



Crib Notes

June 2006

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We're Growing.....



As most of you are aware, Lois' Lodge has always had a heart for providing aftercare for our residents. But— we also have been committed to doing first things first. We have believed that it was important that we develop a top quality maternity home program before branching out into the realm of providing a formalized aftercare program. Towards the end of 2005 the Lois' Lodge board of Directors felt led by the Lord to vote to embrace the initiative of developing an aftercare program for our residents. We weren't quite sure how we were going to accomplish this but we remained confident that God would provide a way.

Shortly thereafter Central Church of God offered Lois' Lodge the opportunity to use property which they own that is located in the Dilworth area. Included is one large home which, has been previously used for residential care and three smaller cottage style homes located right across the street. This has been an amazing blessing provided by God.

At this time we continue to seek the Lord's will as to how He would desire for us to make the best use of the wonderful resources which He has provided. We do know that the door to providing aftercare has been opened and we have had our first client move into an aftercare arrangement earlier this month. This young mom chose to place her child with a Christian adoptive family. She has returned to full-time employment and we are working with her so that she can save money in order to transition into a positive independent living situation which supports the values that she has been exposed to through this ministry.

We are also dialoging with the state regarding a desire to use one of the other smaller homes for moms who choose to parent their children. We are inspired about the opportunity to continue to work with the moms that we serve, beyond their pregnancy time. We will do our best to keep you posted about these exciting developments. It is currently our plan to move to the Dilworth location before the end of this summer. We are so thankful to God for enabling this ministry to continue to flourish and grow. And we are also thankful to our faithful friends and supporters who have allowed God to direct you to this ministry so that He can accomplish His work through Lois' Lodge. It's all about Him!



The Director's Corner

It seems like just yesterday, not two years ago, that I was writing to you about my daughter's high school graduation. She has just finished her sophomore year at Gardner Webb. She loves college and is doing very well.

It's hard to believe but this year, 2006 is the year that my baby— Justin graduates from High School. So bear with me, I am sad again. Moms— you understand. It's hard when your babies grow up and go away to be on their own. I am excited to report that Justin will be attending Wingate University. We are anxious to see what he becomes as the Lord continues to work in his life.

Graduation is an exciting time. It's always inspiring to observe a commencement ceremony and to see the faces of each young person filled with hope and anticipation for the future. As diplomas are awarded and speeches are given, we are reminded that these young men and women are the leaders, innovators and pacesetters for the future.

Graduation can also be a sobering time when one considers that this current generation of students has been decreased by approximately one third as a result of the prevalence of abortion over the past 30 years. For every 66 students that graduate this month, there are about 33 additional individuals who will never have that opportunity because their lives were ended while they were still in their mother's womb. Recently, Pastor Joe Brown from Hickory Grove Baptist Church stated that he believes that the person who would have been able to develop a cure for AIDS was aborted. He asked, "what if Mary had chosen to end her unplanned pregnancy by aborting Jesus". I wonder how many future doctors, evangelists, inventors and world leaders have been lost as a result of our society's acceptance of the abortion option. As sobering as this is, we should also remember that there are many young women and men that are graduating this year because their mothers chose



life. Many have made this choice through the caring intervention of pregnancy resource centers and ministries such as Lois' Lodge. Isn't it exciting to reflect on the thought that the helpless infants we save today might become a pastor, fireman, or doctor of tomorrow. God has a unique plan for each of the precious lives that are saved as a result of your prayers and support for the ministry of Lois' Lodge. *Debbie*

Did You Know?

The majority of U.S. women having abortions (56%) are in their 20s.

Nearly eight in 10 U.S. women obtaining an abortion report a religious affiliation (43% Protestant, 27% Catholic and 8% other).

Six in 10 U.S. women having abortions are already mothers. More than half intend to have (more) children in the future. Most U.S. women cite more than one factor contributing to their decision to have an abortion: Almost 3/4 say that having a baby would interfere with work, school or other responsibilities; about three-quarters say they cannot afford to have a child; and almost half say they do not want to be a single parent or are having problems with their husband or partner.

<http://www.guttmacher.org>

The Dilworth Location

This beautiful property has been offered to Lois' Lodge to create an opportunity to expand the ministry. The main home was previously the Grace Home, operated by Central Church of God. Central Church has been an ongoing supporter of the ministry of Lois' Lodge. The church and its members came into Lois' Lodge during the early stages of development of the Matthews property and arranged for all of the furnishings and decorating. This group also handled these issues for the Dilworth properties. Our current residents have commented that the similarities in the decorating styles makes them feel like they have not left their Matthews home. We are grateful to Central Church of God and to other churches that support us on a regular basis. Lois' Lodge currently receives regular monthly support from First Baptist in Matthews, Central Church of God and Christ Covenant Church. Many other churches provide support on a periodic basis. We would love to have the chance to talk to your church about developing a financial partnership with Lois' Lodge. If you are able to facilitate an opportunity at your church please let us know.



