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THE NEWSLETTER OF SHEPHERD'S GATE

The Gatepost

Sheltered by Grace

Madison and Jake find hope, healing and a second chance.

INSIDE:

- URGENT NEEDS!
- There is Always Hope
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Shepherd's Gate

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”

Sheltered by Grace

THEY HAD TO DRAG MY SON to the car,” Madison* remembered. “Jake* was screaming, begging not to go.”

That moment shattered Madison. She was trying to hold her life together — working two jobs, walking everywhere with her young son because they didn’t have a car, and living in a garage barely fit for human habitation.

With no affordable childcare and the after-school program full, Madison decided she had no choice but to leave Jake, age 7, home alone while she worked. Many days he missed school.

One morning, a knock on the door changed everything. CPS and the sheriff arrived after a neighbor’s report.

Madison was given a chance to prove herself — walking Jake to school, asking friends for help and trying to find after-school care. But with rent due, she sometimes decided to sneak out the back to work, leaving Jake alone.

Two weeks later, CPS returned unannounced — and took Jake away.

You opened the door when no one else would.

Soon after, Madison’s landlady evicted her, afraid of CPS involvement.

Homeless, Madison searched for shelters but found none that accepted mothers with children — until she found Shepherd’s Gate.

“They said I could come — and that Jake could join me,” Madison said. “They gave me clean clothes, a warm meal. I hadn’t felt that kind of care in a long time.”

“I planned to stay just 90 days to get Jake back,” she said. But Shepherd’s Gate became more than a shelter — it became a place of healing.

Because of you, healing began.

Madison started therapy to face the pain of a violent assault and her childhood trauma.

A few weeks later, thanks to Shepherd’s Gate’s support and work with CPS, Jake was reunited with his mom.

**Names and images changed for privacy*



The Gate

rdened, and I will give you rest.” — Matthew 11:28 (NIV)



But healing took time. Jake was angry and scared. “*He didn’t think I was coming back,*” Madison said. “*He thought I didn’t love him.*”

You didn’t just help Madison — you helped Jake too.

With therapy and love, Jake began to heal. “*The staff was so patient with him — they understood it was trauma, and he received therapy too,*” said Madison.

“*I’m proud of him,*” Madison said. “*And proud of myself.*”

Today, Madison and Jake are still at Shepherd’s Gate. She’s rebuilding her life and faith. For the first time, she believes she and Jake are truly on the right path.

Through your support, women and children like Madison and Jake find safety, healing and hope for a new future.

Thank you for making this life-changing work possible.

Listen to Real Stories of Hope and Healing

If you’ve ever wondered what it really looks like to overcome addiction, homelessness or abuse — you’ll want to listen to *Diaries of an Overcomer*, the podcast from Shepherd’s Gate.

Hosted by Carol Patterson and Jen Harp, this podcast shares powerful, true stories from women and men who have faced some of life’s darkest moments — and found their way forward through faith, hope and healing.

You’ll hear honest conversations about trauma, recovery and the ways God works in the most broken places. Some stories may make you cry — but they’ll also leave you inspired and full of hope for what’s possible when love meets brokenness.

You can listen to *Diaries of an Overcomer* wherever you get your podcasts.

Or you can scan here ➡



From My Heart

When Love Meets Brokenness

Every woman who comes to Shepherd's Gate carries a story — often filled with fear, hardship and deep disappointment. Sometimes, despite their best efforts, life spirals out of control and they find themselves with nowhere to turn.

That was true for Madison, who you'll read about in this newsletter. She worked two jobs, lived in a makeshift garage, and struggled to properly care for her young son Jake. She tried to make it all work, but the weight was too much. The day CPS took Jake away shattered her.

But that's when love met her brokenness. The day Madison came to Shepherd's Gate — a community that offers real help and lasting hope — was a gift. And that gift was made possible by you. Thank you!

Thank you for making life-changing transformation possible — for Madison, for Jake and for so many others. May God bless you for the love and compassion you extend to those in greatest need.

With heartfelt thanks,



Carol Patterson
Chief Executive Officer



Hope Corner

There is Always Hope

Shepherd's Gate has always been a place filled with hope. I have been working here for 10 years in various roles on both campuses and one thing I love to see is the hope that shines through the women and children. My passion for their growth and future expands every day.

I'm looking forward to a new season as Shepherd's Gate continues to grow and as I fulfill my role as the Executive Director. I'm working directly with Carol to provide continuity and connection between the Livermore and Brentwood campuses.

In this issue of the newsletter, and in future issues, my goal is to share with you the hope and grace God provides for every woman and child who walks through our door. Hope is the cornerstone of healing, transformation and new life. That hope is a gift from God.

If you want to reach out to me personally, email me at sfischer@shepherds gate.org.

With hope,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephanie". The script is fluid and cursive.

Stephanie Fischer
Executive Director





A safe place, a warm meal and someone who cares — that's what a day of care at Shepherd's Gate means for women rebuilding their lives.

Give a Day of Care to a Desperate Woman

Life can fall apart fast.

For the women who come to Shepherd's Gate, that might mean fleeing abuse, fighting addiction, or not having a safe place for themselves and their children.

A gift of \$32.82 provides a full day of care — food, a warm bed and someone who listens. It's a day when a woman can catch her breath, feel safe and start to believe she can rebuild.

This isn't just about shelter. It's about showing her she matters, that she's not alone, and that there's hope ahead.

Please give today. Your support helps women find strength when they need it most and take the first steps toward a better future.

Because no one should have to face tomorrow without help.

URGENT NEEDS!

Your support means so much to the women and children at Shepherd's Gate. Because of caring partners like you, moms can focus on healing — knowing their children are safe, cared for, and provided for.

Right now, we're running low on some much-needed essentials.

These items may seem small, but they make a big difference in helping a mother feel prepared and supported on her journey.

Would you consider helping replenish our shelves?

- Pullup diapers (size 6&7)
- Ketchup, mayonnaise, mustard
- Salad dressing
- Goldfish crackers
- Baby snacks
- Ragu tomato sauce
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper

You can drop off any of these items at:

4014 East Avenue
Livermore, Ca 94550

Mon-Fri | 9:30am-4pm
Sat | 8am-2:30pm
Sun | Closed

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Brentwood:

605 Sycamore Ave.
Brentwood, CA 94513
925.308.7507

Livermore:

1660 Portola Ave.
Livermore, CA 94551
925.443.4283

shepherdsgate.org



For more than 40 years, Shepherd's Gate has served women and children trapped in abuse, addiction and homelessness. Our mission is to provide safe refuge, restore hope and dignity, and rebuild lives through the transforming power of Jesus Christ.

You can also give securely online at:
shepherdsgate.org/give

My Gift to Help Rescue and Restore Lives!

Yes, Carol! I want to help provide healing, safety and hope for the women and children who come to Shepherd's Gate. I'm sending a gift of:

☐ \$ _____

From:

A Caring Friend



Shepherd's Gate



Please write your prayer request on the back of this form. **See back for credit card gifts.**
Please enclose this form with your gift in the envelope provided. To give securely online, please go to shepherdsgate.org. Thank you.