



PRECIOUS GEMS Home for Women

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The Joy of Receiving

By Bonnie Alworden, Board Secretary

As we move into the holiday season and start counting blessings of the past year, I have to count you amongst my blessings.

Serving on the board of Precious Gems has been a humbling experience for me. The generous outpouring of our community towards this home has been overwhelming at times.

God's word gives us instructions on how to be a giver (see Matthew 5:42 and II Corinthians 9:7 for examples). Yet nowhere that I can

find does it teach us how to be a receiver.

I have been blessed in my adult life that I have all of my needs and most of my wants met. I have also been able to be a generous giver many times (I do not make these statements in boasting, just as facts); therefore, I have not learned how to be a receiver. Because I do not generally need to ask, I am not good at it. I often dream of winning the lottery (I would actually have to play to win) or of receiving a large inheritance

(I don't have any rich relatives either) just so we would not have to ask for help. The only problem with that is, you would miss out on the blessings of giving and I would miss out on the joy of receiving.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each one of you who have given to Precious Gems this past year. Whether it be through donations of money, household items, time, or prayer you are all a vital part of this ministry.

BOARD MEMBERS

- Lynn Mulder - President
- Bonnie Alworden - Secretary
- Lisa Bronkema - Treasurer
- Dave VanHouten - Trustee
- Bertha Vincent - Trustee
- Patti Bosscher - Trustee
- April Williamson - Trustee
- Dona Davis - Trustee

CHRISTMAS

By Bonnie Alworden

Because my family is blessed, instead of an adult gift exchange at Christmas, we are choosing instead to donate any monies we would spend on gifts to Precious Gems. Would your family consider doing the same?

OUR MISSION

To serve our God by providing a home to young women who are homeless; to help them learn to trust; to help them make good choices; to provide stability as they mature; to help them discover who they are, where they want to go, and what they want to be; to give them a place to call home as they begin their adult journey in life.

Suppose a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to her, "Go I wish you well; keep warm and well fed", but does nothing about her physical needs, what good is it? Faith by itself, if not accompanied by works, is dead. James 2: 15-17

NEEDS

- * Electric Start Push Lawn Mower
- * Vacuum Cleaner
- * Storage Shed

*Precious Gems is a 501(c)3 organization so your gifts are fully tax-deductible

CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone: 231-825-2533
E-mail: preciousgemshome@gmail.com
www.preciousgemshome.org

SEND CONTRIBUTIONS TO:

Lisa Bronkema, Treasurer
130 S. Sabina St.
McBain, MI 49657

RELIEF STAFF NEEDED

Relief staff will be responsible for the home when the house parent(s) is not on duty. Some overnight stays would be possible. They would be responsible to see that the home keeps running smoothly in the absence of the house parent(s) and the policies and procedures are followed. A main part of this job is just to love these women and to let them know they are precious to God. This can be a paid position or volunteer. See our website for an application and job description.

SAVE THE DATE!

The Diamond & Rubies Luncheon will be held on Saturday, February 8, 2014. Please contact us if you would like to decorate a table. More details will be available in the December issue of the Newsletter.

HOUSEPARENTS NEEDED

Precious Gems Home for Women is looking for a mature Christian couple or single female that would serve the Lord by being house parents. We offer an apartment and small stipend. Responsibilities include assisting the residents with setting and achieving their educational and/or employment goals, life skills training and most importantly, showing these young ladies the love of Christ. Please see our website at www.preciousgemshome.org for a complete job description, application and our statement of faith.

THINK "MISSIONS"

Have you ever been to another country or state on a mission trip? Those are exciting times and such a great way to show and teach Christ to others. While I believe that these trips are very important, we also have mission opportunities right here at home. There are many people in our area who are hurting. Precious Gems was started to try to address some of the needs of the young people right here in our own community. We want to provide a home that not only enables them to become independent, productive citizens, but also demonstrate to them that they are precious to God and to us. Would you consider supporting this mission?

Monthly support payments from individuals, businesses and churches would enable us to budget and fundraise more effectively. By knowing that there is funding coming in on a monthly basis, we could forecast our needs more accurately.

Our organization is completely dependent on donations and fundraising -we take no federal or state funds. We estimate that our monthly costs will be around \$3,600 (\$4,300 if you include the mortgage payment). Would you prayerfully consider pledging monthly support? We would need 72 people to pledge \$50 to cover the entire \$3,600. This sounds overwhelming but thankfully, we serve a BIG God and this is not too difficult for Him.

To help us save money, we would like to send future Newsletters by email. If you would like to receive our Newsletters via email, please send an email to preciousgemshome@gmail.com