

grace

S P R I N G 2 0 2 1

R E P U R P O S E D



SAVING *grace*

DEAR FRIENDS,



As I settle in to write to you, the sun is shining bright, the sky is clear—the prettiest shade of blue—and spring is making its way. There’s hope of a future without masks and getting back to “in-person” times of community. I am hopeful for this! You too?

Ministry and community go hand in hand and these months of physically distancing from each other and online everything has been lonely at times. Loneliness can snuff out joy like an oxygen-deprived flame. I’ve missed my people. I love my tribe and not hearing their voices or seeing their smiles has pushed me to get creative with how I do community.

However, life’s pace has slowed to a crawl and it’s been good for my heart. At first I struggled to find a rhythm in my day-to-day, but now I can hardly imagine the schedule I kept before. I will be intentional about it as America opens back up for business.

One of our B.R.A.V.E. values at Saving Grace is Authenticity: We bring our true selves to this community and invite others to do the same. Life is messy, let’s stick together. We do this by building each other up, expressing our needs, and practicing good self-care.

I can find myself in a tug-of-war between expressing my needs and practicing good self-care. However, it is right in

the middle of those two where I find a prideful heart, not willing to yield to what I know I need and asking for it: rest and solitude.

This is a life skill we teach and model in our program. The pandemic has taught me the value in the two, and although I squirmed a bit in the beginning, I now find myself holding sacred the rhythm of good self-care and expressing my needs. That’s what I want for the girls we serve, for my team, my family, and for me personally.

Thank you for taking time to pause and read “Grace Repurposed” today.

The young women YOU support are showing up in a beautiful and vulnerable way, daring to do things different than the generation before.

These are the stories God is rewriting because of YOU!

God’s grateful girl,

Becky Shaffer

Becky Shaffer,
Founder & Executive Director





GIVE "GRACE"

a place to call home

Saving Grace is 100% community funded through generous people like YOU! A gift of just \$37 provides a full day of support for "Grace" as she works hard to change her life and end the cycle of poverty for her future family!

CAN YOU GIVE A RECURRING MONTHLY GIFT?

Whether you can give a little or a lot, monthly givers help sustain the work "Grace" is doing long-term and allow our team to serve her better!

Give now at savinggracencwa.org/give

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INTRODUCTION

 @TWCARTERSPHOTOS

Ruthie's Story

PRESENTED BY WALMART



“

I bought my first car, “Faithful Flor,” from Elana—and yes, she still runs!

Wonderfully sacred are the words “welcome home” and what they mean for “Grace.” Unlike a homeless shelter—which is purposefully temporary—Saving Grace is a place where she can put down roots; a place where it’s finally safe to engage in relationships with healthy people who know how to love big and cheer loud.

Recently, members of the SG family came together to help make “home” feel a little cozier for Ruthie—a former SG resident, who had just graduated from basic training as an Army Combat Medic and moved into her first apartment on Christmas Eve. With your help, we filled her new home with things to nourish both her body and spirit and start her off on the very best foot.

“Where do I even begin to explain the situations, misfortunes, and blessings that led me to where I am today and molded me into the woman I see in the mirror?” asks Ruthie.

“Perhaps it was the many years of emotional and psychological abuse that led me to run away from home so prematurely, with packed bags and one-and-a-half years left of high school. Maybe it was the sprinkle of blessings that came from the overwhelming amounts of hellos, hugs, and welcomes from Becky Shaffer and her grace house.”

“My time at Saving Grace was honestly a lot more difficult than I thought it would be. The home itself is so beautiful, and the staff is all so kind. I was able to see doctors, dentists, and counselors without worrying about the financial toll,” shares Ruthie. “But it was very difficult at first to live in a way that was outside of my comfort zone.”

“Nevertheless, being there allowed me to finish high school, work to pay my own bills, and receive an acceptance letter to the only college I applied for.

Eventually, I even submitted to the unconditional love of my mentor, Elana, and her friends and family,” she says.

“I formed relationships with a lot of other wonderful people, too, including Becky and my fellow housemates, Charisma and Ciera.

