

## Lydia Center helps to change women

Katie Mininger, who does secretarial and chaplain work at LCP & YIC, was invited to be a summer intern at the Lydia Center, operated by Water Street Rescue Mission, near Wrightsville, PA. Recently she shared some of her interesting experiences with Jewel Sensenig, Administrative Assistant for SFPM.

### **WHAT IS LYDIA CENTER?**

Lydia Center is a 10 month residential program for women. It is a part of Water Street Rescue Mission. Lydia Center is located in Wrightsville, PA and sits up on a mountain top piece of land overlooking the Susquehanna River. Lydia Center offers Bible studies, classes, and mentoring relationships that help women address issues in their lives that have inhibited them from becoming all that God desires for them.

### **WHAT WAS YOUR ASSIGNMENT THIS SUMMER AT LYDIA CENTER?**

My job was to be an extra set of hands to help in many areas. I was there every Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30am to 1pm. Every Tuesday morning I led devotions for a half an hour. Devotions was a great way to get to know the women and to encourage them.

I also joined the staff for morning prayer times and staff meetings. I was able to sit in on counseling sessions. Lydia Center has 3 counselors. They also have a learning center in which life skills are taught. I assisted in there at times also.

Much of my time was spent in transporting the ladies to doctor appointments, probation officer visits, or any other places they needed to go. I enjoyed transporting the ladies because it gave me a chance to share one-on-one with them and build a relationship with some of them.

### **HOW DID YOU GET CONNECTED TO LYDIA CENTER?**

I am a student at Lancaster Bible College. My advisor told me that Lydia Center needed extra help this summer. Then Karin White, a volunteer at LCP, took me to Lydia Center to meet the staff.

### **SHARE SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM WORKING AT LYDIA CENTER.**

My biggest highlight was talking one-on-one with the ladies and being able to hear their stories and share together. The ladies ranged in age from 20 to 50 but most are in their 20's. The second highlight was spending time with the staff each morning in prayer. The staff pray specifically for each lady every day. God has clearly called them to work at Lydia Center. They have beautiful hearts for the ladies that are there.

### **HOW WILL THIS INVOLVEMENT IMPACT OR CHANGE YOUR DAILY WORK FOR SFPM?**

It gave me a look at the other end of prison life...what happens when the ladies are released. I actually knew one of the ladies at Lydia Center because she had been at LCP first. I now have first hand experience of a place to recommend to the ladies at LCP. I also hope to be able to share the stories I heard from the ladies with the youth I work with at YIC. Hopefully it will help them make better decisions before it is too late for them.

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(Lydia Center continued from page 1)

### **ANY CLOSING STORIES OR OBSERVATIONS TO SHARE WITH FREEDOM FOCUS READERS?**

I have grown personally as the ladies asked me many questions about my faith. I was challenged with living out my walk and talk. You can have all the head knowledge you want but your faith has to come from your heart and your actions to be real. The sense of community that I felt at Lydia Center was impressive. Some the ladies would say, "I don't want to be here. I want to go out and get high. Please pray for me. Keep me accountable. I am weak and need your support." It was beautiful to see them supporting each other through the highs and lows. I'm so glad God gave me the opportunity to interact with the ladies at Lydia Center this summer.



### **THE HOUSE OF RUTH NOW OPEN**

"Where women will experience God's healing love and begin to live beyond their past"

The House of Ruth, a new ministry in a grand 187 year old house in a beautiful rural setting near Leola, is now in operation. This is a residence where women in need can find a safe, structured and Christ centered environment. Every week, many women are released into our communities from Lancaster County Prison (LCP). Most are not prepared to meet the many challenges facing them. They are at high risk and can quickly return to negative behaviors of poverty, abuse and addiction. This new home structure, operated by Joe and Linda Bird from Lancaster's B.I.R.D. MINISTRIES, provides a daily routine for female residents. Currently, 3 women are living in the house. Activities and disciplines are designed to minister to the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of the women. A resident house manager provides on site supervision and accountability.

Joe and Linda Bird have been involved for many years in ministering to needy persons, both inside LCP and within the Lancaster city community. Currently, Linda connects with many women inmates in pre-release work, helping them with life plans and preparations for when they are released. Now these women have a new house to go to for help. More information is available from the House of Ruth (717) 656-4871 or Linda Bird (717) 917-8071.

### **GOD AT WORK In the lives of inmates**

Michael Wolfe, a Bible teacher at LCP, who receives funding through SFPM, gave this exciting report:

*"The current group of men I am teaching are especially responsive to Scriptural principles. One student who seemed to experience a genuine life change told me that he was mistakenly given an item from the prison store of much greater value than the one he had ordered. His initial response was to take the item, intending to sell it for a profit. However, his renewed conscience interfered with his plan so he returned the item to the store and explained the mistake. Such transformation, though unfortunately rare, is encouraging for those of us working inside the prison."*

LaRue Breasette, a volunteer SFPM chaplain, was watching the inmates leave from a recent Sunday evening church service. He was pleasantly surprised when the correctional officer who was the inmate's guard for this service told LaRue "Thanks so much. I needed that."



Chaplain Marvin Reed was excited recently to interact with a young teen at the Youth Intervention Center, "who began reading his Bible regularly and is asking lots of questions about God."

