

MAR  
2025

# The Postpost

THE NEWSLETTER OF SHEPHERD'S GATE

## Battle-Ready.

“ 2025 is going to be my year of redemption.  
I am going to overcome this. ”

— Sherry

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Shepherd's Gate

*“Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of*

# Battle-Ready.

## You Helped Sherry Find a Reason to Live

**W**HEN SHERRY\* WALKED through the doors of Shepherd’s Gate last May, she was at rock bottom. She had been battling alcoholism since she was 14 — half her life.

“I’m 29, and I’m alive,” she said, her voice trembling. “That’s a miracle.”

Sherry’s story is one of heartbreak and resilience.

At 14, she started drinking to escape the pain of her parents’ divorce. Something traumatic also happened during this time, but it was so devastating that she has a missing block of time, unable to remember what it is.

By 18, she had a DUI and a shattered sense of self. Four failed recovery programs later, she was still trapped in the cycle of addiction.

One day, consumed by despair and suicidal thoughts, Sherry realized she could no longer care for her two young sons. She made a life-changing decision: she called 911 on herself, saying, “I can’t take care of them.”

Her mother arrived just in time to take the boys, sparing them from a police intervention.

*\*Name and images changed for privacy*

That cry for help became a turning point. A friend told Sherry about Shepherd’s Gate, and she made the call that would change her life.

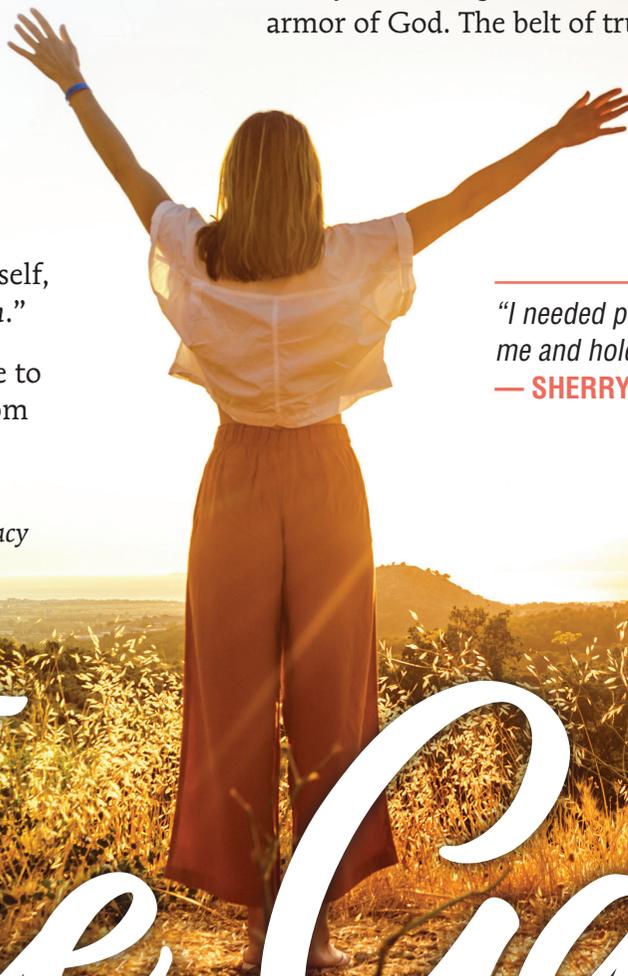
### Strength and Purpose for Sherry, Through Your Support

At Shepherd’s Gate, Sherry found more than a program — she found a community of faith that showed her how to rebuild her life on God’s promises.

“I never understood how to put on the armor of God,” she admitted. “Now I see that I needed people who could teach me and hold me accountable.”

### Embracing God’s Armor

Sherry is learning to embrace every piece of the armor of God. The belt of truth reminds her . . .



*“I needed people who could teach me and hold me accountable.”*

— SHERRY

# The Gate

that her past doesn't define her; the breastplate of righteousness shields her as she steps into her new identity in Christ. She's discovering that faith, rooted in community, is her strongest defense against the battles she faces.

## Thanks to YOU, Sherry Is No Longer Alone

Today, Sherry is focused on her recovery, and working diligently in therapy to heal the pain from her past. She is also preparing for a court date to secure unsupervised visits with her boys, and dreaming of a brighter future.

Her goal for 2025? "It's going to be my year of redemption," she says.

Sherry clings to a note her grandfather wrote before he passed away: "You are the one God has chosen to bring faith to our family." Today, she's living out that calling. "I know forgiveness is precious," she shares, "because it brings us home to God."

Thank you for being part of Sherry's journey from despair to hope. Your support of Shepherd's Gate provides women like Sherry with the resources and love they need to rebuild their lives.

**Together, we are transforming lives — helping women like Sherry find healing and a future filled with God's promises.**

# The Full Armor of God

Ephesians 6:10-11

## BELT OF TRUTH

Women struggling in addiction learn they are not defined by their past. God's truth declares their worth and identity.

## BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Survivors of abuse find protection in God's love, as they discover they are redeemed and made whole in Christ.

## SHOES OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE

Women experiencing homelessness are guided to walk a path of peace and purpose through God's grace.

