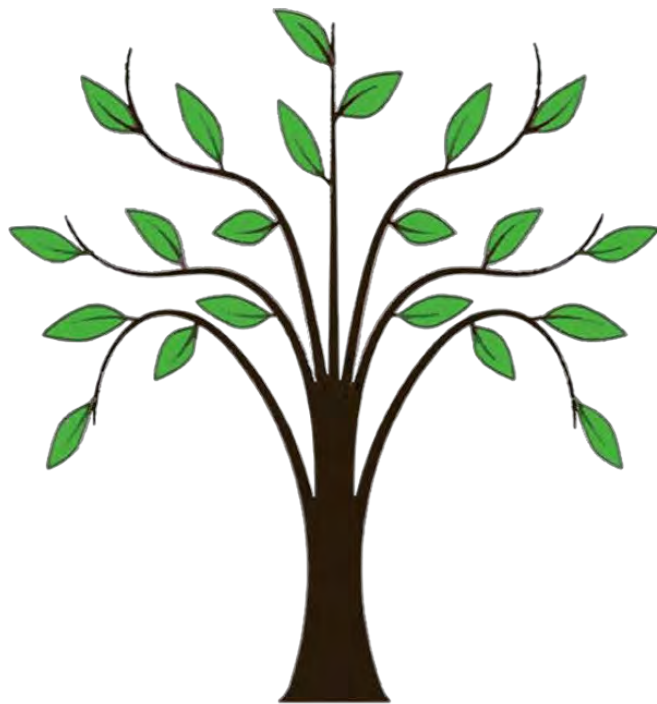


ANNUAL REPORT 2021



JEREMIAH'S PLACE

FUTURE • PROSPER • HOPE

JER 29:11



FROM THE CHAIR

2021 was a year of challenges - and the Ministry's success in overcoming them! Our success came through the teamwork, dedication and hard work by our Board of Directors, JP staff, many loyal supporters, and our community partners. With great pride, I present this annual report of accomplishments.

Our first challenge was the departure of our long time, well-loved Executive Director, Fiona McDaniel. We thank and congratulate Fiona on her success with us and wish her all of the best in her new home state.

A superb Search Committee worked quickly to list desired job requirements and advertise the vacancy. The search was successful and Karen Shayne was hired as our new Executive Director. We welcomed Karen's new ideas and marveled at her enthusiasm. She quickly implemented existing JP programs and also developed new ones. She enhanced our social media presence, our branding and the uniformity of our program logo. A skilled grant administrator, Karen submitted all normal applications and also one new, large proposal for JP program expansion that is under review by the grantor. She has also identified additional grant opportunities for the new year.

Our next challenge was maintaining the great work by our Board of Directors. We had five fantastic members complete their terms and successfully filled those positions with equally committed volunteers with great records of service and community relations skills.

JP facility challenges were topped by the unforeseen need for new roofing on ALL of our resident housing units. Program success arrived in the form of a tremendous gift. Cary Rich, with Roofing Resources of Georgia (RRG), replaced all residence roofing - free of charge! We can't thank Cary enough for this blessing. Our next major hurdle was program fundraising during yet another pandemic year. To accommodate public health concerns, JP staff and our many volunteers adjusted plans for the Spaghetti Supper, and this first of our two major fundraisers was very successful! Our second event, First Night Dahlonge, was scheduled at

a time of rapid expansion of Covid- Omicron virus across north Georgia. We made the difficult but correct decision to prioritize community health and canceled the event. We were concerned about funding, but our community again came to the rescue! Generous donations by our sponsors and supporters offset our lost revenues.

Our last and greatest challenge was supporting our resident families. Many of these children have gone without most of life's amenities due to economic hardship. Thankfully, the continued development of the Women of Jeremiah's Place, a program support group of amazing women volunteers, enable the group to meet those family needs- from clothing to transportation to Christmas presents. Those women truly represent our mission!

With great pride and thankfulness, I present this annual report. The Ministry continues its mission and serves our community neighbors who are less fortunate. It is an honor to work with all of you- JP staff, our partners, and our legion of volunteers, to enhance the quality of life throughout our special community.