Note from a male inmate who was just given a release date from LCP: "I am reading the Bible and I know that God is with me. Can the chaplains help me find a place to go when I'm released? I have no address or family."

SFPM has many persons calling and emailing for information because of our website, which shares what God is doing in prison ministries today. Recently a Christian mother called from New York City asking for prayer for her two sons who made wrong choices in life. One is now in a Federal Prison in Texas, the other in a Pennsylvania State Prison.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE OFTEN:  
[www.supportforprisonministries.org](http://www.supportforprisonministries.org)

# **Support for Prison Ministries**

## **24th Annual Benefit Auction**

**October 26 & 27, 2007 at Farmersville Auction**

**Between Ephrata & New Holland**



### **Friday Evening:**

**4-7 P.M.** Chicken Barbeque (Eat in or take out) \$7.50 for full meal

**5:00 P.M.** Auction of quality merchandise, hardware, flowers, gift certificates, Winross trucks and collectible toys, and a big selection of meats and groceries.

Many Gift Certificates sold at Silent Auction both days.

### **Saturday:**

**6 A.M.** Delicious Pancake and Sausage Breakfast

**8:30 A.M.** Auction begins with quality merchandise for home, farm, and business.

## **Specialty items to be sold:**

Wooden Storage Barn

Pedal tractors

Framed paintings and hand-crafted items  
(some done by inmates)

Beautiful quilts and wall hangings

Shrubbery, flowers, and nursery stock.

Tools, hardware, farm and home items

Food items, groceries, produce, fruits, and meats

Beautiful gift and theme baskets.



### **Lorraine Reiff 3-D picture**

**Original, one of a kind**

**Farm Scene from Martindale Area.**



**1932 Ford Model B Truck  
Wooden Replica**



Proceeds from the auction benefit these prison ministries:

Lancaster County Prison, Lancaster County Youth Intervention Center, EXIT (Ex-Offenders in Transition), Freedom Gate, TTC (Transition to Community), and We Care Programs.

Since the SFPM annual Benefit Auction began in 1984, over \$1.3 million has been contributed to a variety of prison ministries, touching lives behind bars, families on the outside, and providing quality care and Christian teaching that assists inmates to return to society.

**Check our website as the auction approaches for more photos and updates about the auction.  
[www.supportforprisonministries.org](http://www.supportforprisonministries.org)**



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Check out our website for updated photos and information: [www.supportforprisonministries.org](http://www.supportforprisonministries.org)

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT: EIGHT YEARS AND COUNTNG Nelson W. Martin**

Time moves so quickly. It is hard to believe I started my 9<sup>th</sup> year in prison ministry on September 1. As I reflect back to that first day on my new assignment, much has stayed the same: the Biblical foundations that our program is based on, committed and dedicated chaplains, and supportive churches and businesses. Much has also changed these past 8 years: new chaplains and growth in our prison ministries, a website, newsletters and brochures that keep many more people informed, and the need to find more contributions to help our growing ministry. Let me share five reflections about how God is at work:

1. The extensive amount of ministry that gets done by our hard working paid chaplains at both Lancaster County Prison and the Youth Intervention Center .
2. The significant value of many unpaid volunteers that regularly give time to local prison ministry.
3. The amount of interest from churches, businesses and individuals, in prison ministry is growing as a local outreach.
4. The ministry our staff have to prison administrative staff and correctional officers.
5. The constant needs and challenges to provide quality aftercare/reentry programs.

Remember, ( I. Corinthians 3:7) “some plant, and some water, but God is the one who makes the seed grow”. Thanks for being a partner with us.

**Focus On Finances**

**2007 Budget: \$338,000**

Year to Date: January - August 2007

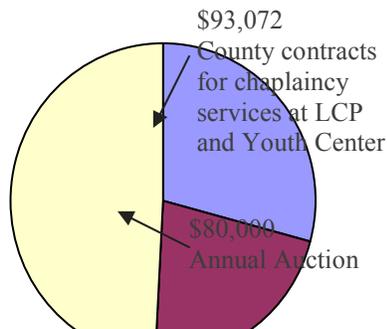
Budget: \$ 225,333

Income: \$ 146,935

Expenses: \$ 211,210

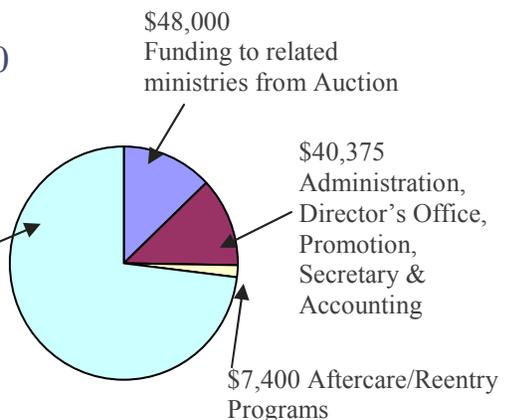
**Income**

\$164,928  
 Contributions  
 Needed



**Expenses**

\$242,225  
 Chaplain's wages,  
 Bibles, Literature,  
 Videos, Office  
 Expenses



**A self-addressed envelope is enclosed for your gift to partner with SFPM.**