laugh when I tried to give them a spanking. But, they have always been clear about the fact that their parents would be very disappointed if they *chose* to have sex outside of marriage.

- Parents! Don't believe for a minute that you should be purchasing condoms for your kids. Ask your kids if they know how to get birth control if they need it. Guess what- if they have the nerve to have sex in your bed when you are not around, they can figure out how to get condoms. Telling your teens not to have sex, while buying them condoms, "just in case", is just silly. It's like saying don't shoot drugs, but in case you do here are some clean needles for you to use so that you are safe.

Here's the bottom line! My kids will tell you that they abstain from sex because they believe that God loves them and He wants the absolute best for them. That's why He gave instructions to marry and to save sexual intimacy for marriage. He knew that the best way for our deepest needs to be met was in the security of marriage. When we obey the instructions He has given, He promises to bless us. Marriage and sex are part of God's plan. Justin, Jess and her fiancé Matt understand that God wants us to find fulfillment in marriage. But, they also realize that one person cannot meet all of their needs. We all need a relationship with God. Even in the most healthy marriage, we can have a place in our heart that will feel unsettled or unsatisfied. This spot has been described as a God shaped void that only God can fill. God's plan for Jess and Justin and for all of us, can only be known as we get to know Him. That is the real key to being able to value abstinence and God's plan for marriage.

In order for you to be able to help your children to make right choices, based on their relationship with God, you need to know God also. If you would like to know more about God and His plan for abstinence and marriage, please contact us. We would love to tell you how much God loves you and wants to have a personal relationship with you and your children. God has a plan for your life and the lives of your children. Sex, outside of marriage is not a part of His plan. My own children will be the first to point out that they are not virgins because of anything that my husband and I did right or wrong. The main reason that Jess and Justin have chosen to abstain is because they want to please God and their parents. This is the only reason that really can make sense to young people today.

To God be the Glory, *Debbie*



Baptist Press 2/1/08  
*Used with permission*

CULTURE DIGEST: Abstinence ridiculed on 'American Idol', by: Erin Roach

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--A teenage contestant in a preliminary round of this season's "American Idol" was mocked for his abstinence stance, sending a message to thousands of viewers about how the culture treats the issue. Bruce Dickson, a 19-year-old from Bastrop, Texas, was asked to tell something about himself during the Dallas auditions for the reality show, and he said he had never kissed a girl. "What?" Randy Jackson, one of the show's judges, asked. "On purpose"

"On purpose," Dickson said. "On my wedding day, that will be my first kiss." The home-schooled, Christian teenager went on to explain that he has made a commitment to abstain from sexual activity until marriage, and his father holds him accountable in his decision.

Maybe next year he'll come back less a boy and more a man," host Ryan Seacrest quipped as Dickson's segment ended.

Dickson later told Cybercast News Service he disagreed with Seacrest's assertion. "A real man would rather wait than just do whatever with whoever," Dickson said.

And on Fox News, the editor of a pornographic magazine said American Idol is a "national popularity contest based on talent and sex appeal. There's nothing sexy about a 19-year-old guy who's never kissed a girl and wears a heart necklace his father is holding the key to."

Dickson told CNS he is firm in his decision despite the puzzling ridicule. "I respect women and don't think of them as a sexual object, and I'm the freak?" he said, adding that divorce and other problems his parents observed in their extended family led them to challenge their children to abstain from sex outside marriage. *(cont. on page 4)*

(cont. from page 3, *Abstinence ridiculed on 'American Idol'*)

Jason Burt, national director of Silver Ring Thing, a Christian organization that promotes abstinence, commended Dickson for his stance and said a growing number of youth are choosing to abstain based on their morals and faith. Burt also lamented the treatment Dickson received on the show.

"Bruce has said he's going to walk the hard walk, and instead of lifting him up and praising him, we're mocking him," Burt said. "I think that's because when someone is up on a chair, it's easier for people to pull him down than to pull everyone else up off the floor. Maybe they feel bad they couldn't do it themselves."

In related news, a Boston University School of Medicine study said teens with positive attitudes about delaying sexual activity are more likely to practice abstinence. Influences like parental opinions on sex, personal beliefs and their friends' sexual behavior help determine whether a teen will have sex, the study said, while fears of pregnancy and STDs did not make teens more likely to abstain.

"This study proves that when teens are given the skill sets needed to make the best health choice about sex, it is clear they are capable of choosing to abstain," Valerie Huber, executive director of the National Abstinence Education Association, said Jan. 16. "The core teachings of abstinence education include character building, goal-setting and exploring the emotional risks of casual sex. Abstinence education is the only curriculum that offers such a clear, risk-avoidance approach to sexual health."

### SEVENTH ANNUAL NATIONAL DAY TO PREVENT TEEN PREGNANCY



(Washington, DC) –Hundreds of thousands of teens nationwide are expected to participate in the seventh annual National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy on **May 7, 2008**. The purpose of the National Day is to focus the attention of teens on the importance of avoiding too-early pregnancy and parenthood. On the National Day, teens nationwide are asked to go to the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy's new teen website -- [www.stayteen.org](http://www.stayteen.org) -- and take a short, scenario-based "quiz" that asks young people what they would do in a number of sexual situations. Lois' Lodge has agreed to help to make

sure that the 2008 National Day is a success.

