

grace

FALL / WINTER 2023

REPURPOSED



SAVING *grace*



Dear friend,

Oh, how I love autumn—the cooler temps, campfires, and a slower pace.

We have fully relocated to the farm now, which has helped a lot with the margin for our team and our girls. It has not been a perfect move, but there's been beauty in the chaos. Let me share a few sweet moments since moving everything and everyone from the little house on Poplar to Grace Farms.

The community has been the most magical thing. We've experienced fellowship with other believers, breaking bread with "Grace," and laughter through tears when trying to process the ups and downs of a big move like this.

One of my favorite moments was driving up the long driveway and seeing "Grace" in the swing by the pond. I had to pull over and watch from a distance as tears fell and my heart pounded in my chest. I longed to run to her. My little girl soul wanted to push her higher and higher. This woman of 19 years was in front of me, yet the heart of her 9-year-old self was swinging as hard and fast as she could go. Does she know God is healing her broken heart and all those traumatic soul wounds with every swish of that old whisky barrel swing? Does she know that with every rhythm and every back and forth, God is healing my childhood wounds, too? This is the beauty of grace and how God uses good experiences to heal bad experiences.

This moment reminds me of a verse God shared with me through a friend last week as she sat at the farm praying for our girls. Isaiah 45:3 (NIV) says, "I will give you hidden treasures, riches stored in secret places, so that you may know that I am the Lord, the God of Israel, who summons you by name." The NKJV says it this way, "I will give you the treasures of darkness and hidden riches of secret places..." God doesn't waste any part of our stories, not even the dark pieces we hope no one finds out about.

He is already using these sacred acres to heal hearts and bind up the wounds of these brave young women. He does that because of people like you who show up with your support through monetary gifts and volunteering every month. There is no way we could do this without you— we never have.

Will you pray with us as we invite even more girls to this farm? Pray for hearts to be open to learning new things, pray for walls to come down, as God does the heart work only He can do. Please pray for our team as we continue to go deeper and wider and seek God as we expand what He is doing here. Pray for His continued provision and protection as we seek Him in all we do. Praise Him with us because "the LORD has done spectacular things for us. We are overjoyed!" (Psalm 126:3)

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 one day of support for "Grace" as she works hard to change her life!

Give now at
savinggracewa.org/give.



SCAN TO GIVE!

When you're finished reading these beautiful stories, would you share this newsletter with a friend?



Noami's Story:

ONE BRAVE STEP AT A TIME

By Jennifer Watson,
SG Development Coordinator

PRESENTED BY





SG Sophomore Nyah and Naomi hanging out after work!

I sat down with Naomi, hoping I could encourage her and provide a safe place for her to share her story alongside her Program Coach, Lauren, who is an integral part of her healing journey. But what happened reminded me of why we do this gritty, grace-filled work... because of her. It's all about "Grace."

Each young lady who walks through the doors of Saving Grace has a backstory of what led them to us. While the stories and trauma are different, there is a three-cord strand that connects us—our pain, our wild vulnerability with safe people, and God showing up to do what only He can do.

Noami's father became increasingly ill with COVID-19, a scary time for everyone across the globe. But for others, they lost the people they loved and cared about. Leaving them to pick up the pieces, walking through the unknown with a hole in their heart.

It was during this time that Naomi taught herself how to cry quietly, to the point where it hurt her chest. Her mother worried as good mothers do, so

Noami taught herself to self-comfort to protect her mom, who was grieving her husband's illness and then the loss of her husband.

Her home was a completely different environment, she lived in a state she loved, surrounded by people and animals she loved. By the age of seventeen, Naomi had not only lost one parent but two. Her mother became ill and passed away, leaving her without the two people who loved and supported her and gave her a happy life.

Noami came to us because a guidance counselor from her High School and her social worker sent her to us while she was attending college in NWA after living with a family member and their growing family.

Noami needed a safe place to call home and wide-open spaces to roam. But more than anything, Naomi needed permission to grieve—however she needed to.

Because healing takes as long as it takes.

If you visit Grace Farms, you might see her roaming the property. When asked what draws her outside in the summer heat, she said the animals and horses remind her of happy childhood

SHE TOLD ME THAT AT SAVING GRACE, SHE COULD CRY AS LOUD AS SHE NEEDED TO. SHE FEELS SAFE AND FREE TO BE AUTHENTICALLY HERSELF AND HAS BEGUN FIGURING OUT WHO SHE IS. SHE IS LEARNING HOW TO BREAK PATTERNS AND ESTABLISH BOUNDARIES.

Noami is passionate about journaling; she writes prayers to God, sometimes letters to her mother and father, and what she wishes she could say to their faces. She even found a favorite spot to drive to talk to God... and get LOUD like her guidance counselor encouraged her to do.

One night, at the little house on Poplar, Noami cried as loud as she needed to. The next morning, two residents

knocked on her door with flowers, candy, and treats to cheer her up.

When she asked why they brought all the gifts, they said, “ Because we heard you crying last night.”

Not only does Noami have a safe place to cry without muffling her beautiful, brave Warrior Cry, but other young women in our program are showing up for her just because they care.

We asked Noami what she would say to the young lady scared to take the first step in her healing journey or the one who wants to live at Saving Grace but is afraid of the process. Noami said:

“Take slower steps.”

One brave, warrior step at a time.

“Don’t be afraid to ask for help.”

Noami took the first brave step by reaching out to her guidance counselor.





