



GOD'S SHELTER OF LOVE

SEPTEMBER 2017

SERVING DECATUR SINCE 1991

## *Jean's Story...*

God's Shelter of Love was a life-saver for me when I arrived on May 30, 2017. At that time I weighed about 100 pounds and had been so sick with worry and heartbreak for the past eight months that I could barely eat. Today I weigh a healthy 140. God's Shelter has some pretty good cooks, but the most important reason I recovered was that the people there love and care about me.

I was born July 17, 1946, in the town of Cordele, Georgia, which is even smaller than Decatur; Cordele has no public transportation system. My daughter Madeline, my only child, was born when I was 17. I wish had stayed in Cordele and raised her, but I followed my Vietnam veteran husband to Chicago when I was 24 and lived most of my life there. Madeline became a drug addict and died young. She had two sons, whom I raised and loved very, very much.

About a year ago, my grandson JerMorio invited me to move to Decatur to live with him, his girlfriend, and their five-year-old son Adonis. I thought it would be wonderful to live with them, and it was wonderful being with Adonis. I wanted to help them out with some of my social security check, but they always wanted more and more of my money. JerMorio cussed me out every day and wouldn't take me anywhere. I was so surprised and sad that he would treat me like that. He thought I couldn't do anything about it because I didn't know anybody in Decatur. But one day I went to a doctor at Crossings and got a paper that had God's Shelter of Love's phone number on it. I called and a staff member came and got me.

God was watching out for me by leading me to this shelter. Now I am friends with all the staff and residents. I go to church Friday nights and Sundays and I am doing my homework for Bible class. I have plans to move back to Cordele to live with my nephew, but the shelter staff are making sure that my nephew really wants me to come and will not take advantage of me. Thank you to everyone who supports God's Shelter of Love – it has been a huge blessing to me.



-Jean

Many thanks again for the sponsorships of our bike ride across Iowa benefiting God's Shelter of Love! My son Jackson had been itching to do a century ride (100+ miles) and we accomplished it together on day 2 – Spencer to Algona, 107 miles. Thank you, Lord, for giving me the legs to keep up!

We are hoping to have the deed for 234 S. College (pictured) in the next few weeks so we can house and minister to more families in crisis. Last month early one morning, I came into the office, and Carol, our intake coordinator, informed me that sitting in the U-haul truck behind our garage was a mother, sixteen weeks pregnant, and two children, an eleven-year-old boy and a three-year-old girl. They had been "living" in the truck. Our shelter was full with a waiting list of sixteen, but we invited them inside for breakfast and got to know them better. After spending time with them, I was heartbroken to have to send them on their way with some referrals that I knew may or may not pan out for them.



As I've said, an additional shelter will mean more cost – utilities, insurance, maintenance, groceries, staffing, etc., but we are a mission that is built on faith in God to provide, and I am encouraged by our shelter board who is in unanimous agreement that we need to take a step of faith and expand our services. I also want to continue to express my gratitude to you, because your gifts make it possible for us to continue this much-needed mission of mercy in Decatur.

In the next few weeks we will begin the process of cleaning, renovating and furnishing the new shelter. Several of you have reached out with offers to help, and I'll be in touch with you soon about specific projects and scheduled workdays. You can also follow us on Facebook for news and updates.

Thanks again for your prayers, your donations of time and energy, and your financial support! Your gifts result in healed hurts and changed lives, all for the glory of God!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that appears to read "Ed Bacon".

Ed Bacon, Director

**Needs of the Shelter:** Ground beef, chicken, cream soups (cream of mushroom, chicken, or celery), butter, microwave popcorn, Band-Aids, super tampons, 60-watt CFL bulbs, bleach, dryer softener sheets, hair brushes, heavy duty hair combs or picks, round bottom shovel, new carpeting, bus tokens or punch cards .





## A Special Thanks to...

...The Jr High Fishing Camp and Jr. High Main Camp 4 at Little Galilee Christian Camp, July 16-21. The two camps raised nearly \$1800 toward our mission at God's Shelter of Love. How generous! Thank you, campers!

### **God's Shelter of Love Board Members**

Executive Director: Ed Bacon, LPC

Board President: Harold Batthauer

Ty Batthauer · Decatur, IL

Larry Hughes · Warrensburg, IL

Cody Monkman · Clinton, IL

Brenda Pride · Decatur, IL

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Greg Taylor · Clinton, IL

Dan Watkins · Decatur, IL

① A SIMPLE, EFFECTIVE,  
TIME-HONORED WAY TO  
MAKE THE HOMELESS  
PROBLEM IN YOUR  
COMMUNITY DISAPPEAR-

②



DAILY  
AT THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

## A Special Thanks to...

... GT Church for serving at God's Shelter of Love and Blessingdales during their annual "Love Week." In addition to stocking our refrigerator with produce and meats, GT replaced a window and door at our family shelter, repaired shed doors and did all kinds of work at Blessingdales Thrift Shop. Thank you GT for pouring out your love on Decatur and GSOL!

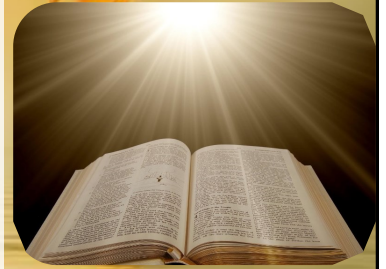


A calm and undisturbed  
mind and heart  
are the life and health  
of the body

Proverbs 14:30

Marcia Billingsley, Brenda Pride and Pastor Beth McLaughlin from Grace UMC have led our Sunday evening Bible studies since Fall of 2015. Topics have included "Room For Doubt" followed by an Advent study by Max Lucado entitled: "*Because of Bethlehem*"

This year they have led a basic Bible study for our residents. Thank you, ladies of Grace!



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