The message of the National Day is straightforward: *Sex has consequences*. The online quiz (available in English and Spanish) delivers this message directly to teens and challenges them to think carefully about what they might do "in the moment." "The simple and direct message of the Quiz is: sex is serious, have a plan" said Sarah Brown, Chief Executive Officer of the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. "Our hope is that—in some modest way—the quiz helps get through the 'it won't happen to me' barrier."

**Why a National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy?** Despite a 36% decline in the national rate of teen pregnancy since the early 1990s, 31% of teen girls become pregnant at least once before age 20 and the vast majority (82%) of teen pregnancies are unintended. The teen birth rate also increased slightly between 2005 and 2006 after 15 years of steady decline – clearly a renewed focus on preventing teen pregnancy is needed.

- **Making a Difference:** Last year over 350,000 individuals took the online National Day Quiz. A survey of the some of the teens that participated in the 2006 National Day indicates:83% said the Quiz made them think about what they might do in such situations;
- 62% said they'd talk to their friends about the situations described in the Quiz;
- 63% said they'd learned something new from the Quiz about the consequences of sex; and
- 73% said the Quiz made the risks of sex and teen pregnancy seem more real to them.

**Who Should Take the National Day Quiz?:** The quiz is appropriate for teens *ages 13 and up*.

## Making an Impact

### Volunteers Impact Lives by Teaching Classes...

Abstinence  
Beauty From The Inside Out  
Bible Studies  
Childbirth  
Cooking  
Finance Management  
First Aid  
Life Skills  
Job Readiness  
Parenting  
And More

If you are interested in using your talents to teach, contact Dawn at [dg\\_loislodge@bellsouth.net](mailto:dg_loislodge@bellsouth.net)

## Volunteers Needed!

### Do you have a Green Thumb?

We are looking for individuals or groups to help to maintain the yards at the four properties currently being utilized by Lois' Lodge.



This is an ongoing opportunity involving planting seasonal flowers, mulching and weed control.

Contact Dawn if you can help at (704) 376-8550

### From a Volunteer's Heart



### Amy

My name is Amy Hundley and I've been volunteering at Lois Lodge since May 2007. A friend of mine who attended the 2006 Annual Lois Lodge Banquet introduced me to the organization and after researching it further, I determined that Lois Lodge would be a great place for me to get involved and give back to the community. I saw Lois Lodge as an opportunity to share all the gifts and blessings God has bestowed upon me with many young women that are experiencing the challenges of unplanned pregnancy. I believe this ministry can effectively change their lives for the good by strengthening their faith in God and helping better prepare them for their future by teaching them invaluable career and life skills.

I began serving as a financial counselor to a girl in the aftercare program. Since she has left the program, my involvement with Lois Lodge has grown significantly. I now serve on the fundraising committee, and have helped with the annual banquet by recruiting table hosts and following up with banquet attendees. My life group from Forest Hill Church also serves at Lois Lodge the first Sunday of each month. We've done many activities with the girls, such as spa day, dinner and a movie night, a Christmas party and candy making for Valentine's Day. We also took the girls on a little shopping spree to treat them to something special before their babies arrived. Lastly, I have hosted a quarterly Money Management seminar, teaching the girls at Lois Lodge the basics of where money comes from and how to make it work for them. I thoroughly enjoy my time volunteering at Lois Lodge and really feel as though I am making a difference in the girls' lives.

*Thank you Amy for your faithful service at Lois' Lodge. To learn more about volunteer opportunities at Lois' Lodge go to our website: [www.loislodge.org](http://www.loislodge.org) and click on How You Can Help or contact Dawn at (704) 376-8550 or via email at [dg\\_loislodge@bellsouth.net](mailto:dg_loislodge@bellsouth.net).*



## Meet the Staff Shirley Hunter

Shirley is our weekend resident coordinator. She has worked at Lois' Lodge for over a year now. Shirley worked in the uniform business for 18 years prior to coming to Lois' Lodge. She says that she always knew that that was not ultimately God's plan for her. She had a peace when she was laid off from her job because she knew that God would place her where He wanted her.

Shirley's testimony makes it clear that past events have allowed her to have a special ministry to women experiencing an unplanned pregnancy. She got pregnant at age 17 and 19 without any real support. "I dealt with a lot of the same issues that our Lois' Lodge moms deal with except I did not have a Lois' Lodge". Nonetheless, Shirley did a great job! Her children are grown now. Son, Mike is 30 and is employed as a Mental Health Technician. He has a bachelors degree in Liberal arts and is attending school to be a personal trainer. Daughter, Tara, is employed in customer service at Kohl's. She has an associates degree in art and a bachelor of Science in Psychology. She plan to pursue her Masters degree. Shirley has been married to husband, Jerry for 23 years. They attend Steele Creek Church.