## SHIELD OF FAITH

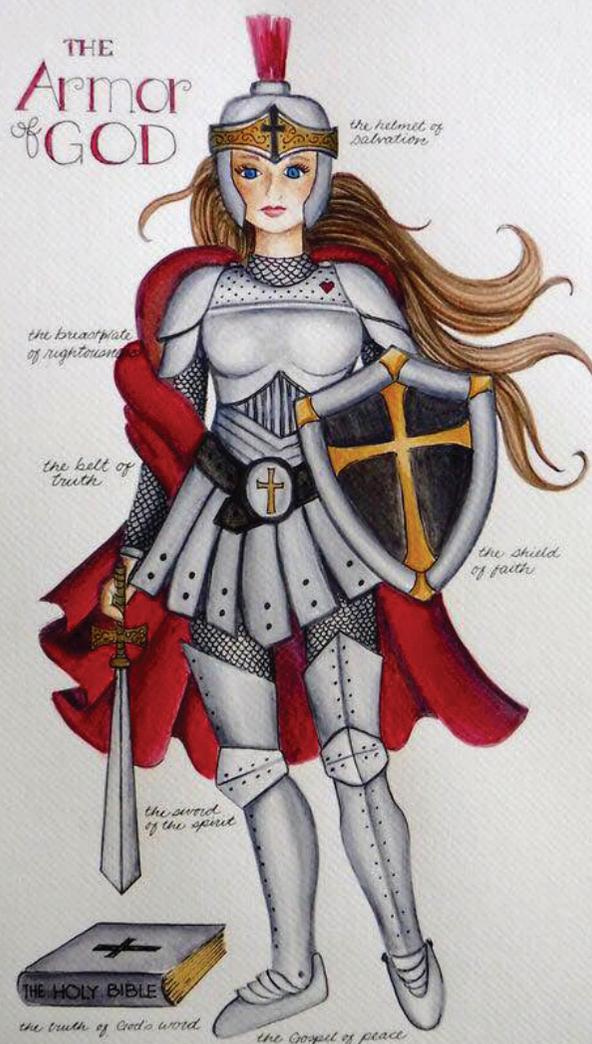
Women facing overwhelming challenges learn to raise the shield of faith, trusting God to extinguish fear and lies.

## HELMET OF SALVATION

Women burdened by shame and despair find hope as they guard their minds with the promise of salvation in Christ.

## SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

Through God's Word, women gain the strength to fight fear, doubt and the lies that have kept them bound.



most



## *Building Futures, One Cottage at a Time*

The Cottages at our Livermore location provide a crucial support system for graduates of our program who are attending college or transitioning to the workforce. Our vision is to replicate this at our Brentwood campus.

Our Brentwood advancement projects have been funded by a few generous donors who saw God's vision of our three-phase approach. We are so blessed to have a new learning and career center, after-school room and a playground.

We have just broke ground on our last phase to build three cottages and a new pantry. Also, we will be remodeling our old pantry into a new bedroom for new guests.

All of this will allow us to help an additional 15 women and children.

## *Spring into Action*

This spring, Shepherd's Gate is hoping you'll remember us while you do your spring cleaning by donating to our Thrift Store, a place that holds special meaning for our residents.

Many women come to us with little more than the clothes they're wearing. The Thrift Store offers them a chance to shop with dignity – selecting clothes like any other shopper, restoring confidence in themselves and their future.

The Thrift Store also provides an opportunity for graduates of our program to gain valuable work experience, helping them build skills and confidence that aid them in securing future employment and creating a stable life.

Our Thrift Store is located at 4014 East Avenue in Livermore.

# From My Heart

By Carol Patterson, *Chief Executive Officer*

## From Brokenness to Battle-Ready

When women arrive at Shepherd's Gate, they often carry invisible wounds — scars from abuse, addiction and homelessness. Their spirits are battered, their strength depleted.

Sometimes I see myself in their stories. Like many of them, I've faced seasons of brokenness. And yet, I've also witnessed how God's power can transform lives when we turn to Him.

In Ephesians 6:10-11, Paul urges us to *"be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes."* This truth is more than words; it's a lifeline.

Here at Shepherd's Gate, I've watched women trade despair for hope as they learn to stand firm in God's strength.

**When they put on the armor of God — truth, righteousness, faith and salvation — they begin to see themselves as God does: beloved, redeemed and strong in Him.**

The journey isn't easy, but it's worth it. Each step forward is a step toward freedom. To every woman we serve, I say: *God's armor fits you perfectly. And with Him, you can stand strong.*

*Carol* 





Just \$32.82 provides a day of care for a woman working on recovery!

# Celebrate New Life This Easter!

Trapped in darkness. Gripped by shame. Abused, addicted and feeling hopeless.

This is the reality for so many women still in need of a way out. Women like Sherry, who once believed she deserved nothing but despair.

**But this Easter, you can help change that!**

Your gift can provide the critical support these women need to break free. It offers them safety, a chance to heal and the hope of

a new life. With your help, they can experience the transformative power of God's love, overcome their past and embrace the future with joy.

**Will you help celebrate new life by giving hope to women like Sherry, and countless others still searching for their way out?**

**Your generosity is the first step toward their freedom.**

## My Easter Gift to Offer New Life

**Yes, Carol!** I want to help provide women and children with the resources and love they need to rebuild their lives. 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](http://shepherdsgate.org). Thank you.



## Make an Impact Every Month. Become a GateKeeper.

When you join as a GateKeeper, your monthly gift ensures that women and children in need receive support all year long. Your generosity helps provide a safe refuge and essential items for women who turn to us for help.

With your partnership, we can continue offering life-changing support to those who need it most.

Visit [shepherdsgate.org/gatekeeper](http://shepherdsgate.org/gatekeeper) to learn more.

Shepherd's  Gate

## The Gatepost

**Brentwood:**

605 Sycamore Ave.  
Brentwood, CA 94513  
925.308.7507

**Livermore:**

1660 Portola Ave.  
Livermore, CA 94551  
925.443.4283

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



For more than 40 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.

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