



JULY 2017

WE WANT TO CREATE HOPE
FOR EVERY PERSON
WE MUST GIVE HOPE, ALWAYS HOPE.

Mother Teresa

Executive Directors:
David and Beverly Engle

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2215 Little Flock Drive
Rogers, AR 72756

Hope and Resilience

The children were talking amongst themselves in the back seat of the car while their mother patiently waited for the red light to turn green at an intersection in Rogers. Meanwhile, another vehicle had pulled directly alongside of them, but no one noticed until suddenly a loud bang rang out. The man in the other vehicle was the father of the children, and he had just pointed a shotgun into their vehicle and shot their mother in the shoulder. After a short stay at another local shelter, the mother, with her wounds still healing, and the two children became residents at Restoration Village. One of the children recently contacted the Village. She is now married with children of her own. She shared since she is now a mother, she fully appreciates the stability and safety that the Village offered to her and her family so long ago. There was **something** that happened during her and her brother's stay that made a difference in their future.

Another former resident has recently shared about her three years at the Village in a video testimony. "I came in 1999 from Texas after trying for months

to become a resident. I had an adverse childhood, and was escaping domestic violence with my three children. Trying to find employment, transportation, and provide a safe environment for my children were all very challenging during the prior years." While at the Village, she went to college part-time, attended Celebrate Recovery groups, and found healing for her deep emotional and physical wounds. She currently works for a local non-profit and will be receiving her Master's Degree this fall. During her testimony, she mentioned **something** happened during her stay that made a difference in her family's future.

Several weeks ago, I read Margaret Talbot's devastating article in the *New Yorker* on America's opioid crisis. Two short statements created opportunity to reflect upon the years here at the Village and I thought about those who have chosen to go on to a better life vs. those who most likely will not. The first remark was regarding a question asked of the publisher of a small West Virginia newspaper concerning the extent of the abuse. He answered, "The desperation... is a social vacancy. People don't feel they have a purpose." He further explained the addicts are "trying to escape the reality that this



Village News

Aim for Advocacy



We need you to make this year an even bigger success! **There is still time to support Restoration Village as an AIM for Advocacy event sponsor or participant.** Make plans now to join us on August 26, 2017 at the new venue, Spring Valley Anglers Rod and Gun Club in Gravette, Arkansas for our **2nd Annual AIM for Advocacy Sporting Clays Fundraiser** benefiting Restoration Village. Contact Cie Cochran, cie@restorationvillage.net to find out how you or your company can be an event sponsor.



For just under \$75 a month (\$2.45 per day, per person) you can be a part of our mission to restore the lives of women and children in crisis by helping to ensure their stability through continued access to healthy food.



Back to School

Summer is well under way and children at the Village have enjoyed the warm weather, taken a trip to the Bentonville Splash Pad, and the Amazeum. The changing season also means growth spurts and the need for back-to-school clothing and shoes. Please consider making a donation of cash or gift cards that can be used to purchase these items during the tax-free days on August 5th and 6th. Contact Cie Cochran, cie@restorationvillage.net for more information.



Staff Member Spotlight

Jonathan Engle grew up at Restoration Village watching his parents, David and Beverly, work with women and children in crisis. While he joined the staff in November 2016, he has been a part of the Village story from the very beginning. Jonathan, serves as the Director of Operations and Finance and works closely with David to take care of the buildings and grounds. Jonathan recalled helping with chores around the property as a young man and forming friendships with some of the boys his age. The Village is lucky to have Jonathan's dedication and passion.



2017 Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

Congratulations, Living Word Lutheran Church – 2017 Madeline Mizelle Volunteer of the Year Award Recipients.



Living Word Lutheran Church Members

In 2016, we hosted our first Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon to recognize and honor those individuals and community groups whose volunteer service is so vital to the work that we do. This year's winners contributed hundreds of hours of service to the Village working on projects ranging from plumbing, lighting, interior and exterior clean-up, sign and security camera installation, donations of casseroles, and volunteering at our 3rd Annual Afternoon of Fairytales event. We are truly blessed to work with the members of Living Word Lutheran Church and are proud to recognize them as our 2017 volunteers of the year.

