

# The Gatepost

THE NEWSLETTER OF SHEPHERD'S GATE

## “I can’t save her.”

**B**ENJAMIN\* IS ONLY A little kid. But he already has dreams to be a security guard who protects people and has security cameras when he grows up.

Why? Because he wants to protect his mom.

It’s something he feels he failed to do when his dad physically abused her.

Before coming to Shepherd’s Gate, Benjamin and his mom were in a domestic violence situation and then homeless. His mom tried to shield him and keep him from getting hurt. But he still saw and heard everything that happened.

“I was told to stay behind the door, lock it, don’t come out. But I could hear it all outside. I was scared,” he says.

*(Continued inside)*

*\*Names and images changed for privacy*

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Shepherd's Gate





# “I can’t save her.”

(Continued from cover)

During some one-on-one time with Carol, Benjamin told her what happened before he came to Shepherd’s Gate. He described what he saw. He talked about what scares him and how they were homeless for a long time. His words and his pictures give an insight into how he was affected.

When Benjamin drew a picture to show what scares him, he drew his dad throwing a can at his mom’s chest, and then breaking the glass coffee table. Benjamin is on the couch.

“I can’t move. I can’t save her.”

Ever since then, Benjamin has tried to make up for not being able to protect her. When they stayed at a homeless shelter that had roaches and bed bugs, he collected as many as he could and put them in a plastic bag to keep them away from her.

Thanks to friends like you, Benjamin and his mom are now at Shepherd’s Gate. His mom is working to overcome her trauma and build a new life for them. And Benjamin is getting professional child-specific therapy, working through the trauma of seeing his mom abused. He has dreams of growing up, buying a house for him and his mom to live in and buying a Ford Focus. He likes to draw pictures of the house he hopes to get for them.

“Our rooms are going to be across from each other so I can watch her.”

**Your gift today can help kids like Benjamin begin to overcome the pain and trauma they’ve been through.**



Benjamin drew this picture of his dad throwing a coffee can at his mom.



“My mom was so scared, I tried to keep the bugs away from her.”

— Benjamin

# The Crater



# Not His Fault

**L**OGAN'S\* DAD WAS ABUSIVE and addicted to drugs and alcohol. Logan thought that if he just threw away his dad's stash, maybe his dad wouldn't hurt Logan or his mom or baby sister.

But when Logan's dad came home and realized his stash was gone, he was enraged. He began pounding the wall above Logan's bed and screaming. Logan's mom pushed herself in front of Logan and said that she did it, not Logan. So his dad took his mom outside and began choking her.

Logan stood inside and saw everything through the window.

When his dad left to get alcohol, his mom grabbed Logan and his baby sister. *"We have to leave. He's going to kill us,"* she told him.

They lived in their van for a little bit, but thankfully are now at Shepherd's Gate. Now Logan blames himself for what happened.

*"We have to leave.  
He's going to kill us."*

*"I think it's my fault we were homeless,"* Logan says. *"I'm the one who made him so mad."*

Through the children's program here, Logan is getting professional therapy and care to help him process everything he's been through. He's getting the chance to heal and learn that it's not his fault, and it never was.



*rest*



## *It Takes a Village*

You've probably heard the phrase "It takes a village to raise a child." And that's true even here at Shepherd's Gate! Here are two incredible community partners that help provide child-specific care for the kids here:

- **The Betty Ford Clinic in Hazeldon** has partnered with Shepherd's Gate to provide kids here with specialized therapy for kids of parental addiction. Two of their counselors have multiple sessions to help the kids verbally explain the dark secrets they have been holding inside.

Additionally, they are providing training for our staff.

- **The Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance** awarded a scholarship to pay for a full year of equine therapy for the kids here.

Many of the kids have lost confidence. Horse therapy is a gentle way for kids to rebuild their confidence.



**Shepherd's  
Gate**

# From My Heart

By Carol Patterson, *Chief Executive Officer*

## My Calling

I know it's not always easy to read some of these kids' stories. It's difficult to hear the kids tell them. But I always feel honored and grateful that the children trust me enough to tell me their stories.

They are so brave and have been through so much.

That's why I feel such a calling in my heart to help them. I'm sure you feel the same.

And that's why all of us at Shepherd's Gate — all the staff and volunteers — do everything we can to help each of these special kids. We work to make sure each child feels God's love and feels safe. And it couldn't be done without the prayers and support of partners like you.

This newsletter doesn't even touch on many children we reunite with their mothers that have been in foster care or kinships each year.

If you'd ever like to process any of these stories with me, please email me at [cpatterson@shepherds gate.org](mailto:cpatterson@shepherds gate.org).

*Carol* 





Each \$26.35 you give helps kids like Benjamin and Logan have child-specific care to help them recover from abuse and homelessness.

## Change a Child's Life

Kids like Benjamin and Logan are resilient. But they can't overcome the type of trauma they've experienced without help.

That's what your prayers and support makes possible.

**Not only does each \$26.35 you give provide shelter and meals, it also helps them get child-specific care.** They can receive counseling and support like play therapy that helps them process their trauma.

Your support helps them break the cycles of abuse and homelessness. Otherwise, they'll continue to carry the scars and burdens from homelessness and abuse far into their adulthood.

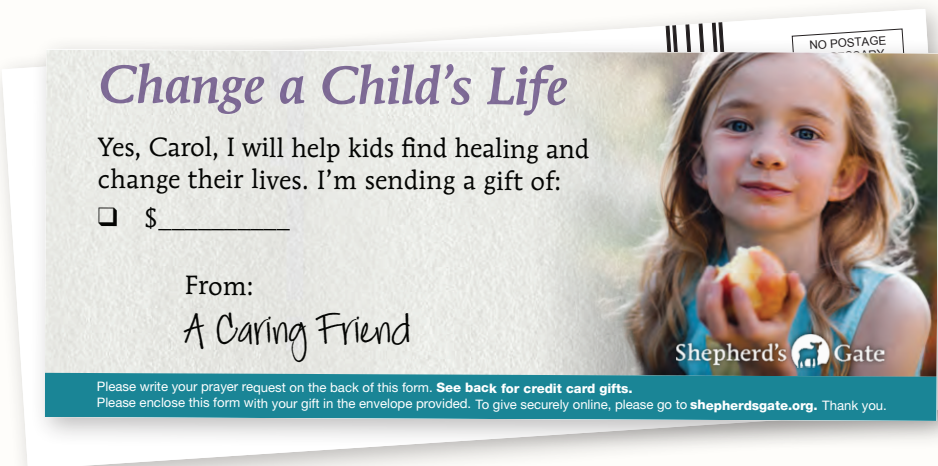
**You are truly changing a child's life!**



## Become a GateKeeper

Want to have an even bigger impact? Become a GateKeeper! Your monthly gift of any amount helps provide shelter and care all year long to help women and children overcome abuse, addiction and homelessness.

To sign up, go to:  
[shepherdsgate.org](http://shepherdsgate.org)



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[shepherdsgate.org](http://shepherdsgate.org)



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

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.