God Bless,
Bob Andriakos, Board Chair

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It has been a whirlwind since I took over the desk at Jeremiah's Place in July of 2021. I have met so many wonderful people on this journey, and I am excited about the adventures yet to come. Despite the recent challenges of the ever-evolving COVID issues, we have still been able to continue our mission of changing the lives of the beautiful families we serve - mostly because of you, our family of supporters.

Community is so important to us and while we continue working diligently to provide a safe place to rest, this year the amazing staff saw great change to give Jeremiah's Place a fresh, new look. From new programs and rebranding to new roofs, furniture and updated grounds, it was an exciting year.

This last year has been such a challenge with COVID. It has certainly made all of us at Jeremiah's Place stop a moment and count our blessings. We have also looked to the future with our eyes on change and growth. Honestly, without our community of support in these challenging times, it would have been much

harder. But, thanks to you, we have continued our journey - and we want to share this past year.

It's all about making a difference here at Jeremiah's Place. We love our community and as always, thank you for giving all of us hope, even in challenging times. And, bless you for your continued support of this incredible ministry.

Karen Shayne, Executive Director



FROM THE ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

This year was a year of change in the life of Jeremiah's Place and the blessings were abundant.

Jeremiah's Place is a very special place and has been for me and my family now for six years. It can be a very emotional place for our families. We understand those struggles and try every day to show them how God's love changes lives.

Much like our families, new directions and opportunities found the ministry in 2021. It has been incredibly special to see the community "show up" for us, even when life sent us challenges. Thanks to our volunteers and leadership, this beautiful property was transformed and beautified. It became a place for all of our community to see and celebrate. Most of all, it grew as a place of peace for those who needed us at this time in their lives.

During this process and throughout this year, I have transformed myself. I found a renewed spirit and saw a chance to create change in myself by learning how to be fully present in the moments given by God. I learned that being fully present means being fully conscious and "in the moment," free from the noise and distractions of my inner voices of doubt. At times that was difficult, but again, this community "showed up" and gave me a deeper space to grow professionally and minister more richly to those who are hurting.

Most importantly, this year taught me leadership is a mindset given by God to simply help others. For that, I am blessed.

To the community that supports us, we thank you. Know we believe Jeremiah's Place is a gift for families to be present with Christ and realize change is possible through His word. We honor that every day.

Here's to 2021 and change. May God be given all the glory.

Carl Gibson, Associate Director



PROGRAMS AND PEOPLE SERVED

Even with the challenges of COVID 19, in 2021 Jeremiah's Place showed incredible growth in the management and development of its programs.

This year, Jeremiah's Place hosted 3,557 bed nights for families and children. Staff assisted with 48 intake assessments and received 670 phone calls. 494 of those phone calls requested housing. Of those calls, 10 were placed through the Jeremiah's Place hotline intake and were placed into the one-on-one interview process. Other calls resulted in referrals and families directed to other shelters or community partners.

