



YES. SHE. DID.

2021 *Garden Gate Ranch* Impact Report

MISSION & VISION

Garden Gate Ranch is a faith-based Christian organization providing safe housing and restorative and transitional services for sexually-exploited women and their children.

Garden Gate Ranch seeks to rally our communities to ensure that all women are free from exploitation and abuse.

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Dear Friends,

As you read this report, I invite you to rejoice with us in all GGR has experienced this past year as we served and loved each woman and child the Lord brought into our care. Enjoy the fruits of your labors of love—your every dollar given, item donated and minute volunteered. Great is your reward!

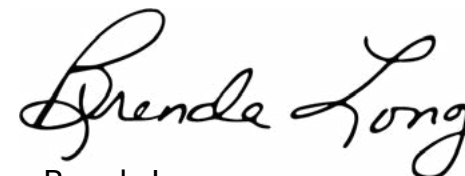
Imagine with me, if you can, the sea of emotions a young woman might experience when she realizes she no longer has to live under the malicious claws of someone selling her body numerous times a day. She is seen and offered options other than jail. She's grateful. She's scared. You might think, oh how wonderful, what an opportunity she now has, how exciting that she has her freedom once again. But for her, those joyous thoughts of freedom only last a few seconds, then she wonders: What will happen to me now? What will become of the child I now carry? How will I be able to live a "normal" life with all this confusion and pain in my heart and head? Imagine moving miles away from all you know for only a hope of healing with complete strangers. These women are courageous, strong and dedicated to change, and we serve them with your help.

As we at Garden Gate Ranch continually walk alongside these incredible women, we see with our own eyes the beauty of transformation. We experience the joy of motherhood in a new mama's eyes. We see the "ah-ha" moments when she glimpses just how loved she is and when she realizes her past can't steal an ounce of that love because it has no say on her worth.

Can you imagine how our hearts felt when a resident, nearing graduation from our program, stood before others and shared her story of brokenness and then her testimony of redemption and transformation? There are so many victories to share with you and simply not enough space in the following pages.

Your generosity has made such an impact on sex-trafficked survivors and their beautiful children by helping us prepare a place for them to be loved and cared for. Your prayers continue to help them walk a new path of freedom, and your faithfulness will give them and those yet to arrive more hope for the future they can now dream of. I want to personally thank you for your unending support.

Sincerely & For the Love of Each One,



Brenda Long
Founder & Executive Director





TESTIMONIES

“My role at GGR enables me to be the literal hands and feet of Jesus for residents, standing with and supporting them as they let go of the lies that have taken root in their lives. The moment a resident realizes her worth as a daughter of God, it’s like my giftings come together and I feel *this* is what I was created for.”

- *Christina | Education Facilitator*

“There is truly a culture of love at GGR. When you walk through the door, you feel it: Compassion on full blast. Walking with residents as they confront their trauma has prompted soul-searching and healing of my own, challenging and stretching me in ways I could never have imagined.”

- *Marcia | Direct Care Coach*

HE GIVES WATER IN THE WILDERNESS

“Volunteering at GGR has affirmed to me that God truly has a plan of restoration for our broken lives. I’m continually encouraged by the heart-level transformation displayed by these women and children. Seeing His care of them renews my trust that He will provide for every part of my life, too.”

- *Becky | Volunteer*

“This program has helped me realize I have a lot to offer—much more than my body.”

- *A Ranch House Resident*

“‘Love’ has been used against me as power, control and manipulation. At GGR, I’ve been given a safe space to let Jesus into the confusion and pain wrapped up in the word ‘love.’ Through my time here, God has healed my understanding and shown me something pure, patient, beautiful and true. Now I know what love *really* is and this has allowed me to love my child with real love, too.”

- *A Ranch House Resident*

“Sitting down with fellow students for my first college night class was the first time I did not see myself as inferior to everyone else. I realized my identity is no longer prostitute, addict or victim, it’s worthy, loved by God and accepted.”

