

Monday through Thursday, we have a happy young man that comes to Fifth Street! He starts in the kitchen rolling the silverware for the lunch meal. From there he goes to the work area where our offices are located and cleans the big tables, empties the trash, cleans the bathroom, and vacuums the floor. Occasionally he helps serve lunch in the soup kitchen.

Will Clark has been coming for about a year and a half to help us out and has done an amazing job. Despite his Down's Syndrome, Will has accepted many challenges, and conquered them while helping us out at the same time. Everyone loves him and we look forward to his "high fives" when we encounter him. He is providing a great service to us as we provide a place for him to learn more skills and hone his socialization efforts.



Being a part of Fifth Street means you are a part of a unique family. Will is a very important part of that family. We're so proud of his accomplishments!

Diakonos

March-April 2011

DO JUSTICE...love mercy

MEN FOR CHANGE 2011

WHAT IS IT?

Men for Change is an opportunity to encourage men from all walks of life to become more aware of issues facing women, especially domestic violence and sexual assault.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

The \$100 donation goes to support My Sister's House, a program of Fifth Street Ministries, where intensive services are offered for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. The funds received will help sustain hope for those in life-threatening situations through safe housing, group and individual counseling, victim advocacy, 24 hour crisis line, transportation, referrals, and various educational opportunities.

WHO CAN DONATE?

While we encourage men to become involved individually, anyone can donate in honor or in memory of a man who has already taken seriously the issue of abuse of women. On Father's Day, the donor's name, along with the name(s) of those the donation was made in honor or in memory of will be published through various media venues. You can also donate anonymously.

YES! I want to be a part of Men for Change!!

Name (as you want it listed in the newspaper ad)

or

I want to give in HONOR or MEMORY of a man

(please circle one)

His name (as you want it listed in the newspaper ad)

Address

Given in honor/memory by (your name as you want it listed in the newspaper ad)

Your address:

Payment method:

Check

Cash

Credit card: MasterCard

Visa

Account number _____

Expiration Date ____/____

3 digit code on back of card _____

Signature _____

Questions: Call 704-872-4045 and ask for Michele or Patti

Please mail to: PO Box 5217, Statesville, NC 28687

I had a dream. Some friends and I were invited by a wealthy man to stay at his home and then to a day on his very large boat, you might even call it a yacht. After a meal and some pleasantries we were told we would be painting the boat. I conveyed that I had no intentions of painting his boat and I left. He came to me at his home as I was preparing to leave and explained that he did not think it was too much to ask for us to do a little work as he had allowed us to “see how the other half lived”. He thought I should appreciate his generosity. Seeing his distorted logic, I attempted to turn the table slightly and asked if he would allow me to show him how “the other other half lived.” That’s how it ended.

Some of the best advice I have received on interpretation of dreams is keep it simple. Basically they mean what they mean and don’t read too much into them. Yes, on the one side there is great wealth in the world and I am fascinated by what money can buy, or more importantly build. Think of all we have from allowing human imagination to run wild. But on the other side, there is much need in the world. The two rarely intertwine, but sometimes they do. So ends the interpretation.

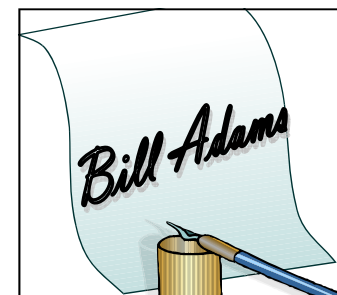
We rarely devote much thought to the dreams of our slumber. Most often we don’t even recall them. But when it comes to dreams, as in “hopes and dreams”, I think we need to pay a little closer attention and I am learning everyday to be more respectful of the dreams of others. I believe it’s acceptable for someone of means to dream of traveling the world, but I also am mindful of the dream of a young mother just wanting to provide a roof over her children’s heads. Pray for her.

