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Fall 2021 Newsletter



A MESSAGE FROM RUSSELL

Russell Janecka, Board President, passed away on September 30, 2021. Shortly before his passing he left a video message for his friends and family:

"Hey, so you found my video. This is my message to all of you. I just want you to know that every one of you are very special to me, and I want you to know that I've always wished for the best for you.

I want you to know that you're in my heart all the time and I care about you deeply.

I want you to know that you can do great things. I am so proud of all of you. You strive to do the right thing. I think you know in your heart what that right thing is when you're not doing the right thing. And so, reach for that, and pull up the strength to do God's will and to do God's work. Serve your fellow man. Serve each other.

I hope you feel my love in your heart.

I hope you can be there for each other. Draw close as a family. You don't know how important that is. Each year it grows; it becomes more important. And I know that in your heart you can feel a sense of gratitude when your brother or your sister reaches out to you.

God loves us. I feel that love all around me and I do believe it. Even if at times I don't act on it correctly. I wish that my family could find a practice in faith. I wish that they would grow to know the origins of this existence and why we're here. And whom or whose we are. So that they can feel that embrace of God's love and become in relationship with him.



Do the right things. Live well. Live hard. Laugh and Love. I love you."



Russell Janecka

ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO RUSSELL, O LORD AND LET PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON HIM. MAY HIS SOUL AND THE SOULS OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED, THROUGH THE MERCY OF GOD, REST IN PEACE. AMEN.

Pregnant- Need Help?

BY CATHY ROJAS

Those three words made a difference in the life of a young 17-year old first-time mom. She was no longer pregnant; however, she needed help with her baby boy who was a few weeks old, as she wanted to return to school to complete her senior year. She was living with her parents, but they were not helping her with items for the baby, as they were disappointed, she had gotten pregnant. During her assessment, her Gabriel Project angel discovered the baby was sleeping in her bed and had only a few baby clothes.

The baby's grandmother felt bad not helping her daughter; however, she was doing as her husband requested--No help except for housing and watching the baby while their daughter worked at her part-time job. The Gabriel Project angel collected a baby crib, baby clothes, and other baby items needed. When she and her husband returned to the home they were unable to get the baby crib into the bedroom. The baby's grandmother told them her husband would take it apart and get it into the bedroom. She said "After I tell my husband how total strangers came to help our daughter, I know he will change his mind about helping our daughter". The Gabriel Project angel ran into this mom and her mother a couple of years later. The baby's grandmother shared that they were so happy and proud of their daughter. She had graduated from high school and was attending nursing school.

These are one of the many stories we hear about the difference Gabriel Project makes in the lives of women around the Crossroads.



May God Bless
this beautiful
mama
staying in
The Bethlehem
Maternity
Home.



The Bethlehem Maternity Home

BY LISA HOWARD, DIRECTOR

The Bethlehem Maternity Home opened its doors on April 9, 2021. We have had a total of 3 moms in the home, with two moms presently living there. One of our moms is currently working to obtain her GED. She is excited that she is achieving her goals while living in the maternity home. Our other mom was accepted to an online nursing program. She is working very hard keeping up with her homework and online meetings with her professor. They each are thankful for the opportunities they have while living in the maternity home. We are very proud of them both.

The moms are also responsible for working on a monthly menu. We have a meal planning book with dividers for each day of the month with the dinner menu each day, including the recipes for each meal, which is handy when they are preparing dinner. They are learning to cook, shop for the ingredients, and inventory the groceries in the home to keep from buying items we already have. They have daily chores as well as weekly chores.

At any point in the day, we may have doctor, dentist, or other appointments and many unplanned outings. By the end of the day, they are very tired.

The weekends are more relaxed; they are responsible for any housecleaning not done during the weekdays. They like to have everything done in the week for their evaluations, which gives them the privileges of having a weekend or day pass or even visitors.

Thank you to our community for all the support for the Bethlehem Maternity Home.



Please like us on Facebook!

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/THEGABRIELPROJECTOFTHECROSSROADS

EARN WHILE YOU LEARN



Caitlyn Guajardo, one of our volunteers, checks out the Earn While You Learn “store”. Gabriel Project moms can purchase baby items with reward points earned after completing online videos on childbirth, childcare and development.



Around the Crossroads

By David Janca

I became the Outer County Coordinator in October of 2020. Since then, the last two counties in the Diocese of Victoria have been activated. Colorado County, under the leadership of Linda Venghaus and Joan Hill, contacted us in May, and we did a volunteer training for them in June.

In August, Virginia Thomas Brewer from Fayette County inquired about starting a chapter in her county. They officially opened their chapter in September.

