

Christmas Blessings & News from Promise Pointe 2022



Peace is a Journey for all Seasons

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reb.janacek@gmail.com

Sister Rebecca Janacek, Executive Director of Promise Pointe

8550 Hwy 59 South Promise Pointe Victoria, TX 77905

Dear Everyone,

It is a cold November day with rain and temperatures that are rather chilly as I write this letter to you bringing news from Promise Pointe. Something I read recently caught my heart with the statement that "The rejected must lead the revival for love and justice." [Rev Dr. William Barber]. This statement is built by Dr. Barber on Psalm 118:22-23, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone." I live among the rejected and find that as they struggle to regain their footing with the tentative hope of a new beginning, my heart weeps. I listen to stories of struggles undergone that leaves them so fragile and in need. Yet with each story there is always a seed of hope, a hunger for love, a request for another chance and for justice. Let us help them find their voices so that they may join ours in planting and growing seeds of peace in our world of today. That is why God sent Jesus to live among us those many years ago. Let us learn from Him and practice this type of love.

Since this seems to be the only newsletter you will receive from me for the year, I will begin relating the happenings that began in January. During the first 4 months of 2022 four new residents were accepted to the Promise Pointe neighborhood. In late summer a 5th person was welcomed followed by a 6th in November. Now we are a neighborhood of 13 residents + Sister Laura and myself. With each new person the dynamic of the neighborhood changes a bit and I am happy to say that this variety of personalities is making a flavorful soup!

Accepting these new neighbors came about because thanks to private donors, 4 more homes were added on Tranquil Trail between January and June bringing to 14 the available tiny homes completed and ready for occupancy. As of November 5th, work has begun on Tiny House 15 with promises of funding for another.

Recognizing that now that our residents have been homed and no longer need to daily worry about what they will eat or where they will sleep, there is a void that needs to be filled with activities that can enhance their lives and help them generate an income for themselves. Thus, the idea of a

microenterprise space was born. A microenterprise is a small business which sells goods and/or services to a local area. During my time in Africa this concept was a way of helping the people earn an income using the talents and skills they already possessed or available products provided by nature. Promise Pointe placed on its annual workplan for this year the construction of such a space. The proposed center has been named in honor of an architect friend to Promise Pointe, Rawley McCoy, who from its inception contributed to the overall design of the 12.8-acre space which we have developed. Early last year Rawley McCoy died suddenly leaving a hole in the fabric of the Victoria community where he was serving as mayor. We felt it fitting to honor him with The Rawley McCoy MicroEnterprise Center which we hope will be open to our residents and to the public in the summer of 2023. Stepping out in faith that God will help us reach our goal of raising the \$430,000 needed, construction began in late September after over half of the funding had been sourced. The building is now dried -in with the exterior painted. The center will have a store-front where goods made by the residents can be purchased. Surrounding this store-front are spaces for sewing, crafting, horticulture, art and a carpentry/automotive workshop. A larger lounge area that segways from the store-front offers a space for volunteers to come in to share and teach their arts and skills to the residents. I invite you to become a part of this venture by helping us finish the funding of this build that will not only help our residents, but also our Victoria community neighbors. Promise Pointe's vision is ending homelessness through community. This center is an opportunity to reach that vision.

Among accomplishments of our residents is that of gaining American citizenship. This person had come to America legally as a child from Sierra Leon and had her 'green card', but only now has taken the opportunity to become a citizen. Another has acquired a new vehicle that helps her get to work. Currently half of the residents have gainful employment while the others are either on retirement, disability benefits or are seeking disability benefits being unable to work. Promise Pointe has recently started a program among the residents called Partners in Quality Living that supports a dignified income for those who wish to participate while keeping the public areas clean and tidy. Monthly contracts are signed for these jobs on a rotating basis. Another opportunity for work is candle-making. We have partnered with a local group who manages our apiary. The partnership includes our selling raw honey and the candle-making project which hopes to sell to the local churches as pure beeswax candles.

Recently we had the blessing of our chapel/meditation center. This event was graced with the presence of many local church pastors who participated in the ceremony. This multi-denominational prayerful space has already been the venue for several services including a large gathering before a day of volunteer service and sharing done by the Lutheran church.

Thank you all for being a continual support to us whether it is through donations, prayer or emotional support. God bless you for being a part of our ministry to the marginalized.

Sister Rebecca

Jesus is the heart of Christmas!



2022 Development of Tranquil Trail pod of homes



TH 15 under construction.



Residents visiting



Residents candle-making

The Rawley McCoy MicroEnterprise Center under construction:



