

Son Shine Lighthouse

Transitional Women's Home

New London, TX

October 2014

Fall Issue

Volume 3, Issue 2

Successful First Year Anniversary Event



Son Shine Lighthouse Ministries held its first Anniversary event at Calvary Baptist Church in Henderson on May 3rd. It started off with a banquet for staff, volunteers, **supporters, and family. Sadler's donated the brisket, and Son Shine Lighthouse Coalition provided the extras for the event. Thank-you to these groups for your efforts.** The banquet was followed by a program that praised God for what SSLM experienced over the last year. The highlight of the night was our first graduation ceremony. Congratulations Leigha and Jamie! Ginger Lento shared her thoughts about the past year and concluded her speech by presenting the first five residents with **crystal containers filled with the "ashes" of their lives which they had offered to God at the beginning of their stay at the Lighthouse. "From the outside, every direction you turn this decanter looks beautiful and colorful. It's a prism. Who would ever know what's on the inside? When you look closer and see those ashes inside, you will know that God has surrounded you and given you beauty because you have allowed Him to," explained Ginger.** Anna Massey and Jill Yancey-Walker then shared **their testimonies which are featured on the SSLM's new website, www.sonshinelighthouse.org.** Amy Jo Blanton performed several beautiful numbers for the audience. **Amy Jo sang "My Lighthouse" as a special request from the residents and staff while a slideshow of the first year was shown.** Thank you to everyone who assisted us in making the first year memorable.



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Special points of interest:

- Eight ladies have graduated from the program.
- Special note from Ginger Lento
- "Fun Run" Motorcycle Fundraiser on October 25th.



Six Flag Trip Fun for All



This summer brought a pleasant surprise for everyone at SSLM. All of the residents and children were treated to a day of fun at Six Flags in Arlington. Marvin UMC helped make this trip possible by donating the funds needed to take everyone on this outing. This was such a great opportunity for all of the moms and their children. It gave everyone

something fun to look forward to and created some precious memories. Because we want to bring families together and our weekly schedule is normally filled with classes and other responsibilities, we were so grateful that we could provide this fun trip for the women and children.

Thanks, Marvin UMC.

2nd Christian Women's Job Corps Graduation



During the year-long program at Son Shine Lighthouse, one of our goals is to equip each woman with life skills and further education opportunities through **Christian Women's Job Corp and Kilgore College**. Son Shine Lighthouse residents Ashley Benningfield and Jill Yancey-Walker graduated **Christian Women's Job Corp on May 13th** at a special ceremony held at First Baptist Church in Henderson. Ashley and Jill worked every week for a little over six months to receive this diploma. They studied everything from personality types to interviewing skills. These classes will help them find jobs and form good relationships in the future. Well done, ladies!

Special Dates

- Jill W. 1 Year 7/16
- Ashley B. 1 Year 7/22
- Jessica S. 1 Year 8/23
- Back to School Bash 8/16

Birthdays

- Anna M. 7/10
- Jill W. Turns 40! 7/15
- Adam M. 7/16
- Yancey W. 7/24
- Ginger C. 8/26
- Jessica S. 9/18

Note From Our Director



The fingerprints of God are all over Son Shine Lighthouse. There have been many people who have “seeded” into this ministry, even long before the doors were open, and now we all have a front row seat to the harvest. In **Matthew 7: 20** Jesus says, **“You’ll recognize them by their fruit”**. There is no denying that there is fruit here! However, this kind of ministry does not come without its spiritual battles. On the front lines, we have seen the deliverance of the Lord and with His help, we have reclaimed a lot of ground that the enemy has stolen from our

ladies and children. I am reminded of the Psalmists cry for help, over and over, and God always heard his plea. What I have learned from David is that the act of praise is a valuable weapon. This ministry has been built on praise to the King of Kings and daily we worship Him in Spirit and Truth. Everywhere we go to visit churches and groups, people always comment on the presence of the Lord that arrives with us. I believe it is because we have a house full of residents and staff who are true worshipers. The Lord has proven His faithfulness in every way. God does mighty things through praise.

Snapshots



SSLM Celebrates six Graduates



On May 31st, we celebrated the graduation of 3 of our residents; Anna Massey, Ginger Cobb, and Michelle Cates. The event was hosted at London Baptist and the artist Casey Rivers performed as the entire audience praised the Lord. The Graduates were honored to have many friends and families at the ceremony.



