

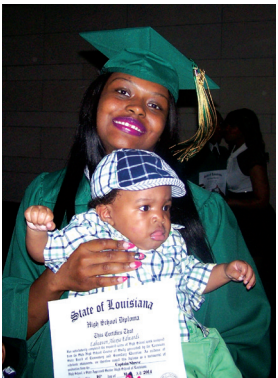
Heart of Hope-A Sanctuary for Women  
10420 Heart of Hope Way  
Keithville, LA 71047

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Shreveport, LA

SUMMER 2014



LeHeaven and son, Princeton: We celebrated four graduations this May! We are so proud of LeHeaven, Amy, Regina and Bri as they commit to be the best mom they can be! Heart of Hope's 100 % graduation statistic crushes the national number that says over 60% drop out of school! You help make this difference!



### Making a Difference Every Month!

Bethel Assembly of God • Brookwood Baptist Church • Calvary Baptist • Christian Center of Shreveport • Church at Red River • Cypress Baptist • Emmanuel Baptist • Gateway Church • Grawood Baptist - Food pantry & Adult III SS • Grand Cane Baptist • Jewell SS @ First Baptist Keithville • Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Choudrant, LA • Providence Road Baptist • Radiant Life Church & Just for Ladies • Redeemer Community • THP of Glad Tidings • Trinity Heights Baptist • Woodridge Baptist Word of God Ministries • Accutemp Cooling & Heating • Genru Properties Guardian Alarm • Latec Rental Properties • National Mail-It • Northwest Louisiana Baptist Association • Permatox Pest Control, Inc • Providence Real Estate • The Bridge • Webb Professional Remodeling Services, LLC



Join Our Heart of Hope Family on Facebook. Look for Heart of Hope, A Sanctuary for Women



Scan this with your smart phone for more information on Heart of Hope.

## memorials & honorariums

The Following Gifts Were Received in Thoughtful Tribute to the Memory or Honor of Someone Cherished

- In Memory of:**  
•DYLAN BLAINE - Harris & Davi Burford •JAMES BURT - Clara MarLynn Burt •RHONDA CASKEY - Clara MarLynn Burt •DELBERT HEARNE - Reggie & Tommie Farley
- In Honor of:**  
•KELLY MURPHY - Heidi Murphy •ROSALIND BURNS 90th BIRTHDAY - Richard & Irene Speakman, Willis & Mary Mayo, Bernt & Sarah Ebbesson, Anonymous •ANN INABNET - David & Kathy Lewis

### LifeCycle 2014...A Ride to Remember



The LifeCycle is one of those great ideas where we provide a specialized group of athletes an opportunity to have fun while making a life saving difference in our ladies and their babies. As the sun dawned on June 7th, so did many of us as we prepared for the over 300 cyclists and 100 volunteers arriving to participate in our 3rd Annual LifeCycle Bicycle Benefit Tour. We have seen an increase of cyclists since our launching of this benefit in 2012, as they anticipate one of the best rides in North Louisiana. Without Ark-La-Tex Cardiology, the other 53 sponsors, and our hard working volunteers, this amazing event would not have been possible. One addition to the event this year was the Shreveport Amateur Radio Association, headed by club president, Robert Fincher. Their eyes and ears on the road made this a safer tour. Thanks to Dr. Utter's sponsorship of the insulated camelbak water bottles, our ride was set apart! Our cyclists also enjoyed well stocked rest stops full of nutrition and other snacks along the five different routes ranging from 5 to 66 miles with longest route traveling through Deadwood, Texas. Once the cyclists returned, they enjoyed an after-the-ride party with food, music, expo tables, door prizes, and inflatable jumpies for the kiddos. As we seek to serve our community in caring and loving young ladies facing a crisis pregnancy in our home, we are **thankful** to God in how He provides for this ministry. God showed off in a BIG way through our supporters as we raised \$29,000 dollars this year!



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318.925.4663  
[www.heartofhopeministry.org](http://www.heartofhopeministry.org)





## God Heard Our Prayers!

It would take a chapter to tell you how life changing the last five months have been for me personally. My husband and I had the honor and privilege of serving in the home as interim houseparents since February. We cared for four young ladies and each one had her unique reasons for coming to live in our sanctuary for women. With permission, I share with you a recent received note from one of our families and why we are fully persuaded Heart of Hope is God's idea for our community:

*Words cannot express the gratitude my family has for the Heart of Hope ministry. One day our world came to a screaming halt when we realized that we were losing our daughter. The worst thing about it was that we did not know what we were losing her to. Why would our child, who was loved unconditionally, turn to a life that would tear her from her family? Though we did not lose her in the physical sense, we grieved as parents who lost their child. We went through the various stages of grief: denial, anger, and sadness. After much sobbing and praying, we found the Heart of Hope ministry. We prayed that Desiree would be open to the thought of seeking help, and that Heart of Hope would have her. After waiting for what felt like forever (and was actually only days), we learned that Heart of Hope would take our daughter in. We felt a peace come over us. We knew God heard our prayers.*

*The days that followed were trying and it was tough to be separated from her, but we knew this was best. Today, we pick up the daughter we thought we lost. Words cannot explain how it feels to get back something so dear to you that you thought you lost forever. Our hearts are whole again. This is possible because of the wonderful work of your ministry. There will forever be a place in our hearts for Heart of Hope. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.*

See, we exist because she does. Thank you dear friends of Heart of Hope for making us possible!

