

# SECOND CHANCES FOR SUCCESS

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

November 2009



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## Letter from a Board Member

Often in life we fail to realize just how fortunate we are and it's only after having contact with those who are less fortunate that we become aware of our many blessings. Serving on the Board of Directors for Martha's Home has taught me not only that I have much to be grateful for, but also I have learned what the will to survive along with a supportive environment can bring about.

Because of Martha's Home, many times during the past several years I have seen women who have encountered much misfortune gather together the strength to overcome their adverse circumstances and to become not only self-sufficient but also productive members of society. I admire these women greatly and many have become role models for me and for the other women at Martha's Home.

Martha's Home provides much more than just shelter for homeless women and children. Because of its family-like setting, it provides contact with other women in similar circumstances and the women find solace and comfort in each other. Moreover, women learn to develop their inner resources and find that they can reach goals that they had never thought possible.

I personally am grateful for the opportunity to serve on the Board of Martha's Home. It has made a difference in my life.



Myrna Raffkind



*Hi! My name is Holly.* I'm a single mom with 2 kids. My son is 22 months and my baby girl is 5 weeks old. My kids changed my life. Having them made me realize I could not keep living the lifestyle I was living. I made some bad decisions in my life, but I want better for my kids. I ended up at Martha's Home just before I had my baby. I was working and trying to make ends meet, but when I got laid off, no one wanted to hire a woman who was 8 months pregnant. I got

evicted and had to go to an emergency shelter with my son. Thank God I was able to go stay at Martha's Home before my baby came. Martha's Home was the best thing that ever happened to me. I was able to bring my baby home from the hospital to a safe place and stay there until I recovered. Now, I am renting a small apartment from Buckner's Family Place and going to school to become a Cosmetologist. I know I've made mistakes in my life, but I am determined to get an education and make a better life for me and my children.

## *Welcome Pardner! Honors Karen Guest and Martha's Home*



*D.J. Stubben, Welcome Pardner! Owner, Connie Garcia, Martha's Home Executive Director, and Karen Guest, Martha's Home Shelter Manager.*

Myrna Raffkind recently nominated Martha's Home as Non-Profit of the month at a community-wide business breakfast hosted by Welcome Pardner! Myrna named Karen Guest in particular and wrote:

*"From the time that Karen Guest first walked in the door at Martha's Home to the present, things have never been the same. Karen is one of those people who is beautiful on the inside and the outside, and she has remade Martha's Home in her own image. She has simply taken over the beautification of the home and is largely responsible for the siding, the furnishings, and the accessories. But Karen has given much more than her talent with beautification, she has been a dedicated Board Member, Director and Assistant Director. She has counseled women and has been responsible for positive changes in their lives. In short, Martha's Home has received many gifts from God and certainly Karen is one of those gifts. She certainly deserves this recognition from Welcome Pardner!"*

## *Blessings from the Thunderbirds!*

Arriving in style, the convoy of vintage to late model Thunderbirds drew neighborhood attention as members of the High Plains Thunderbird Club drove their beautiful automobiles to Martha's Home on Saturday, October 3, at 4 p.m. The Club has long been a supporter of Martha's Home for the help they provide to homeless women and mothers with children. The High Plains Thunderbird Club blessed Martha's Home by presenting a check for \$2,900 to Martha's Home representative, Connie Garcia, Executive Director, "We are so grateful to the Thunderbirds for their loyal support over the years," Garcia stated. This generous donation was made possible by proceeds from The Thunderbird Club's recent car show held in August at John Chandler Ford. Many thanks to the High Plains Thunderbird Club for their generosity and support!



*Back row L-R: Brad Higby, Cliff Tucker, John Fink, Robert Schrock, Marty Schrock; Middle L-R: Barcine Smith, LaJauna Perkins; Front row: Connie Garcia, Martha's Home Executive Director, Anita Fink, Melinda Eaton, Bud Eaton.*



*Terri Conley, Hoffbrau's General Manager and Mary Kay Kuhrts of Martha's Home.*

## *Hoffbrau Hosts Toiletry Drive*

Martha's Home would like to thank Terri Conley, General Manager of Hoffbrau Steaks, and her staff for hosting a very successful drive for women's toiletries July 30th through August 31st. Hoffbrau generously offered free food and discounts to customers bringing in three or more toiletry items. Thanks also to Hoffbrau customers who supported our efforts to supply the much needed items for the ladies of Martha's Home. Women and mothers with children come to Martha's Home after being homeless, possessing not even the basic needs many of us take for granted. The residents of Martha's Home greatly appreciate Hoffbrau and our community for their contributions.

## *Beef O'Brady's Helps Martha's Home*

Many thanks to Beef O'Brady's for their recent drive to collect toys and twin bedding for the children of Martha's Home. Over two barrels of toys, pillows, blankets, and twin sheet sets were donated. On September 17th, KGNC Radio was also present and donated a live radio remote for the event, bringing in even more customers! That evening 10% of all sales benefited Martha's Home.

We also want to thank David Smith, owner of Beef O'Brady's, for the Friday night dinners he is bringing to the women and children at Martha's Home. His very giving heart and great food are appreciated.



*Brent Plaster, Manager of Beef O'Brady's, Mary Kay Kuhrts of Martha's Home, Lani Clark and Russell Johnson both from KGNC Radio.*

## *"Only the Best for These Ladies!"*

...was the attitude from one of our church members who was explaining why he spent nearly all day preparing a special meal for the residents of Martha's Home.