We have had changes in leadership in DeWitt County and Matagorda County. After many years as the coordinator for DeWitt County, Wayne Smith stepped down and Brenda Cheesman was elected to the coordinator position. In Matagorda County, Maria Irizarry answered the call after Lettie Ramos stepped down from her coordinator position.

With the help of our late Board President Russell Janecka, we have also distributed beautiful new Gabriel Project brochures, stand-up cards and business cards to all of our counties.

We welcome all that have answered “Yes” to the call of helping pregnant mothers in need and look forward to working with you!

Note: we were recently notified that Marge Smith, beloved wife of Wayne Smith passed away. Marge was a dedicated volunteer for many years in DeWitt County. Her commitment to the moms and their babies and her sweet smile will be missed. Our condolences to Wayne and the Smith family.



The Evangelium Vitae Prayer

Oh Mary, bright dawn of the world,
Mother of the living,
To you we entrust the cause of life:
Look down, O Mother, upon the vast number of babies not
allowed to be born,
Of the poor whose lives are made difficult,
Of men and women who are victims of brutal violence,
Of the elderly and the sick killed by indifference or out of
misguided mercy.
Grant that all who believe in your Son may proclaim the Gospel
of life
with honesty and love to the people of our time.
Obtain for them the grace to accept that Gospel as a gift ever
new,
The joy of celebrating it with gratitude throughout their lives
and the courage to bear witness to it resolutely,
in order to build together with all people of good will,
the civilization of truth and love,
to the praise and glory of God, the Creator and lover of life.
Amen.

Hats off to a fun benefit!

Let's Taco 'Bout

THE GABRIEL PROJECT BINGO BENEFIT

Babies!

save the date:
THURS. FEB 17TH
CLUB WESTERN

Reserve your table now:
TABLE SPONSOR: \$1,500
TITLE SPONSOR: \$5,000
MICHELE.ROHDE@AMPF.COM

Thank you to everyone who helped make our raffle a success! Congratulations to the winners!

Raffle Item	Donated by	Winner
\$100 Mary Kay Gift Certificate	Jeremiah & Sayra Boop	Humberto Delagarza
\$100 Visa Gift Card	Samantha Mitchell – TCP Real Estate	Niki Hagel
KODI Cooler	HEB Grocery Store	Geraldine Jurica
Razer Opus Headphones	Sidney & Stacey Ontai	Deacon Eddie Huse
\$200 Gift Card	Carlos Chapa – Cornerstone	Sidney Ontai
\$200 Gift Card	Morning Glory Helpers	Crystal Leal
\$200 Academy Gift Cards	John & Stefani Spears	Ervin Buchta
\$200 Gift Card	Goodwin Personnel	Crystal Pulvino
\$200 Gift Card	RCR Homes	Cheryl Benavidez
\$200 Gift Card	Fred & Barbara Williams	Jon Eric Rodriguez
\$200 Gift Card	Friends of the Gabriel Project	Christine Kalinowski
Outdoor Crew Basket & Cooler	Outdoor Crew	Harvey Venghaus
\$250 Visa Gift Card	Irene Valdivia	Fr. Kirby
\$250 Visa Gift Card	Jaime & Lisa Valdivia	Karen Huvar
3-mos Free Training & Uniform	Rick Torres – Integrity Defensive Arts	Jo Ann Connelly
EAA=12 gauge shotgun	The Armory	Cheryl Flood
Henry .22 Lever Action Rifle	The Armory & Friends of Gabriel Project	Gerilyn Biediger
Cast-n-Blast Fishing	Thomas Mikes – Nervous Water fishing	Tommy Ort
Handmade Quilt	Friends of Holy Family	John Deyton
Womans’s Dinner ring & necklace	Green’s Jewelry	Marnie Gabrysch
\$500 visa Gift Card	Our Lady Altar Society & Holy Name Society	Cassie Rossett
\$500 Visa Gift Card	Janecka Insurance Agency	Tommie Schein
Spa, Dinner, Movie date night Package- \$500 value	Ashley Pall – Ashley Pall Law Firm	Khrishna Kirby
3 night stay in Fredricksburg (inc. breakfast, dinner & wine tasting) \$700 value	Chris & Sheri Danze	John McQuillen
2 night stay at La Cantera Resort w/ \$250 resort credit \$1,000 value	Travis & Toni Schaar	Brad Blanton

Thank you for your continued prayers and support!

I support the ministries of The Gabriel Project of the Crossroads

Name:

E-mail/ Mailing Address:

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My Donation (circle one): \$25 \$50 \$75 Other:

Donate To (circle one): Mother/Baby Services
Bethlehem Maternity Home Earn While You Learn Program

Please make your tax deductible gift to GPOC and mail to:
The Gabriel Project of The Crossroads
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