Your Support

According to the *Official USDA Food Plans: Cost of Food at Home at Four Levels, U.S. Average, April 2017* publication, it costs between \$642.20 and \$1280.40 to feed a family of four for one month. At the Village we are able to provide healthy food choices for the women and children who live here 7 days a week for only \$2.45 a day per person, that's a fraction of what it would cost for these families outside the Village. By providing access to healthy food, classes about nutrition, and modeling healthy meal preparation we are providing residents with the tools they need to make positive food choices long after they have left the Village.

Community Outreach

The Restoration Village Board, staff, and student volunteers from the JBU nursing program came together this month to serve a meal to local community members in need. Marty Parkhurst, Board Chair prepared brisket and sides for the day, residents were also given healthy snacks to enjoy, and the team had bubbles, games, and chalk for the children to play. The Village has been providing meals at this location for the past two years and we could not do so without the support of the Board of Directors and dedicated volunteers, Thank You!



Christmas in July

The weather is warm and we are making our lists and checking them twice, it is Christmas in July! We are already making plans to bring holiday cheer to the women and families at the Village. **Giving back is easy, you can adopt an adult, child, or family from our stars of hope and we will share that individual or family's wish list with you.** Donations will be accepted throughout the year. We welcome participation by business, church, civic, and school groups. To find our more please contact Cie Cochran at cie@restorationvillage.net



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place doesn't give them anything." The second comment came from an addict during a time of sobriety of which he observed, "Damaged people can be dangerous because they know they can survive, but for some reason they don't know quite how to live." These people also need that **something** that will make a difference in their future.

An Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) is when a child has had exposure to any of the following: physical, sexual or emotional abuse; physical or emotional neglect; a mother that was treated abusively; household substance abuse or mental illness; parental separation or divorce; or an incarcerated family member. Children with ACE's experience toxic shock which can lead to changes in brain development and activity, and is a precursor to a multitude of health issues and disease. But if the child can develop a relationship with a stable, committed, and caring adult (the adult doesn't have to be a family member), that relationship can offset all the consequences of toxic stress. A relationship that provides support, stability, consistency, and love can give the child that **something: hope and resilience**. Research has identified other common sets of factors that predispose children and adults to positive outcomes in the face of significant adversity are sources of faith, hope and traditions.

These opportunities and relationships, chances to rebuild, renew, and restore are being offered to the residents of Restoration Village. They are the impetus of why we have long-term residency whereas most shelters are short term.

The children in the first paragraph have expressed "...fond memories of living there and of the interactions with your family." The lady in the second paragraph said in her own words, "The Village offered us faith, hope, and lots of love." She also shared how much it meant to her, even when her stay at the Village had been long in the past, she could show up unannounced during a Sunday lunch and she and the children would be warmly greeted by name, with hugs, and be invited to sit down and dine.

The necessary element to move from trauma to resiliency is hope. "But hope isn't a naturally occurring frame of mind or way of thinking. Hope doesn't just happen or appear on its own. Hope has to be nurtured and nourished. We hope because there is reason to hope. Our hope is based in evidence; it is based on actions and the effects of those actions happening around us." (William C. Bell)

N. T. Wright in his book, *Surprised by Hope*, writes: "Love is at the heart of the surprise of hope: people who truly hope as the resurrection encourages us to hope will be people enabled to love in a new way. Conversely, people who are living by this rule of love will be people who are learning more deeply how to love." Here at Restoration Village, we provide women and children an opportunity to move toward healing and restoration. For we have that **something, that hope**, and we share it with all who come to this place.

A relationship that provides support, stability, consistency, and love can give the child that **something: hope and resilience.**

"Hope is a thing with feathers – That perches in the soul, – And sings the tune without words, – And never stops at all,

And sweetest in the gale is heard; And sore must be the storm – That could abash the little bird – That kept so many warm.

I've heard it in the chilliest land, And on the strangest sea; Yet, never, in extremity, it asked a crumb of me."

Emily Dickinson, poem #314

