

# Cornerstone Transition Home

April 2022

***When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained, what is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him? - Psalm 8:3-4***

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At 12 years of age, Tammy began smoking cigarettes. The cigarettes led to marijuana then Xanax and eventually meth. These addictions took her



captivity to a life centered around destructive decision-making. Before she arrived at Cornerstone in March 2021, she had been to prison three times.

During her last prison sentence, Tammy surrendered her will to God's will and has experienced an outpouring of His blessings. Tammy is three years sober, and she passionately encourages others in their journey towards sobriety. Tammy rents a home in town that is completely furnished thanks to people who donate their household furnishings. Tammy enjoys visits with her children and grandchildren. She also adores animals, especially her goat named Sunflower.

Tammy is part of our ministry staff team at Cornerstone. She is a Celebrate Recovery Leader, and she facilitates a step study class with several of our residents on Sunday nights. In addition, Tammy also teaches a group of ladies in another local ministry. She is taking them through the book called *Girls Gone Wise in a World Gone Wild* by Mary Kassian. Tammy's long term goals are to write and then publish her life story so that others can read about God's miracle-working power.

## Cornerstone Transition Home:

The phone rang around 8:00 on a Tuesday night in April. I had just gotten home and finally plopped down on the couch. Earlier that day, we had served over 400 people at The Corner Kitchen and then experienced a night of praise and worship with our ladies at Rebecca's House of Hope. With a sigh, I answered the phone, honestly too drained to engage in another conversation.

I didn't recognize the lady's voice, but she sounded business-like and professional. She was calling on behalf of Jessica, a resident who had been approved to live at Cornerstone. What I heard next was a confirmation reminder that God not only sees, but He also provides.

Jessica was scheduled to arrive at Cornerstone on April 14th, but upon her release from prison, she was picked up by a county in Arkansas on a detainer. She remained in jail for five nights. The day of her release from jail, she tried using her one allotted phone to call Cornerstone so that someone could pick her up. However, we were all at The Corner Kitchen, so she had no way of contacting us. Around 7:00 that evening, Jessica was released, and she walked out of the jail with no phone, no money, no ID, and no transportation. She only had the clothes she was wearing.

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BUT God saw Jessica. A lawyer just happened to be at the jail visiting a client that evening and saw the distress on Jessica's face. She offered to help by calling us. The woman then agreed to take Jessica to a restaurant where she could wait in a safe place until our arrival. To add to the kindness, Jessica was also treated to a meal. Mrs. Frieda, our onsite volunteer, and another resident left the house around 8:30 that evening and returned back home to Cornerstone around midnight.

Jessica met three strangers that night - the woman, Frieda, and our resident. Just imagine how the events could have turned out differently. What if the lawyer had not arrived at the jail at the time of Jessica's release? There was no other phone to use. What if Jessica had impulsively given up and walked away with the five men who were also just released? She chose to sit alone. Darkness was fast approaching, and the situation seemed bleak. Then God did what God does when we feel hopeless and without answers, He provides. He often sends "someone". This "someone" saw a need and allowed her busy schedule to be interrupted. She went the extra mile to make sure a stranger was safe and fed. What a reminder to keep our eyes open and our hearts receptive to hear when God is asking us to meet a need on His behalf. Let's be that "someone" for someone today.

Cornerstone is a former assisted living facility encompassing 7,000 square feet. Located on a county road with fields on all four sides, this home has a total of 12 bedrooms and 10 bathrooms with a potential of housing 25 women at a time. The heart of the home is its center which includes a large kitchen, dining room, and living room. The operating and ministry expenses are large for a facility this size, but our God is greater! He has always provided for this ministry. Praise Him!

#### **Cornerstone Financial Report:**

- Revenue: 58% donations, 29% resident and step out housing rent, and 10% state funding
- Expenses: 46% payroll and 54% utilities and other ministry expenses, including the operations of The Corner Kitchen
- Purchase Price \$150,000 in 2016.
- Remaining Balance \$69,588.
- Renovations to this home have all been 100% donor-funded and ongoing.

#### **Rebecca's House of Hope:**

God is expanding our borders through the ministry extension of Rebecca's House of Hope. What we thought would be a storehouse for donations and a future soup kitchen has turned out to be so much more. Ministry happens in this home.