- *A Ranch House Resident*



LETTER FROM A RESIDENT

Before coming to Garden Gate Ranch, my life was in shambles, unmanageable, full of trauma, and I had very little hope for my future. I wasn't the greatest mom to my son, and I had no idea what it looked like to be a healthy & loving mother to him. I also didn't know what it meant to have boundaries, and healthy relationships. I was physically and emotionally abused, and in ~~return~~ return, that's who I started becoming because of my own hurts. I ended up almost missing a few times, and just constantly ended up in negative situations. I didn't know what it felt like to have people around me who loved me, faults and all, and was willing to walk with me through all of my flaws and mistakes. I was angry at God, and angry at the world. I had self-harmed myself a few times. I lived in poverty. I felt like I couldn't take care of myself or my son. I felt invisible, and unimportant, and that the only way for me to be seen was to exploit. I had had a history of being trafficked by past abusers, so I took it upon myself to become my own "boss" and exploit myself. God kept me protected through it all though. I met my advocate, who told me about Garden Gate, and within a few weeks, my son and I were here. Since I have been here, I have realized that I am capable of loving my son the way that he deserves, and that I'm capable of being a great mother to him. I have learned to accept that there are people around me that do love me for who I am, but ~~are~~ are also encouraging me to better myself. I have walked through conflict, resolving conflict, becoming self-aware of my feelings, and being able to start having a voice that I didn't think I had. I have learned that I'm strong, and one of my strengths that I'm most proud of is my willingness to change, and the willingness to implement the healthy things that I'm learning here into my life. My son has been flourishing, and I see the bond between him and I building back to where it should be ~~be~~ between son and mother. It was so broken that he wouldn't even come to me for comfort. But since being here, he comes to me for comfort, and love, and I enjoy every minute of it. I wanted to say thank you to all of the volunteers that come each week to play & spend time with him. And also the people who take time to come to GGR to take us to appointments, and fun outings. Also to the donors who support GGR and the residents without even knowing who we are.

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I wanted to say thank you to all of the volunteers that come each week to play and spend time with him, to the people who take time to come to GGR to take us to appointments and fun outings, and to the donors who support GGR and its residents without even knowing who we are. We have had every need met, every item on our Christmas wish list given by donors who had faith in us, and I just wanted to say thank you. It feels amazing, knowing that not only do I have the support and love from the GGR staff, but from people who have never even met me. Thank you for caring for us.

- A Ranch House Resident



HIS MERCIES ARE NEW

EVERY MORNING

OUR IMPACT

Garden Gate Ranch is one of very few homes in the United States that accepts both women and their children, filling a much-needed service gap. According to the National Trafficking Sheltered Alliance's "National Practices Survey Report of 2017," the #1 reason among participating agencies for a woman to be declined from their program was that she had children in her custody. This accounted for 61.7% of the surveyed declines.

At Garden Gate Ranch, no mother has to choose between her child and her freedom.



IN HOME SERVICES

THERAPY SESSIONS

SUBSTANCE USE COUNSELING

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

NUTRITION & EXERCISE

LIFE SKILLS TRAINING

PREGNANCY CLASSES

PARENTING CLASSES

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

RELATIONSHIP SKILLS

ACADEMIC & JOB TRAINING

PSYCHIATRIC CARE

TRAUMA MANAGEMENT

EVALUATING GROWTH

Garden Gate Ranch values the voice of each resident, evaluating growth and beneficial program structures via the 20 following survey questions:

1. I feel safe at the Ranch House.
2. I feel supported in my healing journey.
3. I feel my life has value, purpose and worth.
4. I feel I am a good mother.
5. My child is happy and flourishing.
6. I have and continue to receive the medical assistance I need.
7. I have and continue to receive the mental health assistance I need.
8. I know how to ask for help.
9. I have the tools necessary to continue healing.
10. I have the experience and knowledge necessary to be successful in my community.
11. I know how to walk in freedom without my abuse continuing to negatively impact my future.
12. I am able to identify the positive people and healthy relationships in my life.
13. I am able to identify and effectively communicate my personal and sexual boundaries.
14. I can overcome challenges.
15. I have the power to achieve the life I desire.
16. I feel positive about my life.
17. I feel hopeful about my future.
18. I have a flourishing and intimate relationship with the Lord.
19. The Ranch House phase is/has been helpful for me.
20. I would recommend GGR's restoration program to others in need.

