



## Summer 2022 Newsletter

Hello, Friends of Shepherd's House!

It's finally summer! I don't know about you, but I have been **impatiently** waiting for summer since last summer! The weather is finally warm!

As of today, we almost have a full house. We have 6 woman and 5 children. I'm so happy when we get small children. It absolutely makes the house come alive with giggles! We have one resident who was able to save money, find a house for rent, and move out! We are all so happy for her and her son!

The kitchen is now finished, and it's wonderful! We were able to get through the kitchen remodel fairly well, considering we didn't have a stove or sink! The kitchen looks beautiful, and it's definitely more functional. You can see pictures on our Facebook page at @shepherdshousetullahoma. Lowes in Tullahoma played a huge part in the remodel. They gave us all the needed products at a greatly reduced price. We are so thankful for them!

I wanted to share something that has been on my heart. Lately I've been struggling with the question, 'Is Shepherd's House truly helping our residents, or are we hurting them by doing too much with and for them?'. When I took this job, I was determined to help the ladies obtain not only housing, but healing, as well. We do Bible Studies; we talk regularly about wise decisions; we drug test. We do so many things to help, but do we actually break the cycle of poverty in our residents? I never feel like I'm doing enough, and many times residents leave before true healing can take place. I'm often frustrated with what we do. I'm reading a book that was recommended by a local pastor called 'Toxic Charity: How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help', by Robert Lupton. This book is actually putting words to the way I've been feeling. Mr. Lupton says in the book. "Giving to those in need what they could be gaining from their own initiative may well be the kindest way to destroy people". As a result of what I'm reading, my desire has become to counterbalance a giving heart with a wise mind. I'm asking myself how we can truly help people to become independent of charity and handouts? How can we give people what they truly need? The women at Shepherd's House truly need appropriate life skills, money management skills, parenting skills, work skills and work ethic that will allow them to be completely independent of charity. Then their lives can be under their own control instead of the control of others. Their lives don't have to depend on what others will do for them, but what they can do for themselves. So...the question is...how do we do that?? Hopefully by the next newsletter, I can tell you what I'm working on. Hopefully I'll be able to tell you some progress we've made in helping women to be independent of other's benevolence. The ladies we have at Shepherd's House are truly working to improve their situation. They are required to be employed and save money. They're required to do

housework and contribute to the functioning of the house. None of our residents are just looking for a handout, and I'm very proud of them for that.

I would absolutely love to hear your thoughts about this. I would also love for anyone to call or stop by to discuss it. Our phone number is at the bottom of the page.

Can we change the way we do things so that our precious residents achieve permanent, self-sustaining stability?

Be blessed and know that I'm blessed to be in this position.

*Angela Absp*

Executive Director  
Shepherd's House

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And my God will supply every need of your according to His riches in glory. Philippians 4:19