

The Gatepost

*"I found a
place to heal."*

Thanks to you, Lydia discovered peace and purpose.

- INSIDE:**
- Voices of Gratitude
 - A Place to Call Home
 - A Season to Start Over



Shepherd's Gate

“Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you

“I found a place to heal.”

FOR YEARS, GRIEF, abuse and loss had shadowed Lydia’s* life. “I was homeless — living in a car — ashamed — and I just wanted it all to stop,” she remembers. “I was on the very edge of taking my life.”

At 60, Lydia found herself alone, depressed and sleeping in the backseat of her car, checking into a city parking lot each night just to feel safe.

For seven years, she’d cared for her mother, who later passed away from cancer. Soon after, she lost her job and apartment. With no job and nowhere to turn, she tried living with her sisters, but that didn’t last. Eventually, Lydia put her belongings in storage and moved into her car.

One night, sitting in the dark backseat, she remembers, “God met me there. He helped me call a friend to get help.” That call led to a therapist, emergency care — and discovering Shepherd’s Gate.

**Name and images changed for privacy*

“I know God has me exactly where I need to be so I can heal and prepare for the next chapter in my life.” — Lydia

A Thanksgiving to Remember

It was the week of Thanksgiving when Lydia arrived.

“Every night felt like Thanksgiving — family meals, lots of food and the most caring staff that I could wish for,” she says.

That morning, she called her sister: “I’m not living in my car anymore. I’m living in a big, beautiful mansion!” Lydia felt a peace she hadn’t known in years.

You Gave Lydia Tools to Heal

Shepherd’s Gate became more than a roof over her head — it became a place to heal.



The Gate

The staff patiently guided her through forms, housing applications and life-skills classes. “The classes are so helpful for me,” she said. “Boundaries and grief recovery is exactly what I needed.”

Blessings Abound

Then Christmas came next, and donors blessed her once again.

“On Christmas morning, we came downstairs, and the staff had breakfast all cooked and presents under the tree,” she said. “Look,” showing the cross necklace she received as a gift.

“It had been a long time since I celebrated holidays. I just couldn’t believe it.”

She also received a blanket in her favorite color and a watch. “I am wearing it right now,” she says, holding up her arm. “I can’t believe how blessed I am.”

Today, Lydia dreams of giving back. She wants to help others struggling with homelessness right here in the Bay Area.

“I know God has me exactly where I need to be to heal and prepare for the next chapter in my life,” she said.

This is only possible through you!

Voices of Gratitude

Because of you, women are finding safety and healing. Below, a few women share their reasons to be thankful.

“I am so grateful for Shepherd’s Gate because they have helped me heal through the darkest, hardest part of my life.”

“Shepherd’s Gate is such a big blessing to me and my children. I am very grateful for having a safe home surrounded by amazing people fully equipped to help.”

“I am so grateful for Shepherd’s Gate for everything! They’ve given me a second chance at life, a second chance at freedom.”

“I am grateful for Shepherd’s Gate because when I was in a bad place and I reached out for help, they answered my call, giving me an opportunity that saved my life.”

“I am so grateful for Shepherd’s Gate’s love, wisdom, direction, correction, tough love and guidance. Because of them, I am on a road to freedom from my addiction.”

Hope Corner

A Season to Start Over

At Shepherd's Gate, we see how quickly life can spiral out of control.

Many women come to us because of domestic violence, addiction or chronic homelessness — and recently, we've seen more older women in need.

Some (like Lydia, whom you can read about) have even turned to living in their cars. This can bring mental health struggles, deep loneliness and grief.

Thanks to your support, our program provides safety, hope and a place to call home. It's your generosity that allows women to heal, regain stability and begin a new chapter in their lives.

This Thanksgiving, I am grateful for your heart to care for those who need it most.

Together, we are bringing God's love and hope to women who thought all doors were closed.

With hope,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephanie". The script is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized 'S' at the beginning.

Stephanie Fischer
Executive Director



From My Heart

A Place to Call Home

Imagine facing the anxiety, depression, grief and loneliness of living alone in your car. Hopelessness sets in fast.

Admitting you need help is often the hardest step.

In this newsletter, you'll read about Lydia's journey — how she finally reached out and found hope at Shepherd's Gate because of you. The invitation to come here and receive real, life-changing help was a gift — and it's your generosity that provides this free program for women and children when they need it most.

Your support saved Lydia's life and brought her to our home.

This Thanksgiving, I am so grateful for your heart to share God's love, hope and salvation with those in extreme need.

May God bless you richly with friends and family this holiday season.

With heartfelt thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small heart symbol drawn at the end of the word.

Carol Patterson
Chief Executive Officer





Your gift can brighten a woman's day — and her future!

Offer Hope this Thanksgiving

This Thanksgiving, Shepherd's Gate will be filled with laughter, warm meals and the joy of community. Women and children will celebrate together, sharing what they are grateful for.

Your generosity means more than a meal or a bed — you provide safety, recovery programs, counseling and case management. Moms receive free childcare to focus on healing, and children benefit from nurturing care that breaks cycles of hardship.

None of this is possible without yours and your neighbors' support.

Will you give the gift of a day of care?

For just \$32.82, you can provide a full day of Christ-centered support that can change lives and provide hope!

Be a Blessing this Thanksgiving

Yes, Carol! I will help women and children this holiday season. I'm sending a gift of:

☐ \$ _____

From:
A Caring Friend



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.



A LIFE LEGACY

Have you ever considered remembering Shepherd's Gate in your will? By creating a legacy gift, you will continue to change lives and have an impact for years to come.

For more information, contact Carol Patterson directly at:
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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