THE RANCH HOUSE

The Ranch House program is divided into five distinct stages of healing, each driven and measured by specific goals.

STAGE 1: RESET

A time to acclimate, rest and build trust.

Goal: Walk in safety, sobriety and security.

STAGE 2: REFRESH

A time to get to the root of trauma.

Goal: Identify core beliefs and pursue healing from past wounds.

STAGE 3: RECLAIM

A time to explore identity.

Goal: Find and walk in God-given purpose.

STAGE 4: REDEEM

A time to evaluate relationships.

Goal: Cultivate healthy boundaries and pursue educational/career goals.

STAGE 5: REVEAL

A time to take hold of the future.

Goal: Develop skills and resources for successful transition into the community.



DEVELOPMENT

Garden Gate Ranch's ministry relies solely upon God's good provision through donor and community support. Income and expenses are carefully tracked and planned by dedicated team members in order to make the best use of partner funds as Garden Gate Ranch fulfills its mission and continues to expand.

Garden Gate Ranch is accredited for financial responsibility and stewardship through the Evangelical Counsel for Financial Accountability (ECFA).

HE WHO PROMISED IS FAITHFUL

“One of the most pernicious aspects of violence is its multi-generational impact. Violence in one generation quite often leads to violence in the next, and there is now a great deal of evidence to support this finding. Parenting behavior can be profoundly affected by the impact of trauma.” -Sandra L. Bloom, in “Understanding the Impact of Sexual Abuse: The Nature of Traumatic Experience.”