The favorite part of the job for Shirley is be able to take the residents to church and to introduce them to Jesus. She rejoices with the moms when they have completed the program and have been encouraged towards a better life. She observes that many of our clients come to respect themselves as a result of their Lois' Lodge experience and as a consequence are able to make better choices for the future. Shirley is saddened when young moms do not appreciate the opportunity that Lois' Lodge has offered to them.

One of Shirley's greatest lessons learned through her Lois' Lodge experience is that Adoption can be a Godly option. Shirley would like readers to know that Lois' Lodge is a

godly place that paves the way to Christ. Shirley invited Christ into her own life about 15 years ago when she went through a very challenging time with one of her children. She "felt hopeless and Jesus called her to Him during that time". Shirley's heart desire is that the Lois' Lodge moms will also be able to call on the Lord to be their comfort and their Savior.

One of Shirley's favorite scriptures is  
Psalms 34:8,

**T**aste and see that the  
**L**ord is **G**ood;  
**B**lessed is the Man who takes  
refuge in Him.

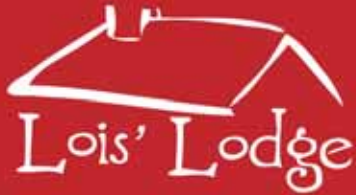


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## You Go Girl!



One of our young moms has earned her High School diploma during the course of her stay at Lois' Lodge. She also has been working at Target in order to save money so that she can be in a good place when the baby arrives. Bravo Tauri. We are proud of you. Also in the photo is Lois' Lodge board member, Falinda Farley. For more updates on Lois' Lodge and current issues relative to crisis pregnancy issues check out the Lois' Lodge blog at: [/www.loislodge.blogspot.com](http://www.loislodge.blogspot.com).



# 5th Annual 2 mile Walk-A-Thon



**Saturday, April 12, 2008, 9:00 am**  
**Stumptown Park, Matthews**  
**Freedom Park, Charlotte**

## **Help Us Help Women & Babies**

- **Walk Yourself—families are welcome!**
- **Be a Leader and Recruit a Team**

**Lois' Lodge Maternity Home**  
**is a Christ-Centered ministry that provides hope & a future**  
**to women facing an unplanned pregnancy.**

**PRIZES!** will be awarded in the following catego-

- **Walker with the most money raised in sponsorships**

**Win a Nintendo Wii gaming system!**

- **Team with the most money raised in sponsorships**

**Prizes to be announced**

**Register to participate online: [www.loislodge.org](http://www.loislodge.org)**





# 5th Annual Walk-A-Thon



## Questions You May Have...

**Q. How far do I have to walk?**

A. It's only about 2 miles, so all ages can participate and strollers are welcome!

**Q. How much can I raise?**

A. There is no limit - you'll be surprised how easy it is.

**Q. What if I can't be there on Walk Day?**

A. No Worries! You can walk on your own at a time that's convenient for you. Just register online then make arrangements to get your sponsorships to our staff.

**Q. What if it rains?**

A. Bring an umbrella and walk. Or, walk another time on your own and make arrangements to get your sponsorships to our staff.

**Q. How do I raise sponsorships?**

A. Just tell everyone you know and ask them to sponsor you. Most people will support you! Send your out of town friends and family a mailer and they can return their contribution directly to their office.

## 10 Ways To Raise Your Sponsorships ...

- Sponsor yourself
- Ask 5 family members to sponsor you
- Ask co-workers to sponsor you
- Ask neighbors to sponsor you
- Ask your boss or company to sponsor you - better yet, ask them to match the amount you raise!
- Ask friends or members of your small group, play group, book club, etc. to sponsor you
- Ask local businesses that you frequent to sponsor you

We are a 501 (c) (3) organization - All donations are tax deductible and a receipt will be provided



Still have questions? Contact Dawn at 704.376.8550 or [dg\\_loislodge@bellsouth.net](mailto:dg_loislodge@bellsouth.net)

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



Here's a new 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](http://www.goodsearch.com) and money from Yahoo advertisers will go to Lois' Lodge without you spending a dime!

Newsletters can be costly to produce and to mail. If you would prefer to receive your communications from Lois' Lodge electronically please let us know by emailing Dawn at [dg\\_loislodge@bellsouth.net](mailto:dg_loislodge@bellsouth.net).

Also, please be sure to let us know if we need to make corrections to your mailing information or wish to be removed



**Let Us Share The Hope  
With You**

**You Are Invited To An Open  
House**

**Sunday, March 9th  
2:00 - 4:00 pm**

Lois' Lodge Maternity Home and After Care Program is a place where women and babies find hope and a future.

Come see for yourself how God is working in this special place.

Join us for a tour, light refreshments and information about how you can be a partner in the work of ministering to women, babies and families.

**Win a Nintendo Wii!  
Participate in the  
Lois' Lodge Walkathon!  
Saturday, April 12, 2008**

We are awarding a Nintendo Wii Game System to the Walker with the most money raised in Sponsorships!



Register to participate at [www.loislodge.org](http://www.loislodge.org)