



THE LIGHT HOUSE RECOVERY CENTER

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Dear Friend,

As we approach the Christmas holiday and reflect on just how good God has been to each of us, I want to say a special thanks to YOU. I thank you for your generous support in the past and don't take lightly the fact that you have set aside some of your hard-earned money to support the women and children served at The Light-House Recovery Program.

Don't you love a good story? What makes a good story for me is always the ending. As a young teenager beginning to rebel and experiment, I was also the first born to a mother with limited coping skills. In hopes of occupying my time and redirecting me, Mom would often bring home these paperback, short stories. They had titles like, 'Margie', 'Debbie', 'Sherri'. All stories of wayward girls. Although I didn't enjoy reading then (or now), these stories always caught my attention. I would devour them! Part of 'The Living Hope Series, I believe the Lord used those short stories to plant the seeds and develop the compassion I now have today for the ladies we serve at The Light House.

Here's a Christmas story I'd like to share with you. So, like those little books I used to read. It's titled 'Irene'. There's something special about THIS story because it's a story that you and I are helping to write!

Irene began a life of addiction to methamphetamine at the young age of 14. Lost, feeling alone and like no one cared. She was angry. She trusted no one.

At just 21 years young Irene found herself pregnant with her fourth child, no high school diploma, no job, and a fierce addiction. A victim of domestic violence and dysfunctional family members, she had nowhere to turn. She found The Light House and just a few days upon entering, went into labor with the baby. Scared, broken and no real place to call home, she was also faced with the excruciating decision of trying to parent yet another little one or to sign over this new baby boy for adoption. She called our office and asked our permission to keep her baby.

Offering hope, help and healing

Permission or direction? A young girl with no support facing a big decision. Irene ended up bringing her baby home to The Light House and began taking advantage of all that our program had to offer her.

Here she felt loved. Here she developed the desire to try harder. Here she met God. So many other things she acquired here. She felt good that we saw her potential and pushed her to it. We helped her with her GED tests and taught her how to parallel park. We disciplined her and helped her get her very first job. She also bought her very first car. Irene felt loved. She said it was a feeling she never felt before. She felt warm and



knows It was the presence of the Holy Spirit. Today Irene continues to parent her younger three children. She had excellent boundaries and is participating in our alumni writer's workshop. Her theme word is 'present'. Irene makes it her goal to be present for her children today. Maintaining sobriety, she is now able to give her children what we gave her; hope help and healing found through Jesus Christ. Now THIS is a happy ending!

Together we can continue writing happy endings on the pages of people's lives like Irene's and her precious babies. Thank you for changing the direction of this entire family's life and thank you for your year-end generosity that will help so many more. Merry Christmas!