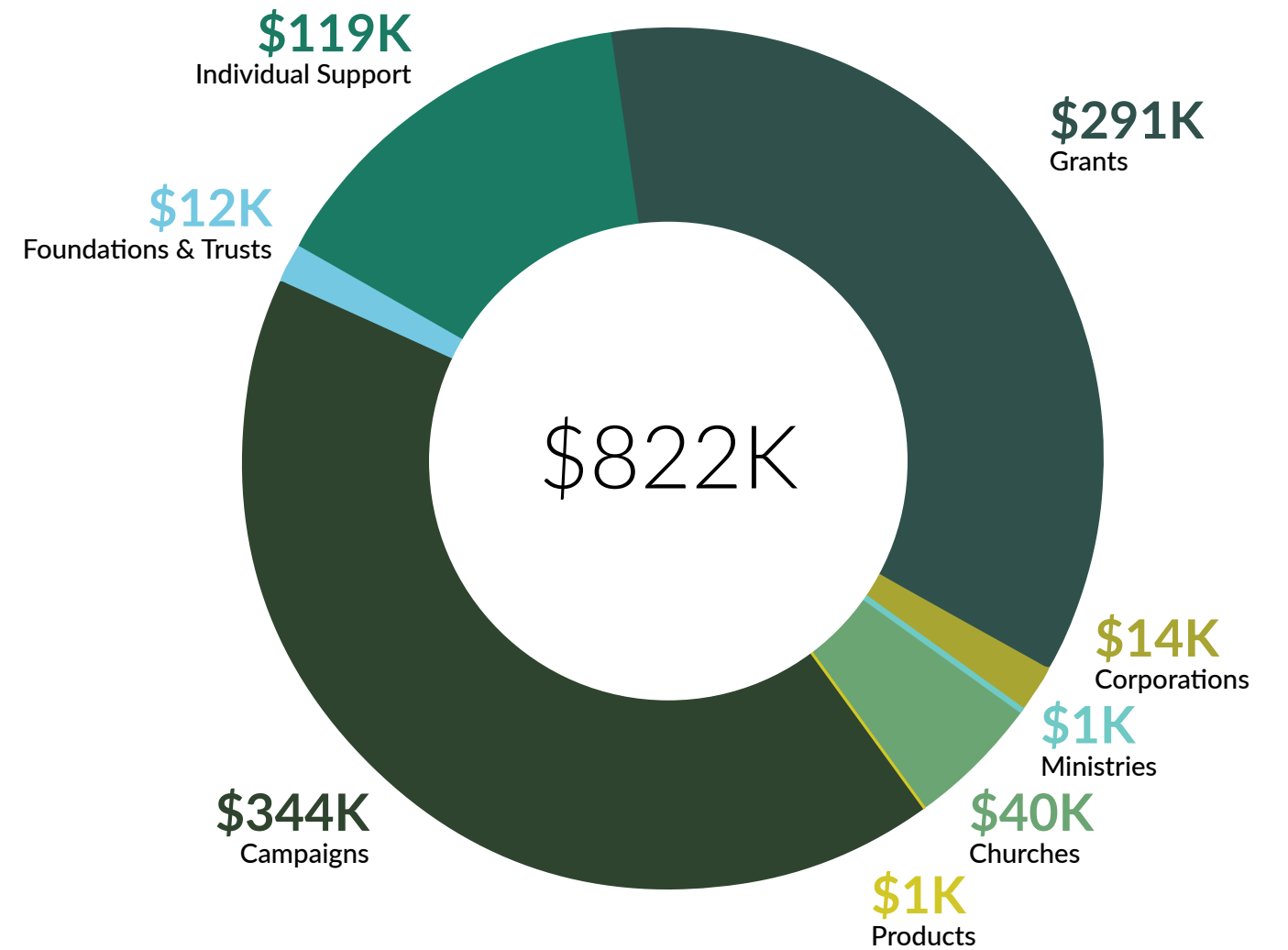
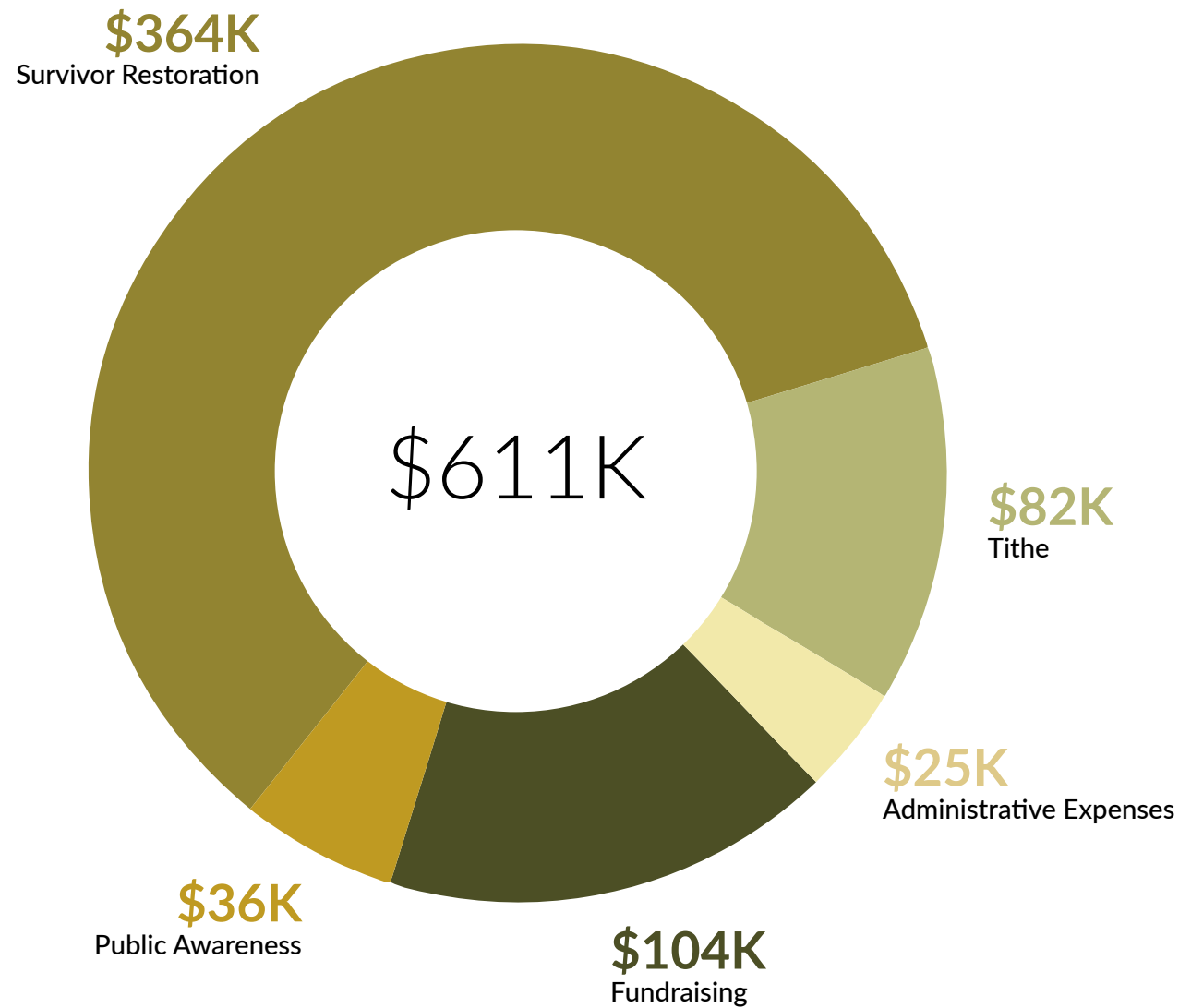
As one of very few homes for survivors with children in the nation, Garden Gate Ranch takes its role seriously and therefore endeavors to establish unwavering systems of ministry sustainability. Current sustainability efforts focus on expanding staff roles, solidifying replicable internal systems and increasing programmatic resources. By crafting these streamlined operating systems, Garden Gate Ranch’s continuing restoration home and independent transitional cottages can provide uninterrupted care for mothers in need, regardless of unforeseen circumstances.

