



## Single Moms In a Loving Environment

Annual Report 2017 (June 2018)

### Message from Executive Director

I thank my God every time I think of you. God has been using you and your prayers for us to accomplish much for His glory. We continue to see His hand moving and leading us. Finding **property**, growing the **community groups**, adding of new **board member**, **financial growth**, **purpose and vision expansion**, and so much more are just a few ways God has been directing SMILE – Single Moms In Loving Environment.

2017 was full of many new things and 2018 is well on its way to new adventures. A glimpse at what God is doing and how He is moving in the hearts and lives of those we encounter is so exciting. May you sense that excitement as well as you read what God is doing. Then continue to pray and financially support this ministry, as you allow God to use you to enhance His kingdom.

Thank you again for your many prayers and support. May God bless you as you stand with us in Serving Families Together.

Serving Families Together  
Juanita Stevens  
Executive Director  
Single Moms In Loving Environment  
(641) 430-7408  
info@smileiowa.org

### 2017 HIGHLIGHTS

#### TRANSITIONAL HOUSING – GLORY HOUSE

Plans continue to move forward. After looking at various places which were on the market and not coming to an agreement, God laid on my heart an acreage I drove past every day to work. This property would make a wonderful place where moms and their children would be able to learn and grow together.

Approaching the landowner, I shared with him about our ministry and what we would like to use the **property** for. I then asked if he would be interested in selling it. He responded to make him an offer. The board discussed this opportunity and then made an offer. An agreement was made, and a purchase agreement has been signed to buy the land.

Raising the funds for this purchase has been a challenge, but we know God will provide. Of the \$60,000.00 needed to purchase and cover fees, \$5,161.00 has been received.

You can help us to build a home for single moms and their children by donating online at [www.smileiowa.org](http://www.smileiowa.org) or sending a donation to:

SMILE, PO Box 162, Woden, IA 50484

#### MOMS' COMMUNITY GROUPS



was the first community group, which was started in Forest City, IA in July.

In September a group was started in Algona, IA. The groups started to take off in the fall and now average 5-7 regular attenders. After being around for several months, we asked the moms for their input regarding

the name and what was being accomplished in these groups. They gave us several suggestions and had a final say in the change to the group name and logo. In January 2018, the name was changed to **MOMS2MOMS**. They felt this was a better reflection of what the group is all about and how it is there for all moms not just single moms.



These moms are having fun at their spa night, where we celebrated them being loved by God and a blessing to their children as they love them.

**MOMS2MOMS** is designed to help moms connect and encourage one another to grow in their relationships with Jesus, other moms, and their children.

As the leaders of these communities, we are blessed by the opportunity to pray for and with these women and watch as God grows their relationship with Him and their children. These moms have grown in so many ways. Here are some examples of how they are seeing God answer their prayers and what they are saying about the community groups. One mom had asked for prayer regarding a housing situation. Her answer came when she was able to purchase and move into the house she had been dreaming about for many years. Another mom wanted to focus more on her children and not the mess around her. She has seen God change her heart as He draws her

closer to her children and their needs rather than the things out of place in the home.

At our summer kick off, one mom said, "If there had been more moms, I would not have grown as much in the Lord." She was a new believer and the only one for several months. This allowed one on one discipleship, which allowed her to grow in her relationship with Jesus. Because of how God has blessed and grown her she is sharing and inviting others to join the fellowship.

Other moms have shared how they have been supported by the group while going through tough times and transitions. They knew others were praying for them and would have a word of encouragement or a hug.

The summer months are filled with mom/child lessons and activities. Each month has a different theme and focus. We are excited to see how God is moving and growing these communities.

The **community groups** are growing as they currently meet in Forest City and Algona, with plans to start two new groups in the fall 2018 – Blue Earth and Lake Mills or Albert Lea. We are looking at these communities because while at the Women of Worth Expo last fall, we were asked, "When are you going to start a group in our community."

For more information about these groups, contact us at [info@smileiowa.org](mailto:info@smileiowa.org) or visit our website: [www.smileiowa.org](http://www.smileiowa.org).



Another group of moms being celebrated.

## PURPOSE AND VISION EXPANSION

As we continue to seek God's direction, we believe God is calling us to do more than we ever thought or imagined. The twenty counties we serve includes over 9,000 single moms and their children. Many of the children in foster care come from single mom homes and end up there because their moms don't know how to be a parent. We all struggle at times and need support in life – to parent, work, and live in a way that brings honor to God.

During the last year, we have seen open doors that we are willing to walk through, but only can with your support in prayer and finances. This is how God is growing things.

The transitional housing – Glory House – is a three-year program for single moms and their children who are struggling and want the help to be on their own.

The community groups known as **MOMS2MOMS** are designed to help all moms connect and encourage one another in their relationships with Jesus, other moms and their children.

Parenting Conferences are for all parents giving them an opportunity to grow in Biblical Parenting. They are then given an opportunity to continue with an eight-week parenting class.

An opportunity has been presented to work with others in other countries to start transitional housing for single moms in those countries as well.

So we have seen God take the dream of transitional housing for single moms to community groups for all moms to parenting conferences for all parents to helping single moms in other countries. This is way more than we ever thought possible when God gave this vision to me in 2015 and we started in 2016.

As God continues to grow this ministry, it has become necessary to add **board members** and will soon be needing to add staff. Recently, we added Calleen Young to our board of directors and are anticipating adding another member in the near future.

## FINANCIAL REVIEW

Cash donations \$2,210.00

Matching gifts: anonymous donor  
Since the matching gift was a year-end match, the final donation was received in January 2018. This matching gift totaled just over \$3000.00.

Expenses \$1,919.34

In-Kind donations

Supplies, food \$1,500.00  
Ex. Dir. Salary \$15,000.00  
Volunteer hours 120 hours  
(MOMS2MOMS)

Churches donating financially and/or use of facilities:

First Baptist Church, Forest City, IA  
Algona Evangelical Free Church, Algona, IA  
West Prairie Lutheran Church, Leland, IA  
St. John's Lutheran Church, Woden, IA

Individual donors 22

Prayer partners 64

## Projected Budgets for 2018

Operational budget \$60,000.00

## Project Needs

Capital Campaign for [Glory House](#)



From the driveway of Glory House Property.

Phase 1 - Purchase of property, fees,  
cleanup (by 9/1/2018)      \$60,000.00  
Phase 2 – Repair and paint current  
buildings, removal of dead trees,  
dilapidated buildings, planting new trees,  
etc.      ~\$50,000.00  
Phase 3 – Buildings      ~\$500,000.00

Follow us:

At our website which continues to be  
updated [www.smileiowa.org](http://www.smileiowa.org)

On Facebook at

@SingleMomsInLovingEnvironment

@MOMS2MOMSCommunity or

@Moms2moms

## Fundraiser Campaign

M&Ms

Bring a Smile to some moms by  
supporting



Single Moms In a Loving Environment

M&M Mini Drive

1. Enjoy the M&Ms
2. Pray for Moms and their children
3. Fill the M&M container with  
quarters

Visit [www.smileiowa.org](http://www.smileiowa.org) to find a drop off  
location or contact [info@smileiowa.org](mailto:info@smileiowa.org)

Would you allow God to use you to bless  
this ministry in some way? Prayfully  
consider how God may have you be  
involved with SMILE, then act.