On July 19th, we celebrated the graduation of Ashley Benningfield and Jill Yancey-Walker. This celebration was held at London Baptist and artist Amy Jo Blanton provided the entertainment. Once again, Amy Jo brought the house down with music anointed by the Holy Spirit. There was a wonderful reception following the ceremony. What a joy to see what the Lord can do with a surrendered life in one short year!



On September 20th, we celebrated yet another graduation for Jessica Sperling. This ceremony was held at Son Shine Lighthouse with a meal followed by an intimate gathering and wonderful program. A reception followed this wonderful graduation ceremony.



Marvin's Great Day of Service Provides Much Needed Help to SSLM



On Saturday, April 12th 30 Marvin United Methodist church members came out to the facility to serve by painting and repairing the exterior of SSLM. "The facility was in sore need of serious repairs. Primarily painting and sealing of the wood around the windows which is a daunting

task considering the size of the facility," quotes Jill Yancey-Walker. There are still numerous repairs needed such as roof shingles and replacement of exterior wall tiles., but major inroads were made concerning major leaks, door repairs and the addition of a garden. If you are

interested in volunteering to continue these important repairs please contact Ginger Lento at 903-895-4577. Thank you to every volunteer who came out to serve that day. May God Bless you for your service that day!

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

Hello, I would like to introduce myself. I am Charley Doan I am the new Children's Coordinator at Son Shine Lighthouse. I am so excited for this new and exciting opportunity that the Lord has given me. I have been working with children for a number of years. I attended Southwestern University and pursued a Pre- Professional Counseling Degree . After attending college I moved to Denver Colorado and became the Elementary program Director for a Non-profit, working with at risk youth. My experience has ranged from Children's Church, Sunday School, and most recently being a nanny. SSLM has given me a unique opportunity to work with children but also work with their mothers. I am currently developing a program and structure for our women and children. My hope is to empower women through the love of Jesus Christ to be the mothers that God has purposed them to be.



Ms. Charley Doan

Special



AMY JO BLANTON

Genesis 50:20

Our Faithful Church, Individual and Business Donors



Katie McLane



"Healing through Art"



Jill's Story

“Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I obey your word. You are good, and what you do is good; teach me your decrees.” Psalm 119: 67-68

I grew up in a wonderful Southern Baptist Christian home and was blessed with parents who loved God. They provided many opportunities for me to excel in life. Growing up we were active members in the church and I was taught at a very young age **about God's love for me. They not only** taught me what the Bible says, but most importantly they lived it. I have since come to a better understanding of what this means.

When I was 12 I went on a youth retreat and accepted Jesus Christ as my savior. It was a transformation on the inside and out. It was easy for me to live the expected Christian lifestyle because I was surrounded with Christian friends, family and even attended a Christian School. I was not perfect and was even labeled as a strong willed child. The problem I would later realize was that I did not have a personal relationship with Christ.

After graduating high school I moved out and started attending college. I got married and eventually had three beautiful children: Bryce, Yancey and Brayden. I stopped going to school and concentrated on being the best mom. I was the mom who never missed a school function, a sporting event and volunteered any chance that was available for my children. We would attend church, but

would eventually stop attending except on holidays or special events.

In 2008, I divorced my husband of 12 years and a new chapter in my life started. I went back to college at UT Tyler and was working to get my **Bachelor's degree in Accounting. I was** volunteering at local agencies, but something was missing. I soon started drinking and my life started spinning out of control. My choices were now being dictated by my addiction. I soon realized that I needed help, but had no idea where to go or what to do. My parents had never experienced dealing with an alcoholic before and also did not know what action needed to be taken. I was given some information about Son Shine Lighthouse and soon started researching my options. I knew that the success rate of staying sober would increase with a yearlong program and also knew a Christian facility would better suit my needs. I then contacted Ginger, who is the director, and she arranged for us to meet on Saturday. She told me I needed to medically detox and gave me the information on where to receive the help I needed. I completed the 35 day detox and in-house rehab program. After completion I then came to this program.

Today I can say Son Shine Lighthouse has taught me how to have a relationship with God. I now walk in freedom knowing who I am through Him. I am blessed to have this opportunity to become mature in my faith. I am so grateful for praying, loving parents who stand by me today. I am thankful that God is also repairing my relationships with my children and my family is being restored.

