

SECOND CHANCES FOR SUCCESS

Offering a hand up....not a hand out!

April, 2010



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2nd Annual Second Chance Prom

Thanks to our generous sponsors, restaurants, and in-kind donors, Martha's Home 2nd Annual Second Chance Prom was a wonderful success. "Bigger & better than the first!", our 3rd Annual is set for April 2, 2011.



Connie Garcia, Martha's Home Executive Director & Lisa Schmidt, Pro News 7 Anchor & Prom Emcee



Jim & Karen Guest, MH Shelter Manager



Jim & Peggy McGuire, Paul F. & Virginia Engler Foundation Prom King & Queen Sponsor



Sandy Kline, former Martha's Home Resident, shared her testimony and received a standing ovation.



Board Members Judy Stark & Cindy Cockerham-Pharris



Courtney & Ryan Corbin, home on leave from Iraq



Merle & Ruth Price
Back Porch Restaurant



Milisa McCowan & Ken Spencer
Parties & Events



Fun, fun, fun on the dance floor!



Second Chance Prom Team!



See more photos in our Gallery at www.marthashome.org



Spotlight on Shurlie Horn

Shurlie Horn, a social work intern from West Texas A&M University, has been spending several hours per week with residents of Martha's Home I and II during the spring semester. While Shurlie is completing her graduation requirements for her degree in social work, she has been helping residents by providing individual case management. She is completing the majority of her internship at West Texas Family & Community Services, a WT-run social service agency based in downtown Amarillo, but enjoys being "loaned out" to Martha's Home.

Ms. Shurlie, as most people call her, loves helping at Martha's Home, and has enjoyed getting to know the women through learning their individual stories. Each resident is unique, and Ms. Shurlie sees resiliencies in each resident that will help her become a whole person again. Ms. Shurlie loves watching them grow, and watching each one of them continue striving no matter what. On a professional level, Ms. Shurlie has enjoyed learning case management skills and adding to her ever-growing knowledge of local resources.

The staff of Martha's Home appreciates Ms. Shurlie's willingness to jump in and provide help and support and they feel that she has excellent knowledge of what services and resources are available for their residents. Several times Ms. Shurlie has called residents with leads on jobs. Ms. Shurlie brings a different perspective into the homes, and is always abreast of opportunities and resources because of her networking within the Amarillo community.

Ms. Shurlie is no stranger to facing challenges head-on. A non-traditional student, she has juggled jobs, family issues, and lots of life happenings while focusing on finishing her degree. She provides a wonderful example to the residents of Martha's Home of what determination can help someone accomplish. Ms. Shurlie will be sorely missed by the residents and staff of Martha's Home when she graduates in May of 2010!

A Story of Hope

I married a man that was verbally and mentally abusive. I worked to put him through school, but as soon as he graduated, he had no use for me or our children anymore. He left me alone with a 3 year old son and a 2 year old daughter. I worked two jobs to make ends meet. My ex-husband did not pay child support and he spent no time with his children. Somehow, I managed to raise my children. We never had much and lived paycheck to paycheck, but at least I kept them fed and a roof over their heads. Last year, I got laid off from my job in another city and

because of the bad economy at the time, I could not find anything else. My son lives in Amarillo and so I moved here hoping to find employment. But we both ended up homeless when we found out too late that his girlfriend was buying drugs with the rent money. My son was able to find someone else to live with, but I was back out on the street.

A friend of my son's knew about Martha's Home and called Connie Garcia. Thank God they took me in. Because of my age and no car, it has been difficult to find a job. The first job I found required heavy lifting and I was happy to find the job and glad to do the work, but I'm not as young as I used to be and I ended up getting hurt. Thank goodness I was at Martha's Home and had a roof over my head so I could heal and start over on my job search.

I now live at HOPE House (Martha's Home transitional housing) and I have found a job I truly enjoy. I work full-time, but it is on an on-call basis and the city bus does not run at night or on Sundays, so I have to rely on friends to help me. I know it is difficult for them, so I am hoping to save enough to get a good used car very soon. I am very grateful for all the help I have received from Martha's Home. I've learned that God is wonderful and will take all our burdens if we only trust and have faith.



Most of our residents do not have transportation. While the City bus system is great thing and our residents use it frequently, the route schedules limit their employment choices. Unfortunately, many entry level jobs require evening and weekend hours. The next time you are in the market for another car, please consider donating your old one to Martha's Home. The donation of a vehicle is tax deductible and would make a huge difference in the life of one of our residents.

Success in the Work Place!

After spending thirty years in corporate retail management and upper management, it has been a real blessing to have been with Habitat for Humanity the last six and half years. I have been able to spend the last three and half with Amarillo Habitat for Humanity as ReStore Director. Part of the blessing has been being able to improve the quality of living for so many deserving families, since profits from the sales at the ReStore go directly into the fundraising mission of building houses for Amarillo Habitat for Humanity.

Another blessing is being able to offer employment to deserving persons who have a desire to be productive citizens. A third blessing is the opportunity to work with other great non-profit service organizations. We have been able to achieve both of these last two opportunities, by working with Martha's Home and offering employment to Jonni Pinkman. In all honesty, this opportunity was created by my non-profit relationship with Mary Kay Kuhrts, whom I had also known from our high school days in Borger, but had developed a friendship with her through our interaction with our two organizations. Because of this relationship, I had confidence that Mary Kay had a sincere interest in Jonni's future and knew she was looking out for the best interest for Habitat also.

I think anyone can be confident that the fine folks at Martha's Home are not only helping their ladies and families, but also must feel good about any business before they want their ladies' employed by that business. As for Jonni, she will soon celebrate her first anniversary with Amarillo Habitat ReStore.

Larry Brogdon, ReStore Director

Upon coming to Amarillo, I found it hard to find a job because of my past and being homeless and new to the area. While at Martha's Home I was referred to ReStore for employment. Habitat ReStore has a great opportunity to

benefit our community. Your donations help to build homes for families who might not ever have a home to call their own. I have had the privilege of helping families remodel and furnish their homes from donations received at ReStore.

As a graduate of Martha's Home, I have been blessed by your donations to both places. Thank you for this. My new start began at Martha's Home and has led me to ReStore and the ability to succeed

on my own. To people who give ladies such as myself the chance to better ourselves and make our place in the community, I say thank you for what you do. We need more employers to give ladies from Martha's Home the opportunity to find good paying jobs with benefits.

I thank Habitat ReStore for being an employer who has given me a chance to rebuild my life in a positive way.

Jonni Pinkman, Martha's Home Graduate

Martha's Home has more women like Jonni who are striving to become productive citizens of our community. Each woman has skills of her own and can be an asset to your business. Employers, please consider taking the lead from Larry Brogdon and make an opportunity in your company for a Martha's Home resident. We are confident you will find your next great employee! Call Martha's Home at 372-4035 to schedule an interview with one of our ladies.

The Paul F. and Virginia J. Engler Foundation is happy to be able to support Martha's Home by providing scholarship funds for residents who are interested in pursuing education beyond the High School level. Many women just need a little extra help to make the leap forward to a more stable economic life for themselves and their children. We are so pleased to start this program for Martha's Home and hope that many lives can be changed with this financial assistance.

Peggy McGuire, Executive Director



Whether you would like to donate a vehicle, provide a job, supplement our education fund, or lend your financial support, Martha's Home would like to thank you ahead of time for contributing to our cause. Please use the enclosed envelope for your financial donation.

Martha's Home, Inc.



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