

The Gatepost

THE NEWSLETTER OF SHEPHERD'S GATE

Finding Family

RENEES* WAS 60 YEARS OLD when she started living in her car. She had been living with her mother, but when her mom moved into a senior living complex, Renee couldn't afford the rent by herself, so she was evicted. She didn't know what to do or who could help her.

Renee had faced challenges before in her life, but she hadn't always made the right choices.

She wanted this time to be different.

She knew that staying with family wasn't the healthy choice.

"My family is toxic for me. My mom and sister turned completely against me when I started my relationship with Jesus."

Ever since she was a child, Renee's family wasn't a healthy, supportive environment. When her stepdad abused her, Renee's mom . . .

(Continued inside)

*Names and images changed for privacy

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Shepherd's Gate

“For where two or three gather in my name,

Finding Family (Continued from cover)

. . . didn't believe her. As an adult, Renee turned to alcohol to escape her pain. Her alcoholism caused her to be hospitalized, and still, her family didn't support her.

Renee went through rehab and struggled to stay sober. During the pandemic, she turned to her faith to help her in her recovery. Her mom and other family members turned against her.

“My mom did not like my relationship with Christ,” she says.

When Renee was facing homelessness, she knew that being with her family wasn't the right choice. But neither did she want to turn back to alcohol. Thankfully, she heard about the Shepherd's Gate program and called us to apply.

When she arrived, she couldn't believe how welcoming everyone was.

“When I saw the backpack with the books, a Bible, new set of towels, new sheets on the bed . . . I was just in awe,” Renee says. *“I felt special. I have never been treated like this.”*

Since joining the program, Renee has continued healing from her childhood abuse, as well as continued in her path of sobriety. After utilizing our learning and career center, she is looking for employment even at 60 years of age and is looking to share an apartment with another alumni. Renee finds joy in our alumni program and volunteering on campus.

Your gift today will help other women like Renee find healing!

“I'm here to get a healthy household for my second generation, and to be who God created me to be.” — Renee



The Gate

there am I with them.” — Matthew 18:20



3 Ways Shepherd's Gate Creates Community

Community doesn't just happen. It takes intentional planning and work to create. This community is part of our process. Here are a few of the ways we work to create community:

- 1** We gather for meals together like a family around the table. We talk about our days and catch up with each other.
- 2** The women participate in weekly Bible study classes to grow in their faith together and encourage each other. They also attend church where they connect with other women as spiritual mentors.
- 3** Weekly and monthly events like pancake breakfasts and field trips with the kids provide a chance to spend time together having fun.

Shepherd's Gate Alumni Program

When a woman graduates from the program here, it doesn't mean she's done. It's just one part of her new life! One of the key ways Shepherd's Gate continues to support our graduates is through the Alumni Program.

The Alumni Program provides the alumni with regular recovery meetings, relapse prevention

classes, case management, alumni gatherings, prayer meetings and more to help them as they build their new lives. They encourage each other and help each other, and many of them volunteer at Shepherd's Gate to help the current residents.

Our women are never alone, and continue to be a part of the Shepherd's Gate family!

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Prayer Requests

One of the ways you can help the women and children at Shepherd's Gate is through your prayers. Will you join us in praying this month?

- **Pray for Renee** and all the women as they continue on their path of recovery and changing their lives.
- **Pray for the volunteers** who selflessly give their time to help in so many ways at Shepherd's Gate.
- **Pray for the children** at Shepherd's Gate as they heal through their own trauma of being homeless or surviving domestic violence situations.

Renee wanted to share her favorite Bible verse with you:

“For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.”

— Philippians 4:13



**Shepherd's
Gate**

From My Heart

By Carol Patterson, *Chief Executive Officer*

The Power of Family

Knowing someone believes in you and is supporting you is so important. Unfortunately, many of our residents, like Renee, haven't had that kind of support before coming to Shepherd's Gate. They've been abandoned and were unloved. A large portion of women come from a past in foster care.

But when they see what donors like you make possible, they start to believe that things can change. That's the power of family.

Sometimes that family is the one you're born into. Other times, it's the one you create. The women at Shepherd's Gate have created a family amongst themselves. Many of them would never have met if they hadn't come here. But the time they spend with each other as they overcome abuse, homelessness and addiction creates a bond that lasts long after they graduate. That is why our alumni program is so important.

Thank you for being a part of the Shepherd's Gate family!

Carol 





Your gift of any amount will help provide shelter, recovery programs and more to help women someone like Renee!

Help Someone Have a Family Today

When Renee didn't know where to go or who could help her, friends like you made a difference! Without your prayers and support, she would've continued living in her car, struggling to find food. Who knows what would have happened to her.

That's why your partnership is so important.

Each gift of \$32.82 you give helps provide life-changing care for women and children. Your support helps them have shelter, meals, recovery classes and more.

Will you help more women like Renee?

Your gift will help someone else change their life and overcome the trauma of abuse, addiction or homelessness.



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!

Unsure if your company does this? You can look it up by going to: shepherdsgate.org/ways-you-can-help

If your company doesn't already participate, contact your HR department or your supervisor.

For more information email us at: shepgate@shepherdsgate.org

NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES

Help Someone like Renee

Yes, Carol, I will help women and children who are overcoming abuse, homelessness and addiction. I'm sending a gift of:
 \$ _____

From:
A Caring Friend

 **Shepherd's Gate**

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.

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shepherdsgate.org



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

For more than 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.