



offering a hand up

not a hand out

Coming Home

By Voldemort

Sarah's Note: Voldemort is our resident character. We are not completely sure what name she was born with, but we are happy to call her by the name she requests. She has a beautiful singing voice. She serenaded all of us with 'Silent Night' at the Christmas Party and we were blown away. She is currently applying to adopt a seeing-eye dog that can help her get to and from work each day. Here is her story.

My name is Voldemort and I am 23 years old. I was born blind due to an eye condition called Lebers. Luckily for me, my parents allowed me to be a person, not a blind girl. When I was born and my parents found out about my blindness at first, they sheltered me. That was, until a woman named Patty Williams came into my life. She told my mother to let me be a kid, let me get my bumps and bruises all children get, let me run and play like other kids do and thanks to that conversation, I am now a normal, happy, healthy woman. My life has certainly had it's ups and downs. It was not easy being a blind person in a sighted world, but I never saw myself any different. I went to school along with sighted children and I got pretty good grades. When I was fifteen, my teacher Sharon Grissom led me to Jesus. I was saved on August 3, 2008 and baptized on August 20, 2008. When I was seventeen, I was accepted to the Texas School for the Blind. I thought this was the best thing that could happen to me. I finally would be around people who understood my struggles. At first, TSB was like my new home. I became a wrestler, ran track and played goal ball, a sport played by blind people. Wrestling was my life at TSB and I went to nationals where I placed fifth. Life was good. I made a few good friends at the school and fell in love. He was completely blind and had mild autism. But I loved him anyway. When that relationship ended, it was the worst day of my life, and I began to struggle with my school work and my sports. I gave up trying. In May of 2012, I graduated from TSB. I came back to Amarillo a broken person. I lived with my sister for a time. I struggled with substance abuse which affected my relationship with her and I then became homeless. I lived at the Salvation Army for a time, and it was a rough time in my life. For the past three years, I have been living on people's couches and even staying on the street. My substance abuse got worse; I dropped out of college because of it. I just didn't care. I was haunted by my broken relationships. I was



only existing. On August 22, 2016 I moved to Martha's Home. I have been happy here and I am beginning to care again. I am working on losing weight and I don't use substances anymore to numb my feelings. I am coming to terms with bad breaks in my life. I applied for HUD and for the first time in my life, I will be getting a home of my own. I am back in college and I work out every day. I am beginning to enjoy life again. I have made some real friends here at Martha's Home and I am loving life. It has been a rough five years but I know God hasn't brought me this far to drop me. God is good, all the time and I thank him for the people in my life and for Martha's Home. I continue to get better every day and my heart has finally begun to mend. Thank you God for everything I have today. Life is good.

Upcoming Events

Spring Cleaning Donation Drive

Saturday March 25th, 10 AM- 4PM
At ReStore located at 4117 SW 34th Ave.

Join Rebath Amarillo at the Habitat for Humanity's ReStore located at 34th and Western on March 25th, from 10 AM-4 PM for a Spring Cleaning Donation Drive benefiting Martha's Home and Amarillo Habitat for Humanity!

This time of year is a popular time for people to start spring cleaning their homes and getting rid of clutter. But what can you do with your gently used unwanted items? We have many people in need in our community that could use your cleaned out items. You could directly help out the women and children at Martha's Home and the families of Habitat for Humanity.

Here are the details and how you can participate:

- DROP OFF your donation items to ReStore located at 4117 SW 34th, in the Fleetwood Shopping Center. All home goods and clothing and shoes will be accepted. See examples at MarthasHome.org.
- STAY for a FREE slice of pizza provided by Giovanni's Pizza (serving from 11:30 am- 1:30 pm).
- WIN PRIZES! Each person who presents with a donation will be entered into a drawing for 2 amazing prizes. The first, a spa basket donated by ReBath filled with spa goods and gift certificates valued at almost \$400. The second drawing is for an area rug donated by ReStore valued at \$150. These drawings will be held at 4:00 pm on March 25th and the winner will be contacted.
- Get your RAFFLE TICKETS for a Never-Cook-Again basket benefiting Martha's Home for only \$5 each or 5 for \$20. Drawing will take place at the Second Chance Prom on April 22nd. See below for more info about Second Chance Prom.

Rest assured your donations go to a great cause and stay here to help our local homeless women and their children.

BIG thanks to ReBath of Amarillo for putting this together for Martha's Home and Habitat for Humanity!

Second Chance Prom

Don't be late for this very important date! Join us for an exciting garden adventure on Saturday, April 22nd, 2017! Dive down into the rabbit hole and come out the other side where you'll find the most fun fundraiser of the year....Martha's Home 9th Annual Second Chance Prom, themed "Alice in Wonderland"

Presented by



Adventure awaits adults who either missed their first prom or want that second chance to experience a whimsical evening with your current sweetheart or group of friends! We are mad. But the best people are. Insanity in the garden will ensue with lots of great food from Amarillo's finest eateries, dancing to live music by Velvet Funk Band, musical entertainment by Amarillo's Piano Man Jason Patrick, a silent auction, and more surprises! Go bonkers with us from 7 to 11pm in our new location, the Rex Baxter Building at the Tri-State Fairgrounds.

Every adventure requires a first step. **Get your tickets now** at MarthasHome.org. To reserve a table of 8 for just \$350, or for business and corporate sponsorship opportunities, contact Sarah Silva at 806-443-5577 or email Sarah@MarthasHome.org. All proceeds will benefit Martha's Home who provides shelter, support, assistance, and

second chances to homeless women and mothers with children. Don't miss this opportunity for you to experience a second chance at prom, while helping to provide a second chance at life for our women.

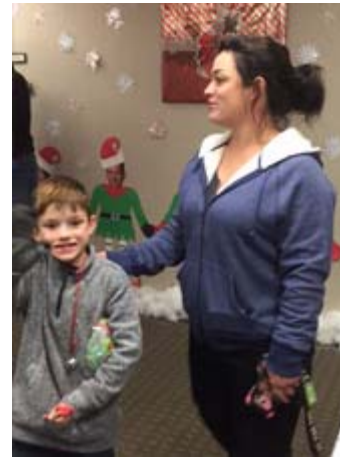
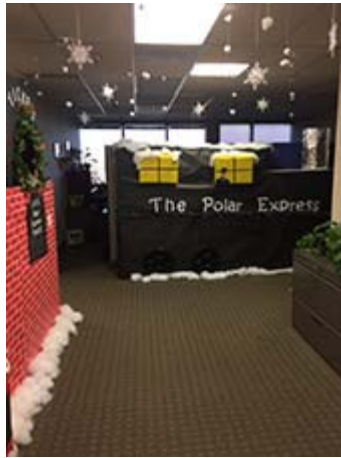


Thank You!

Christmas 2016 was a memorable one for our staff & residents thanks to these wonderful people and businesses!

Thank you to all those that helped organize the Martha's Home Christmas Party for Staff, Board & Residents!

Thank you to the Fairly Group for hosting a Christmas Party at their offices for the Martha's Home Residents!



Thank you to Valero for the year-end gift and check presentation to Martha's Home!



Thank you to Liberty Tax for hosting the Christmas Donation Drive and Gift Wrapping Events!



Thank you to everyone that contributed and sent a Year-End Gift to Martha's Home!



We have been blessed by so many wonderful supporters and could not provide the homes and resources for our residents without each and every one of you.



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