



November 30, 2011

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

"Through the ministry of living water I have turned my life over to God. I know I am His child and that has given me courage, strength and hope to change my life and make better choices," a mother of four nine months into her sobriety, said at a recent Living Water Ministries event. Living Water Ministries is a holistic, non-denominational faith-based organization for women and families whose lives have been affected by addiction, mental health issues, trauma and poverty. The mission of Living Water Ministries is to restore and transform broken lives and redeem them into the Kingdom of God. This is accomplished only through the power that is found in Christ Jesus.

Living Water Ministries was founded in June 2005. Memorial contributions honoring the life of Mr. James Stapert allowed the ministry to begin providing services in January 2006. Mr. Stapert, my father was a man of faith who always saw the value in those the world saw as having no value. He was a witness of God's grace, mercy, truth and justice. The ministry of Living Water carries on his legacy by providing a variety of outpatient clinical and support services that nurture healing, spiritual growth and positive life changes for women, youth and families.

Since opening our doors in 2006, Living Water Ministries has served over 1500 women and children. The witness these women offer of God's transforming power in their lives is inspiring. They talk freely of how despite the constant struggles and losses, they have found a new life and hope for the future. "Jennifer" has been clean from drugs for a year. She has obtained stable housing, a part-time job and has joined a church. She attends the Women at the Well support group, the F.I.T. Wellness group, and the Strengthening Families Program with her two children. She also is participating in individual counseling at Living Water Ministries to address issues relating to her history of trauma, abuse, depression, and substance abuse. She is embracing her new identity in Christ and is in awe of God's presence and the blessings she sees being manifested in small and big ways in her life each day.

The past fiscal year has presented many financial challenges. Donations have been down 30% and grant/foundation funds were reduced 40%. At the same time, demand for services increased by 20%. At Living Water Ministries, 88% of our funding goes to support direct services. This is primarily accomplished through tremendous volunteer support and numerous in-kind donations. Although, the budget shortfalls we have experienced represent a significant challenge for us, the good news we are proclaiming in faith is that nothing is impossible with God!

We pray that you will consider a tax-deductible year-end gift to Living Water Ministries. Your gift today will allow us to continue to lead those we serve to drink from the well of living water that is found only in Christ Jesus. Please pray with us that God's will be done in the ministry and in the thirsty souls of the women and families we engage. It is also our prayer that you experience God's blessing and feel His grace and love in your lives. In closing, please join us in praising God for His faithfulness and His promise to watch over our coming and goings now and forevermore.

Grace and peace to you~

Kimberly J. Stapert, LMSW, CCJAS
Executive Director
Living Water Ministries
PO Box 6752
Grand Rapids, MI 49516-6752