

Year-end gifts and ongoing prayers sought

Lauryn is 18 years old. She grew up in Dowagiac, MI, and lived with her mom and twin brothers. She started smoking and drinking at the age of 12, and turned to meth at the age of 16. Lauryn attended Dowagiac High School until 10th grade, but she lost her motivation to graduate and dropped out of school. She was arrested at 17 and spent two days in jail.

Lauryn learned about Wings of God from a former resident and decided to explore our program. She didn't know about God before coming here on January 4, 2018. When Lauryn was younger, she only attended church a handful of times, and that was her only exposure to God. She didn't know about recovery or how to live a different life. When she entered our doors, she was broken and scared, but soon began to learn about how God could change her life.

After turning herself in to her probation officer, she was sentenced to 30 days on a tether. Though the devastation was deep in her heart for returning to her old ways, Lauryn returned to Wings of God on February 6, 2018.

Lauryn shares, "It was the best decision I ever made. I would still be spiritually dead and I did not want to live a life without God. I love that I now have a relationship with Jesus and I am happy and have joy in my heart. I have a life that is worth living. Wings of God got me back on my feet and without this program, I wouldn't have a relationship with God. Wings of God saved my life."

Lauryn was moved by the Holy Spirit and cried tears of joy as she recalled how much God has changed her life. She said, "He made me a warrior. I want the donors to know that I appreciate



everything they do for us. Without them, the changes in my life would not be possible." Lauryn received her GED while at the Wings of God. She attends Freshwater Church and works part time for Chicken Coop in Paw Paw. She is currently enrolled in KVCC and plans to get her degree in nursing to become a traveling nurse.

This is only part of Lauryn's story. As you can see, God has begun and will continue to rewrite her story into a beautiful example of redemption and restoration.

As this year comes to an end and we enter into a season of giving, please consider a year-end gift to the Wings of God. Your gift gives women just like Lauryn a second chance, and access to a safe place where God can speak to the deepest parts of their hearts. Your gifts provide Bible studies, mentoring programs, meals, toiletries, and for some, a home for the very first time.

More importantly, please continue pray for our Pearls. Pray that they will truly find their identity in Christ rather than in hopelessness, shame, guilt or anything that might hinder them. Please pray for our staff as well; for wisdom to discern all the Pearls' individual needs and to minister to each accordingly with love!



Scenes from our 2018 Fall Benefit Dinner

The banquet was well-attended by Wings of God current and former Pearls. Back row, l to r: (former) Tori, (current) Monica, Nicki, Lauryn, (former) Nina, Jes and Gemma. Front row, l to r: (current) Ashley; (former) Lisa, Nicole and (current) Alli.



Above are the Silent Auction winners Pastor Jonathan Lam, of Mattawan Community Church, and his wife, Mariann. The quilt was crafted by and donated by Lawton Country Quilters (Tara Bahrman, Pat Shaw, Michelle Kerns, Jean Clare, Sheila Powers, Kellie Ransler, and Kim Wiles).



Above, 7th District Court Magistrate/Attorney Susan Zuiderveen, Wings of God Exec. Dir. Karina Lamorandier, and 7th District Court Judge Michael McKay. Below, Mich. 26th Dist. State Senator Tonya Schuitmaker, Karina Lamorandier, and Mich. 66th Dist. State Representative Beth Griffin.



Golfers brave the rain at June 2018 outing

Golfers showed up with commitment in their hearts,

Only to find that rain soaked everything, including the carts.

Rain was pouring and causing delay,

But some said forget it, I'm going to play!

Others stayed and enjoyed the great food,

Yet others left to stay dry and in a good mood!

All in all, a good time was had by many,

Even torrential rains couldn't steal our plenty!



Far right, Nate Penning made the shot from the green that was underwater. Near right, Deb Crocker didn't let rain stop her fun! Below, others stayed dry inside while enjoying food and fellowship.



Bottom right, current Event Planning Chair Karen Hancox (left), and former Chair Joann Munting (right).



WAYS YOU CAN HELP

DONATING



SPONSORING

VOLUNTEERING



Sponsor an event

We are thankful for our generous and loving sponsors. You may have an idea of your own to sponsor a special event or ongoing program, such as the Witness the Hope tours, sponsored by Amore Pizza.

Look for information in our newsletters, on our website or Facebook page, or call 269-415-0777 to volunteer or submit a proposal.

