

# NCHM UPDATE

## A SEASON OF TRANSITION AND BLESSING

What an honor it is to finally introduce you all to our three (yes, three!) fabulous new staff members at New Creation Home Ministries. As many of you know, God is doing some great and different things in my life—primarily calling me to a time of rest and renewal, but also preparing me for some major life-changes, as I'll be a new wife and a step-mom of two great teenagers in just a couple months! Surprisingly (to me, at least), He made it clear late last year that I should transition out of my full-time position with NCHM. His direction has been graciously confirmed in that He has provided three incredible women willing and excited to minister to the young moms we serve.

**Katie Fantin** will be serving as NCHM's Executive Director. A native Californian, Katie has a history of living and serving in East Palo Alto, first volunteering with Bayshore Christian Ministries, and then serving with NCHM as a Home Supervisor.

She was previously employed with Big Brothers Big Sisters, overseeing their extensive mentoring program on the Peninsula, and then served as the Director of Family Services with Habitat For Humanity in San Francisco. Katie has a huge heart for our moms and is as thrilled to be back working in East Palo Alto as we are to have her! She is a member and worship leader at the Vineyard Christian Fellowship of the Peninsula, loves coffee and is a true joy to be around.

**Ronné Wingate**, our new Program Director, comes to us from Washington DC, although she is also a native Californian. She

most recently worked for a non-profit organization coordinating youth programs for children living in transitional housing, and served faithfully as a youth leader at her church home in DC. Already, it is clear that Ronné has the amazing ability to relate and minister to our young moms with a balance of gentle and tough love (the



**Ronné Wingate, Katie Fantin and Marie Turks** moms lovè ner!) and she has adjusted well to her "a little bit of everything" job description. Ronné is also a gifted flutist, loves drama and has a contagious smile—we are honored to have her with us!

Finally, **Marie Turks** will be joining NCHM as our House Mom at New Creation Home. Marie recently left her position with Apple Computers to pursue a career in novel writing. She is an active member at Abundant Life Christian Fellowship and has served significantly with Bread of Life Ministries in East Palo Alto. Marie is a gifted seamstress, carpenter, interior

designer, and of course, writer. She is thrilled to be able to live with and minister to the NCH residents as she follows God's leading in a new direction, and we are incredibly blessed to have her in such a key position.

Since we began more than four years ago, I have been continually amazed by God's abundant provision for NCHM — it has been so clear all along that this ministry is truly His, and it has been a privilege to be a part of the work He has done (and continues to do) through NCHM. My heart is still very much attached to the moms and kids NCHM serves and I expect to be involved as a very significant volunteer—most likely discipling moms, recruiting volunteers, and coordinating facility and yard maintenance. As I close out my time on staff at NCHM, I'd like to thank all of you who have been, and continue to be, so amazingly faithful to this ministry — financially, prayerfully and/or as

you serve with us as a volunteer. It has been such an honor for me to know you all, to see God provide faithfully through you, and to have you supporting and loving the moms involved with NCHM. I am excited for you all to meet our new staff and encourage you to take the initiative to do so—feel free to give the NCHM office a call just to introduce yourself!

Again, thank you so much for the blessing you are to this ministry; may He bless you greatly for your faithfulness to Him.

- Pam Nordstrom

## LUPE'S STORY

*By Lupe Barron, NCHM Participant*

My name is Lupe Barron, I am 19 years old, and I am a single mother of a 4 year old boy named Victor. I am a former resident of New Creation Home; my time there was a big blessing to me and to my son. Running away from an abusive relationship, I found comfort and protection at NCH. Thanks to the loving support of the staff there, I moved on with my life. Living at NCH gave me the opportunity to continue my education so that I was able to get my high school diploma and later on go to college. It was at NCH I learned to love and appreciate the Lord. Through NCHM's Bible studies and parenting classes I've learned the real value of life and family through God's eyes. I want to take this opportunity to thank every single person who has made the program possible. My stay at New Creation Home changed my life for the better and I know that my involvement was God's will. I hope New Creation Home stays around for many years, as it is a life changing experience to live there.



Lupe and Victor at NCHM's 2002 Christmas Party



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## VOLUNTEER PROFILE: Lisa Powell

*How did you hear about NCHM?* I saw an ad in the church bulletin at MPPC for childcare needed during the parenting class on Tuesday nights. I had been looking for a volunteer opportunity involving children and this sounded interesting.

*What do you do at NCH?* I started by providing childcare for an hour on Tuesday nights and I only got to know the children by name, not the moms. I would recognize a mother by "Samantha's mom" or "Alex, Anthony and Zachary's mom". I did that for several years, then in September 2001 I was laid off and had a lot of extra time on my hands. I started helping out some on the weekdays as a home supervisor, and really enjoyed it. I got to know the mothers and learn more about how the home functions. Then when I found a full-time job, it was hard to go back to only 1 hour a week volunteering. I missed being there! The house was going through some transitions and was in-between staff so I started coming early on Tuesday nights to help serve dinner, and I would stay until the night supervisor came home at 9.

*What is a typical evening at NCM like?* It varies depending on the night of the week, who's home, and how many moms and kids are living in the house at the time. Usually I hang out in the living room and play with the kids if they're still up, chat with the moms if they want to chat or just read a magazine or book that I bring from home. Sometimes if I have work to do, I'll find a (relatively) quiet spot and keep to myself for a while. The moms have chores they are required to do on certain nights so sometimes I am asked to verify and sign off on their chores. They're really great girls and usually follow their required schedules without incident.

*What is your favorite thing about being at NCH?* It's hard to say, I enjoy every aspect of my "work" there. I really love being at NCH and I miss the girls and the children when I'm not there. I've enjoyed seeing the kids grow up over the years and getting to know the moms better. The children are all beautiful, and so much fun to be around. I look forward all week to all the free hugs and smiles I get on Tuesday nights! I also love seeing the way God has blessed this ministry over the years. I am always so impressed and touched by the generous hearts and giving spirits of the various staff members and volunteers at NCH.

*What do you like to do for fun?* I love to cook and bake, and get together with friends over meals. Therefore, I also love to do anything active- in-line skating, biking, hiking, and working out at the gym to burn off all those calories! I'm also a bookworm, crossword puzzle addict, and movie-lover.

**To find out more about volunteering with NCHM, please check out our website at [www.newcreationhome.org](http://www.newcreationhome.org), or call us at (650)321-3109. We need you!**

### SPECIAL THANKS TO:

\* **California Paint and Wallpaper in Palo Alto**, for donating paint to spruce up New Creation Home- the house looks fabulous!

\* **Kirk and Kathy Dunn and their wonderful small group at Menlo Park Presbyterian Church**, for sponsoring a grand "outing" day for the NCHM mom's on March 22nd that included childcare, a barbeque, laser tag, a movie and hot tubbing!

\* **Cat Westover and her friends** for purchasing new sneakers for all the NCHM kids and for sponsoring them all at the Atherton Easter Egg Hunt!

### Trying to find a gift for a friend or couple who has everything?

Consider making a donation to New Creation Home Ministries in their name!

Just let us know who you would like to honor with your donation and we will send them an acknowledgment card to let them know of your gift. If you need more information, please call 650-321-3109 or email us at [info@newcreationhome.org](mailto:info@newcreationhome.org)