

THE GATEPOST

THE NEWSLETTER OF SHEPHERD'S GATE

EASTER 2022

The Night She Almost Died

Without Shepherd's Gate, Kelly would have had nowhere to go.

On a cold night last year, Kelly's* husband flew into a rage. It wasn't the first time he became violent. It wasn't the first time he beat her or yelled. But it was the first time she ever thought he was going to kill her.

When he lost control that terrible night, Kelly could think of only two things: **get her kids out of danger and try to stay alive until the police arrive.**

She helped the kids climb out the bathroom window and told them to run to the neighbor's house as fast as they could.

"I knew our neighbor would keep them safe," Kelly says. "I told them everything would be okay, but I didn't know if it was true or not."

(Continued inside)



**Name and images changed for privacy*

INSIDE:

- A New Life Really is Possible
- The Power of the Resurrection
- Update: Children's Program



**Shepherd's
Gate**

The Night She Almost Died

(Continued from cover)

Kelly knew that if her husband saw her on the phone, his rage would only get worse. So she called 911 and then dropped the cell phone.

“I just prayed that they wouldn’t hang up and that they would send someone to help me,” Kelly says.

The 911 operator sent the police immediately. But Kelly and her husband lived out in the country, and help was 45 minutes away. During those 45 minutes, the 911 operator could hear everything that happened. They heard Kelly’s cries and screams as her husband brutally beat her, almost killing her.

“I’m thankful to have a safe place for me and my kids. They’re seeing me change and are beginning to believe that we’ll be okay. I now know that God loves us so much and He saved us that night.” –Kelly

Her husband was arrested. Kelly was rushed to the hospital for treatment. After she recovered, her neighbor knew of Shepherd’s Gate and helped her apply to the program right away.

It’s been a tough healing process.

Kelly and her kids endured terrible trauma and overcoming that type of trauma takes time. Through professional family counseling – as well as professional individual counseling – they’re taking steps to find healing and experience hope together.

It’s because of friends like you that Kelly and her children will be celebrating new life this Easter.



Domestic violence can happen to anyone – a relative, a coworker, a neighbor. If you suspect someone is being abused, please visit the National Domestic Violence Hotline at www.thehotline.org or call 1-800-799-SAFE (7233). Or visit our website at www.shepherds gate.org

“He who was seated on the throne sa



From My Heart

The Power of the Resurrection

This Easter, we'll celebrate the power of the resurrection. The amazing day that allows all of us to experience God's sacrificial love and radical forgiveness for all of us to have a new life in Jesus. But the power of Easter isn't just one single day. I am blessed to see how He restores lives here at Shepherd's Gate every day.

I see it in the Children's Center as laughter fills the room and children who had once lived in the car with their mom play a game after school. In the beaming grin of a little girl who had never had a new dress before coming here, now spins and twirls in her dress. In the proud smile of a child who started the school year behind their classmates, but is now showing off their report card with all A's.

I see the power of restoration at our graduation ceremonies as women who thought they were too broken to ever heal now proudly tell their stories of overcoming addiction and domestic violence. In the woman who was told her whole life that she was worthless, but is now attending job-skills training, completing parenting classes and building a new future for herself.

I see it during the alumni gatherings on campus and online when women who have fought and pushed their way through challenges are now living new lives. They're continuing to beat the odds and showing others that changed lives are possible.

None of this would be possible without the incredible staff here at Shepherd's Gate and partners like you. This Easter, I hope you'll celebrate the new life that is made possible every day thanks to God's amazing love and grace.

Carol 



id, 'I am making everything new!'" – Revelation 21:5



“It’s great that my workplace, Salesforce, will match my gift to Shepherd’s Gate. I love knowing that my gift will have an even greater impact to help women and children heal.”

Vijay Swamidass
Director of Software Engineering

Doubling Your Impact

Did you know that many companies will match your charitable giving to the organization of your choice? It’s a great way to double your impact and help even more women and children!

In fact, many companies have increased giving during the Covid pandemic. Unsure if your company does this? You can look it up by going to: shepherds gate.org

If your company doesn’t already participate, contact your HR department or your supervisor. For more information email Moira Udinski, Donor Relations, at mudinski@shepherds gate.org



**Shepherd's
Gate**



Children's Update

It's been a hard year for our children. One day they can go to school and the next day they can't because of the rapid spread of COVID. Luckily our children have each other to be with when they are on campus. The social interaction and play time together helps them feel normal.

Our amazing childcare staff in the nursery and after-school program have filled so many roles for these children: teacher, physical education coach, mentors, spiritual leaders, drivers to counseling, or court and medical appointments, or just lending a listening ear when they are feeling sad or scared.

Special Prayer Requests

- **Pray for Kelly** and her children as they continue to build new lives and overcome the trauma they've endured.
- **Pray for the other residents at Shepherd's Gate** who are experiencing new life this Easter and overcoming abuse and addiction.
- **Pray for the women** who are still trapped in abusive situations like Kelly was. Pray they are able to escape and find help before it's too late!



A New Life Really is Possible

You can help a woman experience the new life that Easter is all about!

Women like Kelly live every day in fear of leaving their abusers because then they would be homeless with their kids, potentially lose their kids to the court system, and have no financial backup system. **But Easter shows us that with God, new lives are possible.**

A new life doesn't begin in an instant. But each day a woman spends at Shepherd's Gate is another step toward overcoming abuse, addiction and homelessness.

Will you help more women like Kelly this Easter?

Your gift will help provide life-changing care such as recovery program, budgeting, job-and-life skills classes, access to specialized counseling, case management and more in a safe environment.

Because of your support, the women and children at Shepherd's Gate can build a new life and experience God's love.

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

Help Women Find New Life this Easter

You can help women experience the new life that Easter is all about.

Yes, Carol, I will help more women experience God's love this Easter as they overcome abuse, addiction and homelessness. 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.

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

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.