Hopes and dreams change. Events of history often cause us to redefine our dreams. The Great Depression, the end of WWII, 9/11, the recent “economic downturn”, the birth of a child, the death of a loved one, the loss of a job or getting a new job. Many people come to Fifth Street

because their dreams have been changed or sometimes destroyed altogether. Whether economic, physical illness, mental illness, addiction; the reasons are as varied as the individuals that come, but they are very real. Even with a good plan and a strong will, it’s difficult to build these dreams back up. But it happens, and you help.

It’s hard for me to talk about dreams without thinking of Dr. King’s “I Have a Dream” speech. That day MLK spoke of justice for a race of people but I personally have always felt he spoke up for justice for all people; everywhere. I believe if he were here today, he would speak for the sick, the addicted, the mentally ill, the abused, and the neglected. These less fortunate need someone to speak for them for they are at risk of being left behind as our world struggles with economic uncertainty. Our government faces difficult decisions on how to meet the needs of our country’s poor. In all likelihood, the programs that will be cut will most greatly affect the very people that God tells us to take care of; the least of these. Have faith.

The community that is Fifth Street Ministries provides a wonderful stage for dreamers of all kinds to come together. We’ve been blessed by people with the means and imagination to build the most awesome homeless shelter in the state, while being challenged by guest with stories of hardship that stretch the wildest imagination. More and more church communities, civic groups, and individuals are coming to find ways to make new dreams come true. Regardless of the economy, or medical advances, or public understanding; the challenges will always be there. A good and wise friend stopped by last week and observing some of our guest stated that though when he was younger he believed that everyone had the same equal opportunity in life, he now understood that may not be true. I have to agree. We are not all created equal, but the dream of equality moves on.



The month of April is designated Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The purpose is to create an awareness of sexual violence and to educate how to prevent these assaults.

The theme of this year's campaign is "It's time...to get involved." Talking about sexual violence can be uncomfortable, but the crime is preventable. Men can stop rape, those men who believe that violence against women is wrong and who will stand up for his sisters and his mother and his daughter. Men can stop rape by helping foster healthy relationships with women, challenging harmful aspects of traditional masculinity, gender equality, and confronting other males when inappropriate behaviors or comments are made.

Our Men for Change campaign is an avenue for such actions to begin. If you are a man and want to be a part, please sign on. If you know of a man that has done his part in days gone by, it is a perfect way to honor him or his memory. Names will be announced through the local media on Father's Day 2011.

Surviving sexual trauma is difficult. There are many hills and valleys to be overcome, and life is never viewed quite the same. Prevention is always the very best option and being pro-active regarding change is the key.

In 2007 in the United States, there were 248,300 victims of sexual assault, and it is estimated that at least 60% of sexual assaults go unreported. It's a problem that must be addressed.

At My Sister's House,

\$100 will pay for:

3 counseling or group sessions

Advocacy/court accompaniment for 4 victims

Full service shelter (laundry, transportation, food, clothing, toiletries, etc.) for a victim for 8 nights

Gas for transportation for two weeks

Supplies (office, cleaning, etc.) for 1 week

Volunteer opportunities include:

Assistance with transportation

Babysitting

Sorting and organizing donations

Landscaping possibilities

Needed items include:

New underwear for women (smaller sizes)

Snack items for kids (prepackaged items, juice boxes, etc.)

Sugar

Cooking oil

Ibuprofen or Tylenol

Digital thermometers

Scrubbing sponges

24-hour crisis line for victims of domestic violence or sexual assault: 704-872-3403

The biggest blessings come in the smallest packages!

Emma Harper Seay was born on February 24, 2011. She was ten weeks early, and mom was diagnosed with preeclampsia two days before her birth. Things were touch and go for 48 hours or so until Emma was born by C-section. Her weight was 2 pounds and 3 ounces and she was 14 1/2 inches long...not as big as most baby dolls.

Prayers were being said for Emma across the country. They told us to expect one step forward and two steps back in the NICU, and we prepared ourselves for a roller coaster. But, by the time she was 24 hours old, Emma was off the ventilator and a week later was off all oxygen support. At four weeks, she weighed 3 pounds, and at five weeks the feeding tube was removed and she was sent to a "transition" room where mom stays with her and cares for her all the time, transitioning them to go home in a few days/weeks.

