



## Third Quarter Report 2013

### Home Sweet Home

#### **A Long Awaited Dream Has Come To Fruition. The Covering House Has Been Blessed With A Home.**

On September 23, 2013, The Covering House was granted permission to open a group home for girls ages 13-17. This home sits on 47 acres and will house 8 girls. The setting of this home will allow the girls to feel both emotionally and physically safe. The therapeutic opportunities are endless. The owners of the home are leasing it to us for \$1.00 per year. We dug deep within our budget and paid for 5 years in advance. (smile). The girls will receive 24 hours a day 7 days a week care. The long-term program is designed for a one-year stay at The Covering House. After a year, the girl will then be reconnected with her family (if courts allow), a foster home or a transitional living home. We will continue to provide services to each girl through our out client program. We will also train and support all caregivers through our supportive adult program. Services provided to the girls are as follows: *Food...Shelter...Clothing...Toiletries...Basic Medical and Dental Care...Individual Counseling...Group Therapy...Case Management...Mentoring...Education both Academic and Experiential...Recreational Activities.*

As we enter into this next phase, the seriousness of caring for 8 girls that have experienced complex trauma is not lost on the staff or me. We know that these young lives are entrusted to us, and we are laying a strong foundation to ensure that we provide the best care possible. We are adhering to all state requirements and in many cases going above and beyond to make the home safe and inviting. We are excited for the opportunity to provide refuge and restoration to these beautiful girls. *Dedee Lhamon, Executive Director*

### **Clinical**

**Male Advocacy:** Our male advocacy program is up and running. We currently have 4 men that have agreed to be our core team. It will serve 3 purposes:

- Presentations/Speaking to Men: Each advocate is asked to sign a covenant saying they will not look at pornography, attend strip clubs, etc. They will be speaking to other men about the link between pornography and sex trafficking
- Fundraising
- Therapeutic – The men will be asked to be available for therapeutic purposes, such as attending court, participating in groups, and engaging the clients in activities (fishing, cooking meals together, etc.)

**Resource Database:** We noticed that the community lacked a comprehensive database of resources for those working in the anti-trafficking field. A Covering House intern has created a resource database for TCH, including all our contacts, resources in the community, etc. We are also willing to share this with the community. She will continue to keep the database updated as we make more contacts.

**Healthcare Relationships:** Our case manager has re-established connections with our healthcare partners, informing them of our house, and finalizing with them what we will need. We currently have doctors, a dentist, an optometrist, and the Jefferson County Clinic as partners.

**Client Updates:** We are currently working with 8 clients, 3 of which are currently in other residential treatment homes. We received our first referral from Children of the Night located in Los Angeles.

**Trainings:** Two of our staff attended training in South Dakota with an organization called Aurora Plains Academy, a network of Clinicare. APA is a residential program with approximately 100 clients. They generously provided us with several resources for therapy, trainings and policy guidelines.

## Life Skills

**Finley Family Foundation Grant Meeting:** We met with several representatives from the Finley Family Foundation. They provided us with grant money for the year 2013 and wanted to see our progress and talk with Laura Gardner our Life Skills Director. Their money went to help fund this area in our out client program.

**Client Groups:** The life skills group meets every Monday night. The month of July the girls focused on wellness. They talked about good sleep habits, what to expect when going for a doctor visit with the gynecologist, and how to manage common illnesses. During the month of August Courtney Fender-Arndt, a music therapist, came and worked with the girls. They really enjoyed these sessions. In September, our Nutrition Class began. The girls have been learning about healthy eating habits and have had the opportunity to prepare healthy meals and snacks.

**Development of Workshops and Manuals:** Laura Gardner is continually developing additional life skill workshops for our out client girls and ones to be incorporated at the home. The Covering House is fortunate to have many practicum students and interns. As we started taking on more students, we recognized the need for a Practicum Student Expectation Manual. This manual is now completed and aids us with making decisions. One student is currently gathering and developing information about different cultures to include at our long-term therapeutic home.

## Education and Awareness

**Blossom Boutique:** The Covering House now has a “store” where our girls can go and pick out clothing and personal items as they need them. The store was designed by a volunteer and our Partnership Development Director. It is a beautiful space where the girls can receive much needed items.

**Awareness:** Currently we have over 3,000 likes of Facebook and we are developing a stronger Twitter following. We now have a strategic plan about releasing information and updating our followers.

**Volunteers:** The number of volunteers continues to grow. We took this quarter off from training volunteers due to the summer schedule but started again in the fall.

**Race for Refuge 2013:** The Race for Refuge was a HUGE success. We had a total of 380 participants and 20 volunteers and staff. We raised over \$16,000 more than in 2012 with the total being **\$36,752**.

**Community Involvement:** The number of people and organizations in the community that are collaborating or partnering with The Covering House is growing. Here are a few engagements:

- Life Community Worship Night
- Tapestry Women’s Network
- Mosaic Work-day
- St. Louis Christian College Speaking Engagement
- St. Louis University – Medical Students Work Day

**Individual Donor Development Program:** We know that strong sustainability for any nonprofit requires that approximately 40% of their funding come from regular giving from individual donors. We are in the process of developing a strategic plan to increase individual giving. We are launching a campaign in January which is Human Trafficking Awareness Month. **Watch for Upcoming Details.**

Words can never adequately express the gratitude that we feel at The Covering House for your support and encouragement. Thank You never seems to be enough.

Dedee Lhamon Executive Director