



Jeremiah's Promise Quarterly Newsletter

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Mission Remains but Services to Shift Focus



Jeremiah's Promise started in the midst of the Dot.com bust. It was a time of uncertainty and high unemployment, forcing this fledgling nonprofit to learn valuable survival skills. That mindset was integrated into

the foundation of our organization. It served us well this year. When funding became unusually constrained, we strategized about ways to continue serving youth in the event the economic challenges continued their negative impact. With an overcomer's viewpoint, we realized we could continue -- and shockingly even expand our services -- if we were to discontinue the residential program and proceed with the remaining core services: mentoring, career guidance, academic support and life skills enrichment.

A new California law passed in September confirmed our plan just days after we arrived at this decision. The law allows foster youth to remain in care until age 21. This negated the need for our residential services, as we would have had to go through a rigorous licensing process to become a group home. Such a move was not within the scope of our mission and never has been. A group home is a very different entity from who we are.

Our formal mission statement is that "Jeremiah's Promise is dedicated to solving the underlying problems of emancipated and soon-to-emancipate foster youth, 18 to 21 years old, who often age out into homelessness, poverty and hopelessness. We empower aspiring youth to become confident and independent by offering a broad-based program, including mentoring, academic support, career guidance and life skills enhancement in an environment of unconditional love and respect."

With mentoring and career/academic prepping now the means of our support for foster youth, we will start serving young men,

as well as, the young women we always have served. We have waited years for this day! "I have met so many young men through the years who could have benefited from the guidance and encouragement of a great mentor. It broke my heart every time I left a meeting of foster youth and realized we were not able to help these guys," said Kim Golter, Founder and CEO of Jeremiah's Promise. "Social Workers and ILP Managers would call and say, 'Do you have a Boys' home yet?' It was so sad to say no. But now we can say yes to mentoring both males and females in a deep, meaningful way that will continue our tradition of assisting them toward transformation and emotional growth. I couldn't be happier about that."

At the same time, we will continue playing a role in the lives of the nearly 40 young women who have gone through our residential program for as long as they choose to have us in their lives.

We will announce training dates for new mentors for local foster youth in mid-January. Please see our website for those dates and the training sites where they will take place.

→ The Impact of your Contributions



The year 2010 will go down as the one we employed the principle of "fishes and loaves." This has been a challenging year in which to raise needed funds to help guide and equip the emancipated foster youth in our area. While many people have stepped up to give in very special ways, we need your help to propel our program forward. Although we have made changes to protect our core services and believe we are headed in the right direction, we still need your support to assist in carrying our important mission to prepare foster teens for a confident independence.

Please consider enlisting your aid to this unique and high-achieving program. If you would like to make a tax-deductible gift, you may donate online at www.jeremiahspromise.org or mail a check to Jeremiah's Promise, P.O. Box 1393, Palo Alto, CA 94302-1393.

Wishlist

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

- Office - please consider renting discounted or donated office space to us. We need room to train and equip our mentors!
- Mentors - well-balanced, emotionally healthy men and women needed as mentors for emerging adults in foster care ages 18 to 21.
- Office Depot/Office Max - to purchase office supplies and equipment to be used in mentor training and youth life skills activities

- Michaels Gift Cards - so we may use arts and crafts to as learning tools in our youth activities
- \$2500 - to underwrite one round of Mentor Training
- \$3000 - to underwrite the cost of expanded Life Skills programming for six months

Thank you for taking the time to see what we have been doing. We look forward to sharing news about our Mentoring Program with you in the next newsletter. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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