



## Jeremiah's Promise Quarterly Newsletter

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Find out how you can share a special talent, skill or words of wisdom at our Life Skills Class!

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### Food and Wine Paired Friends and Funding



The plan was simple. We tasked one of our board directors with orchestrating an elegant donor appreciation. We explained that the venue had to be lovely and the activity compelling because we wanted

to convey a special thank you to our biggest supporters. We also wanted to encourage much-needed year-end giving. Here was the glitch: we had no budget to host such an event. With what we can only attribute to grace from above, we pulled it off on Saturday evening, September 18, at the home of Tom and Kipp Gutshall in Los Altos Hills. A crew of five benevolent, hard working, creative professionals came together to host our Donor Appreciation Event with a Food and Wine Pairing theme. Spanish-style food was made by natural foods chef Amy Vig (Delicious by Nature). Wines from Spain and some California boutique varietals were paired with the tapas and presented by certified Sommelier Robin Fash-Boyle (VinetyFaire.com). Board officer Cheryl McPhillips and volunteer Brenda Boyle, pulled together a group of women who found donors to underwrite the food and wine. The beautiful, no-cost venue was offered to us with loving hospitality. Robin and Amy, who returned from her honeymoon only days before the event, gifted their outstanding services to us. Linda Newton provided the rest of the ensemble including Reidel glasses and spectacular flower arrangements. What a treat! About 40 people arrived in cocktail attire for the poolside tasting. Feedback from our attendees was that this was "a jewel of an evening" with a warm, tight-knit community feel. After one of the most challenging years of fundraising in our history, we were rewarded with gifts that night, totaling \$26,000. We felt more than blessed. We were

## → That's our girl! She got the job!

While several of the young women who have passed through Jeremiah's Promise have achieved important milestones, including job promotions, there is one such



advancement we wanted to celebrate in this article. Michelle Peralta, the very first young woman to enter JP (pictured in the middle with her mentor, Kym Folendorf, at left, and Angie Moret to the right). Michelle came to us in November 2003, hours from having to move from a friend's house to the homeless shelter in San Jose. We did not have a home that was operational at that time. After a frantic phone call from Kim Golter, founder and chief executive of JP, who arranged a hasty meeting, Kym Folendorf graciously agreed to house her until our home opened January 1, at which time Michelle became our first official housemate. She later graduated with honors from DeAnza College and then, again with honors, from San Jose State University where she earned her degree in Social Work. This past August, she was admitted with a full scholarship into the Masters Degree Program in Public Administration AND on the same day she was hired by the District Attorney's Office in Santa Clara County as an Office Specialist II. She phoned Kim on the day she received the news. Michelle was sobbing so hard Kim could barely understand her. "I said, 'Michelle, what's wrong? Are you okay?' ", Kim said. Michelle answered between heavy sobs, "Yes. I'm okay. I'm crying because I'm happy. You know that scholarship and the job you gave me references for?" Kim said, "Yes. What happened?" She cried, "I got the scholarship and the job. I am so happy. I couldn't have done this without Jeremiah's Promise. I couldn't have done it without you. Thank you so much." Joyful tears flowed all

around after that. We are incredibly happy for you, too, Michelle. We are - and always have been - very proud of you.

## → Volunteer Snapshot: Joan Sprague



Joan Sprague, who is pictured at right with a new-but-equally-valued volunteer, Renya Hill, arrives at the Thursday life skill dinners and workshops nearly every week since the Spring of 2009. Her gift is her presence. She quietly seeks out the girls who may need extra affirmation or another adult to talk with or who simply need a smile and a kind word. She can be counted on for her stabilizing presence amidst young women who are going through many tumultuous changes in their lives and who sometimes feel like the world is turning sideways.

Joan found us through a ministry fair at the Peninsula Bible Church in Palo Alto. She taught elementary school in the early part of her career. "When my son, Glen, was born, I wanted to be a stay-at-home mom. However, teaching was in my blood, and so I started private tutoring. My husband and I were very interested in understanding how children learn. We realized that a systematic method was needed to teach them to read and write," Joan said. "To make a long story short, 20 years later we wrote a six-modular program for presenting the language to children and adults." Her husband, Bob has since passed away, but Joan has continued the process of publishing their work, called Phonics Plus System. She said her three grandchildren have benefited from their work, as have a few of the JP residents.

Joan also likes to travel and has been conducting a women's chorus called the Peninsula Clef Hangers for the past 20 years. She also teaches Bible studies to the elderly. It is at JP that we see her shine. She said, "Since God has blessed me so abundantly, I have a passion to do His will in serving others. I so

Exciting Updates from Jeremiah's Prom...

enjoy my visits to JP each week and listening and mentoring women who have great needs in their lives."

In the past year, the young women from JP have visited her home for a Christmas celebration and for dinner. "Last September, we all went on a shopping spree where each girl was able to buy something personal for herself. Afterward, we all enjoyed an ice cream treat together. Later, they sent me a very special thank you telling how much they enjoyed the night out."

## → The Impact of your Contributions



The year 2010 will go down as the one we learned the principle of "fishes and loaves." This has been an

extraordinarily difficult year in which to raise needed funds for our operations. While many people have stepped up to give in very special ways, we remain far behind our budgeted needs. In fact, we were forced to lay off our invaluable staff, some of whom committed to remain as volunteers for as long as they can do so. We are making further changes to protect our core services. While we are confident that we can continue to carry out critical elements of our program, we need your help to do so. Please consider enlisting your aid to prevent this unique and high-achieving program from further cuts that would be detrimental to the youth we serve.

If you would like to contribute to one of the following, you may donate online at [www.jeremiahspromise.org](http://www.jeremiahspromise.org) or mail a check to Jeremiah's Promise, P.O. Box 1393, Palo Alto, CA 94302.

### Wishlist

Gift cards are very much appreciated and may be applied to the following:

- Safeway Gift Cards - for weekly grocery shopping by the girls.
- Office Depot/Office Max - for study room and office supplies
- Michaels gift cards - Arts & Crafts for life skills

9/28/2010

Exciting Updates from Jeremiah's Prom...

**sessions**

**-Gas cards - to help defray the cost of transporting the girls to doctor's appointments and interviews, etc**

Thank you for taking the time from your busy schedule to stay up to date on the amazing happenings at Jeremiah's Promise. You have made a difference already... please don't stop now!

Sincerely,

The Jeremiah's Promise Team  
Jeremiah's Promise, Inc.

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