



GOD'S SHELTER OF LOVE

JUNE 2016

SERVING DECATUR SINCE 1991

Rosie's Story

I was born March 23, 1965, in Covington, Tennessee, the youngest of six boys and six girls. I grew up in a poor family in the deep country, surrounded mostly by trees, cotton fields, and corn fields. My mom died of cancer when I was eight months old and my dad died of tuberculosis when I was 10, so my brother William and his wife Sandra raised nine of us. As I grew up, I became a very confused, depressed, and angry person. I turned to alcohol and drugs (mainly beer and crack cocaine), which became my best friends, my joy, and my happiness. However, they also brought me five prison terms, a near-fatal car accident, and loss of my daughter to DCFS. I have four children who suffered because of my addictions: three sons, now ages 34, 32, and 30, and a unique, intelligent little girl who is 11.

When I first came to God's Shelter of Love, I had many problems: fear, homelessness, anger, selfishness, and pride. I've been admitted four times over the years, and God's Shelter has never turned me away. They always greeted me with open arms, with no judgment—just love, care, respect, and support. They helped change my life completely around, giving me hope, answers, faith, and the ability to get closer to God and become dependable. Some of the struggles I have learned to cope with while I have been at God's Shelter of Love are getting along with other people when I didn't want to; doing things I didn't want to do, like chores and following rules; and giving up negative influences, even when some of them were family. The 4:30 p.m. curfew helped me, even though I didn't like it. I have gone through a complete change of heart and mind. I've learned to set goals, budget my money, and, most of all, to love myself.

Since I've been here, there have been times when I wanted to give up. I was exhausted and ready to quit. But the shelter staff showed me how much God loves me and that Jesus will never leave me nor forsake me. I just have to pray and be willing to change. They pushed me forward to become a better person and mother and overcome my obstacles. I got the understanding, security, and trust I needed from God's Shelter of Love.

In the past six weeks I have had to deal with the death of my closest sister (who was an evangelist) and a brother. Still, I have completed all the DCFS requirements to get my daughter back and she and I will move into our own home in Wabash Crossing in May. I have been clean and sober for 10 months. I am so thankful to God and his wonderful Shelter of Love.



God's Shelter of Love welcomes Michelle Witzke to our team

Michelle is a happily married mother of three who has just graduated her youngest from high school. She earned Bachelor degrees in social work and English education from Michigan State University. Through her experiences working with youth as a teacher and a youth sponsor at her church, as well as volunteer experiences with crisis pregnancies, drug addictions, soup kitchens, elderly/hospice care, and international missions trips, she has found a passion for sharing the love of Christ with hurting people. She is very excited to have this opportunity to do life with the residents at God's Shelter of Love, and we are equally excited to have her on our team. Welcome, Michelle!

Needs List

Shelter: Meat (Frozen or refrigerated beef, chicken, pork, etc.), Milk, prepaid gas cards, bus tokens, dishwasher and laundry detergent, canned fruit, shampoo, conditioner, cake/cookie icing.

Blessingdales: Volunteers, Windex, manilla folders, grocery & shopping bags, string tags, sharpie markers.

Blessingdales shopping and donation drop-off hours: Monday - Saturday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

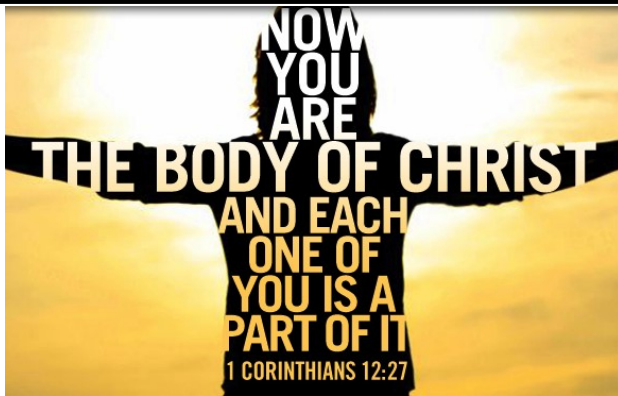
These 3rd grade students from Harris Elementary School (Miss Reel & Mrs. Ventress' classrooms) reached their goal! For their community impact project, they chose to sponsor God's Shelter of Love. In addition, they created persuasive iMovies and uploaded them to Youtube so that people would know how to donate money so they could buy the needed supplies for the shelter. Thanks to the support of people around our community, the students were able to raise \$810. In this photo (below) they had just returned from a field trip to the local Walmart to buy the supplies! The students were excited to see how much they were able to

buy with the donations they received. Here is the total amount supplies the 3rd grade students were able to purchase!



456 rolls of toilet paper
 288 rolls of paper towels
 745 kitchen garbage bags
 350 oz. of hand sanitizer
 1,486 oz. of liquid hand soap
 600 quart size zip lock bags
 330 gallon size zip lock bags

Thank You, Students!!!



Is your church or service group looking for a service project? We have two specific needs that you can help us with.

- 1. Garage roof**—We will provide all needed supplies (dumpster, shingles, etc). We just need roofers.
- 2. Porch roof repair**—One of our transitional homes has a porch and roof that need work.

Please give us a call if you can help!

God’s Garden is beginning to show signs of life! Have you noticed the new bright sheds in the neighborhood? They store equipment for Mercy Gardens which currently uses three empty lots owned by God’s Shelter of Love. We feel very blessed to have them as a ministry partner. God is good!



- Ed Bacon, Executive Director**
- Harold Batthauer, Board President**
- Ty Batthauer, Decatur, IL**
- Larry Hughes, Warrensburg, IL**
- Michael Mallick, Lincoln, IL**
- Mike Reynolds, Decatur, IL**
- Greg Taylor, Clinton, IL**

Please let us know if you would like to partner with us or are in need of prayer.

I would like to receive the Heartbeat by mail _____

I want to give monthly to God’s Shelter of Love in the amount of \$ _____ / month.

I am giving a one-time donation to God’s Shelter of Love. _____

I will pray regularly for God’s Shelter of Love _____

Name _____

Address _____ e-mail _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please pray for... _____

Have you prayerfully considered including God’s Shelter of Love in your will?



God's Shelter of Love Annual Banquet
 Saturday, September 10th, 6 p.m.
 Heartland Community Church, Decatur

GOD'S SHELTER OF LOVE
 929 NORTH UNION STREET
 DECATUR, ILLINOIS 62522
 (217) 422-2790/2791

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And thank you for shopping at Blessingdales and for your generous donations that help us minister to the hungry and the homeless! We can't do it without you. God bless you for caring!

Visit us online @ Godsshelteroflove.org & Blessingdalesthiftshop.com