No mother should have to choose between her family and her freedom. No child ought to grow into generational cycles of abuse. Garden Gate Ranch works diligently to ensure its doors remain open, its home and cottages continually equipping mothers with healing, life skills and sustainable careers, for the hope, joy and health of every mother, child and generation to come.



EXPENSES

Garden Gate Ranch tithes ten percent of all revenue in support of other non-profits, believing the Lord's promise to bless those who tithe and experiencing the fruit of this practice through unending, abundant provision.



2021 support levels allowed for expansion in ministry activities and staffing throughout the year and will enable 2022 facility additions through the construction of two transitional living cottages, raised garden beds and a children's playground.

SUPPORT

MINISTRY MILESTONES

JAN, 2021

GGR joined the Iowa Christian Generosity Council.

APR, 2021

The Ranch House celebrated 1 year open and operating.

JUL, 2021

GGR witnessed resident baptisms, the donation of a 15 passenger van, and promised funding for a child playground.

OCT, 2021

The Education Center opened and GGR expanded staff to include a childcare worker and an education facilitator.

NOV, 2021

Community partners pledged the full funding of two independent transitional living cottages, to be built in the near future.

DEC, 2021

A Ranch House resident graduated from college.



HIS PRESENCE IS JOY EVERLASTING

LOOKING FORWARD

As a result of focusing 2021 development efforts on establishing sustainable operating systems, Garden Gate Ranch looks to the future from an unshakable foundation.

Growth plans include the Pathway House immediate rescue home, a Ranch House equine center and childcare space, and a social enterprise that equips residents with job training and resume building as well as bolsters Garden Gate Ranch's ministry sustainability.