1st Annual Motorcycle Fun Run to be held on October 25th

A benefit motorcycle fun run will be held on October 25, 2014. The event will end at SSLM with activities, cash and prizes for the riders. Sponsors enlisted before October 10 will be included on the banner. Major Sponsors to date: Latch Lone Star Harley-Davidson and Marvin Methodist Church. Everyone is invited to enjoy the food and featured live music by artist Justin Todd Herod.

The run will start at Latch Lone Star Harley Davidson in Tyler, TX at 9:00.

Tickets cost \$20 to ride in this run.

For more information email: sonshinelighthousefunrun@yahoo.com

Call Gary Bishop at 903-944-8905 or Donna Arnold 903-363-8018

Specific Needs

- 200 Monthly Donors giving \$20
- 100 Church or Business Donors giving \$\$
- Gift cards for Christmas
- Furniture Donations for Thrift Store
- Meat and groceries
- Transportation Volunteers
- Flooring for dining area

Summer turns to Fall at the Lighthouse



Major Project Needs

- Overall Roofing
- \$\$ For Monthly Bills
- Serenity Garden and Chapel
- A heating and air conditioning unit on the family wing.
- Plumbing



Ashley's Story

As a little girl raised in the projects of Northeast Texas, I quickly learned how to survive. From a very young age, I can remember being so weighed down with shame and guilt. My parents divorced when I was very young, and due to my **mother's own addictions, we were very poor.** The cycle of abuse, neglect, shame and guilt began while living in the chains of poverty, abuse and neglect. I began using drugs and alcohol at home, and by the time I was 12 years old, was in full blown addiction. I had no respect for myself as I grew up, and the pattern of generational bondage in dysfunctional relationships in my family continued with me as I grew older. I began to find my identity and acceptance in making bad choices and getting involved in the wrong crowds. I kept the fighting alive and practiced what I had learned at home while at school or on the streets. By the time I was 15, I had already been kicked out of school and gotten involved in a dangerous relationship. I pushed away from society and everyone that I had gone to school with my whole life. I was a teenage mother and got married while still I was a baby. I blamed my mother for my bad choices. It took years for me to take responsibility for my actions. Into my twenties, I continued the cycle. The Lord showed me favor during this time by blessing me with my daughter. But I was so wrapped up in that lifestyle that it seemed hopeless for me to find a way out. Breaking free from a culture that I was raised in was not easy. In my own strength, it was impossible. There were many situations in which I should have lost my life. I cried out for help, and it came in the form of handcuffs. Does it make sense that being in handcuffs was the first step towards true freedom from my past?

I tried everything the world had to offer to fix this emptiness and brokenness inside me. **It wasn't until** I came to Son Shine Lighthouse that I found true freedom from the chains of my past. I have learned how to be a lady and mommy and student. True discipleship comes from a heart of gratitude, at least **that's what I believe.** I know where I have come from and I know where I am today. Most of all, I know my identity in Christ. I have been taught everything from how to make a bed, how to dress like a lady, how to be a good mommy, how to be a good friend, and, most of all, how to be a good Child of God. These are basic things that no one ever took the time to teach me, that I finally let my heart receive and learn. Learning how to break down the barriers that I built between God and me was the first step in falling in love with Him. His love has conquered me and truly given me a fresh start. Today, I am actively involved at my Church, London Baptist. I get the honor and privilege of serving on **the Praise Team and in the Children's Ministry.** I try to get involved in as many volunteer opportunities as I can fit into my schedule. I may be at the Thrift Store, or Jesus Burger, or even at a nonprofit event at Kilgore College. I volunteer as a Troop Leader for the New London Girl Scout Troop. The most exciting thing that is going on is this new chapter in my life. I graduated from Son Shine Lighthouse in July but get to stay as an extended stay resident. I was accepted into Kilgore College and just started classes this fall. **Let's just say that my daughter and I** are truly in a transitional season of our lives and are super excited to see what the Lord does in this next chapter! I get to put into practice all the skills that I have learned over the last year and have the added benefit of a strong accountability and support group. My heart is full of gratitude and love. There is no way that I would have been able to step out of that lifestyle without Son Shine Lighthouse and the Staff and volunteers. With their help and encouragement, I now have a relationship with Jesus. The chains and bondage of my past are gone, and my **identity is solely found in my "Dad".** Finally, that fulfillment and direction that I was looking for all along is found in Him. All our supporters, thank you! **Most of all... THANKS, "DAD"!!!!**

Son Shine Lighthouse Ministries

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We're on the web

www.sonshinelighthouse.org
Facebook us at Son Shine
Lighthouse

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.