There have been times in my faith journey that I have questioned prayer, struggling to understand the suffering and the pain around me every day when prayers abounded. Can't say that I understand it still, but I do

feel strongly that there was something about those words of hope uttered for Emma that have made the difference. I still have no explanation, though, of why our little one has done so well yet others do not. Sometimes this mystery is a little too much so.

This little girl will set the world on its ear someday. She is one tiny little determined person. I can't wait to see what the next twenty years hold for her...and as her grandmother I will be there every step of the way!

Please hold Lyndsay and Willie...and of course, Little Miss Emma close in your prayers. It will be hard at times...but there is no doubt in my mind that she is up for the challenge!

Patti West a/k/a Mimi



NEEDS LIST

Deodorant

Aloe After sun and burn gel

Cough drops

Ranitidine 75mg·

Imodium AD tabs

Mucinex DM Tabs

Rolaids or Tums

Antibiotic ointment

Towels and wash cloths

*New men's and women's
underwear*

*Diapers (especially larger
sizes)*

Feminine hygiene products

Razors

Onions

*Spices: Coriander, turmeric,
ground red pepper, basil,
oregano*

Sunflower seeds, pecans, etc·

*Please post in your church,
workplace, etc·*



**Come worship and
celebrate with us on Easter
morning at a sunrise
service and special
breakfast.**

**Grace Baptist Church joins
with us in providing this
special celebration.**

We hope you will come!

**Sunday morning,
April 24, 6:30am at
Fifth Street.**

Call with questions!

704-872-4045

diakonos@bellsouth.net

**From Hwy. 70, turn on Hwy.
21 towards Troutman. Turn
right on Winston Avenue, go
several blocks to 4th Street
and turn left. Go all the way
to the end of 4th Street and
turn right on Wilmington.
Take the next left into the
parking lot!**

Sometimes our job is more than a little frustrating. We can provide a place to sleep, food to eat, clothing, showers, laundry facilities...all those absolute basic essentials. However, when it moves to the next level, that's where the frustration begins.

As psychiatric hospitals close or minimize the number of beds they are able to fill, as more and more people join the ranks of the uninsured, and as times get tougher economically, more and more people are finding themselves on the street. Drugs and alcohol become an easy out...or a way to self-medicate because funds to buy prescribed medicine are not there. The length of time it takes to get folks into the only substance abuse treatment program locally available to those that are indigent can take weeks. By that time, a serious alcoholic or addict has gone back to old habits, for typically there is only a small window of opportunity.

Getting assistance for the seriously mentally ill is equally as frustrating. In order to get emergency help, a person must be a danger to themselves or others. Not all mentally ill people are going to kill someone or harm themselves, but they can be in such a state of psychosis that they cannot function in society.

Ideally there would be a system in place to care for situations such as these. Seems like these are the issues that take the cuts when budgets are tight. Until we get a better system, it will be a revolving door for many. Pretty disheartening at times.

Please accept my tax-deductible donation in the amount of

\$ _____

Name _____
Address _____

If you'd like your gift to be given as a memorial or in honor of an individual or a group, please provide us with the information below.

Circle one *In honor of* _____ *In memory of* _____

Special message _____

Name and address of person acknowledgement is to be sent

Please mail to: Diakonos, Inc./Fifth Street Ministries, PO Box 5217, Statesville, NC 28687

FIFTH STREET
MINISTRIES,
INCLUDING MY
SISTER'S HOUSE,
IS SUPPORTED IN
PART BY UNITED
WAY, NORTH
CAROLINA
COUNCIL FOR
WOMEN,
GOVERNOR'S
CRIME
COMMISSION,
EMERGENCY
SHELTER GRANT
PROGRAM,
CHURCHES, CIVIC
GROUPS,
INDIVIDUALS...ALL
WHO BELIEVE IN
THE WORK OF
DIAKONOS.

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