

Place of Promise

A Multi-Service Advocacy Center

"I will walk among you and be your God, and you will be my people." Leviticus 26:12

November/December 2011

"The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners..., to comfort all who mourn, ... to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair."

Isaiah 61: 1-3

Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe that Thanksgiving is upon us, Christmas is just around the corner, and the year 2011 is coming to an end. We, at Place of Promise, are sending this letter to all of you who have so faithfully and sacrificially given of your time, monies, talents, love, and prayers to all of us. We continue to demonstrate God's love to some of the most hurt, despairing, and desperate men, women, and children.

Many of you have volunteered to teach Bible classes, cook meals, drive residents to appointments, paint walls, do yard work, and help with Kids of Promise Summer Camp and Block Party. Without your help, Place of Promise could not continue to serve.

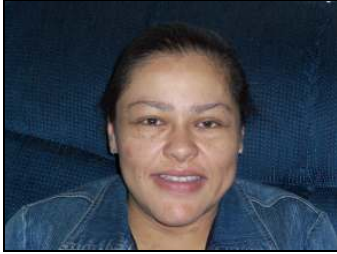
As the Body of Christ, we, with each of you, strive to help each person to choose life and live to their fullest potential. Together, as the hands and feet of Jesus, we serve those so precious to the heart of God.

Place of Promise is filled with those God has chosen from all walks of life. With your help, we have brought the message of new life to people from over 42 states and 35 different countries. Everyone who comes to Place of Promise hears the Good News of Jesus Christ. Some choose to accept it, while others choose to continue on the wide and broad path that leads to death and destruction. For those that return to their past lives, they go back knowing of God's love and that He is ready to welcome them with open arms!

I would like to introduce you to some of the residents of Place of Promise that have chosen to accept Abundant Life. As you read the following stories, may you experience the same joy that is ours every day.

*I tell you the truth, whatever you did for the least of these my brothers and sisters of mine,
you did for me*

Aurora
Puerto Rico, Age 32



Aurora has juvenile diabetes with serious complications necessitating a kidney, heart, and pancreas transplant. She became too sick to care for herself and her daughter so she came to Place of Promise, worn out from suffering all alone. Death looked like relief to her. Today...

“God has brought me here and I’m so happy to be learning about Jesus and the Bible! My mentor, Janice, is helping me, too. I’m doing so much better here. My daughter, Ashley, is going to come spend time with me here, too. We have a new family!”

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat

Winston lived a life full of violence, hate, and danger. His mother was sure he was going to die in the streets. He cared about no one and had no time for God. Heroin was his god. Today...

“God is a big part of my life. I’m going to school, my kids are proud of me, and I’ve been sober almost 2 years. I help out at the men’s residential treatment house and live in the Place of Promise Sober House.”

Winston
Jamaica, Age 48



I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink

Darlene
Massachusetts, Age 47



Darlene’s life was out of control. She was trapped in the darkness of alcohol and gambling addiction. She had lost her way. Today...

“I’ve been sober almost 6 years. I give back to Place of Promise by being on duty at least once/week. I also have a purpose for my life today: loving and caring for the children who are part of Place of Promise. I have my own apartment and work full-time. I’m still a part of the Place of Promise family and I’m grateful.”

I was a stranger and you invited me in

Lynn was broken, beaten down, full of pain and fear. She had once had it all, or so she thought. Lynn was a licensed hairdresser with her own shop. She was a suburban housewife with a husband, home, and 3 beautiful children. Addiction took control of her life and she left everything. She was angry, hurt, and so alone. Today...

“God has chosen me to be His and has blanketed me in His love. I know He has a plan and a purpose for my life that is greater than my dreams. I am no longer alone. I have my children in my life and am an important part of the family of God at Place of Promise.”

Lynn
Massachusetts, Age 44



I needed clothes and you clothed me

Peter
Massachusetts, Age 47



Peter was sleeping on the floor in the homeless shelter. He was all alone. His family would have nothing to do with him. He hated himself. He just wanted to die. Today...

“I have been sober almost 3 years. I got my GED. I have my family back in my life. My daughter is so proud and thankful for my new life. Today, I’m a child of God; I’m somebody. I am now a driver for Place of Promise residents. Today, I have something to give back.

I was sick and you looked after me

Marianne’s life almost ended in a frozen snow bank. She had a brain tumor that caused her to have a seizure. Two nuns found her 8 hours later, and she was med-flighted to Beth Israel Hospital. By God’s grace and power, she was revived. After surgery, she could barely walk or talk and couldn’t remember her name. A social worker at the hospital called and asked would I take her to Place of Promise. Otherwise, she was to be discharged onto the streets of Boston with her walker and a small plastic bag containing all she had left of worldly goods. Today...

“After radiation, I am cancer free. I rejoice in the goodness of God’s provision for me. I can walk, talk, and praise His Name! I have been part of this family of Place of Promise for almost a year. I am so grateful to God for bringing me here.”

Marianne
Kenya, Age 55



I was in prison and you came to visit me

Cory and sons
Ages 35, 7, 5



Cory grew up with a lot of pain, abuse, fear, and trouble. He was in foster care and never really knew what it felt like to be loved. He trusted no one. He grew up and had 2 beautiful sons, but due to alcoholism, he went to jail and lost his boys. The state took custody and his heart was so broken and burdened. He wanted them to have a father; he wanted to be their father. Out of compassion, a Correctional Officer called me to come and meet with him. Today...

“I am at Place of Promise and have full, sole custody of both my sons. Thanks to many of you, we have our own apartment in the basement of the men’s residence. Today, I know I am loved by God and am learning to trust. I will graduate college in January 2012 and am doing an internship at a local restaurant. My boys and I are a family today and are part of the Place of Promise family! We are very grateful.”

Then they will say, “When did we see you hungry and feed you or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?”

The King will reply, “I tell you the truth; whatever you did for the least of these my brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”



Place of Promise, all of us, are doing all that we do as unto the King of our lives, Jesus Christ! You have helped us to become a display of His splendor! Together we are demonstrating God's outrageous love to everyone we serve! Well done, you good and faithful servants of God! Thank you so very much for all you give and do to make Place of Promise what it is today. Please continue to hold us in your hearts and prayers.

If you would like to meet the residents and hear their stories in person, please consider inviting us to your church, Sunday School class, or small group. If you would like to come visit us in Lowell, we would love to have you join us in fellowship and service. You can contact us at promise411@verizon.net or 978.452.7217.

At this season of Thanksgiving and Christmas, let us rejoice and bless His Name together! The words of this song say it best:

Be Unto Your Name

We are the broken, You are the healer
Jesus, Redeemer, mighty to save
You are the love song we'll sing forever
Bowing before You, blessing Your name

Holy, holy, Lord God Almighty
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Highest praises, honor and glory
Be unto Your name

Thank you all for your faithful support, prayers, and service. May you all continue to sing the love song of Place of Promise with us as we enter 2012. Have a blessed Christmas and New Year!

Blessing His Name Together,



Beth Kidd, Director