



April 2014

Anniversary Issue

Volume 3, Issue 1

SSLH To Celebrate First Year Open



Son Shine Lighthouse Ministries is celebrating it's one year anniversary on May 3rd. The first resident was admitted on April 30th, and we will be celebrating her graduation, as well as one other, from the program at this special event.

This first year has been filled with many touching moments. We have seen several of the women brought to Christ, twelve of the residents and children baptized, and many public appearances where the women have given their personal testimonies that have

Enrollment is Up for 2014



2014 Residents at WMU Luncheon

With our population explosion of women and children now living at the Son Shine Lighthouse facility, enrollment is up from 2013. At the end of 2013, the board felt comfortable increasing the number of residents from 10 women to around 15

women. As donations increase, SSLM can accommodate 20 women and their children comfortably. "We are seeing lives changed and families restored through this Christian-based program," reports Ginger Lento.

touched hearts and changed lives.

Throughout the first year, we have seen an outpouring of support from local churches and individuals through their time and/or donations. Some of the donations have included a 15 passenger van, a large industrial freezer and refrigerator, and redecoration of several of the resident rooms. ALERT Academy spent two days clearing out the land adjacent to the facility so that one day SSLM can have a serenity garden and chapel constructed. "We have had an amazing first year, and we look forward to continued growth in the years to come. To continue this growth, we will need a larger common area so that all of the women and children can meet for classes and special events," says Director Ginger Lento.

With so many blessings occurring this first year, we look forward to God's provision in the years to come. **Please come join us in celebrating our anniversary on May 3rd at 5:30 pm at Calvary Baptist Church in Henderson, TX.** We will have entertainment by Amy Jo Blanton and a BBQ dinner. You must **RSVP** no later than April 22nd by calling 903-895-4577.

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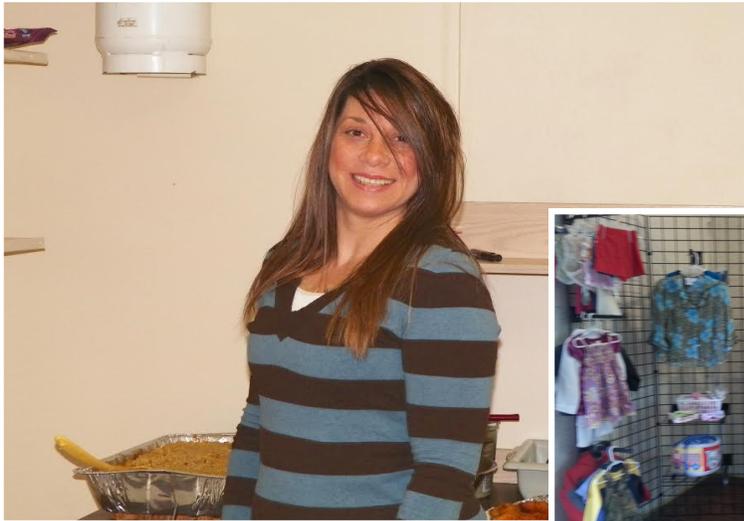
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Special points of interest:

- Join us May 3rd for our 1 year anniversary at Calvary Baptist Church in Henderson 5:30pm
- The SSLM Thrift Store is open and has an updated look. Come check it out!



Son Shine Thrift Store Reopening



Above: New manager over Thrift Store, Ginger Cobb
 Right : Renovated SSLM Thrift Store in Overton, TX

The Son Shine Thrift store has had a makeover! Recently it was determined that the SSLM Thrift Store needed some updates. Instead of featuring clothes and accompanying accessories, the store's focus will be furniture and other household items. There will still be a small selection of upscale clothing and baby outfits. The store will still accept all donations

but will be more selective in what it offers to the public. Donations can be dropped off during hours of operation Thursday-Saturday 9am-5pm. We have also hired resident Ginger Cobb as the Thrift Store manager to oversee renovations and staffing. She and her team have done a wonderful job. Come and check out the changes.