THE PATHWAY HOUSE

As a 24-hour immediate rescue home intended to get her off the street and into safety, the Pathway House will work with local community services and collaborate with other residential restoration homes across the U.S. in order to offer her choices in her path to recovery. Here, her physical needs of food, shelter, and safety will be met—calming the brain’s fight or flight mechanisms in order that she might move forward in greater clarity.

THE EQUINE CENTER

As restoration work progresses, Garden Gate Ranch will add an equine center to its property in order to offer equine therapy to Ranch House residents. Horses are known to mirror the emotions of their human partners, providing therapy facilitators valuable insights into the inner workings of participants. This “mirror” aids introspection, giving both caretakers and residents the ability to name and understand the emotions within. The horses at the Ranch will be both challenger and friend, highlighting areas that need healing while loving each resident every step of the way.

THE GIFT OF EXPANSION

Since the beginning, God has blessed Garden Gate Ranch with a faithful community of support whose gifts enable incredible ministry growth every year. As supporters continually believe in God's good restoration work, Garden Gate Ranch's campus and impact expand.

1. RANCH HOUSE CONTINUING RESTORATION HOME

Currently open and operating, this continuing restoration program is built upon a personal, strength-based, trauma-informed approach, and infused with Christ's transforming love. Through a blend of physical, mental, emotional and spiritual care, mothers in this program are discovering a freedom that alters the trajectory of their lives, their children's lives and the lives of generations to come.

2. EDUCATION CENTER

Currently open and operating, Garden Gate Ranch's education center houses a resident learning center, staff offices, volunteer work space and a conference room. By moving academics and curriculum out of the Ranch House and into a separate space, residents simulate healthy practices of rising, readying for work or school, and leaving the house for the day, allowing home to remain home—a place of rest and refreshment.

3. INDEPENDENT TRANSITIONAL LIVING COTTAGES

Coming soon, these transitional living cottages will offer every Ranch House graduate the opportunity to further her independence by working in the community and pursuing career goals while maintaining the safety and support of the Garden Gate Ranch team. As we await construction of these separate buildings, the Ranch House basement acts as a temporary independent transitional living space for graduates.

4. EQUINE CENTER

A plan for Garden Gate Ranch's future, the equine center will house horses used for Ranch House resident therapy. Equine therapy has held importance to Garden Gate Ranch since the ministry's inception, its addition to our campus a long-awaited and beneficial expansion.

5. CHILDCARE BUILDING & PLAYGROUND

At the Ranch House, children can process trauma and expend energy in a safe, controlled environment. As more children have come to live at the Ranch House, space has become limited and the addition of a separate play and learning building is imperative.

6. SWIMMING POOL

A goal for the future, a swimming pool will benefit both the physical and mental health of residents.





COMMUNITY IMPACT

Garden Gate Ranch's ministry is a compilation of community members coming together in selfless love. Beyond staff roles, administrative and programming functions rely on volunteer support and community partners.

From financial donations, to service hours, to prayer, Garden Gate Ranch's community enables mothers and children 24/7 care and hope for a brighter tomorrow.

HE FULLY SATISFIES EVERY NEED

IN 2021, WE'VE SEEN...

GET INVOLVED

Community members who anonymously sponsor a mother and her child at Christmas, partners who donate books to our library and secret shoppers who purchase nearly everything off our Amazon Charity list.

Churches who want to give monthly, who ask to build one of our transitional cottages, who put on a concert on our behalf, who gather needed volunteers for our large projects, who put on awareness events with our organization and who take up special offerings for us at year end.

Small companies that give back to charities of their clients' choice and big organizations that offer matching gifts.

The young and the old who choose to run a Passion Project benefiting Garden Gate Ranch, whether it's a beard growing contest, a walk, a bake sale, an auction or a garage sale.

Passionate partners who bring us before their business men and women groups, that GGR might benefit from the quarterly checks they cut.

Grants that make it possible for us to have an Education Center and those that help support our general operations.

Brave souls who've lost loved ones and choose to remember the legacy of their beloved through memorials on our behalf, and generous partners who honor their living friends and family by giving beautiful honorariums on their behalf.