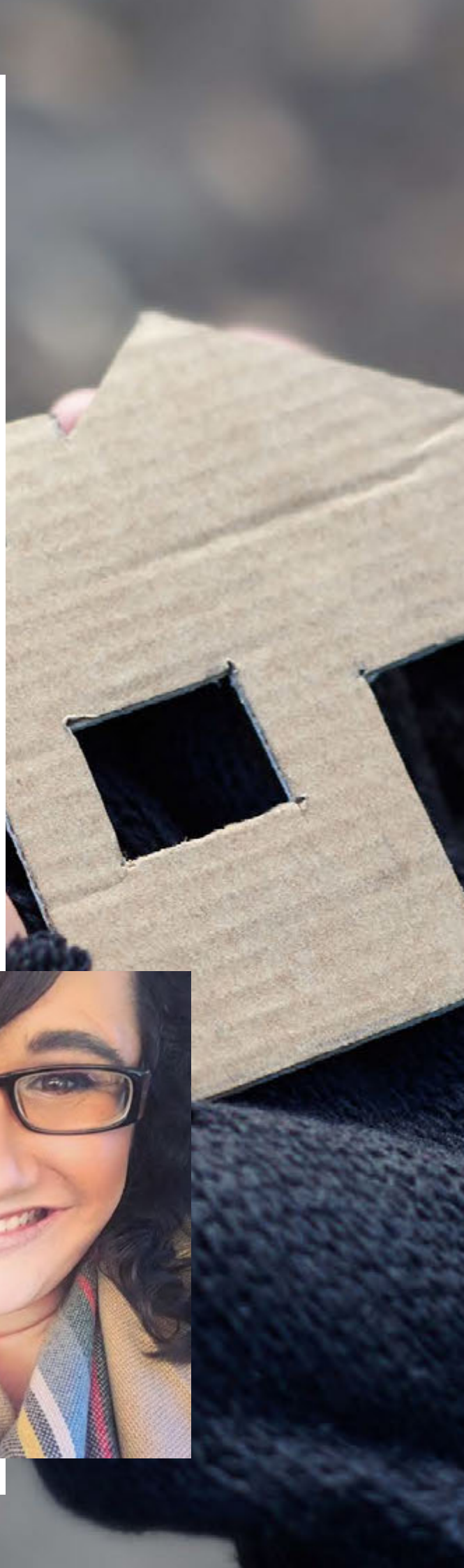
In May 2021, Katie Ayers was hired as Director of Programs. Her position was created to manage the overall transitional housing programs at Jeremiah's Place and be an advocate for referrals. Her newly created position allowed Jeremiah's Place to advance current programs while also allowing staff to streamline the intake calls and processes and develop additional services for assisting those not eligible for residency.

Katie's position also oversees our volunteer programs. Even as we navigated through COVID-19, Jeremiah's Place volunteers performed over 1600 hours of community service during 2021.

As an in-house family advocate, Katie works in tandem with The Women of Jeremiah's Place to assure all families' needs are met and no family goes without the essentials during their stay at Jeremiah's Place.



Katie Ayers, Director of Programs





2021 FUNDRAISERS

Our fundraisers are the heart and soul of our financial income for Jeremiah's Place. Funds from two annual events make up one-third of our annual budget.

In 2021, our 7th Annual Hearts for the Homeless Spaghetti Supper was held on August 25, 2021. This year, our participating churches were Dahlonga Baptist Church, St. Luke's Catholic Church, Dahlonga United Methodist Church, and Mt. Gilead Baptist Church. Due to COVID, participants were given the option of dine-in or take-out. Approximately 800 meals were served collectively. Dozens of volunteers, along with an active committee from participating churches provided assistance to make the event successful. The event brought in appx \$27k to fund the efforts of Jeremiah's Place.

2021 and COVID created challenges for our largest fundraiser, First Night and ultimately the First Night Committee had to make the difficult decision to cancel the New Year's Eve event. This decision was particularly difficult as First Night Dahlonga supports the efforts of Jeremiah's Place. Even with the challenges, the First Night Committee began expanding the event and new branding was created. The committee also began working in partnership with the city, county and Chamber of Commerce, and plans are already in the works to come roaring back to make the 2023 event the largest ever.

To the community of Lumpkin County who never gave up on us during another challenging year, we thank you.

THE WOMEN OF JEREMIAH'S PLACE

It is no surprise that 2021 brought challenges to everyone and everything! However, God's plan will not be thwarted! The Women of Jeremiah's Place surpassed our goal of 100 members at the end of December 2021 with a total of 103 paid members. We could not have been happier with this accomplishment amidst Covid! We are so thankful for this group of ladies who have the heart to serve the homeless in our community!

Even with the challenges, we were able to hold our First Anniversary Dinner Meeting at Dahlonga Baptist Church on January 18th. Our Spring meeting was held on April 12th where we also said farewell to Fiona McDaniel, the first Executive Director who successfully directed and put her whole heart and soul into the ministry of Jeremiah's Place.