*At Rebecca's House, Leslie took a much needed shower after sleeping under a pavilion in a rainstorm.*

*A homeless lady slept on our porch because it's a safe place with a chair and a pillow.*

*The blessing box remains stocked for anyone who needs food for a snack or meal.*

*Women gather to eat dinner and study the Bible in the large room while children play in the kids' rooms.*

*Vicki shopped the upstairs boutique for clothes for work.*

*Jessica traded the clothes she wore out of the jail for a complete wardrobe.*

*Sandy's home was furnished from the donations given to the ministry.*

*Rhonda's hotel stay was provided and meals were delivered to her door.*

*Tracy's bus ticket was purchased so that she could get to the rehab in another state.*

*Groceries were bought for the family of nine because the month lasted longer than the money.*

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Rebecca's house is a two-story, 1940's Craftsman style home located on a corner lot on the main strip through Newport. There is a lot of foot traffic, especially from those who are food insecure. God provided the perfect location so that we could minister to those whom He sends our way.

#### **Rebecca's House Financial Report:**

- Revenue: 100% donations
- Purchase Price \$18,000 in 2019
- Remaining debt \$14,560.
- No salaries paid for by this ministry extension.
- Renovations to this home have all been 100% donor-funded and ongoing.

#### **The Corner Kitchen:**

After serving over 400 meals at the kitchen, Jennifer instructed our ladies to take 75 meals to an apartment complex that we sporadically serve. After passing out the meals, someone on the van spotted a young lady who looked distraught. After giving her a meal, she stated that her boyfriend had kicked her out of the house. She had no one to call and nowhere to go. But GOD saw Felica, and He made sure that we did, too.

Once the girls brought Felica back to The Corner Kitchen, Tammy and I sat down at the table to visit with her and assess her immediate situation. That's when she asked us, "How did you know to find me?"

God is so good! We didn't know to look for this young lady. God did. Now Felica has a home at Cornerstone. She looks forward to going to work soon. She seems hopeful about her future.

God also gave us Stephanie not too long ago. She had been released from the local hospital and without anywhere to go, she just began walking. One of our ladies saw her near The Corner Kitchen on a Tuesday while we were serving. Stephanie was crying. Our attempts to connect her with a homeless shelter were not successful, so we gave her a night's rest in a local motel. The next day, she joined our Cornerstone family. She has been with us since February 9th.

The Corner Kitchen is open to the public every Tuesday from 11-2:00. We serve delicious meals that are always free; however, donations are welcomed. More than 75% of all those we serve appear to truly need this service. We realize that one free meal a week isn't going to dramatically change someone's life, but our goal stretches beyond just serving a meal. We are building relationships with people. We're trusting that when we need to progress to the next level, whatever that looks like, that the God of the universe will make His plans clear to our team, one faith step at a time.

The meals served each week cost approximately \$500-\$600. The last two weeks, we served close to 500 on each Tuesday. Once again, we trust God. We know beyond any doubt that He began this ministry outreach. We also know that He will be faithful to complete what He started.

#### **The Corner Kitchen Financial Report:**

- Revenue: 100% donations
- Purchase Price \$20,000 in 2021
- This campus along with all renovations are paid in full.



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## Other News:

We love to tell the story of Cornerstone and how God miraculously birthed this ministry. In March, Jennifer and I traveled to Cassville, MO for the Global Impact Conference at First Baptist Church where we shared several times. This church has been a ministry partner of ours since opening our doors in 2016.

In April, Jennifer and I flew to Niles, Michigan. Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth, founder of *Revive Our Hearts*, scheduled a recording so that we could share the backstory of Cornerstone along with all that God is currently doing through this ministry. *Revive Our Hearts* caught the vision of Cornerstone before we ever opened. They have been faithful to walk with us on this journey.



On the Sunday before we flew back home, we attended Bertrand Bible Church with our dear friend, Ann Bollinger. What a joy to wrap up our week by sharing about this ministry with her Sunday School class. It's always a time of refreshment when we have opportunities to tell others about God, how He confirmed our callings for this ministry, and about how He continues to show Himself faithful. By recounting our memories, we are energized anew.

## Pray with us about a 15 passenger van:

Currently we have one minivan and two 15-passenger vans. There are days when all three vehicles are on the road as we transport ladies to work, court appearances, doctor appointments, and the list goes on. We recently received a significant donation specifically designated for a newer 15-passenger van. Once this lower mileage van is acquired, it will specifically transport our ladies back and forth to work in Searcy, a town approximately 35 miles south of Newport. We will be launching a Facebook fundraiser in hopes to raise the additional money needed for this purchase.

As always, thank you for your prayers, financial support, tangible donations, and words of encouragement. You are the vessel God uses to bless this ministry.

Serving Jesus,

*Bethany Davis*

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[www.cornerstonetransition.com](http://www.cornerstonetransition.com)

**Cornerstone Transitional Housing Ministry, Inc.**  
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**Rebecca's House of Hope, & The Corner Kitchen**  
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