Joyfully Serving,  
Jodi Burns, Executive Director

heartofhope  
a sanctuary for women



## community cares

### VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



My name is Sarah Seekford. I have been married to Dale for 33 years. God richly blessed us to be the parents of three married children and the grandparents of eleven grandchildren.

My husband and I are members of Word of God Ministries in Shreveport, Louisiana. I first found out about Heart of Hope when I was looking for a place to serve in my free time. I felt that God wanted me to do more for Him and others. I joined Heart of Hope's facebook page and one day they asked for a volunteer to work in their donation room. I couldn't wait to reply, I was afraid the job would be gone. I believed in their Christian based ministry of providing loving care for unwed mothers and instructing them in how to be a mom or how to just have basic life skills that make life more enjoyable and productive. I

have been at Heart of Hope for over a year and it always blesses my heart when I see one of the young women pass by and smile. They can smile because they have a place where they are loved like Jesus loves and for the time they are there, they can learn and prepare for the future with others holding their hand. They aren't alone.

Heart of Hope is a refuge in a time of trouble and it is a beautiful place for any young woman that God leads there. I hope that each young lady that comes there will first of all accept the love that is expressed so generously and know that God loves them. I pray that when they leave Heart of Hope they will know that there is someone who gave His life for them and will never leave them nor forsake them. That Jesus has the answers for their future and that He has a plan for them and for their child. I hope that all the new skills that they have been taught will enrich their life. I pray they leave knowing that others have believed in them by their support and by volunteering to make a difference in not just her life but in the life of her child. I hope that she will know that she is of great value and her child is a gift from God. I encourage anyone to support this ministry in any way that God leads you to. It truly is a place where young ladies may walk in with a heart filled with despair and uncertainty and they can learn how to have a heart of hope for what awaits them.

### EMBRACING GRACE GIVES HER A HOPE SHE CAN HOLD ONTO! — Joni McCann

*Embrace:* To receive or accept gladly or readily *Grace:* Unmerited divine assistance given humans for their regeneration or sanctification



What's it like to hit rock bottom? Some of our ladies have described it this way: to be overwhelmed with shame and guilt, believing the lie that they are worthless and always will be. In this place, they come face to face with the realization that their poor decisions have greatly affected others. When others were given the news about their unplanned pregnancies, everything seemed to change: their relationships with their boyfriends, friends, and family. Now there's a new life living on the inside of them who is completely dependent on their good choices. Many ask themselves how could they possibly be responsible for someone else, when many of their own choices have been so poor. They are looking for something or someone to hold onto.

But what if there's still hope? What if they find out God still loves them? What if they believed God could take their messy, broken lives and turn them into something beautiful? That's just what we are teaching girls who find themselves in a crisis pregnancy! The Heart of Hope girls have begun a 12 week study at a local church entitled Embrace Grace. What a fitting title! When they feel like they just can't hold on any longer, we're there to teach them how to Embrace Grace.

"For far too long, and sadly sometimes even the church, have shunned the single pregnant ladies. We have sent them off to look for support somewhere else. We, the church, should be the ones reaching out to them, encouraging them, embracing them and loving them as they have made the brave and courageous choice to carry this precious life inside of them.

Our desire is to see others no longer shun the single and pregnant, but instead to allow them to be embraced by grace. To shower them with grace." (Duffy, 6)

Embrace Grace is a curriculum that was birthed out of Gateway Church in Dallas, Texas. Through this beautiful study, our "blooms" are becoming spiritually and emotionally healthy, which, in return, helps them to become spiritually and emotionally healthy mothers. How beautiful! Blooms are learning to trust God! One of our young ladies said so perfectly, "I don't want to [sin] anymore because I know that it's not part of God's plan. I trust that God's plan for my life is better than my plan!"

To learn more about Embrace Grace, please visit [www.heartofhopeministry.com/blog](http://www.heartofhopeministry.com/blog) for the entirety of this article and information about our upcoming Fall 2014 semester, which we are opening up to those young single women experiencing a first time unplanned pregnancy who are not a resident of Heart of Hope.

Duffy, S. (2013). Embraced by Grace. Southlake, TX: Gateway Create Publishing.

## upcoming events

6th Annual  
heartofhope  
a sanctuary for women  
X Golf Classic X  
KEVIN MURPHY  
AMERIPRISE FINANCIAL

SOUTHERN TRACE COUNTRY CLUB  
Monday, September 22, 2014

18 Hole / 4 Man Scramble  
1:00 pm Shotgun Start

For event and sponsorship information visit:  
[www.heartofhopeministry.org/events](http://www.heartofhopeministry.org/events)  
or call: 318-925-4663

200 Southern Trace Pkwy | Shreveport, LA 71106

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Ministries

heartofhope  
a sanctuary for women

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10% of all associated sales will be donated!

When: August 21, 2014

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5000 Benton Rd., Bossier City, LA 71111

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to add an 8am  
Shot Gun start  
to our Golf  
Event!

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Lunch  
or  
Dinner!