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The Gatepost

THE NEWSLETTER OF SHEPHERD'S GATE

"I couldn't even count how many blessings Shepherd's Gate has done for me and my children." — Beth

Beth's First Real Christmas

INSIDE:

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- A Gift that Lasts Beyond Christmas



Shepherd's
Gate



Each \$32.82 you give will provide a day of life-changing care for women and children this holiday season.

Be Her Miracle This Christmas

For too many women and children, Christmas arrives with fear, uncertainty and loneliness. They have nowhere safe to go, no one to protect them *and no hope for the future.*

But you can change that.

Each \$32.82 you give provides a day of safe shelter, recovery programs, childcare, case management and more — helping women and children overcome abuse, addiction or homelessness and begin a new life.

Thank you for standing with them this Christmas. Because of you, hearts are healed, families are restored and the love of Christ shines bright.



BECOME A GATEKEEPER

Want to make a difference all year long? As a GateKeeper, your monthly gift helps women and children throughout the year.

Your support helps make sure that when women call, they can have a place to be safe and items they need.

To find out more, visit:
shepherdsgate.org/gatekeeper



Shepherd's  Gate

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Brentwood:
605 Sycamore Ave.
Brentwood, CA 94513
925.308.7507

Livermore:
1660 Portola Ave.
Livermore, CA 94551
925.443.4283

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

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.

From My Heart

Christmas Joy at Shepherd's Gate

At Shepherd's Gate, Christmas is more than a holiday. It's a powerful reminder of God's presence and love.

Many of the women and children we serve carry deep wounds from homelessness, addiction, violence or childhood trauma. Joy doesn't come easily to hearts weighed down by fear and uncertainty.

This season, we introduce them to traditions that point to the hope and love of Jesus: the Advent wreath, the four candles of hope, faith, joy and peace, and the countdown to the Savior's birth.

As they engage with these traditions, their laughter returns, and their eyes light up with anticipation for the future God has prepared for them. Emmanuel — *God with us* — is the heart of our celebration, and it is a joy that changes lives forever.

Because of your generosity, women and children experience God's love and hope this Christmas and every day.

Merry Christmas,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol" in a cursive script. The letter "l" at the end of the name is stylized to resemble a heart shape.

Carol Patterson
Chief Executive Officer



“Fear not, for behold, I bring you

Beth's First *Real* Christmas

Peace, joy and healing for a hurting family — *because of YOU!*

THE STREETS ARE no place for a mother. Yet for years, Beth* had no other choice. Homeless, addicted and heartbroken over losing custody of her six children, she wondered if hope was gone forever.

Her breaking point came after an overdose that landed her in the hospital. From there, she was connected to a recovery program that ultimately led her to Shepherd's Gate.

You Gave the Gift of Safety

For the first time in years, Beth lives in safety — and with two of her children.

“Before, [the holidays] would be me sitting uncomfortable around my family, or they wouldn't let me in [to see my kids],” she recalls.

You Reunited a Family for Christmas

Last Christmas was a milestone.

“Christmas was amazing,” said Beth. “Armani, my youngest, was like, ‘This is our first real Christmas together.’ Because I didn't have Christmas or anything with them in four years before I came.”

Beth has fond memories of that special day.

“They had such an amazing time. Probably their first Christmas like that since they were babies.”

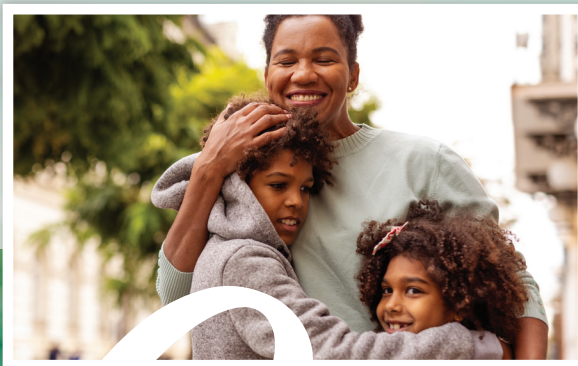
*Name and images changed for privacy

You Made a New Beginning Possible

Beth has stayed sober for over a year, attends therapy and recovery regularly, and works hard to rebuild her family relationships. Her older children are thriving in school and careers, while her younger ones are healing in the safety of Shepherd's Gate.

“I couldn't even count how many blessings Shepherd's Gate has done for me and my children,” said Beth. “It's amazing. They have completely turned my life upside down.”

Thank you for being there for families like Beth's — not just at Christmas, but every day.



The Gate



UPDATE: Madison and Jake

You may remember Madison and her son Jake, whose story I shared with you recently — homeless, heartbroken and separated.

“I have been in the program for months now,” said Madison. “CPS returned Jake to me about a few weeks into the program. Today, I feel so much better about myself.”

Jake had experienced profound trauma — living in shelters, missing school and witnessing violence at a young age. He struggled with fear, anger and mistrust, even toward his mother.

“His internal anger needed to heal, and it was going to take time for him to trust me again,” said Madison. “The staff was so patient with him — they understood it was trauma. He received therapy too. The therapist reassured him that his mom was changing. And God wanted the best for both of us.”

Jake is Thriving with Your Support

“We have seen so much progress with him,” said Madison.

“He is kinder at school and to the staff at Shepherd’s Gate,” she said. “He recently received Student of the Year award for his bravery and kindness to others. I am so proud of him. I just can’t believe this is the same boy.”

Because of you, Madison and Jake have a safe place to heal, grow and rebuild their lives together. Thank you!

Today, Madison and Jake are safe, loved and thriving — because of you!

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Christmas Wishes that Tell a Story

At Shepherd’s Gate, our children’s Christmas wishes tell stories that stay with you.

Some kids wish for small things — a backpack, a toy or the pet they had to leave behind. Others dream of something bigger: A home. A job for mom.

When a child wish list is for a “basic need” instead of a toy, it’s a glimpse into a heart shaped by trauma — children who have faced homelessness or violence, longing for safety, stability and love.

Through Your Support, Christmas at Shepherd’s Gate is Truly Special

Each child at Shepherd’s Gate wakes on Christmas morning to wrapped gifts — *some for the very first time* — and joyful celebrations that show them they are safe, cherished and seen.

Your generosity makes it possible. Thank you for bringing hope and joy to children’s lives.

This child’s drawing is more than art — it’s a glimpse of the hope your generosity provides.



Hope Corner

A Gift that Lasts Beyond Christmas

The Christmas season at Shepherd's Gate is truly remarkable.

Our campuses are alive with women and children carrying a wide range of emotions. For some, Christmas brings cherished memories of family. For others, it's their first holiday spent in a safe, loving environment with their children.

Throughout the season, something special fills the air. Local communities come alongside us, generously providing decorations, gifts, meals, music and fun activities that make the season memorable.

Yet the most precious part of Christmas at Shepherd's Gate is witnessing our women and children receive the greatest gift of all: *Jesus* — the ultimate gift of salvation, hope and peace.

Thanks to your generosity, this gift is shared with those who need it most. Because of you, joy and hope endure long after the holiday season.

Blessings to you,

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

Stephanie Fischer
Executive Director