For nearly ten years each Wednesday night, members of the adult Bible classes here at Central Church of Christ have been preparing and bringing meals to Martha's Home for the residents and church members to share in a time of thanksgiving for God's blessings and relationship building. During our time together, you often hear comments of how good the food is and "where can I get this recipe". However, the best sight is the number of former Martha's Home residents who show up on Wednesday night to enjoy the meal and touch base with their new found friends from the church.

On Tuesday evenings, the church sponsors Life Skills Classes for the women at Martha's Home along with other shelters and agencies here in town. Classes on self esteem, goal setting, money management, stress and well being, job seeking, communication and conflict resolution, depression and suicide, and women's health and hygiene, help the women prepare for life when it comes time for them to be self-sufficient. The team of teachers and leaders are gifted women from Central and other churches along with medical school residents from Texas Tech and health care professionals from Texas Panhandle Mental Health and Mental Retardation. Each twelve week series is repeated three times a year and is held in our "Upreach Center" across the street from Central.

I have had the privilege over the past year to serve as the volunteer chaplain at Martha's Home offering a listening ear, prayer, Bible study, and from time to time support during illnesses, death, and happy occasions such birth celebrations and weddings. During my ten year involvement with the ladies, I and others from Central have developed lasting friendships with some who were in the shelter when we began. One of the ladies from years back is serving on the board of directors of Martha's Home, an active member at church, and mentor of the ladies at the shelter, and is teaching at one of our middle schools here in Amarillo.

Material things of this world disappear over time. Friendships last forever.

*God Bless, Mark Love –  
Minister, Central Church of Christ  
Martha's Home Volunteer Chaplain*



*Seated at table are residents of Martha's Home. Standing L-R: Lena Love, Sandy Kline, Mark Love, Tim McMenemy and Eldrena McMenemy.*

## From our Executive Director

This year marks the 22nd anniversary of Martha's Home, and it has been an exciting and eventful year. We held our first annual fundraiser, **The Second Chance Prom**, this past March and it was a resounding success. Nearly 400 people attended for a night of food, dancing and fun. We raised approximately \$17,000 for the women and children of Martha's Home. The money provided much needed revenue for us during a difficult time in the economy. We plan to make it an annual event, so please mark your calendar and come join us next year. It's a great way to have a good time and contribute to a worthy cause.

Martha's Home is finally on the World Wide Web! We launched our new site this past summer. On it you can read testimonials from some of our residents, see beautiful pictures of our homes and find out how to give via Pay Pal. Next time you're surfing the net, be sure to check us out at [www.marthashome.org](http://www.marthashome.org).

We have had several new babies born this past year while the mom was living at Martha's Home. Imagine the joy of having a new baby to bring home to your beautiful new nursery. Now imagine being young, alone and having to bring your new baby home to a homeless shelter. That's why Martha's Home is so important in our community. We offer a safe, warm, comfortable place for mom and her new baby to stay while she recuperates and gets back on her feet. Seeing the look of relief and gratitude on a new mom's face always reminds me why we are here and makes all the sorrows and stresses of the job worthwhile.

On behalf of the staff and Board of Directors of Martha's Home, I would like to thank our donors for their support over the years. Martha's Home is a locally founded and operated nonprofit organization, and we are completely dependent upon the generosity of good people like you from our community. Your support has allowed us to offer help and hope to homeless women and children for the past 22 years. Unfortunately, our job is still not done. Due to the current economic climate, we are experiencing a sharp increase in the number of families needing shelter. We need your help more than ever and we humbly ask that as the holiday season approaches, and you consider where to give your contributions, please consider a donation to Martha's Home. Your gift is tax deductible and can be made in memory or honor of a loved one. Thanks again and may God bless you.



Connie Garcia

*Make this Valentine's a Night to Remember!*

Martha's Home 2nd Annual  
**Second Chance Prom**

*Saturday, February 13, 2010*  
*8 p.m. - 11 p.m.*  
*Amarillo Civic Center, Heritage Room*

*Ticket & Sponsorship Information:*  
*Call Mary Kay Kuhrts, 367-1757*

*2010 Sponsorship Levels*

**\$2,500 – PROM KING & QUEEN**

- 3 Reserved Tables – 24 tickets (\$750 value)
- King Crown & Queen Tiara (\$100 value)
- Prom King & Queen Sashes (\$50 value)
- Premier location of company logo on posters and event sponsorship banner
- Premier media mention in all print, radio and television
- Company banner space at the event
- Company name listed on table and program

**\$1,500 – CLASS FAVORITE**

- 2 Reserved Tables – 16 tickets (\$500 value)
- Two "Favorite" Sashes (\$50 value)
- Prominent location of company logo on posters and event sponsorship banner
- Prominent media mention in all print, radio and television
- Company banner space at the event
- Company name listed on table and program

**\$1,000 – MOST VALUABLE PLAYER**

- 2 Reserved Tables – 16 tickets (\$500 value)
- Two "Most Valuable Player" Sashes (\$50 value)
- Placement of company logo on posters and event sponsorship banner
- Media mention in all print, radio and television
- Company name listed on table and program

**\$500 – MOST LIKELY TO SUCCEED**

- 1 Reserved Table – 8 tickets (\$250 value)
- Two "Most Likely to Succeed" Sashes (\$50 value)
- Company name listed on table and program
- Company name listed on sponsorship banner

**\$250 – SERVICE AWARD**

- 1 Reserved Table – 8 tickets (\$250 value)
- 2 "Service Award" Ribbons
- Name listed on table and program

Martha's Home is a qualified 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Charitable contribution portion of your sponsorship (amount paid minus value of goods received by donor) is tax-deductible as allowable by applicable state and federal law. The value of goods received by donor for tickets to event is estimated to be \$30.00/ticket.