

# THE GATEPOST

THE NEWSLETTER OF SHEPHERD'S GATE

FEBRUARY 2022

## *A Real Rescue Mission*

Susie\* filled out an application online for Shepherd's Gate because someone had told her that she could find help here. But she didn't really believe it could happen. Then Alicia, one of our Campus Directors, received her application and called her.

When Alicia talked with her, she realized there were two major obstacles blocking Susie's path

to Shepherd's Gate. The first one would be the most difficult: believing there was hope.

### **Barrier One: *Hope***

*"Susie felt absolutely, utterly hopeless,"* Alicia says. *"She felt that God had basically left her."*

Susie was struggling to stay sober. She had a serious ongoing court case for custody of her children that looked bleak. She thought that . . .

*(Continued inside)*

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*"Susie thought there was no way there would be any hope for her."*

-Alicia

*\*Name and images changed for privacy*

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**Shepherd's  
Gate**

# A Real Rescue Mission

(Continued from cover)

. . . getting sober and being able to take care of her kids the way she wanted was impossible.

But Alicia didn't abandon Susie. She talked with her on the phone and spent time listening to her. When Alicia found out that Susie was staying in a motel not far from her house, she went and visited her face-to-face.

By connecting with her and building a relationship, Alicia was able to help Susie scrape together enough hope to believe she could change.

## Barrier Two: Getting Here

The next obstacle to helping Susie was how to actually get her to our Livermore campus. Susie's car was unreliable and would break down often. She was scared to drive it over Vasco Road into Livermore. So Alicia came up with a plan.

*"I put Susie in my car with me, and then we followed my husband in her car,"* Alicia says. *"He's a mechanic, so if we broke down he might have been able to do something as a temporary fix."*

Thankfully Susie was able to make it to Shepherd's Gate, where friends like you made it possible for her life to begin to change.

Susie is now in the final phase of the program! She overcame her addictions and began a clean, sober life. She's received an outstanding report from CPS and is hoping to move into her own apartment soon.

**None of this could have even been possible without the prayers and support of friends like you!**



*"If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them wanders away, what will he do? Won't he*



# with Brittany & the two Alicias.

Alicia Hammond, Livermore Campus Director; Brittany McCarty, Livermore Residential Supervisor; and Alicia Quay, Brentwood Campus Director are three staff members who regularly go out as part of the Shepherd's Gate Rescue Outreach Team. Here are some frequently asked questions about this part of our ministry.

**Q: What does Shepherd's Gate's Rescue Outreach Team look like?**

**A:** The Rescue Outreach Team adapts to every situation. For some, it may be going to meet them to help with transportation to our campus. One staff member saw a woman sleeping in her car and reached out to her to build a relationship and tell her about Shepherd's Gate. Homeless women need to build a trust with our staff, which means they need to see them multiple times to believe them.

**Q: Does everyone who the team talks to end up going to Shepherd's Gate?**

**A:** Sadly, no. Some women are just not ready to take the step yet. But they know that Shepherd's Gate is here for them whenever they are ready.

**Q: Is it ever unsafe to go on these "rescues?"**

**A:** Shepherd's Gate does everything we can to make sure no one is going into an unsafe situation. Everyone goes out in pairs, and never alone. We always tell someone else where we're going and check in with each other frequently. And sometimes the police accompany us.

**Q: How can supporters be involved?**

**A:** While you can't come with us when we rescue someone, there are still ways you can be involved! First, you can pray for the women and the staff. Second, you can donate to help provide life-changing care for the residents.

**Each of our staff who participates in our "rescues" have specific reasons for their passion.**

*"Brittany and I were rescued, and we know what that feels like. So I think that's why it's so important to go out there and do the same for others, like it was done for us." -Alicia*

*"I think that seeing everything first hand is important. When I'm looking into someone's eyes, I literally can see the pain. I think they can reciprocate and see the compassion and empathy we have." -Brittany*

*... leave the ninety-nine others . . . and go out to search for the one that is lost?" - Matthew 18:12*



# Special Prayer Requests

One of the most powerful ways partners like you can help the women and children at Shepherd's Gate is through your prayers. Will you please lift up these special prayer requests?

- **Pray for Susie** as she finishes the last phase of the program and moves into her own apartment.
- **Pray for the staff members** who are going out with the Rescue Outreach Team. Please pray for God to give them wisdom and be with them while they talk to the women.
- **Pray for the women** who are still trapped in abuse, addiction and homelessness. Pray they find the hope to change their lives like Susie did!
- **Pray for our outreach trips** to the encampments that homeless women will be open to hearing about Shepherd's Gate.
- **Pray for our intake volunteers** as they answer the phones to women in crisis situations. That the woman calling will hear the compassion and concern our team has for them.

