

NCHM UPDATE

A NEW SEASON HAS ARRIVED!

As a Bay Area Native, I have learned to recognize the coming of fall not by the changing of the leaves, but by how long it takes to drive down certain streets when school is in session! But traffic seems a minor inconvenience compared to all the wonderful blessings a new season brings.

At New Creation Home Ministries, fall marks the start of a new parenting class quarter, one that will include teachings on money management, child development and appropriate discipline. All the moms at New Creation Home have recently started back at their respective high schools, and we even have a new resident kindergartener! We also celebrated a new birth this fall—baby Jeremiah joined the Lighthouse family in September, and is definitely a cutie! Finally, NCHM recently played a significant role in helping a young mom in our parenting class move into her own apartment—it has been wonderful to see her start to become financially, emotionally and spiritually independent.



NCHM's new kindergartener and his mom!

NCHM has also seen a fair amount of transition this fall, as several long-time residents have moved on. It has been a good reminder of how precious each mom's time is at New Creation Home and how limited our time might be to introduce them to God's love. Although we try to stay connected with the young women who have passed through our doors, in some cases, it is not initially possible. There is a sadness in letting go, but it is a great comfort to know that God holds each one of these young moms and their children in the palm of His hand.

As we enter this busy new season, we ask for your prayers, as there are definite challenges before us. There is much work ahead as we continue to develop our Lighthouse program, work with the many young moms coming to our parenting class, and especially as we labor to raise our annual budget before the year ends.

We are so thankful for those who have supported us—our volunteers, our prayer warriors, and our donors—all of whom make it possible for us to provide an incredible array of services to young mothers in the Bay Area. We pray that you will continue your involvement with us—please see our website if you'd like to find out more about our volunteer opportunities, the second page of this newsletter for our wish list, and our development update, also on page two, for ways you might be able to help us financially. Again, thank you so much for your continued support of our mission, and may this new season be a time where we all feel great thankfulness to God for all the blessings He has poured out on us.

- Katie Fantin, NCHM Executive Director

SPECIAL THANKS

We'd like to express our heartfelt thanks to:

The Peninsula Community Foundation,

for blessing us with a \$5000 grant to help fund our growing parenting class!

The staff and members of Covenant Presbyterian Church,

for sponsoring "Roots & Wings" our summer Benefit Concert

**All the "Roots & Wings" performers, tech volunteers,
and refreshment providers,**

for donating their time and talents

Denis Fastert and the Highway Church Compassion Small Group,

for serving our moms in completing a grand workday at New Creation Home

Dan and Judi Van Elderen,

for hosting a fantastic (and fun!) volunteer appreciation event at their home and for making possible a "mini-vacation" for the NCHM moms and kids at Lake Almanor



*A parenting class attendee and her little one—
two of the many who will be served by
PCF's generous grant!*

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: THE LIGHTHOUSE

After many months of prayer and preparation, the Lighthouse program is up and running at full capacity! Mariah (19, with a now 6-week old son) and Sandra (6 months pregnant) both moved in late summer and are both doing well amidst the major life changes they are challenged with.

They are truly the kind of young women we seek to serve at the Lighthouse, as the program is designed to support young mothers (19-22 years old) who are looking to accomplish significant educational, vocational and spiritual goals while living in a supportive, Christ-centered home environment. Our program seeks to encourage, assist and equip these young moms to become independent and able to move on after 18 months in the program. Lighthouse moms are required to attend church, a weekly Bible study, parenting classes and must meet regularly with our Lighthouse "House Mom", Jeanette Hardy. Jeanette works closely with each mom especially on financial management skills and personal spiritual growth.



Sandra, Jeremiah and Mariah

Both Mariah and Sandra attend school part-time—Mariah is studying to be an accountant, and Sandra aims to work in the medical field. The both also hold down part-time jobs and are successfully juggling the many appointments and challenges of being in the early stages of motherhood. When asked what they liked most about being at the Lighthouse, they both agreed that getting to know each other and learning and growing together was definitely a highlight. In short, their goals are as stated, to "grow closer to God, save money to move out and to get an education"; NCHM is excited to help these young moms meet these goals!