As she continues to flourish at Grace Farms, Naomi sees God moving in her life and weaving future hopes and dreams into her heart.

“I want to work here. I want to be someone the girls can relate to. From the very beginning, walk them each slow step at a time. I want them to know that they’re not alone.”

While I did my very best not to break down and cry, I didn’t succeed... not even a little.

“Grace” and Jesus helped heal my own heart a little more.

Because when stories are told in safe places, we heal a little more each time.

After our interview, Lauren shared, “She lit up and got even more excited about her future, knowing her past is behind her.”

This isn’t grace upon grace, although there is plenty of that in this story.

It’s “Grace” helping “Grace” heal. Slower steps, learning the power of showing up for one another with kindness, flowers, and favorite snacks. And brave girls learning how to Warrior Cry in the wide-open spaces at Grace Farms.

**AND THOUGH ONE CAN OVERPOWER HIM WHO IS ALONE,
TWO CAN RESIST HIM. A CORD OF THREE STRANDS IS NOT
QUICKLY BROKEN.**

ECCLESIASTES 4:12

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 relationships, coaching, and opportunities that create lasting change.

Learn more at savinggracewa.org/live.





A PLACE *to flourish*

“Grace” settled into her new home upon completing Phase I at Grace Farms this summer, and God is already using this revitalized space to renew her spirit and heal her soul.

The path to healing is not a quick process or linear, especially with deeply rooted layers of trauma. Intentional moments of rest, play, and working through past hurt move “Grace” forward as she sets the pace for her healing journey. Each brave

step she takes weaves another layer of healing and hope into her story.

As you take in the pictures of Grace Cottage—the home your generosity helped transform—we hope you will be refreshed and encouraged, too.

To God be the glory for the great things He has done through YOU!

Learn more about future plans at savinggracenwa.org/farm.



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GRACE COTTAGE

Completing Grace Cottage allowed us to move our program entirely to Grace Farms! Currently, every young woman in our program lives here. Once Phase II, the renovation of Grace House, is completed, the Cottage will become a sacred space for the young women entering our program in the Pink Shirt phase.

“Pink Shirt” is phase one of our program—a time for healing and a fresh start. Pink Shirt phase puts the brakes on survival mode and provides “Grace” with an opportunity to learn new healthy rhythms and routines.



HEART OF THE HOME

The spaces in Grace Cottage play a pivotal role in “Grace’s” healing journey. Community forms within the kitchen, dining room, and living room. In the kitchen, “Grace” learns to make new recipes alongside volunteers and fellow residents. In the dining area, “Grace” gathers around the table with strangers, who become an extension of her family. The living room is a special place for laughter, community, and intentional conversations.



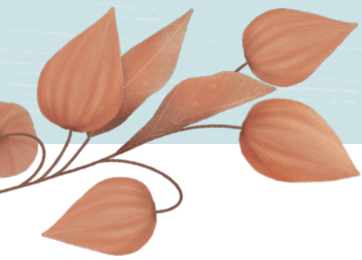
A SAFE HAVEN FOR “GRACE”

“Grace’s” bedroom is the sacred space where she lays her head at night. Oftentimes, this is the first space “Grace” has had to call her own. Her bedroom is a safe haven where she can recharge and rest, providing the sense of safety and comfort that she has longed for. This is a special place that was prepared just for her!

HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

PRESENTED BY:

Chad & Ashley Goss, Ellingson Contracting, Kenvue, American Allied Health, The Giving Branch, HHC Homes, Simply Done



THE HOLIDAYS ARE OFTEN HEARTBREAKING FOR “GRACE,” AND SOMETIMES THERE’S NO WAY TO PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR THE ACHE SHE FEELS.

The glittery Christmas commercials paint a picture of sweet cuddles on the couch with family drinking hot chocolate as they sit near a perfectly decorated tree.

But that’s not the reality for all of us. We do our best to carry the Thrill of Hope while making sacred space for a Weary World and a heart that doesn’t feel like rejoicing.

Makayla, SG alumni, recently recalled that before living at Saving Grace, during the holidays, she tried her best with what little she had.

“I made a Christmas tree on the wall from wrapping paper. I couldn’t pay my rent that month, so I didn’t have Christmas dinner.”

At Saving Grace, we know how powerful and life-changing it is to connect

“Grace” with others who will become HER people.

What may begin with hesitation eventually sparkles with possibilities of what the holidays CAN be. We rebuild hope with each ornament placed on the tree and stockings hung with their names to remind each “Grace” how valuable she is.

The very next year, Christmas looked different for Makayla. This time, she joined her SG mentor’s family for Christmas dinner and drove herself in the car she had saved up for and purchased to spend the holidays with a long-time friend.

Makayla said, “I drove my car chock-full of presents to stay for the holidays. I had never seen that many presents in my life!”



Good experiences help heal the painful experiences of our past. We see this truth beautifully displayed, bringing joy and wonder to our hearts each holiday season as our incredible community partners with us to give “Grace” a Christmas that brings healing. From these experiences and firsts, a Thrill of Hope begins to grow in the heart of “Grace” for her future and future family.

As we consider the perfect gifts for our loved ones and wrap them with care, “Grace” also experiences what it feels like to be chosen and thought of intentionally during the holidays, often for the first time.

This year, Makayla is preparing to experience her first Christmas with family as a wife to a wonderful man and mom to two dogs and a kitty. Now, they will create new Christmas memories and special traditions of their own!

*“God sets the lonely
in families...”*

PSALMS 68:6

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