Impact the future

Bequests have the power to impact future generations. It's so easy to include Wings of God or other charities in your will and still provide for loved ones. You may be able to make a simple bequest by adding the following language: "I give and bequeath the sum of \$____ (or the % of), to be used for Wings of God." Touch the future with your charitable bequest or consider other estate planning options, such as designating a charity as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy or an IRA account.

Giving made easy

Help us meet our ministry needs with monthly gifts. Here are several ways in which you can easily contribute:

- ◆ Give online at our website (WingsofGodinc.org).
- ◆ Give through automated bank debits.
- ◆ Give using the enclosed mail envelope.
- ◆ Ask your employer about matching gifts.(Consumers Energy Foundation and Pfizer)
- ◆ Does your employer donate \$\$ based on volunteer hours worked? (Perigo and Pfizer)

Please consider giving monthly, as you are able.

JOBS, JOBS, JOBS!

Employment for our residents is always a key to their success. Please prayerfully consider how you can help these women find good work at a fair wage and offer a step into new independence. Please call 269-415-0777 with any information or employment opportunities you have.

Wings of God WISH LIST

Prior to purchasing items , please call the office at 269-415-0777 to ensure they are still needed.

For the House

- ◆ Air freshener
- ◆ Ice Melt
- ◆ Pots & pans with lids
- ◆ Food gift cards for Aldi's, Meijer, or WalMart
- ◆ Eight 32-gal. plastic totes
- ◆ Two 40-gal. & three 30-gal. totes with locking lids
- ◆ Liquid unscented laundry soap
- ◆ Paper towels
- ◆ Disinfectant wipes

For the Office

- ◆ Postage stamps
- ◆ HP950 XL Black and HP951 Color printer refill ink cartridges

For Residents

- ◆ Sturdy umbrellas
- ◆ Winter gloves, scarves, and hats
- ◆ Ibuprofen, Motrin, or Aleve
- ◆ Back packs
- ◆ Ear buds or headphones
- ◆ \$5.00 gift cards to local stores/restaurants (Arby's, McDonald's, Wendy's, WalMart, Dollar General, Speedway, Walgreens)
- ◆ Venus razors/blades
- ◆ Shaving gel
- ◆ Fingernail/toenail clippers
- ◆ Hair conditioner
- ◆ Wash cloths (grey, dark green, pink or navy)

Meet a WOG House Pearl: Monica

Monica grew up on a farm in Cedar, MI (near Traverse City), and was raised by her father. Her mother left the family when Monica was young. Her mother passed away at the age of 51 as a result of alcoholism and her father died at the age of 52 as a result of a four-wheeling accident.

As a child, Monica was chiefly responsible for doing chores on the farm. She did a lot of normal things such as riding snowmobiles, dirt bikes and four-wheelers. However, she said, "I always felt emptiness and that I wasn't good enough." At age 13, she began looking for acceptance and love by hanging out with socially unhealthy friends and started drinking and smoking marijuana. Her legal trouble, which also started at age 13, ended with her spending a year in jail at the age of 17. During that jail stay, she felt incredibly alone. Monica turned 18 in jail; she missed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years and had only one visit from her father during the entire year.

After being released from jail, she became pregnant with her first son, Anthony. His father left her when she was three months pregnant. During her pregnancy, she worked full-time and was introduced to her husband, Lucas, the father of her second son, Noah. She enjoyed living a normal life and being a wife for 10 years until her husband died at the age of 27. Her addiction and criminal behavior rekindled after his death. She left her two children in the care of her older sister and started using and participating in criminal behavior. She was sentenced to Drug Court in Kalamazoo, but ran from that program and became pregnant with her third son, Jaden. During her third pregnancy, she stayed with the family of a local church she was attending. She was going through the motions of being clean and living a normal life; however, she had not completely surrendered to God.

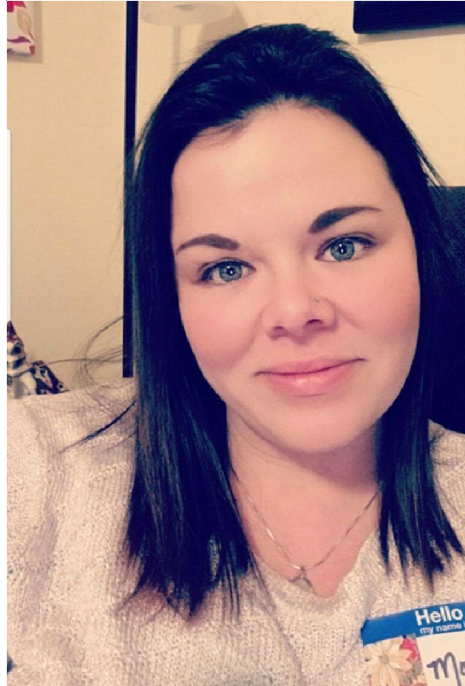
Monica returned to active addiction, was arrested and became pregnant with her fourth child, a daughter, Heaven. Monica spent most of her fourth