2nd Bi-annual Art Show at MoJoe's



Every Friday, the women at Son Shine Lighthouse have "Healing through Art" with instructor Katie McLain. In this class, the residents are given an opportunity to express themselves through art. We have seen some amazing art pieces come out of this weekly class. We had

our first art show in July 2013 and raised over \$1,400 in funds for the facility. For the second art show that occurred in February, over 60 art pieces were displayed with funds rivaling the first show. We will continue to have this show every six months and will feature the remaining

unsold art on our webpage following the event. The goal of these pieces is not just to heal the women, but spiritually touch the person buying the piece. If you would like to support this special ministry, please call the facility for future art shows and ways to help.

Special Dates

I Year Anniversary	5/3
Leigha M. I Year	4/30
Anna M. I Year	5/14
Ginger C. I Year	5/23
Michelle C. I Year	5/27

Birthdays

Halia	4/20
Elijah	5/6
Ashlyn	5/9
Bailey	5/11
Ginger Lento	5/22
Angeleanna	5/28
Bryce	6/4
Brayden	6/27

New Board of Directors for 2014



New Board of Directors (front row): Christie Gambrell- Vice President, Julie Nichols, Carla Hawkins- President, Loneta Nelson (back row): Pierce Freeman, Beverly Hall, Janis Robertson,- Secretary, Drew Butler, Treasurer.

Mission Statement

The mission of Son Shine Lighthouse Ministries is to provide a safe, spiritually-enriched transitional home where women and their children are offered a new beginning through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

SSLH Welcomes New Staff



Ms. Debra Crawford

Debra Crawford started working at Son Shine Lighthouse because she wanted to make a difference in someone's life. "I had a yearning for most of my life to help people,"

says Debra. In 1980, she received her degree from Stephen F. Austin with a major in Social Work and Rehabilitation Services. Her time working in the field was short lived because she got married and had her first child in 1983. She became a stay at home mom. Upon entering the Empty Nest phase, she began seeking opportunities to volunteer. She volunteered and worked at Hospice of East Texas for 2 years. She

started as a volunteer/mentor/teacher when SSLM opened up in April, 2013 and is currently part-time staff as Program Coordinator. "I feel I am finally where God had purposed for me to be all along. My desire is to give the girls the tools they need to live a Christ-centered life and to fulfill their God-given destiny," states Debra. Debra has been well received by the girls and is fondly nicknamed "Ms Dezbra." Her kind demeanor, patience and self control exemplifies what each resident should try to model to others.

*Special
Thanks To*



Christian Women's Job Corps®
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MS, NCC, LPCS

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And To...

**Our Faithful
Church, Individual
and Business
Donors**

SSLH Welcomes New Staff (continued)



Ms. Tina Brown

Tina came to know the Lord Jesus Christ as her personal savior in 1974. She attended the Spring session of Basic Life and

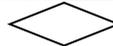
Job Skills classes at the Christian Women’s Job Corps, in Henderson, TX in 2012. “One day after class Christie Gambrell, the Director of CWJC, took a few of the girls in our class to tour the facility of Son Shine Lighthouse. At that time there were no residents. While walking the empty halls, looking at the beautifully prepared and decorated rooms, I was moved to tears and thought, what a wonderful, needed place for women and their children. When we got back

to CWJC and were going to our cars, Christie Gambrell called my name and said, “Tina I have you in mind for the Son Shine Lighthouse.” Little did she know at the time, what God had in store for her... The following September, after graduation, Christie called and asked Tina if she would be interested in working at SSLM. Tina went to interview with Ginger Lento the following day. Tina was hired as weekend staff. “I count it a blessing and privilege to take part in this ministry of helping women and children to come to know the Lord Jesus personally and to know, in time, that they can trust Him for every aspect of their lives.”

