



for women leaving prostitution

San Francisco, California

Winter 2009

A Year of Thanks

As 2009 winds down, we at SafeHouse look back upon its challenges and difficulties with gratitude for what we have overcome and accomplished and hope for the blessings of 2010. We are especially grateful to our generous donors for their support and wish you all a Joyous Holiday Season and an Abundant New Year!

Alumnae Voices

SafeHouse alumnae meet regularly for reunions to share good food, many laughs and a few tears as they reconnect and support each other during their recovery. Here are some of their comments from the last two reunions.

P.C. 38 months clean & sober
Joys: just bought a new laptop, God, family & kids, and being clean & sober in recovery

J.H. 7.5 years clean & sober
Joys: started Grand Canyon University for a BA in Christian Studies (first time in nearly 20 years to be back in school), starting prison ministry, and being here at SafeHouse

M.J. 31 months clean & sober
Joys: starting City College full time, A in African American Consciousness and a C+ in English

A.H. 5 years clean & sober
Joys: interning at Positive Direction and going to school for an A.A.

B.B. 6 years clean & sober
Joys: life is good, going to meditation school, teaching art therapy, working with a sponsee, art school is amazing, going to sister's in Arizona for holidays

T.E. 20 months clean & sober
Joys: moving back to Mississippi and reconnecting with family, making Dean's List at City College last semester

C.A. 21 months clean & sober
Joys: being right here, right now at SafeHouse surrounded by other sober women

D.B. 2 years clean & sober
Joys: everything in life! Happy in own apartment – the first in almost 9 years.

B.L. 11 years clean & sober
Joys: walking the hiking trails with her dogs and grandson

E.V. 8 years clean & sober
Joys: just got married in January

Oh Volunteers!

In 2009, SafeHouse was fortunate to have a group of loyal, energetic and reliable volunteers who came in weekly for an afternoon or morning to answer the phones, write



thank you notes, sort through donations, assist with mailings, organize the closets and the donation room, water the plants, create and arrange files, update and manage the donor database, and provide tutoring and computer help to our clients. They have also been here for overflowing toilets, computer crashes, lost files, and wildly ringing phones.

So three cheers and many thanks to: Sister Ruth Patrick, Emily Askew, Elsa-Jennie Bliss, Briony Doyle, Tammara Leu, Linda Thai, and Hannah Walker. You are all a blessing!

We also extend special thanks to the volunteer groups who came to SafeHouse for “service days” and donated their time and talents for house and garden improvement projects and/or to share a meal of companionship and outreach. Our gratitude to Cathy Pickerel and the Presentation Partners, Carol Little and the Cornerstone Fellowship, and Stephanie Groth and the San Francisco First Baptist Church.

Many volunteers will be moving on in the new year, and we need several new sets of hands to help us get through the days. Please contact Carola Shepard at businessmanager@sfsafehouse.org or call 415.643.7861 if you can help!

Partnerships and Friendships

During a year of severe cuts to our government funding, SafeHouse has increasingly relied on gifts from generous individuals and grants from private foundations, churches and other faith groups, and professional associations. In addition, our women

have benefited from our new internship program, which has given them income, work experience, references and, in some case, and even jobs!

Partner Organizations: San Francisco Network Ministries and the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Community Sponsors: The California Endowment, the Lantern League, Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association of Northern California, the San Francisco Junior League, Calvary Presbyterian Church, St. Aidan’s Episcopal Church, St. Charles Catholic Church, Schwab Charitable Fund, Safeway Foundation, Catholic Ladies Aid Society, Auer Family Foundation, Ross Stores, United Parcel Service and the Salesforce.com Foundation.

Internship Sponsors: The Lantern League, Thornley & Pitt Customs Brokers, California Pacific Medical Center Volunteer Services, San Francisco Community Justice Center.

Community Supporters: Hilton Hotels Community Projects, First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley, St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church “Circle of Light”, Calvary Presbyterian Church Support SafeHouse Mission Team, St. Ignatius Catholic Church Giving Tree, Covenant Presbyterian Church.

The Smile Team: thanks to Dr. William Hasse, Dr. Ivy Chan, and Dr. Juan Luque for many donated hours of dental services and to the San Francisco Junior League and the Sisters of the Presentation “Tooth Fairy” fund for supporting our dental program.

Best Friends: our heartfelt gratitude to the many individuals who have given so much time, energy and creativity to SafeHouse, especially Jeanne Burns, Nadia Ilyin, Jerre Merchant, and Cathy Pickerel.