Largest home to serve as maternity home.



Two of the smaller homes to be used for aftercare.



To see these photos in color, go to our website: www.loislodge.org.

My Journey as a Volunteer

“For you were called to freedom, brethren; only *do not turn* your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another”. Galatians 5:13 (NASB)

God has led me to share the following with you in the hope that you will be encouraged to become involved in the wonderful ministry of Lois' Lodge.

I was first introduced to Lois' Lodge in 2002. My heart became broken for this ministry – through Lois' Lodge, women facing an unexpected pregnancy are provided support, love, and care in a Christian environment. As a result of their time at the Lodge, some residents have come to saving grace through our Lord Jesus Christ.

God placed such a burden on my heart about this ministry that I began to encourage others to learn about Lois' Lodge. An opportunity to share Lois' Lodge was opened when my church encouraged members to look for “Opportunities for Service” to bring before the Missions Board. I was able to share the ministry in this way.

God also created an opportunity for me to serve as church liaison between Lois' Lodge and my church. Now, through this area of service, God uses my spiritual gifts to seek others in our church to serve as volunteers, in addition to disseminating information regarding the needs, praises, prayer requests and other news.

Serving God through leading others to share in the work of Lois Lodge is not only my passion, but my obligation. Because I am called to freedom through Christ, I use this freedom to serve. I am blessed to be a part of this ministry.

Carole Sorrell

Carole is a member of Calvary Church.



Have you checked out the Lois' Lodge website lately?

We have made a lot of changes and are interested in your opinion as to the content and the layout. Please



let us know what you think. The

website is located at: www.loislodge.org.

Please email us at debloislodge@aol.com with your comments and suggestions.



We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge a special volunteer, **Pete Bonney**.

Pete has been our main man when it comes to our

communications technology. Pete has been the editor and publisher of the Lois' Lodge Crib Notes and the webmaster of the Lois' Lodge website. He has done such a wonderful job that he has worked himself right out of these responsibilities. Thanks to Pete we are now able to publish the newsletter in house and are even able to manage our own website. We are very grateful to Pete and are looking forward to working with him through other new and exciting volunteer opportunities (hint, hint). We are also thankful to Helen who has been willing to share her husband's time with this ministry.

Crib Notes

June 2006

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Copyright 2006 Lois' Lodge

Our Volunteers really SHINE

“Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven”.
Matthew 5:16

Thank YOU!

This is one of those times when words are inadequate.

At Lois' Lodge we are so grateful to the many friends who give their time to our ministry.

Out of LOVE you landscape, clean, organize, exercise, encourage, do office work, share our ministry with others and so much more.

May God bless each of you richly and return to you one-hundred fold all that you do in His name!

Opportunities to Serve

Current Volunteer Openings

- Nutrition Counselor
- Childbirth Educator
- House Sitter
- Transportation
- Mentor

Time is a gift you can share

Have you ever lamented over your long to do list, and your even longer list of things you hope to do (but can't get to)? I have.

A very wise friend once reminded me that every hour of every day was a gift from God and that it belonged to Him, not me. Once I looked at it that way, I couldn't help but drop to my knees and ask my God, the creator of time, to help me. "Help me prioritize. Show me how to use my time wisely" I prayed. God did show me. He also showed me that he wants me to use my time for his purposes, not only my own.

This is my prayer for each of us in the coming months. That God would show us how to flourish in the time he has provided - and how to give it away.

When you serve as a volunteer at Lois' Lodge you are giving a gift with eternal value. You are being the hands, feet and heart of Christ.

As we head toward summer please remember that our work is never done at Lois' Lodge. We need your help - whether it is an hour a day or an hour a week - your time is a gift that we will gratefully receive.

Dawn Guptill

Volunteer Coordinator

For more information about how you can help contact us at 704-845-2185 or visit us online www.loislodge.org

Words from a Lois' Lodge Mom



My mom had brought my brother and myself up in church, practically all of our lives. So I have always known about Christ. At the age of 13 I thought I

knew Christ, so I got baptized. Come to find out I didn't really know Him.

The next couple of years were really tough. Mom got remarried. My dad had died several years earlier of a massive heart attack. As a result my brother and I had to adjust to a new "dad", new sister, and new brother coming into our lives. I have never really adjusted to that fact, and I don't think I ever will. Then, again, anything is possible through Christ.

I went to college, for the wrong reason, to get out of the house and to start living independently. I started getting really heavily into partying and other things. Finally, I graduated from college, but did not want to go home. So I got a job, and moved into an apartment with this other girl. I moved around a lot and never really settled into a place to live, or a lifestyle. I also dated a lot of guys.