CWJC Graduation



Christian Women’s Job Corp Graduation



Five of the women from SSLM graduated Christian Women’s Job Corp on March 6th at a special ceremony held at First Baptist Church in Henderson. Also held that evening was the GED graduation of Jessica Sperling . During the year that each woman spends at Son Shine Lighthouse, it is our goal to train her in life skills and help her further her education, either by getting her GED or Accuplacer testing. Jessica is our first GED High School graduate, and we are so proud of her. She received her GED through Kilgore College under the tutelage of Katie McLain. Congratulations, Jessica, for all of your hard work! The other five women who graduated from CWJC worked for nine months every week to receive this diploma. They studied everything from personality types to interviewing skills. These classes will help them locate jobs and form good relationships in the future. Well done girls!



Increasing Needs Require Increasing Donations and Help



Above: Renovation needed in the dining area
 Right : Repair needed to inside courtyard

The Son Shine Lighthouse operates solely on private donations so it can maintain a God-Centered establishment. "This program has truly made a difference in my life, but it is because they place God at the center instead of on the sidelines," reports Anna Massey. We want to continue making that kind of difference in women's lives, and the only way we can do that is if groups and individuals stand forward

and support this ministry. Even the smallest amount can make a difference. Consider becoming a monthly donor by pledging \$20 or more every month. We need these new commitments to help our women grow. We would like to thank the 30 monthly donors that we already have on board. Our goal for 2014 is to have 200 monthly donors giving \$20 per month.

Spotlight: Spring Break Fun for All...



Due to two private donors stepping forward, this Spring Break was extra special for everyone at SSLM. All week the children had special

activities planned. From visiting the Tyler Zoo to playing at Discovery Science Place, kids and their moms had a chance to bond in a fun

environment. But, don't worry, the grown girls got to have some fun too by attending the Third Day concert at the Oil Palace on March 14th.

Specific Needs

- 200 Monthly Donors giving \$20
- 100 Church or Business Donors giving \$\$
- Playground Equipment
- Help with summer children's activities
- Furniture Donations for Thrift Store
- Gardening Supplies and vegetable plants
- Transportation Volunteers
- Flooring for dining area

Major Projects

- Overall Roofing
- \$\$ For Monthly Bills
- Serenity Garden and Chapel
- Fencing



Michelle's Story

My name is Michelle Cates. I am 29 years old and have 3 beautiful daughters out of wedlock. I have been doing drugs on and off since I was 14 years old. I quit July 27, 2012, almost 18mths ago. CPS took my kids in May of 2010 and placed them with my Mom until they put them in foster care in 2012.

Jade and Julie were in one home and Journey in another. I went to 2 programs, one being Reconnect in Tyler. I was there for 100 days and got kicked out for fraternizing. Not only do I have a drug problem but a man problem also. Then I went to The Walker House and once again got kicked out for a man.

So now that I had been kicked out of two treatment centers I thought for sure my rights were going to be terminated, but God had different plans for me. It was suggested that I contact Son Shine Lighthouse. I called the director Ginger and got an interview with her. That interview ended up being the turning point in my life when she invited me to become a resident. I anxiously waited for CPS to give me the ok. When they did I called Ginger and she told me to be here May 27, 2013 at 10:00am. . . I have been here ever since.

God has done so many amazing things in my life at SSLH. My oldest 2 girls were placed here with me September 27, 2013. It was awesome because CPS's decision to return the girls bounced back and forth. One minute they were coming, the next they were not. But God knew the plans He had for me, and I just needed to trust Him. Through all

the tears and doubts my faith grew the day the girls finally arrived. It was truly a miracle for them to show up because I had been told the day before ,at my court appointment ,that the girls would have to be sent to another foster family or maybe even a girl's home. The girls immediately loved their new home, but most importantly we were happy to be together. We still visited Journey once a week. It was bittersweet. . . On one hand, I was grateful to have two of my girls back, but on the other hand my youngest daughter watched as the three of us left her after each visitation. So I prayed. God is ever faithful and three months to the day Jade and Julie were placed here, Journey came to live with us. (December 27, 2013) This was my Christmas miracle from God since Journey's return was not scheduled for another two months. God loves to show us how much He cares in the little details of our lives. My family is finally whole and is surrounded by a healthy, loving environment at SSLH.

