



## Single Moms In a Loving Environment

Volume 2 Issue 2 November 2017

As the second year of SMILE is ending, we take a moment to reflect on the faithfulness of God. We see His hand in the many things that have transpired this year. We are so excited to share some of those things with you.



The community groups for all moms currently meet in Forest City and Algona. The moms we are working with have some unique struggles and needs, but it has been a blessing to watch the stress and haggard looks wash away by the end of the evening as they are learning to give it all to Jesus.

Both groups are learning about encouragement through parenting, life skills, the Bible and each other. We are looking forward to our Family pizza and a movie night in Forest City -- December 27, 2017 and Algona -- January 3, 2018.

Forest City started this summer and has been adding a new mom every meeting. We are up to seven moms at the writing of this newsletter. We are needing more mentor moms to join the team.

One mom attends our Algona community group, which started this fall. This has allowed us to have one-on-one discipleship with her. She is a new believer and newly returned to the area. After meeting with the Care Team, we are hopeful to see an increase in participation by other moms.

### **NETWORKING**

Part of being the Executive Director means talking to others about the ministry of SMILE. It has been a blessing to speak to churches, do radio interviews, meet with other organizations, and have a booth at expos. Through these mediums we are forming a network of people and organizations who are concerned with and wanting to love on these women. We are also finding the need is bigger than one can imagine.

At the Women of Worth Expo in Blue Earth, Minnesota, I had the opportunity to talk with Social Workers, single moms, and many other women. The questions constantly being asked were similar: "Do you have a Moms SMILE group in Blue Earth? I'm from Mankato, when will you have a group in my area?" These women are looking for groups where they can be free to talk and be encouraged. Women from Blue Earth, Mankato, Fairmont, Albert Lea are all looking for a support group.



These conversations are perfect timing as we consider where we should start two new Moms SMILE communities in 2018. It looks like we are needed across the border to the north. Minnesota, we hear your cry.



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But! There are so many things that must come together for us to make this bold move. The biggest thing is financial. It costs money to reach these moms for Jesus. We also need people who are willing to help work with these moms. I can't do it alone.

Matthew 9:37-38 "Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore, beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.""

### **TRANSITIONAL HOUSING**

The property we were looking at has been sold, and so we start the search for another property that will meet our needs. We are looking for five to ten acres, as that will allow us the space needed to build homes, have gardens and therapy animals. This will make a safe living environment for this community of women and children who are hurting and struggling.

Our eyes are on a property which has potential. We would like to be able to purchase the property without struggling to find the funds. Then we will look forward to building the community. We know that God in His perfect sovereignty will bring all things to fruition in His perfect timing.

### **FINANCIAL**

Having enough money to operate efficiently seems to be a struggle of all ministries. As a new ministry, our struggle is no different. Currently, we have not been able to pay my salary or purchase property. But we are praying and trusting God to take care of all the details, including touching your hearts

with the desire to be a part of this ministry. We ask you to prayerfully consider how you can be involved in SMILE. Stop by the website. Click on the **Take Action** Tab. Find out how you can get involved. Contact us for more information.

### **Matching Gift**

You have an opportunity to make a difference by donating during November and December and be a partner in the matching gift drive. An anonymous donor will match all monies donated during November and December up to \$1500. Please help us reach this goal with a donation of any size. You can donate online, by mail or in person. Check out the website for your donation options.

### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

1. Finances to come in for purchasing property as well as for operational expenses.
2. Moms SMILE – FC – for the moms who are going through many changes, struggles, and need God's strength and healing through these situations.
3. Moms SMILE – Algona – more moms and workers to help with this group
4. Moms SMILE - ?? – where the next groups should be held and who will help run these sites.
5. Upcoming events
  - \*Moms SMILE events
  - \*December 2, 2017 Parenting Conference at First Baptist Church, Forest City, IA.