I eventually wound up pregnant. Thankfully I had the support of my Nannie at the time. Nannie and I sat down, and weighed our options. We finally decided on a home for unwed mothers. I first called a home in Raleigh. There weren't any openings; however, they recommended Lois' Lodge. So I called Lois' Lodge, and one of the first questions I got asked was "are you a Christian?" My reflex answer was "of course I'm a Christian."

However, living at Lois' Lodge for about 4 months now I realize I was living for a religion, and not for God. Finally, one night I placed my life into the hands of God, and invited him into my life as my Lord and Savior.

What I mean by living for a religion instead of for Christ is I was so determined to let everyone know I was a Baptist. Being a Baptist meant more to me that being a Christian. As I said before I grew up going to church, so I had a lot of knowledge about God and the Bible. But I really didn't look at other people outside my religion with the same kind of love. Since coming to Lois' Lodge and experiencing the unconditional love which I have received from everyone involved with this ministry, I have realized that I knew about Christ but that I wasn't living for Him and did not have a personal relationship with Him. I, also, came to understand that living for God meant that you love everyone the same through His eyes. God does not care about religion. He wants us to live our lives according to His standards. Our relationship is to be with Him, not just with a religion.

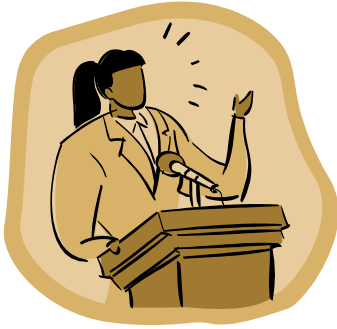
Ever since I have committed my life to Christ, He has turned me away from my old habits, and he is doing remarkable things for me and my child. Such as, giving me a good place to live, having Elizabeth (my daughter) put into good hands of two wonderful Christian people, and putting amazing people in my path who care about me and are willing to do whatever they can to help me to live a life that is pleasing to our Lord. I am very grateful to God and to Lois' Lodge.

It's a girl!

Baby Elizabeth was born on May 19th, weighing 7 lbs, 11 ounces and 20 inches long. Mother and baby are doing great. After returning to Lois' Lodge for a couple of weeks to recuperate from labor and delivery, mom moved into a Lois' Lodge aftercare arrangement.



Lois' Lodge Speakers Bureau



A speakers bureau representing Lois' Lodge has been developed under the leadership of Angela Robbins, Lois' Lodge board member and Assistant News Director for FOX

Charlotte. These individuals are available to come to speak to your church or community group about the ministry of Lois' Lodge. For additional information please contact us at (704)845-2185. Also, please let us know if you enjoy public speaking and would like to speak to groups about this important ministry. Training is provided.



We love those hazy, lazy, crazy days of summer..... We hope that you and your loved ones have a wonderful summer. We are looking forward to receiving postcards from exciting places as you head off for vacation. Lois' Lodge is an exciting place, but not because we are on vacation. In fact we are busier than ever with our move and the expansion of the ministry into the realm of aftercare. Once again this year we are asking the families and churches on our mailing list to prayerfully consider donating an extra \$50 this summer, to "tide" us over through the summer months when giving is typically lower. Hearing from you in the next couple weeks will help us through the summer and give us something to write home about! Exciting things happen everyday at Lois' Lodge. Please check in with us this summer.

Lois' Lodge Partners



The regular monthly support developed through the years via our Lois' Lodge Partners will remain stable and permit the security of assuring that the ministry of Lois' Lodge will continue to serve women in crisis. Grants, church support, and special fundraising events will be planned to enhance the efforts of the ongoing supporters.

Yes, for .67 per day, \$20.00 per month, I will become a PARTNER with Lois' Lodge (\$240/annually)

Yes, for 1.34 per day, \$40.00 per month, I will join my spouse in becoming a partner (\$480/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.

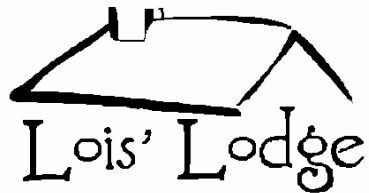
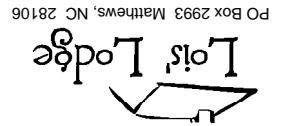
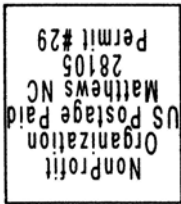
Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone #: _____ Email Address: _____

You can also donate to Lois' Lodge via our website: www.loislodge.org



A family-style home in Matthews, North Carolina
for young 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.

We would like to gratefully acknowledge **The UPS Store** in the Sycamore Commons Shopping Center, Matthews for their generous help with the production of this newsletter.

<http://www.loislodge.org>