God has really tested my faith, and it has grown so much here. I am in Phase 4 now. Everything has fallen into place. I have a job at Overton Healthcare as a C.N.A and my family is being restored. I would love to say that this has been easy and fun, but it is neither of those. I have put a lot of hard work and tears in here, and I am sure there are many to come. However, Jesus says that the Christian road will not be easy, but have faith for He has conquered the world. And finally I leave you with my life verse, Romans 8:28 – "And we know in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, and are called according to His purpose." I am living proof that this is true.

Snapshots





Ginger's Story

A Better Place...

by Ginger Cobb

I woke up every morning and it was hard to get out of bed... One more day of lying, cheating and stealing was ahead of me~ All thoughts, that I had over a 20+ year addiction with drugs. Who would want to live in a world where you had to hide in the shadows? Obviously, I was comfortable living in those shadows, until one day God's light brought me to a better place... This is my story of how I found restoration. My addiction started when I did my first shot of dope. I was sixteen years old. It was an escape from reality and the mounting pain I had going on inside of me. Little did I know how bad that pain would get as the years went by. I lost much of my youth due to drugs. I ended up pregnant toward the end of my sixteenth year and did not graduate High School. I was self-medicating at this time in my life with anything that would make me feel whole. First, I thought I would find fulfillment inside a needle. When that didn't completely "fit the bill" I turned to men. I thought, certainly, a man would give me the love I needed to feel better. That didn't happen, and I ended up pregnant. Maybe a baby would love me enough to make my life complete?? She was a beautiful baby girl. Still, something was lacking in my life and I went in search of that missing puzzle piece. Again, I went seeking relationships with men that were very unhealthy for me. There was a lot of partying, but on the flip side of fun, there was a lot of endured abuse. I thought it was normal to be with a man who abused me one way or another. Along the way I had Qwin, a sweet baby boy, in 1992 with my first husband who was an alcoholic and abuser. We divorced within a year due to the abuse and

alcoholism. I married my second husband in 2000 and had my third child William. This relationship was very toxic and filled with abuse. This caused a major ripple effect in my children's lives. Although to me, abuse by men started out small, by the time the effects reached my children they were monstrous and profound. The largest damage caused by drug and physical abuse was the time stolen from my relationships with my children. I will never get that time back, and I hope my testimony can reach mothers facing abuse of any kind. Children are a responsibility and a gift from God. They should be treasured and cared for above our own desires and wants. As a mother and a grandmother, I have not been there when my children needed me most.

Through my drug abuse and the constant search for a meaningful relationship with a man, I have hardened my children's hearts towards me. My prayer today is that God restores the relationship with my kids and that through me they can see the unconditional love of Christ. From there I hope that God can use me to change the hearts of those around me to be more like Him. I am God's instrument to do His work and speak out for Him, to tell others of the night and day difference He made in my life. I went from nothing to something...from rejected to accepted. One of my favorite verses, a promise from God, can be found in Philippians 1:6: "And I am sure that God who began the good work within you will keep right on helping you grow in His grace until His task within you is finally finished." My life is a work in progress, but with God at the helm, I know my life will produce good fruit and that is all I ask for. If you are tired and need rest, something more than this world has given you, just remember Matt 11:28-29 "Come to Me and I will give you rest - all you who work so hard beneath a heavy yoke. Wear My yoke- for it fits perfectly- and let me teach you, for I am gentle and humble, and you shall find rest for your souls."

Snapshots



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Shining the Light of Jesus in a dark and troubled world.



How you can help...

Son Shine Lighthouse Ministries is a 501(c)3 faith-based organization that does not accept state or federal funds and relies solely on the generous donations from individuals, local churches, and businesses.

If you feel moved to help Son Shine Lighthouse Ministries there are several areas that you can assist in our growth.

Pray for the women as their lives are changed through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Support Son Shine Lighthouse Ministries through a donation.

Volunteer your services.