



Caring Times

Winter/Spring
2010

The Caring Place, Inc.
Caring, Helping, and Equipping People for Living

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Board of Directors

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
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Office Manager - Sameena Rashid

Don't miss The Caring Place's 9th Annual Benefit Auction, Friday night, May 7, including themed baskets of unique items, one-of-a-kind treasures, delicious hors d'oeuvres and drinks, and great fellowship. The evening will end with a live auction of priceless experiences. Watch your mail box for your invitation, or call the Caring Place office at 462-1800 and request one.

**Save the Date!
The Annual Caring Place 5K Run/Walkathon will take place Sunday, September 26 at 4:45 p.m.**

Alice McCall is Named New Executive Director

The Caring Place is happy to welcome Alice McCall to its staff. Alice's career in constituent services and project management spans two decades in Raleigh and Washington, D.C., where she served as a special assistant to two United States senators. She is a graduate of Peace College and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in history from Appalachian

Town of Cary grant helps The Caring Place buy and restore its own home

On November 12, 2009, The Caring Place closed the deal to purchase a duplex on Rainbow Court, after applying for and receiving a community development block grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, administered through the Town of Cary to a nonprofit that benefits low- and moderate-income people.

Most of the \$215,000 received was used to purchase the home, but about \$44,000 was left to repair and renovate the property.

Under the supervision of the properties

committee, tasks have been completed, including interior painting, repairing termite damage, replacing insulation in the crawl space and attic, replacing all windows, repairing the driveway, replacing flooring in both units, and replacing gutters and downspouts. Last week was tree removal day.

Still to be done are exterior painting, crawl space drainage work including a sump pump, and adding a fence in the back yard

The Properties Committee focused its search on duplexes because more than one family can be housed at a time. "Rainbow Court won out because it was located near our other property (the triplex), not too far from The Caring Place office, was in reasonable shape, had a level yard for children to play in, and we thought we could get it at a reasonable price," said Properties Committee chairman Dave Atkins.

Sue Marcinko wrote the grant, Susan Winstead led the property search and purchase negotiations, Sue, Tom Beebe and Susan worked with the Town of Cary Planning department, and Tom worked with the HUD lawyer. Brian Williams and Dave Atkins led the repair and rehab process.

Already two families have moved into the duplex, and will stay there during their time in The Caring Place program. Owning a duplex will be of great financial benefit to the Caring Place, particularly during these tough economic times.



State University. Raised in Cary, Alice returned home in 1992. She and her husband have three children. "The Caring Place is a new and exciting career change for me," Alice said. "I am honored to be working for a caring group of people whose good work makes a lasting impact on families."

Christ Family Church Donates Housing to The Caring Place

About five years ago, a member of Christ Family Church fell on hard times and went through The Caring Place program. Pastor Patricio Wilson remembers the good experience The Caring Place provided, so last year when the church decided to expand, and bought the adjacent property, Wilson knew immediately what he wanted to do with the home that was on the land.

The home, which he and his

congregation call "Mercy House," is now housing its third Caring Place family.

But not only does the church donate free housing, it also provides a "Caring Sponsor" for the family, to check in and make sure the family's needs are being met.

Cheryl Brown, a realtor who has a heart for single mothers with children, was the perfect choice for this role.

"I have always enjoyed helping

first time homebuyers or single mothers get in to homes. It is a good fit to have me work with the people in the house. I also have a burden for kids. Every part of their life is affected when they are displaced like that, it carries over to so many parts of their life when they can have a stable home life."

Brown is looking forward to working with the family that moved into Mercy House at the end of February, and to beginning her first term on the Board of Directors for The Caring Place.

TCP Graduate Buys A Home in Cary

Everything started with a BIG dream and nice people that were there to help me to reach it...

I was going through a very difficult time in my life. All I knew was that God was with me and that something had to happen. In 2006 we came to North Carolina due to an economic crisis, my kids (ages 4 and 7 at the time) and I didn't have a place to stay. My sister let us "double up" with her and her family for a few months. During that time I found a job but I was barely making ends meet and still did not have enough saved to rent an apartment. One day a good friend of mine told me about The Caring Place, so I decided to go there and interview to see if I qualified.

AND I DID!!!! It was light in the middle of a very dark situation. The kids were very excited about having an apartment where they could have their own space. We moved into an apartment as part of TCP's transitional housing program in Cary. Everything about the Caring Place program was designed to help us succeed and reach our goals. What stands out most in my mind as memorable is that after about two weeks of staying in the apartment, a group of ladies (TCP's decorating committee) that I didn't know, came in and decorated my apartment so beautifully that I felt like it was home. After getting to the apartment with no more than our clothes, our apartment was now full of nice things that helped us to have a better

quality of life.

At Thursday's budget meeting we met our support team from a company called Heery International for the next sixteen weeks. They were the best group of people I have ever met because they stepped out of their lives to help a homeless family (mine) get back on track. They showed me the importance of choices and how important setting and achieving goals were, whether personal or financial. They also worked with me on how to save money and coached me through the process of keeping financial documents organized in preparation of moving into my own apartment. In difficult times, when I felt like I was not going to be able to make it, they were there to give me a heartfelt hug, encouragement and even different options to succeed.

TCP staff also helped me to succeed. Sameena helped me with setting up house and getting the things I needed donated so that I could stay in budget. Amelia helped me to get help with childcare vouchers and different resources to have family activities at a very low price. And of course I will never forget Annie, who diligently made everything work for us....

The Caring Place was a new beginning for us, and an opportunity to see that God is looking after us. It was also a place to learn that the choices that we make can change the course of our lives. I remember telling my support team on the day of

my graduation that my next goal was to buy a house of my own.