Let's Get **Acquainted!**

pregnancy at KPEP in Kalamazoo. After completing their program, she relapsed causing her to lose parental rights to Jayden and Heaven. The seeds were planted with Monica and she didn't stop trying to live a normal life. She became pregnant with her fifth child, Carter, who was born in 2017. Monica relapsed shortly thereafter and wound up in a mental hospital. It was there that she realized her mental condition played a part in her addiction and that she needed God. Monica remembered hearing about the Wings of God program during one of her stays at the Kalamazoo County Jail,

becoming a resident on June 19, 2018. She celebrated six months clean on December 11th.

Monica currently works part-time and is a key holder for a local auto parts store. She is currently the Resident Assistant at Wings of God as a result of her leadership skills. She stated, "My relationship with God is more personal since being at the Wings of God. I am learning how to seek Him first and I am able to hear His message: 'You are loved, You are worth it and everything is going to get better.' I am learning how to have patience and let go of instant gratification. It is a slow process; even the snail persevered and made it to the Ark. God has not given up on me. I believe people do care about me. If you are thinking about becoming a resident, this place will change your life." Monica plans to spend the next six months working and saving to buy a car, finding an apartment in Paw Paw, signing up for school and rebuilding relationships with her children.



Happenings around the House



Top left: Pearls Alli, Kate and Nicki show off their Celebrate Recovery Tokens.

Bottom left: Previous Pearl Amy shared her testimony with current and former Pearls. Pictured left to right, standing, are Lauryn, Tiffany (former), Monica and Nicki; seated, left to right, are Darcie (former) and Amy (former).



Top right: Lauryn ready for first day of school at KVCC.

Bottom right: Pearls at Freshwater Church supporting baptism of Alli and Nicki (not pictured); left to right: Emily, Monica, Lauryn and Ashley.





At left, Monica says a prayer over her birthday cake on Nov. 17, 2018.

Below, residents sharing birthday love.

Top row, L to R: Emily, Nicki, and Ashley; bottom row, L to R: Kate, Monica, and Lauryn.



At left, Emily with her son, Colton, on the front porch swing dressed in their costumes for trick-or-treating.



Below, former resident Nicole shared her testimony with the current Pearls. Shown L to R: Monica, Alli, Nicole, and Nicki.

Above, Pearls focused on learning during an October study session; L to R: Ashley, Lauryn, Monica, Nicki, former resident Nina, and Alli.



Connect with Wings Of God!

Contact us:

By e-mail: info@WingsOfGodinc.org

By phone: 269-415-0777 (office)

By U.S. post:

Wings of God Transition Home, Inc.
P.O. Box 3, Paw Paw, MI 49079

Please examine the mailing label and notify us if you wish to be removed from our list, or to begin receiving the newsletter via email (which saves us money). Let us know of any errors/changes in name or address, or if you know someone who is interested in receiving our newsletter. Mail changes to our P.O. Box, or send us an e-mail.

Wings of God Transition Home, Inc.
P.O. Box 3
Paw Paw, MI 49079

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Witness the Hope

You are invited to meet our residents and learn more about Wings of God at our monthly tour and luncheon, held on the second Thursday of each month, including Dec. 13. A casual lunch, generously provided by **Amore Pizza of Paw Paw**, will be served promptly at 12:00 noon.

Please RSVP three days prior to the tour by calling the WOG office at 269-415-0777 or reserve your spot online at www.wingsofgodinc.org. Upcoming afternoon tour dates for 2019 are: Jan. 10, Feb. 14, Mar. 14, Apr. 11, May 9, Jun. 13, Jul. 11, Aug. 8, Sep. 12. Hope to see you!



In Memory of Fay Davis, our Eagle-Eye Editor. We will miss your beautiful smile and charming wit. Thank you for seven years of faithful service proofreading all our previous publications.

Upcoming 2019 Events:

- ◆ West Michigan's Got Talent (see inserted flyer)
- ◆ June/July Summer Event (to be announced)
- ◆ Benefit Dinner – Oct. 10

Winter 2018
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