Please
Mark Your
Calendars!



And join us for our annual Christmas concert!
Sunday, December 14th
7:00-8:30 pm
At The Church of the Nativity
210 Oak Grove Ave., Menlo Park

Please feel free to bring friends, family, co-workers and kids to enjoy this evening of beautiful music, slides and holiday refreshments.

Also, if you'd be willing to help us advertise, please hang the enclosed flyer anywhere you might think appropriate.

We need your help!!

We are nearing the end of NCHM's 2003 fiscal year and gearing up for 2004. Although God has been incredibly faithful, we continue to need your help as we finish out raising this year's budget. I am sure that you agree with us that the work of New Creation Homes is an important one. We want you to know that our ministry and accomplishments would not be possible without your loving support. We want to thank you for all of your contributions. We would also like to ask that you prayerfully consider continuing to support NCHM. There are many ways that you can support NCHM by making a pledge or a onetime donation, donating something on the wish list, or volunteering your time. Every donation helps us continue our ministry and no donation is ever too small. Thank you so much in advance for your partnership; may God bless you in wonderful ways for supporting our moms and kids!

_____ I would like to make a monthly pledge in the amount of \$ _____.
_____ I would like to make a quarterly pledge in the amount of \$ _____.
_____ I cannot make a pledge at this time but would like to make a onetime donation in the amount of \$ _____.

_____ I am willing to volunteer my time at NCHM.

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____

Other ways you can help...

Donate to NCHM online (it's easy!) - simply go to our website, click on the "donate" button, and follow the simple instructions.

Consider NCHM in your holiday gift giving - when you donate to NCHM in honor of someone, we will send them an appropriate card (holiday, birthday, etc.) acknowledging your gift and thanking them!

Use an Albertson's Community Partners Card - this is a card that you hand to the cashier each time you shop at Albertson's—in using this card, a percentage of your bill will be donated to NCHM— call our office (650-321-3109) for more info.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF MARIE TURKS

(house mom at New Creation Home)

Before coming to New Creation Home Ministries (NCHM) as House Mom seven months ago, my companion, Meowser-kitty and I began each day with a single purr and a prayer. Today, our humbled voices unite with three soprano clocks, two tenor hair-dryers, and an alto microwave in a chorale for the dawn.

Soon thereafter, also in harmony, cereal faces crunch themselves to consciousness, shoes open their tongues to embrace closed toes, two-year old lips cry “*skooul mommy! skooul!*”, while a hairspray nozzle whispers “*I’m almost ready*” in response. These are the sounds that begin a typical day at NCHM.

Here at NCHM there are three moms, three kids, and me. After everyone has been clothed and fed, I drive Jasmin, George, and Cecile to day-care, while the moms catch their respective rides to school. Upon returning safely to NCHM, I then check the mom’s rooms for stray clothing and diapers, complete a few household chores, and then relieve myself from the role of House Mom for the remaining hours of the morning until evening. My day as Marie the novelist begins with a sigh of accomplishment. Far from the symphonic stability of NCHM, I spend most of my days as a lone nomad, wandering between libraries and cafés in search of the ideal atmospheric and ergonomic environment.

Evenings at NCHM are another day altogether. Picture it. It’s 9:00 p.m., the dinner plates have been cleared, the books and toys cling to the solace of their shelves, and the little ones slowly (and often reluctantly) introduce themselves to their night-time dreams. In the calm, as students in the classrooms of school and life, the moms and I begin our home-work.