Well, it has been almost two years since I graduated from the program. Now I am no longer working for a low paying company but I am the owner and operator of my own company. I continued to save money as I was taught, and tried to make smart choices about spending (sometimes I slipped but I did remember how to get myself back on track). I applied to a home buying program called NACA in May 2009, with the hopes of buying my first house—a house with a fireplace the way I always dreamed, with an upstairs (the way my kids dreamed), and somewhere nice in Cary. I qualified and got a low interest rate, plus with the savings that I had from the time I left TCP until the time I bought the house, I was able to buy points so I could lower my interest rate even more. Now I have a beautiful house that is all of our dreams come true where my kids can play safely.

This is an opportunity to thank the people that helped in every single moment of that process, starting with The Caring Place staff, my support team (Heery International), meal providers, child care volunteers, people that donated food, clothing, and furniture when resources were limited, and people that were just there at the right time.... Thanks to all these people that changed my family's life.

- Andrea Rodriguez

The Beckwith Project

A financial planner, a banker and a compliance manager for an investment firm are the ideal team to support a family who has gotten into debt and needs to learn to spend their money wisely and how to save.

But Lyn and Heidi Adams and Wendy Dawson ventured out of their skill set when they were assigned to work with Katherine Beckwith and her daughter, Jasmine, in October of 2009. A few weeks into her time with the Caring Place, they found out that she had inherited some property a few years ago, a small house in Southeast Raleigh that had been vacant for six years and was uninhabitable.

The home was full of water damage, mold, faulty electrical wiring and plumbing, and was inhabited by rodents. "I literally found out what a rats nest looks like," Adams related.

Support Partners are trained to help families find rental housing, not to go into the contracting business, but after doing some research, the team decided to see if they could make her home livable.

A general contractor, who was a friend of Lyn Adams, estimated it would cost over \$20,000 to make the home livable again.

Though Katherine was disciplined about saving, paid her car off within 12 weeks, and saved about \$3,000 during her four months in the program, it was not enough to do the kind of work needed to fix up her home.

Adams was undaunted. He took the list of the work needed to friends in his church and in the community and asked for donations. In the weeks ahead, he was able to raise



Katherine, center, and Jasmine, left center, get a hug from Program Manager Annie Grham, front, and the support team: Lyn is at left, Heidi in the back, and Wendy at right.

about \$10,000 in cash, received donations of work, materials, furniture and other household items, and gotten contractors to donate time and labor valued around \$20,000.

In the end, \$43,000 of work was done for \$17,000.

Although the team found out about the home in October, construction did not start until mid January because it took some time to make sure the property had no foreclosable liens outstanding. Once started, the work had to be completed in about four weeks time so that Katherine and Jasmine would have somewhere to go on their graduation day.

During the process, Katherine did not visit the home, so that on February 21, her team could surprise her at the home's unveiling.

Two television stations, newspapers and other media attended the event, which was a joyful and tearful occasion.

In gratitude (and to continue to

reinforce her habit of financial self-discipline) Katherine will donate \$300 a month to the Caring Place for one year, for a total of \$3,600, a small price to pay for a totally renovated home that has no mortgage.

The Caring Place would like to thank all the volunteers, donors, and contractors who took part in this wonderful project for a very deserving family.

A Word From The New Board President

I learned of The Caring Place from a neighbor at a social gathering. I was intrigued by the mission, especially the idea of providing families with the tools to make a long-term, life-changing difference in their lives and the lives of their children.

I got involved with The Caring Place about six years ago through the funding committee. The enthusiasm and commitment of that committee was contagious. In 2007, I was privileged to be invited to join the board. Shortly thereafter I joined the Executive Committee as the vice-president of the board.

As I begin as President, I am excited to be working with a great team including staff, volunteers and supporters with the passion and dedication to make a difference in the life of our families.





The Caring Place
P.O. Box 622
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Our Wish List

- Paper dinner and dessert plates, bowls, cups, forks, knives, spoons
- Sponges
- Toothpaste
- Shampoo
- Lotion
- Windex
- Brooms
- Mops
- Buckets
- Mr. Clean
- Lysol or Soft scrub
- Toilet paper rolls
- Paper towels
- Fume free oven cleaner
- Vacuum cleaners
- Air freshener
- Mattress covers (twin, full or Queen)
- Shower curtains and rings
- Bathroom mats
- Gift cards for Gas and Groceries (Target, Walmart, Kmart, Food Lion)
- Furniture and Kitchen items to furnish apartments for our families
- Money donations welcomed



A Special Thank You
to RTI International
For a \$2,500 grant through RTI's
Community Partnerships Program

Thank you to all who supported us during the holiday season:

1. **St. Paul's Episcopal Church**
2. **Kleigh Forell and her neighbors in Cary Park**
3. **Becca Smith @ Women's Network Circle**
4. **Westwood Baptist: non-perishable meals and gift cards for Thanksgiving**
5. **Allison Chisley @ My Goal our Misson**
6. **Apex High School Muslim Students Association**
7. **Dr. Stickleather @ Cary Alliance Church**
8. **Karen Harrison, and her Boy Scouts**
9. **Marie Little and her neighbors in Stone Creek**
10. **Kelly Coman @ Scout Pack 393: canned food and gift cards for gas and food**
11. **White Plains: meat voucher for Food Lion and all the sides for Thanksgiving and Christmas**
12. **Greenwood Forest Baptist Church**
13. **Christ Family Church**
14. **Dr. Cynthia Gregg**
15. **Jim Wyatt, CPA**
16. **Searstone**
17. **Cary Presbyterian**
18. **Woodland Terrace**