The Fall season brought us an opportunity to introduce our new Executive Director, Karen Shayne, along with our new Program Director, Katie Ayers, and Carl Gibson at our meeting at DUMC on September 23, 2021. This staff is blazing the trail making amazing aesthetical changes to the face of Jeremiah's Place, constantly writing grants, implementing new programs, and overseeing the entire operation of Jeremiah's Place. We are grateful to have them leading the pack! We also hosted the Board of Directors for the first time at this meeting. To finish off the year, Pud English and Sandy Littlefield were our amazing hostesses for our second annual Christmas party on December 10th where we excitedly announced our membership goal accomplishment and challenged members to continue to reach out to their friends and family to join as well.

Throughout 2021, The Women of Jeremiah's Place provided gifts to the residents for Valentine's Day, Easter, birthdays, back-to-school clothing for all of the children, and later, we provided clothes for a teen girl who arrived with very few clothing items. At Christmas, we purchased presents for all of the children, along with other needs determined throughout the year by the staff at Jeremiah's Place. We are so thankful that we have this opportunity to provide some needs and other things that so many of us take for granted daily. To see a young girl receive a gift (a box set of three books) at the resident Christmas party and exclaim, "Please tell me I'm not dreaming!" is what The Women of Jeremiah's Place are all about. All we need to do is just imagine, for a moment, that it's us...homeless and no hope of giving our children what they need consistently, much less provide Christmas on such limited resources. We are so blessed in our own lives, it's the least we can do.

Sally Kelly, Director - The Women of Jeremiah's Place

"There but for the grace of God, go I...." 1 Cor 15:10

PROSPERITY:TOMORROW

Statistics show that it takes five years to overcome a trauma such as homelessness. Jeremiah's Place is proud of its success record with families working to reset their lives. Historically, we see a 90% success rate once a resident transitions out of our program.

To ensure that our residents at Jeremiah's Place continue their journey to lifelong financial recovery, in 2021, Jeremiah's Place created and implemented a new Alumni Program entitled "Prosperity Tomorrow".

Prosperity Tomorrow inspires the graduates of our transitional housing program to sustain and grow through the ongoing access to services first established during their stay at Jeremiah's Place while also remaining connected to the Jeremiah's Place family.

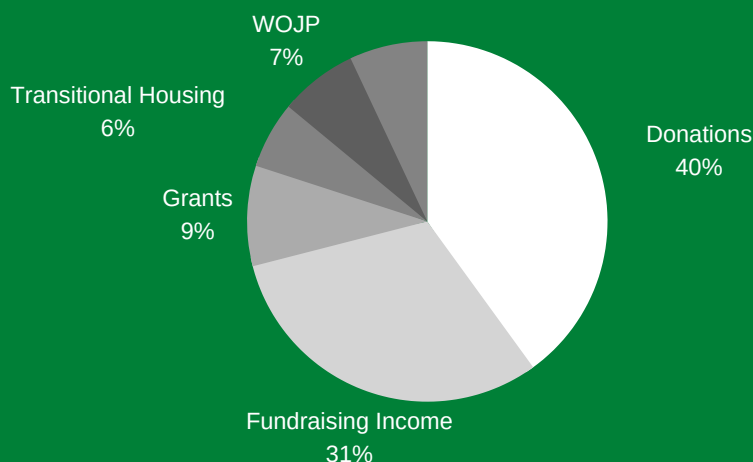
Prosperity Tomorrow consists of an ongoing face-to-face and resources support program for an additional nine (9) month period following the resident's exit of the program where continued case management will be the focus.

Once a family finds residency off-site, our Director of Programs and Associate Director will continue the participant's individualized case management through bi-weekly and/or monthly meetings.

The long-term goal of Jeremiah's Place has always been to empower our families to be emotionally and financially stable. We're excited about this next step in their progress and look forward to how Prosperity Tomorrow will contribute to the ongoing success of our families.