Liliana writes about life in U.S. and solicits our thoughts for her next hairstyle; Viky waves her pencil and erases herself into a world without algebra; Nena finishes her drawings and beckons to Meowser-kitty with a brush and open arms. Me? I’m the one in the middle who votes against the body perm; struggles to explain, in syncopated Spanish, why the world needs integers; and reassures Nena that it’s nothing personal, Meow-Meow is just in one of her “kitty-moods”. Oh yes, I’m also the one, there in the middle, who is smiling inside, thanking God for another twenty-four hours, and loving every minute with my second family at NCHM.

Marie has just published her first book entitled ALONE. The book shares the perspectives of twenty fictional characters on being alone, and in the end, urges the reader to reflect on the power of ‘one’. Complimentary copies of ALONE are available, while supplies last, for individuals and organizations by contacting Marie at neveralone139@aol.com, or via phone at 650-269-2922.

VOLUNTEER PROFILE: KATE ARNOLD

Kate Arnold is a psychology major at Santa Clara University, a member of Menlo Park Presbyterian Church, and is in her 6th month of volunteering with us as a Home Supervisor. She has graciously granted us an interview about her time with NCHM.

NCHM: What do you do as a volunteer?

KATE: It started out that I just played with the kids. Now although I still love playing with the kids as much as ever, I feel most privileged in my relationships with the girls and how they are willing to let me into their lives.

NCHM: What is a typical evening for you like at NCH?

KATE: It usually starts out by playing with the kids, fully engaging with them, and just saying hi to the moms. Hugs all around. Then when the kids go to bed I get to hear about the girls lives and just be in their presence.

NCHM: What is your favorite thing about being at NCH?

KATE: That it is so humbling to be around while God’s children, both the moms and the kids, are wrestling with the hurt in their lives.

NCHM: What is the most challenging thing about being at NCHM?

KATE: Hearing about how much the girls have been hurt, but that is also the most inspiring thing.

NCHM: Is hanging out at NCH different than you expected?

KATE: Yes, now it is, because like I said, it changed. I didn’t expect being at the house to feel so much like hanging out with my brother and his friends. I didn’t expect to feel so at home and relaxed while there—the girls are really my friends.

NCHM: What would you tell someone who was trying to decide if they should volunteer at NCH?

KATE: I would tell the person to realize they know nothing about how to help these girls and the best thing is to just be there to let God use you fully. It’s the most amazing feeling.



*Princess Cecile and her mom,
Liliana—an NCH resident and
a friend of Kate’s!*

If you’d like to know more about volunteering with NCHM, please see our website or call our office at 650-321-3109.

New Creation Home Ministries' WISH LIST

- An 8-passenger van—new or in very good running condition
- Adult-sized bunk beds
- Car or booster seats—new or clean and less than 5 years old
- Baby cribs—new or in excellent condition
- Baby wipes (unscented)
- Diapers (all sizes)
- Baby toiletries (shampoo, lotions, soap, Q-tips, etc.)
- Children's medicines (Tylenol, cough medicines, cold medicines, etc.)
- Women's toiletries (shampoo, conditioner, lotion, body wash, deodorant, etc.)
- Bulk grocery items (toilet paper, paper towels, cooking oil, laundry detergent, dish soap, frozen meat, etc.)
- Thanksgiving dinner food
- A Christmas tree and Christmas gifts for all of our moms and kids!



Look inside to find out what's cookin' at New Creation Home Ministries!

New Creation Home Ministries exists to:

provide safe, Christ-centered environments in which young mothers can explore and develop a relationship with Christ

offer programs to young mothers that encourage academic, vocational, parenting, life, and social skill development

equip spiritually maturing young mothers to advance God's kingdom by ministering to their children and serving their local community.

NCHM PERSONNEL

Katie Fantin, Executive Director
 Ronné Wingate, Program Director
 Marie Turks, New Creation Home House Mom
 Jeanette Hardy, Lighthouse House Mom

BOARD MEMBERS

Hanna Skandera, Board Chair
 Pamela Chesavage
 Pattie Quarels
 Sharon Sheehan
 Darren Su
 Dan Van Elderen
 Jennifer Yuan
 Leslie Zeisler

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