

# The Gatepost

THE NEWSLETTER OF SHEPHERD'S GATE

## Trapped and Abused

**J**OAN\* WAS PREGNANT. A victim of sex trafficking. And being held against her will on the east coast. In a rare opportunity to use a telephone, she reached out to Shepherd's Gate with a simple message:

***"Please, I need help."***

Her story actually began here in the Bay Area. After an abusive childhood, Joan turned to drugs as a young woman to numb the pain. Her addiction quickly took over and grew out of control.

Eventually, she met a man who promised to take care of her.

He didn't.

He was a sex trafficker.

He used guns and drugs to trap her and wouldn't let her leave. He sold Joan's body every day in Oakland. But her situation was about to get even worse . . .

*(Continued inside)*

*\*Names and images changed for privacy*

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Shepherd's Gate



*“The faithful love of the Lord never ends!”*

# *Trapped and Abused*

*“I now have the chance to heal and get the help I need to overcome my shame and trauma so I can be a better mom to my daughter.” — Joan*

*(Continued from cover)*

The man who trafficked Joan sold her to a new trafficker, who was even more violent. He moved her to the east coast and forced her to work. He threatened to kill her if she ever tried to run away. His mom would lock Joan in a room to keep her from leaving.

Joan remembered that her aunt had found help at Shepherd’s Gate several years before. She thought if her aunt had been able to change her life, maybe Joan could too. When she got finally got her hands on a phone, Joan reached out to us.

Even though she was across the country, our case managers helped Joan create a plan so she could safely escape and get to California and Shepherd’s Gate.

Here, thanks to friends like you, Joan was able to feel safe for the first time in years. She is looking forward to gaining life- and job-skills so she can build a better future for her and her daughter. She’s receiving specialized therapy to help her overcome the shame and trauma.

But most amazing of all, Joan is living a new life in Christ. She was baptized in the Lord and knows that He is the only one who can truly change her life.

**Your gift this Easter can help save someone’s life and help them begin a new life, just like Joan!**

*The Gate*



*His mercies never cease.* — Lamentations 3:22



## Life-long Change

Joan's new life is just beginning. But if you've ever wondered if that kind of changed life can really last, check out our podcast, "Diary of an Overcomer." In one of our recent episodes, we talked with Brittany.

Not only is Brittany a Manager of Residential Coordinators at Shepherd's Gate, but she's also a graduate from the program and an example of someone whose life has changed — and not temporarily. Brittany has accomplished so much since she's graduated. Her story is inspiring and shows that life-long change really is possible!

Find our podcast by scanning the QR code above, or go to: [shepherdsgate.org/podcast](https://shepherdsgate.org/podcast)

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Shepherd's  
Gate





# Spring Volunteer Opportunities

If you've ever thought about volunteering at Shepherd's Gate, we'd love to have you! There are several ways you can volunteer at either campus this spring. If you would like to find about the volunteer opportunities available at either campus, please visit us at [shepherdsgate.org/getinvolved](http://shepherdsgate.org/getinvolved)



# From My Heart

By Carol Patterson, *Chief Executive Officer*

## The Perfect Name

Soon after arriving at Shepherd's Gate, Joan gave birth to a beautiful baby girl and named her Esperanza, which means "hope." What a perfect name for this sweet baby!

Hope is what Joan has for the future.

Hope is what she desperately needed before coming here.

Hope is what friends like you made possible.

When Joan was baptized, we also had a baby dedication for Esperanza. Joan said, *"I want my baby girl to grow up and know who Christ is and what He did on the cross for us."*

Because of compassionate friends like you, Esperanza and the other children at Shepherd's Gate have hope. They have a chance to break the cycles of abuse, addiction and homelessness. You have given them a whole new future.

You are truly making a difference in people's lives!

Carol





Each \$32.82 you give helps provide a full day of Christ-centered care for someone like Joan.

## Change a Life this Easter

Without caring friends like you, Joan would still be trapped, being sold in human trafficking, and desperate for help.

But instead, she has safe shelter and access to recovery classes. Her daughter has clothes and food. Joan is learning how to be the best mom she can be and gaining life- and job-skills so they can have a better future than she ever imagined.

**Will you help other women like her?**

Each \$32.82 you give provides a full day of Christ-centered care such as recovery classes, Bible studies, case management and more. Your gift of any amount will help women escape abuse and addiction.

**Your gift this Easter can help someone else start a new life, just like Joan!**




## Legacy of Love

Have you ever considered remembering Shepherd's Gate in your will? By creating a legacy gift, you will continue to change lives and have an impact for years to come.

For more information, contact Carol Patterson directly at: [cpatterson@shepherdsgate.org](mailto:cpatterson@shepherdsgate.org)

NO POSTAGE  
NECESSARY  
IF MAILED  
IN THE  
UNITED STATES




### Help Change Lives this Easter

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](http://shepherdsgate.org). Thank you.

## Shepherd's Gate The Gatepost

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You can also give securely online at:  
[shepherdsgate.org/give](http://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.