



Hello to all of you,

Here we are in April already and I want to give you an update on where we are and what we are doing. Thanks to all our supporters and donors, we were able to pay off the mortgage on Grace House so we are once again debt free. We have been able to help 5 women at Grace House last year and now we have 3 ladies with children staying there. It has been so helpful for the women who are waiting for an apartment to open up or who just need a short stay. Being able to give them a safe, clean and beautiful place to stay has given them the hope to move forward as they make decisions on what's next for them and their children.

Our store is doing well and has been great for giving the ladies a place to work while they look for employment. We've gotten wonderful donations. We are so thankful for the generosity of those in our community and our churches. Many churches and groups have been giving us supplies and food for our families living here. It has been helpful especially the last two years. It has been a testimony to our God's love and provision.

We are completely filled up now, with some of our ladies ready to move out on their own. It has been very hard for them to find affordable housing. This has been an on-going problem for most of our ladies and even more so with the present economy and inflation. With all that has happened in the last 2 years, housing concerns have been tough. In addition, finding child care has really made it hard for the ladies who need to work. Please keep these things in your prayers.

We were out-growing our office, so we decided the best thing would be to add on to our existing office. This should be completed by this summer. We will have a better place to meet with the ladies and more privacy. Another project is our upstairs apartment. It will be finished soon and provide another place for a single lady or a mom with one child.

We have quite a few new volunteers. Two women are helping Linda and I with office work and our weekly meeting with the ladies. Diane Addis has been instrumental in getting two of our ladies into GED classes and Linda B has taken much of the load off my assistant Director, Linda Anderson, with office work. She is getting us more organized and I look forward to her helping us move into the new office space. We have 3 new volunteers at the store who have transformed the place. People have commented on how enjoyable it is to shop at Redeemed Treasures thrift store.

We also have 4 new men coming to our Thursday work day, who have done heating and air, plumbing, flooring and yard work. As we have grown, the need for maintenance and yard work also has grown. I still remember when I started and was able to do most of the renovating, maintenance and yard work around the ministry. Those days are gone and if it were not for all our weekly volunteers and groups that come throughout the year we would not be able to keep up with all the work that needs to be done. What a testimony to how God works through His people to minister to those in need. The ladies here are always surprised by the love and concern that is shown to them by all our staff and volunteers. What a wonderful way to show them God cares and teach them to help one another.

We always need your prayers and if you would like to receive our weekly prayer list you can request to receive it by emailing us at [contact@crossroadsaiken.com](mailto:contact@crossroadsaiken.com). We have seen so many miracles in the lives of these ladies through your prayers.

Thanks to Denny McGure and his group, we had a garden for the fall and now they are planting our spring garden. As we water, pull weeds and keep it up, it reminds me of God's care in our lives and how important it is to plant the seeds of God's word and His love into the souls of the precious women and children who He sends our way. I cannot thank God or you enough for all the ways we have been blessed as we continue to reach out to women and children.

God's Blessing to you from all of us at Stand at the Crossroads,

*Deborah Lamb*



## Some of our ladies gathered for Church on Easter Sunday



Brittany, with son Liam; one of the 13 children staying here at STACM.

## Spring is Here! Time for gardening!



Volunteers have helped us by building "keyhole" gardens on our property, providing seeds, and keeping up our garden every year. The ladies get to eat yummy veggies and enjoy watching them grow.

## Concern for Affordable Housing

While there is a lot of concern these days for the needs of housing the homeless, we feel there is perhaps an even greater need for affordable housing for those who are trying to do the right thing but have a low income. We have several ladies who are working hard, but don't have enough income to afford the high rental costs in the area. They are ready to move on if they can find a place for their family.

Pray that God would put it on the hearts of landlords to see this as a way of serving God by lower rent costs to those in need. If you know of any rental properties: apartments, or houses, cottages, or even rooms for rent, please make those known to us. When the ladies move out, we try to help them by giving them furniture, linen and any other items needed to set up a home. These come from the generous donations to our ministry and are a huge help in getting established in a place.



Jodie & Margarita work off their housing/program fee by working at our Redeemed Treasures store.



# Easter Celebrations



Ladies from Shiloh Baptist Church bring gifts for the ladies and children at SATCM



Gifts from Shiloh Baptist & the Sertoma Club



Margarita and baby Cataleya are blessed!



Patricia with children C.J. Veronica, Dakota







Brittany, Jannah & Audrina



Chantavia and Amiya

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