“

I GOT TO EXPERIENCE HEALTHY FRIENDSHIPS AND GOD’S UNCONDITIONAL LOVE. ALTHOUGH I DIDN’T LIKE THE GROWING PAINS, SAVING GRACE WAS EXACTLY WHAT I NEEDED,” SAYS RUTHIE.

“Three big goals that I set for myself while living at Saving Grace were to buy a car, to live on my own, and to attend college. I bought my first car, “Faithful Flor,” from Elana—and yes, she still runs! I am grateful for and absolutely love Elana, and I’m blessed to call her my mentor and friend. She and her husband, Michael, have been so good to me. I could go on about Elana and Michael forever, but I’ll keep it simple: They are literally everything!” she shares.

“After I transitioned from Saving Grace, I went to college and lived on campus. But, when school was shut down during Covid, Saving Grace welcomed me back. Becky was such a blessing to me during that uncertain time. I ended up deciding to join the Army and stayed at SG until I left for basic training.”

“I became a Combat Medic, which I am really proud of. After finishing my training, I accepted a position with Cox Hospital in Missouri. This is where I recently rented my first home. It’s in a beautiful neighborhood, it’s affordable, and it’s located within 10 miles of everything I need!” says Ruthie. “Though life is not perfect, every day I wake up and intentionally choose the gift of life that God has so graciously handcrafted for me.”



“More often than not, I am the one being taught by Ruthie. Because of her vulnerability with me, I’m growing in my understanding of many things, including God’s deep and gracious love for ALL of us, racial reconciliation, empathy, and patience. To spend time with someone who challenges your worldview is a gift that can’t be purchased.”

ELANA, MENTOR



When asked what she'd like to tell the girls coming up behind her at Saving Grace, Ruthie shares, "The only way you are going to succeed is by working hard. Even if you are not the smartest girl in the room, make sure you are the most hard-working, and the kindest."

It is truly an honor to know Ruthie and watch her continue to grow and thrive. Like every girl at Saving Grace, she is a TRUE world changer. She continues to do the work, take the big risks, pray the bold prayers, and apply great determination that will change the next generation of her family, her community, and her world.

Gratefully,

Cherri Rodriguez
 Director of Development,
 Saving Grace NWA



@MEMORYHOARDERPHOTOGRAPHY

A PLACE TO CALL HOME

Saving Grace is a safe home for young women 18-25 years old who have aged out of foster care, or who are seeking an alternative to an unstable living situation. We've made it our mission to empower girls with the relationships, skills, and resources that will help create lasting change.

Learn more at savinggracenwa.org/live





I AM BRAVE.

I AM STRONG.

I am “Grace”.

PRESENTED BY COCA-COLA & TREEHOUSE SOLUTIONS





Khrystyna | SG JUNIOR |

Khrystyna—who prefers to be called by her nickname, KP—was adopted from a children’s home in the Ukraine at the age of 7. English is her second language. “I loved being in a family but it was hard. Relationships are hard.” she shares.

Though adoption can be a beautiful, life-changing union for families who want to give a child a loving home, it can also hold a lot of pain and loss. It’s important to understand that in order for a new family to be formed, an original family must often be lost. “I see my [adoptive] family sometimes but it’s still hard.” KP shares.

“Though I struggle with family and knowing how to have success, the family I have at Saving Grace love me and cheer for me in all the things I do. I have learned how to live responsibly and fully here.” she says.

KP knows the value of belonging and encourages the other girls at Saving Grace to create a welcoming place for one another. “I want everyone to see that they should all care about each other and help each other. I love for people to feel like they have a place to belong, and I love to hug people. I also bring sassiness and sarcasm to the house in a fun way.” she says with a smile.

“At Saving Grace, I have learned that God loves me no matter what. Even if I make mistakes, He loves me—and so do the staff at SG and my mentors. I am always praying and asking for forgiveness because of the compassion I am shown when I mess up. I know I’m safe to fail and try again.”

