



A planting of the Lord for the display of His splendor.

Isaiah 61:3

Issue No. 1, Summer 2015

*The Oaks of Righteousness is a non-profit, faith-based, residential facility that offers support for female ex-offenders who desire to make positive life changes and become productive members of society.*

### Dreams Come True

For many, a personal ambition, goal, or childhood dream that has not been accomplished may now seem far beyond realization. However, that long-forgotten dream is quickly becoming a reality for some through the Oaks of Righteousness, a transitional living home in Humble, Texas.

Oaks of Righteousness is a faith-based living facility that provides formerly incarcerated women a second chance for a successful and productive life. On May 23, 2014, Oaks officially opened its doors and welcomed its first residents. Currently, three women who might otherwise be homeless or subject to lifestyles that led to their former incarceration reside at the Oaks of Righteousness. These are women

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### Thank You to Our Supporters

Our service and the difference we make in the lives of formerly incarcerated women and our community would not be possible without the commitment of our many supporters.

Support through volunteerism provides the bulk of staffing required for Oaks of Righteousness' operations. Support through financial contributions has assisted in the acquisition of durable property, payment of household expenses, resident support, staff wages, and other essential daily operational costs for the ministry. Oaks of Righteousness also receives regular financial support from many individuals who recognize the need for the ministry and who believe in the service Oaks provides to the community.

### Community Giving



Current Rotary Club of Humble President Susan Brodbeck was on hand with club members Ernest Hauser, Pam McNair and Oran Bain (President Elect) to present the Oaks of Righteousness with a check for \$2,000 for fiscal year 2014-2015. Additionally, Rotary is promoting the works of The Oaks through an upcoming program presentation and through support on its own website. The Oaks is thankful for its good neighbors and grateful for community support.

#### Organization and Corporate Support

- First Presbyterian Church (Kingwood)
- Kingwood Christian Church
- Kingwood United Methodist Church
- Society of St. Stephen (Kingwood)
- Light of the World Christian Fellowship (Humble)
- The Woodlands United Methodist Church

#### Grant Support

- Insperty - 2014
- Rotary Club (Humble) - 2015

*You are invaluable to this labor and to the women whose lives are being changed through your support. Thank you for your generosity and commitment.*

## Labor of Love

When Ministry Founder, Beth Whittier, began volunteering in the Texas prison system many years ago, she never imagined the future scope of her “labor of love.” As a teacher and mentor in Texas state jails, Beth possessed an intense passion for sharing the love and life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ with incarcerated women. Beth’s heart, however, was burdened by the dim prospect of success for former offenders in the absence of proper housing, education, employment, and spiritual support. That charge gave way to the vision for continued spiritual support after incarceration in a home living environment. It was the catalyst for the establishment of the Oaks of Righteousness Ministry in 2012. Sharing the love of Jesus Christ is easy. Demonstrating Christ’s love in a full-time, structured ministry organization is labor.

Partnering in this labor of love are scores of volunteers. In 2012, the Board of Directors was established and over 30 volunteers began donating time, energy, prayer, and materials for the complete renovation of the transitional home in order to prepare it for occupancy. These volunteers tirelessly performed such work as carpentry, electrical repairs, painting, furniture refinishing, and landscaping. Some of the groups that participated in that effort were the Agape Sunday School Class, Apostles Sunday School Class, Disciples Sunday School Class, Joy Sunday School Class, and Helping Hands Ministry (from Kingwood UMC), and Kingwood First Presbyterian Church.

With the doors open, the “labor” continued. By 2014, volunteers and staff members were in place to serve as teachers, mentors, counselors, drivers, health and wellness coaches, fundraising committee members, and property maintenance crew - all of whom are essential to the daily operations of the ministry.

Today, Oaks’ score of volunteers whole-heartedly share Beth’s vision of post-incarceration success through Christ’s love. It is a work that does not appear to be “labor” because the love of Christ is solidly at its core.

*Fall Lunch Benefit  
Tuesday, November 10, 2015  
Kingwood United Methodist Church*



## Dreams Come True *(continued from front page)*

whose hopes of success had been markedly dampened by imprisonment, addictions, lack of education, and other social problems.

With dedicated staff and volunteer support, the nine- to twelve-month program at Oaks of Righteousness provides its clientele with a myriad of services and tools to equip them to defeat prison recidivism, homelessness, and social dependency. These services include spiritual nourishment, job readiness training, wellness programming, a twelve-step recovery program, anger management, money management and many others, all in a supportive family environment. *Tools for success provide hope for success. Hope for success makes dreams come true!*

Lives transformed.

Because of you.

# celebrations



The Oaks of Righteousness joyfully celebrated its first anniversary on May 23, 2015! We pray for God's guidance for many years yet to come.-



*Lisa, Becky, Windy, Beth (founder) and Janet (house manager) celebrate Lisa's graduation from WorkFaith Connection, an eight-day job readiness bootcamp. Congrats, Lisa!*



*Yea, Windy!  
Windy has been with the Oaks since July of 2014.  
Congrats, and Best Wishes!!*

Windy has completed all Oaks of Righteousness program requirements. As a result of her involvement with Oaks, she is better equipped and prospects for her future are very positive. She recently found a job that can provide her with a stable long-term career. She now has an apartment, and takes with her a wealth of training, information, and inspiration that is invaluable. The Board of Directors and the residents of the Oaks of Righteousness congratulate Windy and are excited about her current success and promising future.

## How Can **YOU** help?

**Pray.** Pray for the women who have entered the program, wanting to change their lives in dramatic fashion. Pray for the volunteers who work alongside these women that they might have the strength, endurance, patience and insight to guide them.

**Volunteer.** There are opportunities to work with residents in our facility for those who are willing to undergo training and for whom service to our residents is a true calling from God. Additionally, we always need help with community outreach events.

**Contribute.** Many of you give on a routine basis and for that we are most grateful! Your contributions help to keep the lights on and pay for necessities.

**Donate.** As a supporter, in lieu of monetary contributions, you may prefer to donate hard good items for our fundraisers and collections held during the year. You may also wish to donate household and personal items. Our current list of needs includes:

body wash  
dishwasher detergent  
laundry detergent  
fabric softener sheets  
paper towels  
toilet paper  
tile floor cleaner  
clorox wipes



Our third annual Valentine's Dinner at Chez Nous was a great - and delicious - success! Many thanks to all who participated in this fundraiser.

## Garden Guardians



We're grateful to the many helping hands from Kingwood Presbyterian Church that so willingly and joyfully keep our yard for us! Thank you for all your talent and hard work!!

## Oaks of Righteousness Board of Directors - 2015

### Officers

President – Russ Spiller  
Vice-President – Carol Sloane  
Treasurer – Bill Yarberry  
Secretary – Ron Martin

### Board Members

Terry Amos  
Sheila Evans  
Cheryl Litherland  
Karen Martin  
Sharon Marks  
Beth Whittier  
Carol Yarberry

Oaks of Righteousness is a 501(c)3 organization.  
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