2021 INCOME/EXPENSE

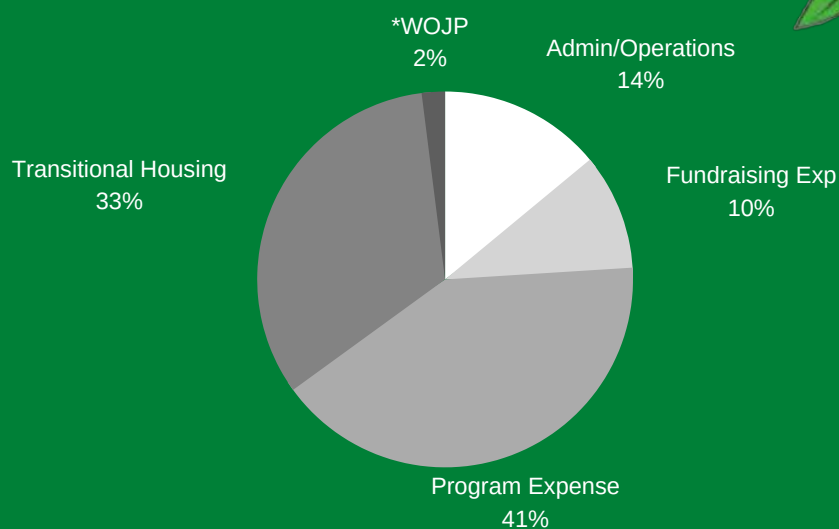


JEREMIAH'S PLACE 2021 INCOME

In 2021, Jeremiah's Place took in \$172,942.48 thanks to our supporters. 40% of our income was obtained through private donations, sustaining donors and general contributions. 31% of our income is achieved through fundraising. 29% was from other sources.

JEREMIAH'S PLACE 2021 EXPENSE

In 2021, Jeremiah's Place expenditures totaled \$128,000. 41% of our funding went directly to our program management and 33% of our funding was used for our transitional housing expense.



FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

This annual report is a comprehensive report on Jeremiah's Place activities throughout the preceding year. Annual reports are intended to give our donors and other funders information about the activities and financial performance. Jeremiah's Place is a 501 (c) 3 compliant with the State of Georgia requirements as a certified charity organization. Yearly audits are available upon request For additional tax returns or other information, please feel free to contact the Executive Director or Financial Director, Janet Miller.

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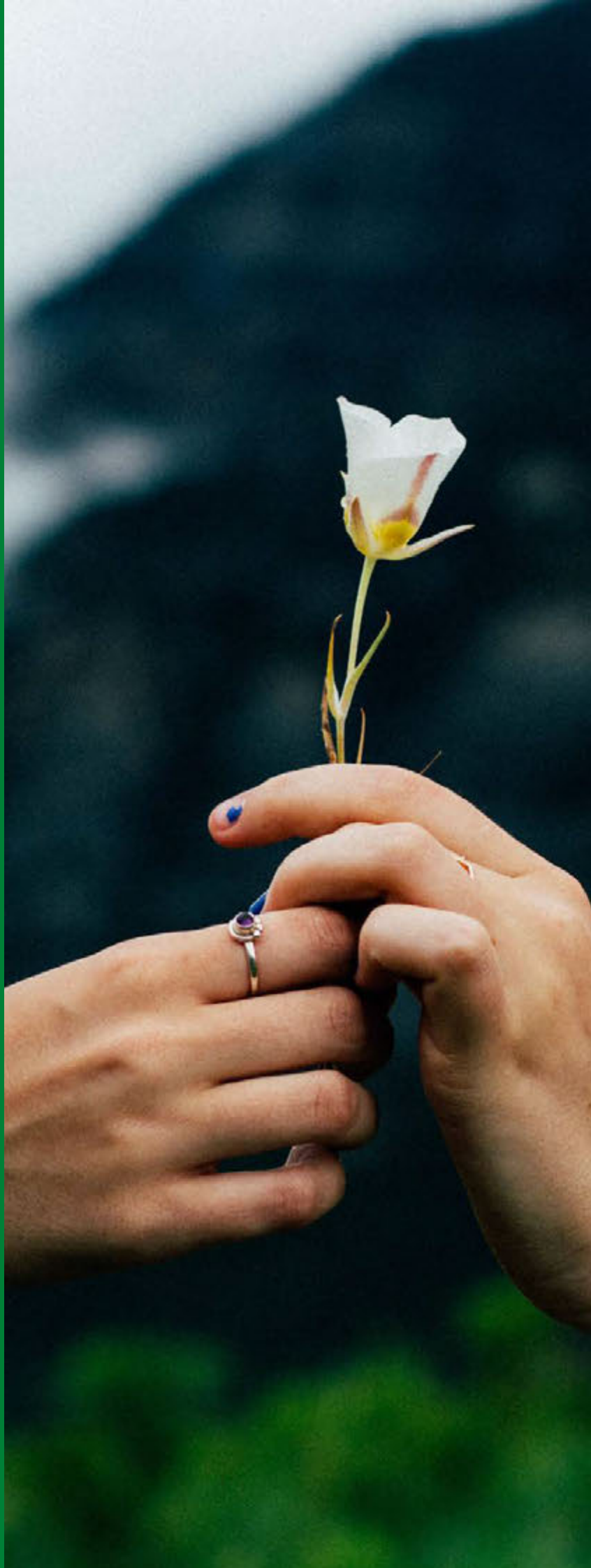
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A LETTER FROM A RESIDENT