KP is a Junior in the SG program and is currently in school to become an esthetician. She hopes to one day open her own spa business. “I’d also like to go back to the Ukraine some day. I want to become a dual citizen and be able to go there and come back ‘home’ to the USA.” she says.

KP has been a faithful essential employee throughout the pandemic as a grocery pick-up associate at Walmart Neighborhood Market—working diligently to ensure that families have the groceries and supplies they need. She inspires each of us to be our bravest selves and we are so proud of the young woman she is!



Jasimine | SG FRESHMAN |

“Saving Grace has impacted my life in so many ways. I’ve made some mistakes while being here but I learn through them. They’ve helped me realize who safe and unsafe people are and if it wasn’t for this opportunity, I would probably be living on the streets.

A dream I thought was impossible was going to school to become a cosmetologist and I have officially graduated! I can’t believe that I made it. I am outgoing and friendly. I am always the one that’s there when someone needs to talk or is feeling down. I love to get and give hugs.”

Haley | SG SOPHOMORE |

“Saving Grace has impacted my life by giving me a safe place to call home and giving me a new support system. I know I am cared for here. I wanted to start a new life for myself. I wanted to be free of addiction. It just never seemed possible until I came to Saving Grace and found people that supported that dream.

I believe I bring personality, positivity and LOTS of conversation to the house. I have learned that God will put people in your life when you need them most; He is always there even when you think He is not.”



Ally | SG FRESHMAN |

“At Saving Grace I’ve learned who I am. I never thought I’d be allowed to make my own decisions—I’ve always had them made for me.

I have developed some new hobbies and made some friends, and I am always a listening ear if anyone needs to talk about anything.

In my time at SG I’ve learned that God doesn’t leave me. I’m not alone. I discovered He’s made me special in many different ways and being here helped me realize that.”



Charisma | SG SENIOR |

“Saving Grace has provided me a safe place to transition into an adult. It hasn’t always been easy or fun, but I choose to stay because I know the experiences I have and the things I learn will be well worth it in the end.

Being here has allowed me to pursue a career in nursing that I love and explore different things that I never thought possible. I naturally have a very enthusiastic energy so it’s always a joy to cheer on the other girls at SG as they pursue their dreams, too.

During my time in this program, God has repeatedly taught me to stop rushing and to just trust HIS process. I always feel like I’m never doing enough and He reminds me to slow down and take things one day at a time.”

Kylee | SG FRESHMAN |

“Saving Grace has made a great impact on my life by providing me with a safe, clean home and many caring women and men who can help to mentor me on this road of life as I begin my journey as an adult.

I never thought I would be able to finish school and now I’m about to take my GED test, with the help of my Program Coach!

I feel that I tend to bring the girls together by being open and including. I feel that I also bring laughter and entertainment to the house as well.

Through Saving Grace and my time spent here so far, I have learned that God always provides, though it might not be in the exact way you wanted. He will help you and be there for you.”





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summer BUCKET LIST

Good experiences for “Grace” can help heal the bad experiences of her past. Here are some fun ways you can help us provide good experiences for her this summer! Email admin@savinggracenwa.org to sponsor!

- Silver Dollar City & White Water Day Passes - Branson, MO
- Sight & Sound Theater Tickets to the Story of Jesus - Branson, MO
- Hammocks
- S’mores Sticks
- Outdoor Camping Games
- Wonders of Wildlife National Museum & Aquarium Tickets - Springfield, MO
- Gift Cards for summer attire & outings - Walmart, Target, Restaurants, etc.
- Citronella Candles
- Outdoor Patio String Lights
- Bug Spray

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- Life Work Talent
- Cindy Walters
- Stable Minded
- Collier & Associates
- Windblown Ideas
- Samantha’s Garden
- Best Sign Group
- Innovative Business Furniture
- Ashton Rail Photography
- Kleber Video Productions
- Crumbl Cookies
- Simply Done
- Timberwolf Sawmill
- Web Untied



VOLUNTEER

We need YOU to come serve “Grace” with us! Volunteer as a mentor for life, and more!
Email serve@savinggracenwa.org or check out savinggracenwa.org/serve for more information!