Table hosts who invite their friends to the gala to learn about this organization and individuals who donate vehicles to our organization or to our residents at discounted costs.

...OUR COMMUNITY'S LOVE.

PARTNER

727

TOTAL DONORS

150

MONTHLY DONORS

15

PARTNER CHURCHES

PROGRAM PARTNERS: AGAPE, HELPING HANDS, FOOD BANK OF IOWA, WIC, INNERVISIONS, HEARTLAND CHRISTIAN COUNSELING, ISU EXTENSION & OUTREACH, HOPE FLOWS, HEART STUDIOS, CELEBRATE RECOVERY, FREEDOM COMMUNITY, DMACC, EP TRUE CHIROPRACTIC, BOUNTIFUL LIFE CHIROPRACTIC, RESTORATIVE MASSAGE CO, WOMEN MATTER INITIATIVE: FASHION MEETS FAITH PROGRAM, SINGLE PARENT PROVISION

VOLUNTEER

120

VOLUNTEERS

3,270

SERVICE HOURS

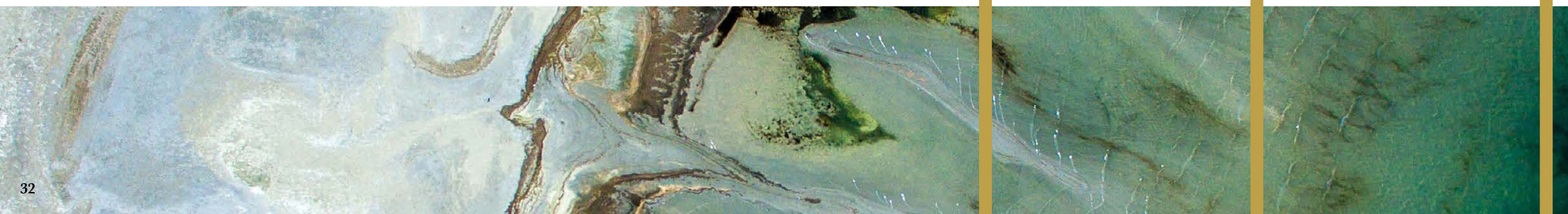
AREAS OF VOLUNTEERISM: WORSHIP, TEACHING, TRANSPORTATION, BIBLE STUDY, HEALING PRAYER, DRIVING LESSONS, MESSAGES, DIRECT CARE, CHILD CARE, MENTORING, ADDICTION RECOVERY, HAIRSTYLING, CHIROPRACTIC, TUTORING, BAKING, ADMINISTRATIVE, EVENT HELP, GROUP LEADERS, LAWN & GARDEN CARE

PRAY

74

INTERCESSORS

MONTHLY COVERING BY A COMMUNITY OF PRAYER PARTNERS AND A DEDICATED GROUP OF WOMEN KNOWN AS THE HEARD, WHO SPENT OVER 336 HOURS INTERCEDING FOR GGR THIS YEAR



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



BRENDA LONG
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



CHUCK MELINE
BOARD CHAIR



BARB RANCK
BOARD SECRETARY



COLLEEN MORRISON
BOARD TREASURER



JOHN JANNENGA
BOARD MEMBER

YES. SHE. DID.
Because God does.

In 2021...
She received her diploma.
She got her driver's license.
She replaced lies with truth.
She found purpose.
She learned to communicate.
She recognized her boundaries.
She celebrated two years free from exploitation.
She enjoyed a bubble bath.
She slept in safety.
She had a baby.
She grew as a mother.
She celebrated many months of sobriety.

Everything she did was because of *Him* and the power He gives to overcome. And all of these things were accomplished by *you*, our partner, because you allowed Him to use you as His hands and feet, providing both this safe place of healing and the resources she needs to live and walk triumphantly.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lauren D. Gildersleeve".

Lauren Gildersleeve
Co-Founder & Operations Director





BECAUSE. GOD. DOES.



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