She was standing on the corner. The suburban wife look-a-like with the perfectly bobbed haircut. Her blouse could be seen through her coat. It was faint pink in color. A slight turn of her thin frame caught my attention. I knew her, I just didn't know her name. She was standing there – on the corner – living life in question about herself and her tomorrows. As I drove by, I knew her thoughts. She was scared. Her thoughts were racing through her mind, mostly wondering how she could keep moving forward. I wanted to stop, but I couldn't. I couldn't help her because she was me – a mirror image of myself once standing on that very corner. Alone. Helpless. Homeless.

Homelessness is more than a term representing those who are lost in their circumstances of life. It's not a chronic condition or mental illness you can take medicine for in the hopes for a cure. Homelessness is a space – a place and time that either by your own choices or by unforeseen circumstances, you find yourself here. For me, I was a wife, a mother of three, gainfully employed with a career. I was thriving. Until I wasn't.

I was a contributing member of society with a plan to make change in my life, my family's life and in my world. Until I couldn't.

My life was a challenge from the beginning with parents who didn't believe in me. I often wondered at times if my life would have been better with someone else. Perhaps? At some point along the way, I gave up on who I was and allowed myself to fall within the walls of paralyzing doubt. I built those walls of doubts plank by plank all the way into my adult life – constantly hammering at the pain within my inner soul. Then one day, circumstances took a turn around a curve I did not see coming. No one ever wants to see themselves in these shoes for which I walk my path of life. But for many this is where we find ourselves, wondering how we can ever move forward.

For me, I know I won't be here forever. I have help. I have those who care. But some don't. Tonight, I will lay my head in a warm bed with a pillow I call my own. I will have a warm meal and I will wake up with hope. I will go to my job, save my money, work my program and find the resources I need to get back to a place of stability so I can plan, once again, for the tomorrow I know I will have. Through this journey, I have been given yet another hammer, but this time, this one is to begin the journey of taking out each nail of each plank I have used to build those walls of doubt. But for today, and just for a moment, I stop. I mind wanders back to the woman on the corner with the perfect suburban hair bob. My heart aches. I want to reach out. I want to show her she, too, can be where I find myself today and ask what tool I can share to help her break down her wall of doubt.

I am almost there.

I know that soon I can share with her homelessness doesn't have to be a place of desperation, but a place to look deeply at who she is as just as I have looked at who I am and who I can be.

My wish is that you do not feel sadness or sorrow for me. I ask that you feel what I feel – hope. Hope that my tomorrow will look as bright as your today. Hope that this time next year, I will decorate a Christmas tree in my own home with trimmings filled with memories of all who have helped and held me along the way.

God bless everyone reading my story. I thank you. May it give you a feeling of wonderment that whatever circumstances you find yourself in, you, too can find hope. Thank you for believing in me. Thank you to all who believe that the homeless are not forgotten people. We are survivors. We are believers who every day, like yourself, believe we will find our better tomorrow.

--- A Resident of Jeremiah's Place



Jeremiah's Place
1445 Red Oak Flats Road
PO Box 668
Dahonega, GA 30533
706-867-5404

LumpkinCountyHomeless.org