

GUARDIAN ANGEL PARTNERS

NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER, 2010

Since our last update, God has been doing a great work through the partnership of Guardian Angels (GA) and Florida Baptist Children's Home (FBCH). Rejoice with us as we share some of our exciting news.

Sheri Battles, our Community Ministries Case Worker, has experienced tremendous support from area churches as she shares the vision of GA/FBCH. One church has volunteered to provide meals for all foster parents during new placements and times of crisis. Other church partners gave over 300 backpacks with supplies for needy children. Another partner church is starting a foster parent night out by providing free screened babysitters. One of our donors provided a car seat, a stroller and baby furniture for an emergency infant foster placement. FBCH's donation center in Lakeland supplies many needed items to our foster parents on a regular basis.

We currently have seven foster homes licensed to receive children and have provided care for 21 children since December, 2009. Twelve families have completed training (a 10 week course required by the state of Florida) to become foster parents licensed to care for abused children in their homes. We anticipate that our licensed foster parents will be caring for an additional 10 children by 2011. Sheri continues to recruit prospective foster families and is available to speak to your community group or church.

As our foster program provides for the immediate needs of hurting, abandoned and abused children, GA continues to work toward the construction of new home(s) for such children. You may recall that we have already purchased 7.5 acres for this purpose. GA/FBCH is in the process of revising our original plan to fund and build "Group Homes" to a plan to build "Foster Family Homes". This change will reduce the required square footage and cost of our homes and also reduce the number of children per home from 8 or 10 to 5 or 6 per home. The caretakers will be licensed foster parents rather than paid residential parents.

The local Community Based Care Agency, which places abused and neglected children in our homes, highly recommends the "Foster Family Homes" concept; and FBCH believes this to be an effective way to meet the needs of children. The construction costs and operational expenses will be significantly less than those required for "Group Homes", and we will need to escrow only \$100,000 to ensure the availability of needed operational funds. This plan will make it possible for us to begin construction without having to first fund a \$2.4 million dollar endowment account. The foster parents will live in the home rent free and pay utilities.

GA is excited about the possibility of beginning construction **sooner** rather than later!

All we need is MONEY! We have more than \$500,000 available for construction purposes, but it may take as much as \$200,000 to prepare the construction site for building. We have had wonderful offers of "in kind" donations or "at cost" labor when we begin construction. Our annual budget includes \$65,000 per year for one case worker and her related expenses, and is expected to increase to \$100,000 with the addition of a part-time case worker.

Our greatest news is that hurting children are already receiving love and care in Christian homes where the goal is to love them as Jesus would. This good news will only increase as we build and open our new "Foster Family Homes". Thank you so much for your part in helping us achieve this worthy goal. We invite you to join us as we continue to trust God to raise the needed funds to move forward, and we deeply appreciate whatever donation the Lord should lead you to make.

Gratefully,

The Board of Guardian Angels of S.W. Florida