

The Gatepost

THE NEWSLETTER OF SHEPHERD'S GATE



From Fear and Pain... to Hope and New Life!

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Shepherd's
Gate

From My Heart

Sacred Beginnings

One of the most courageous moments I know of happens before a woman ever walks through our doors. It's the moment she makes the call.

Often, she's in the middle of chaos, facing eviction, addiction or fear she's lived with for far too long. In that moment, believing life could ever be different feels almost impossible. Trusting someone else with her story, and sometimes with her children, takes incredible courage.

That's why this verse is so meaningful to our women: *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here."*
— 2 Corinthians 5:17

When a woman first reaches out, she rarely believes that promise. But she hopes. She takes a step. She chooses to trust that change might be possible, even when she can't see how.

It's an honor to walk alongside women who take that brave first step. Thank you for standing with us in these sacred beginnings. God has such a beautiful plan for their lives ahead.

With a joyful heart,

Carol 

Carol Patterson
Chief Executive Officer



From Fear and Pain... to Hope and New Life!

FOR FOUR LONG YEARS, Mary* lived in fear. Every day she was afraid. The man she lived with controlled everything — her movements, her children, even her thoughts. He kept a gun close, threatening her constantly.

“He would say ‘I’m your god,’” Mary said. “That he was the only one who could save me.”

He would lock Mary in the closet. Her two-year-old daughter — who has autism and cannot speak — would be on the other side of the door and would slip her little fingers under, trying to comfort and connect with her mother. In that dark closet, it was as if her tiny fingers signaled to her mother, “I’m here.”

It was enough to break anyone.

But a single act of courage brought Mary and her children to safety.

She called a friend and asked for help. Mary had never heard of Shepherd’s Gate, but when her dear friend suggested, “Let’s call them,” Mary said yes.

Mary escaped with nothing but her two children, a borrowed car and the desperate hope that someone — anyone — would help.

That someone was you.

Because of support from friends like you, Mary and her children are safe. Our staff immediately surrounded her with love,

protection and care. We helped her get a restraining order. We reassured her she was finally safe. With security cameras around the campus and a secure, confidential location, her abuser can’t find them here.

But in her first three months here there was unimaginable stress.

Her daughter needed eye surgery to correct a crossed eye. Her son developed a double ear infection. And Mary underwent huge dental procedures.

But Mary was never alone.

“The staff drove me everywhere,” she said. “They took care of me. They doctored me. They doctored my little girl. I couldn’t have asked for anything more.”



Today, Mary is rebuilding a life for herself and her children. She lights up when she talks about her next steps. She’s reading every night after her kids go to sleep, especially God’s promises.

“I’m an avid reader,” she said. “I didn’t graduate from high school, but I’m determined. I’m going to make it.”

Her kids will start preschool soon, and Mary is on track to obtain her GED. She’s planning to begin phlebotomy training so she can provide for her family.

While there is still grief to unpack, trauma to overcome, wounds to be healed, Mary is rebuilding her life today... for herself and her children.

Your gift this Easter will help another woman start a new life, just like Mary!

* Mary’s name has been changed. Her abuser is still a threat, so we are protecting her identity to help keep her and her children safe.

Will You Pray?

Prayer is at the heart of everything we do at Shepherd’s Gate. We lift up the women and children in our care, trusting God to answer them. Will you join us in prayer?

Please pray for:

- **Peace and safety** for women and children as they rest, heal and begin to feel secure after seasons of fear and uncertainty.
- **Strength and courage** for residents as they face hard truths, take brave next steps and learn to trust that their lives can change.
- **Hope and healing** for each woman to experience God’s love, discover her worth and begin to believe in the new life He has for her and her family.

Thank you for covering the women and children of Shepherd’s Gate with your prayers.

Give Old Things New Life

Your old or unused items could be the answer to someone’s prayer.

When you donate gently used clothing, shoes or household items to the **Shepherd’s Gate Thrift Store** in Livermore, you’re doing more than making room in your home — you’re giving those items a second chance to be useful and meaningful to someone else.

Our women shop at the thrift store for clothes for interviews and jobs as well as items to furnish a new place to live after graduation.

Proceeds from the thrift store directly support the women and children at Shepherd’s Gate by providing care, safety, education and encouragement as they rebuild their lives.

For more information, visit us online at shepherdsgate.org/thrift-store

The Createpost

Hope Corner

Hope Often Arrives Quietly

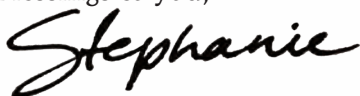
Many women reach out to Shepherd's Gate when hope is little more than a flicker in the back of their mind. They call us in moments filled with fear — uncertain housing, broken relationships, addiction or deep exhaustion. In those tender moments, imagining a different future can feel overwhelming. Trusting that things could change feels even harder.

What we witness, again and again, is that hope doesn't appear all at once. It begins with small things. A safe place to sleep. A full meal. A moment without fear. Someone who listens and believes them. Slowly, those moments begin to add up. And where there was once only survival, hope starts to take root.

Over time, they can believe their story isn't finished. That healing can happen. That a new beginning is possible.

Walking alongside women as hope returns and they start trusting God are some of the greatest moments of this ministry. Thank you for being part of the steady, faithful presence that helps hope grow.

Blessings to you,



Stephanie Fischer
Executive Director





Each \$42.89 you give today will provide a day of care for someone like Mary.

Give New Life!

When Mary arrived at Shepherd's Gate, she was overwhelmed and afraid. She was searching for safety – for herself and her children – and hoping that life could somehow look different.

Because of you, Mary is receiving individualized, Christ-centered support designed around her unique needs. Professional counseling, Bible studies, transportation, assistance with medical appointments, education and compassionate guidance work together to help her heal and begin again. Plus, her children are receiving these same services.

But there are many women who desperately need a new life. Will you give today to help another woman like Mary?

Your gift of \$42.89 provides a full day of care for a woman and her children, offering both immediate safety and the support needed for lasting change.

Without Shepherd's Gate, many women would have nowhere else to turn.



Listen and Be Inspired

Have you listened to our podcast "Diary of an Overcomer"? You'll hear stories of women and families who have overcome trauma caused by homelessness, addiction and abuse.

These inspiring conversations will touch on how faith carried people through some of the most difficult times in their lives and how God transformed them from the inside out.

Visit shepherdsgate.org/podcast to learn more.



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shepherdsgate.org



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

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.