*"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us."* -1 John 5:14





## From My Heart

# *Rescued People Rescue People*

For Alicia (one of our Campus Directors) and Brittany (our Residential Coordinator Supervisor), reaching out to women like Susie is more than a job. They have a passion for helping women who are experiencing homelessness, addiction or abuse. They explain it in one simple sentence:

*“Rescued people go out and rescue people.”*

They know what it's like for women like Susie because they've been in her shoes. They've struggled with their own trauma and felt hopeless. But thanks to God's love, they overcame it to begin new lives.

They want to offer that same hope to other women who are still trapped.

I'm so grateful for partners in this ministry who make that possible. Friends like you help provide life-changing care such as recovery programs and case management. All of our staff have a heart for women in crisis. Many staff members go out on rescue missions to bring them safely here.

I am sure that women like Susie will go on to help other women. Because rescued people will rescue others.

*Carol* 



Shepherd's  
Gate



# You Make It Possible

Just \$32.82 provides the life-changing care that women like Susie need to begin new lives!

Women like Susie come to Shepherd's Gate feeling hopeless. They feel defeated by addiction. Abuse. Trauma.

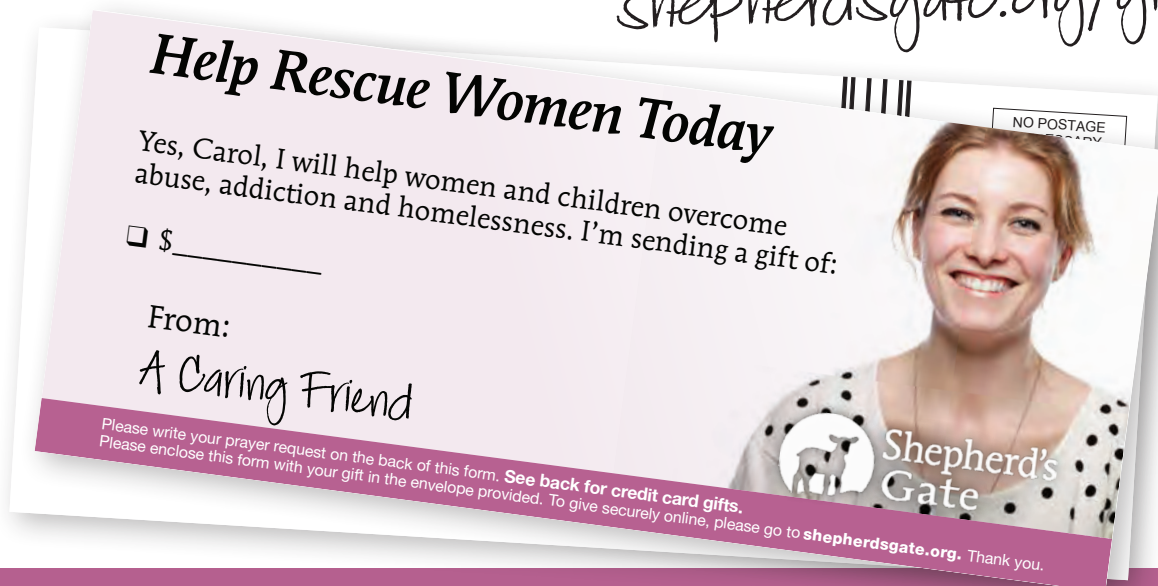
But thanks to friends like you, they find hope. They discover God's overwhelming love and grace, and learn how to heal. They begin changed lives and build a better future for them and their children.

And it wouldn't be possible without partners like you.

Will you help others with a gift today?

Each \$32.82 you give provides a full day of Christ-centered care such as outside counseling, recovery programs, life-skills classes and more. Your support helps women and children when they need it most.

You can also give  
securely at:  
[shepherdsgate.org/give](https://shepherdsgate.org/give)



Brentwood: 605 Sycamore Ave. Brentwood, CA 94513 | Livermore: 1660 Portola Ave. Livermore, CA 94551  
shepherdsgate.org | shepgate@shepherdsgate.org | Brentwood 925.308.7507 | Livermore 925.443.4283

Shepherd's  Gate

For over 35 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.

