



A place of help, hope & healing in Philadelphia!

A BRIEF REFLECTION FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

September 24, 2009



Dear Friends,

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound...

It is one thing to stand up and sing about God's grace on Sunday morning. It is another to witness it, to find yourself standing in awe in the midst of it, to watch the dust settling, and to see that grace become even clearer. What a relief it is to know how guarded your every footfall is in this walk of faith.

It is with such peace that I write to you to tell you of the grace we have come to know here at *The Place of Refuge*. Thank you all for your outpouring of support. At all sides, we have been met with sacrificial love. It is by this love that we have survived catastrophe. There is not another word I can think of to use to express it. Truly, I am overjoyed.

- **Our First Graduate Intern** from Arcadia University has arrived to support us with 20 hours per week! Already, she has shown herself to be a gift to us. Her time will be split between clinical support and actual direct counseling service hours to our clients.
- Billing to the city of Philadelphia has commenced for our services to the people here on Medical Assistance. Without error, **each claim was fulfilled**.
- We now have **eight therapists** actively seeing clients, not including, by God's grace, the small amount of counseling I have been able to do myself. Some are giving here and there what they can. Some have stepped forward to give so much. I'm eagerly waiting to see what we can do with their many, diverse talents.
- In addition to all of this, **our first psychiatrist**, Dr. Rosilyn Smith, has offered her services to us, lending her expertise to formally evaluate cases to ensure that we are providing the very best treatment planning and diagnoses that we possibly can.
- This element is vital to the quality of our care, especially in these early stages as we begin **establishing high standards** that will be in place, Lord willing, well into the years to come.

Now, we have finally come to the point where we can begin formally **connecting** with the established leadership here. And connect we have. Our capacity building partnership with Temple University's Center for Social Policy and Community Development is entering another year. Through this partnership, our third year will be spent working alongside a body of other nonprofit agencies to reach youth populations in a multi-faceted effort to erode the prominence of youth violence in our communities.

Temple University's Nursing Program has been opening channels for us to be a resource to the struggling young mothers in our area who may need some time to sit and talk things through with a counselor.

My own path has taken me to the Nonprofit Executive Leadership Institute, a sector development project under the umbrella of Bryn Mawr College, for an intensive training series that has put me in touch with proven, as well as up-and-coming nonprofit leaders in our area. They are already showing to be great resources.

In August and already this month, we answered invitations to speak at two local churches. They have proven wonderful opportunities for us to establish partnerships with the leaders, as well as the congregations there.

Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church has extended a capacity building grant to us, enough for us to start an effort to train church lay-leaders. On Sunday, I met with 10 leaders at Wyoming Avenue Baptist Church planting seeds for a future lay-counseling initiative.

I am so grateful for the prayers and generous support of friends like you who make these efforts and others possible. It is only through your generosity that we can continue as a force of hope and help in our community. Together, with God's grace, it will be done.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Hernandez
Executive Director

P.S. Will you help give a generous gift of support today to help those who are in crisis? Just use the enclosed response card and envelope to return your best gift of support today. Thank you!

NAME: _____

The Place of Refuge
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Philadelphia, PA 19133-0895

THE PLACE OF REFUGE
**Putting your concern and compassion into
ACTION!**

Yes, Elizabeth! I want to help *The Place of Refuge* take action to heal the hurting people of Philadelphia through professional, Christian counseling.

I have enclosed my gift of:

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$_____

Sign me up to receive the eNewsletter!

My email address is: _____

Thank you for your support. All gifts will go to the ongoing work and outreaches of *The Place of Refuge*, 2938 N. 5th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19133. For more information, please visit our website: www.placeofrefuge.net.