Golden Girl Gazette – Herald

Golden Girl Group Home \ Fall - Winter 2026

A letter from our Executive Director, Renee Harrison



It had been more than ten years since I had seen her. She wasn't directly tied to our Golden Girl Family as a past or current resident or staff member but she had a significant impact on how I viewed the work I did. All those years ago, I had gone to her due to a hurt back. I thought a massage might help and my husband, Robert, thought she was a miracle worker.

As she gave me a massage, we shared glimpses of our personal life with each other. The setting encouraged the feeling of safety and privacy, without directly looking at each other, focusing on the massage, the talking flowed and soon we were telling of tender and vulnerable moments. As she shared the pain of her son's overdose, I could hear the quiver in her voice. Like our girls, she had experienced so much loss in her life. She had a traumatic childhood, followed by a tragic adult life. Yet, through all of that pain, she remained faithful to her belief in a loving God and hope for a better future.

When I arrived at our next meeting, she seemed noticeable happier, more settled and relaxed. As soon as she started the massage, she told me that she had a wonderful experience she couldn't wait to share with me.

She told me that the previous week she had gone to her church and a guest speaker was telling the congregation about Golden Girl. As the speaker continued, someone had started a collection plate for our girls. As the plate came near, she knew that she had a five dollar bill in her purse. It was also her last $5 until she was paid again. With great faith, she placed the bill in the plate. At this point, I was fighting tears and trying to come up with a response and must have sat up because she fussed, "lay back and let me finish."

She told me that that night she had a dream or a vision. She said, "My son appeared to me, healthy and whole. He told me he was happy and that I needed to stop worrying. He told me to find the peace I deserved in my life." She ended this with these surprising words: "Renee, God gave me this priceless gift, seeing my son again and knowing he was happy, because I gave to teenagers, struggling, as my son had struggled. I know that five dollars probably didn't do much for your girls, but it resulted in finding peace in my life."

I was so moved that I was speechless. I don't even remember the rest of our session or even saying goodbye. However, that moment, changed everything about my perception of those who sacrifice to help our girls, those "struggling teenagers". Whether their sacrifice is working or volunteering at Golden Girl or donating to our home, it is sacred to me. For every Christmas Angel, I wonder if this was their last five dollars. For every donated backpack or pair of flip-flops or money given for our girls to go to the movies, I think of the sacrifice made by someone for our girls. Each time, I am humbled by the faith given that we will honor their sacrifice that we will be there to help this "troubled teen" to find peace in her life.

Since that long ago meeting, I have watched hundreds of girls succeed. I have witnessed, as a Golden Girl Family, we have not only changed their lives, but for a cherished few, we saved their lives. Each night, I offer a prayer of gratitude for a loving (and patient) God who showed me true sacrifice. He blesses our girls through the sacrifices of his Angels and His infinite love for His precious daughters.



Christmas Angels:

More Than A Gift



For many children, Christmas is a cherished tradition. For some of the girls at Golden Girl Group Home, it is something they have never truly experienced.

Our girls come to us from heartbreaking circumstances, including severe abuse and neglect. When we place presents beneath the Christmas tree, we are giving them far more than gifts.

Through our Christmas Angels program, **we raise** $200 for each girl to make Christmas bright.

We are giving a girl who has known fear a moment of joy. A girl who has known rejection a feeling of belonging. A girl who has known hardship, a reason to smile.

A present under the tree may seem simple — but to a girl who has never had a Christmas, it can mean everything.

Become a Christmas Angel and help us give a girl the Christmas - and the childhood joy - she deserves.

Golden Connections

Support for Today Hope for Tomorrow

A new chapter is beginning at Golden Girl with our new three story Golden Connections home designed to provide much needed resources for the girls.







The new home will:

Connect Girls to the Community – local organizations, transportation, healthcare resources, housing resources, community events and volunteer opportunities.

Connect Girls to Opportunities – employment, job shadowing, internships, college, vocational programs, scholarships and career exploration.

Connect Girls to Life Skills – cooking, budgeting, banking, credit, renting an apartment, basic home and vehicle care, technology and other everyday skills.

Connect Girls to People – mentors, supportive adults, employers, community members and healthy peer relationships.

Connect Girls to Themselves – discovering strengths, interests, talents, goals and what they want their future to look like and what they want for their future..

Staying Connected –girls continue to have somewhere to reach out when adulthood gets difficult or they simply need help figuring out the next step.

Looking For Hearts That Care

We'd like to ask you to take a moment and reflect on your teenage years – the ups and downs, emotions, awkward phases, navigating friends, school, wanting independence but needing support. Who were the adults that made positive impacts on your life? Who made it possible for you survive those challenging years, made you feel cared about, supported your dreams, helped you grow into the adult you are today? What if you were a teen in need of that adult, trying to navigate adolescence without that much needed support?

Now, consider, what if you could be that caring, crucial adult that makes a positive impact in the life of another teenager? Have you ever wondered if working with teenage girls could be the right fit for you? Golden Girl Group Home is pleased to announce that we have flexible positions available that will provide you with rewarding opportunities to make a positive impact, while allowing for a work-life balance.

We offer a variety of schedules, generous benefits, a $500 and $1,000 bonuses (after working 500 and 1000 hours, respectively), snacks, meals and recreational opportunities and more. Not interested in part time or full time employment, consider our volunteer and mentoring programs, giving you the opportunity to find the right level of investment for you. **YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN A YOUNG GIRL'S LIFE!**

To join our mission, please complete an application on our website at gggh.org. **Please call 304-453-1401** for any questions, in person applications and open interview times. We look forward to finding where you can fit on our team!

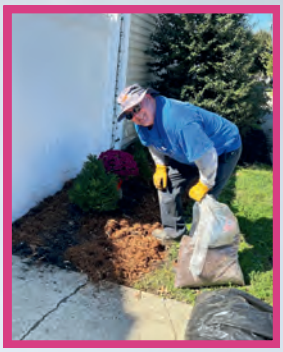
In order to best protect our girls, we ask that you be over 22 years old, with a valid driver's license and willing to complete a background check to work at Golden Girl.

Giving Back

Volunteers, Community and Hope







One of the core values we believe in at **Golden Girl Group Home** is the power of "giving back" to our local community.

We are always finding opportunities to lend a helping hand through volunteering and helping those who cannot help themselves.

We believe that even the smallest act of kindness can make a lasting difference in someone's life.

When we give our time, talents, and hearts to others, we not only strengthen our community; we show our girls the true meaning of compassion and service.

If you would like to volunteer or have a service project please contact **Nikki Thomas** at **304-939-5726** or **nthomas@gggh.org**



Golden Girl
GROUP HOME
Share Your Heart

NON PROFIT
POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT 15
HUNTINGTON, WV

Our mission at Golden Girl is to give hope to young girls in our care by counseling, educating, and mentoring them in a safe, nurturing environment.

SAVE THE DATE!



Hats Off

A TRADITIONAL DERBY BRUNCH

APRIL 24, 2021