

**Special  
Projects:**

- **Children's outdoor play area needed.**  
This past weekend we had 25 families totaling 62 guests, of whom 28 were children.
- Medical wing is still accepting donations and progress is being made toward the completion of that area of ministry.

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# Volunteer Connection

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March 2015

## President's Prose...

The tongue-in-cheek definition of insanity is doing a repetitive action all the while expecting a different result! Akin to this is wishful thinking: desiring a different outcome than the one for sure to be received.

Hope, on the other hand, is confidence that trust placed will for sure yield the anticipated and expected result. This is the believer's hope, confidence that what Jesus said, He will deliver. And we know that this is true because we have experienced this hope time and time again.

Many of the recipients of CLCI services through Shepherd's Inn and Calvary House long for hope. Many have been trapped in the cycle of doing the same thing over and over again, trying to change the outcome, but never quite succeeding. Many, coming from backgrounds in which they are unaccustomed to useful protocols and procedures for change, suffer exasperation and futility because of unfulfilled expectations.

A ministry goal of CLCI is to offer hope that elevates the spiritual, mental, and physical frustrations of repetitive life situations that fail through wishful thinking. With "every room ready", CLCI is able to provide shelter and sustenance when insanity and wishful thinking prove unreliable. When adverse weather conditions prevent guests from returning home, they have no worry for shelter and help. Families stranded on life's highway detours can navigate to a place of safety until the bumps and potholes are smoothed over. Though the ministries of CLCI cannot be everything to everybody, they can be something significant to many. And the reason is because YOU have felt the tug of God's Spirit compelling you to support these great outreach opportunities.

Bless you for all you do to further the kingdom of God and bring in His righteousness through your support of Christian Life Crisis Intervention, Inc.

In Christ Alone!

*Big Jim Salles*

Big Jim Salles, President

## Shepherd's Inn by Mary Green



Youth Group  
Crockett, TX

Hello from Shepherd's Inn...my April, May and June calendar is missing churches to feed us on Saturday nights...Here's an idea that has worked just recently...pre-make the meal and deliver it to me on Friday...That works well (although we do miss seeing your wonderful faces) but with all the different schedules of everybody this has proved to work very well...please contact me or Shepherd's Inn (409-736-3980)...Thanks in advance

We have holiday weekends coming up: Mother's Day, Memorial Day and Father's day...we have three to four days of feeding the families, (this past four day holiday we had salad meals of pasta, tuna, chicken, and potato salads)....would you consider giving us gift cards to H.E.B and/or Wal-Mart so that we can go there and purchase for these long weekends to feed the families....In the past, we have had youth groups going out in their neighborhoods collecting canned goods for us and our pantry has given us enough to use this to feed on these long holiday weekends...but none are scheduled this year as in the past...so...our pantry is very low...CAN YOU HELP US....

It's Spring Break time for schools....as I am typing this we have Torchlight Community Church-Crockett, Texas - Youth group here...They have spring cleaned every room in the Inn and doing a wonderful job...next week our FBC-Nederland youth will be here helping us with outside sheds.... cleaning junk out of them...GOD IS GOOD...

**P.S.S.**

**Our Linen Shower/Pounding for Shepherd's Inn is going very well...we have enough sheet sets for now but still need blankets, bath towels and wash cloths....In Advance, we thank each and everyone giving to Shepherd's Inn....**

## Calvary House

Calvary House has been enjoying a quiet month. Today one of the residents called to say he was repainting the front porch in appreciation for the opportunity that we are providing for his family to get back on their feet.

There are still minor and/or cosmetic repairs ongoing with that property and we have been fortunate to have students from the Baptist Student Ministry at Lamar to help out with those projects.

# Editorial

## Families of Inmates

by Patricia Mara

I haven't seen *Orange Is the New Black* and I don't know if it's factual, glamorized or stereotypically inaccurate.

What I do know is that the United States has the largest population of inmates in the world and that Louisiana has the largest population of any state. At a recent conference we learned that 1 in every 4 families is affected by incarceration of a family member.

Why rehabilitate workers when you can get them for less than the price of minimum wage? But this is not about inmates or the prison system, this is about the families and friends who love and support this marginalized population of our society.

This story is about the 454 children who came last year to visit their fathers, uncles, grandfathers and brothers; who drove, flew, or rode busses for hours to spend a weekend committed to the value of family unity and support. The average cost of a weekend visit can be anywhere from the price of a tank of gas to easily \$1000. Thirty-three percent of our families visit from out of state and some internationally as well. How many of you personally, or through knowledge of, have family members that live in your same city that you haven't visited, or the same state?

The community of family of inmates is formed in many different ways and there are surely some that fulfill every stereotype, but in the three years I have been associated with these families, those whom I see weekly are no different from the average citizen. They are teachers, nurses, postal workers, business owners, and more. The fact that a family member is incarcerated does not define their lives and yet, societally, through general lack of knowledge of the issue, they are categorized into a grey area that implies a certain segregation by association.

There is no heroism involved in this dedication or any expectation other than perhaps a certain hope that friends, families, and co-workers would learn that just as you cannot pick your parents, families of inmates do not pick this role. The reasons why they choose to remain supportive of the incarcerated individual are as diverse as any but nowhere is there a larger collection of individuals committed to family than in the waiting room of a prison facility. They may not have the outward appearance of solidarity but they have the inner determination and strength of purpose to spend money they may not have, drive mile upon mile, or fly across states and in some cases oceans to silently, wearily, walk across the message inlaid in the floor tiles of the Federal Prison in Beaumont .....“Family First.”



*This cutie flew in from Nebraska .*

***I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Matthew 25:36***

Christian Life Crisis Intervention, Inc.

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USED OR NEW, SMALL TO  
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*“Every Room  
Ready”*

“It’s thirty-eight degrees outside and last night I slept on the floor of my parent’s trailer with our two-week old. I don’t know where we’ll go tonight.”

“The surgery didn’t go as smoothly as we had hoped. Instead of overnight she’ll have to stay in ICU for a week.” Real people. Real stories.

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