



# Discover Jesse's House



February 2003

**Providing Emergency Care and Shelter for Children in North Georgia**

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the start of a new year, the traditional time to reflect on all that has gone on in the past year, and to outline plans for the future.

Looking back over the last year has shown that much good has been accomplished here at Jesse's House. We have been privileged to serve, guide, and positively influence almost 50 young ladies during this time. And, while this is wonderful, the sad truth is that we have had to turn away over 200 girls who were just as lonely, frightened, hurt or abused. We simply do not have enough space.

But angels exist and miracles do happen in this world - we would not be able to exist without all of you - and because of some special angels we now own a larger building. I say a building, because as yet, it is not a house, and certainly not a home. But with your help it will be. It will be a home with enough room to shelter almost three times as many girls as now. It will allow the girls room for privacy. They will have a place for quiet to study, and a place for noise to play.

However, this transformation will be a huge effort. The building is vintage 1950's and this alone brings many, many issues that must be dealt with. These issues, including asbestos and lead contamination, must be explored before we can see just what we can do with the building. There are electrical and plumbing problems, kitchen and bath concerns, heating and air questions, and seemingly millions of others. Can we move walls, change floors, alter ceiling lines? And these are merely issues of "structure." These are the mundane issues that take us from an old office building to a house. Our goal is a home. STOP! Think about that for a bit. A home is more than just making the space habitable. It means the place has to be inviting inside and out - decorated, clean, happy. It means it has to feel warm and comfortable. (Remember - the RYDC is really not a bad place.) And it means the house has to be a protected, safe place to live. This means we will have to find many more caring, loving, trained, and experienced people who can guide these girls. And unfortunately, all of this means that the operating expenses go up accordingly. We believe that this is a future worth the cost.

Now is the time to begin. With this New Year, Jesse's House has been blessed once again. An anonymous angel has made a generous gift toward this massive renovation project, which will match, dollar for dollar, every donation to this project. Listen carefully - this means that if you donate one dollar to the building fund, it becomes two working dollars immediately! No compounding, no waiting. You donate one dollar, it becomes two!

To receive the full funding we will have to pledge to raise \$50,000 during the 2003 budget year. The same applies for the 2004 year. Obviously, this is on top of, and separate from, our normal operating budget. This means that we need to more than double our fundraising efforts to get to where we need to be. We will need to raise over \$340,000 to meet the new goals. It is a very large sum of money and it will take a great deal of effort on all of our parts to achieve this.

However, I truly feel that this shelter is here because God wants it to be. In the last 5 years we have come very close to closing our doors - more than once - but somehow, something always comes to us. It is hard to see it as anything but God at work. He is here with us everyday. You can look at our kids and see that.

So how can you help with this effort? I promise that during the upcoming months we will be telling you what we need and how you can participate. The first thing is to begin the fundraising efforts. There are several fundraising events mentioned elsewhere in the newsletter. Please support them if you can. If you would like to donate money to the building project, mark the box on the form on the last page of this newsletter or simply indicate "building fund" on your check. If you would like to be part of the fundraising team or have a fundraising suggestion or question, please contact me.

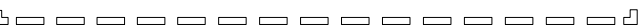


It is scary. It is a project of a scope this board of directors has not before tackled. It requires a lot of skills that we do not possess so we will need your help at every step. And, it calls for fundraising of a size that astounds us all. But the result will be worth the effort. Now is the time to take that enormous leap of faith which all such projects require and begin a plan for the future.

Steven Morgan, President (404.697.9895)



### Have you considered mentoring?



We would like to recognize three special people who generously & regularly volunteer their time to our girls. Beth Friedman, Toni Imsand and Heather O'Conner volunteer weekly. Mentoring is special help for the girls who are struggling and need a strong role model independent of the Jesse's House Staff.

We currently need three more mentors. If you would be interested in mentoring one of our girls, please call Julie Barry at the shelter 678-947-6217.

**CONTRIBUTORS/IN KIND DONATIONS**

Pete & Catherine Amos  
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Blackburn  
 Rev. & Mrs. Doug Carnes  
 Morris & Diane Copeland, Jr.  
 Rev. & Mrs. John Cromartie, Jr.  
 Harry & Catherine Diamond  
 Ms. Cindy L. Elder  
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 Tracey Bentel  
 Cumming First United Methodist Church—Sorta Fifties Class  
 Martha Jones  
 Sawnee Ballet Theatre  
 Richard & Donna Laub  
 Louis & Cynthia Pellegrino  
 Betty Ansley  
 Arees & Jeannie Akoubian  
 Bridgeway Church  
 Polo Men's Gold Association  
 Sonic Restaurant  
 Krystal Restaurant  
 Folks Restaurant  
 CiCi's Pizza  
 Dawn at Image Salon  
 Beth & Karl Friedman  
 Mary Beth Cook  
 Delphine Jeffery  
 Connie & Ed Bounds  
 Humane Hearts Children's  
 Restoration Network/Tutoring  
 Volunteers  
 Keith Matthews  
 Polo Women's Bible Study  
 Taylor/Brooks Salon  
 Windward Women's Group  
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 Deborah & Paul Giggi  
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 Joseph & Carol Martucci  
 Deborah & Edward Gabos  
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 James & Tamera Hensley  
 Friends in Faith Class—  
 Cumming Baptist Church  
 Carrie Hanson  
 Dr. Whitney's office & patients  
 Janice Sullivan  
 Forsyth County Fire Station # 4  
 Rhonda McCann  
 Sarah Monyette  
 Devin Wright—Kid's Korner  
 Brenau University's Students  
 AB Puckett  
 The Twitchell Family  
 Otwell Middle Junior Beta Club  
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 Cumming First United Methodist Women  
 Sally & Steven Barnum  
 Toni Imsand  
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 Hunter-Jenkins Foundation  
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 Hugh & DeLaine Quinn  
 Linda Ray  
 June & Bud Hodge  
 Mabel Clupper  
 Judy Thornton  
 Elizabeth Puckett  
 Mrs. Edith Vinson  
 Family Home Providers  
 Piecemakers Quilt Guild

**The Director's Desk**

As the year 2003 greets us, I feel excited about the opportunities for Jesse's House. Included in the goals for this year are program development for the youth and staff of Jesse's House.

While we currently teach life skills by modeling positive behavior, our aim is to incorporate a more extensive life skills program. A life skills curriculum would give us the tools to teach specific behaviors such as job interviewing, balancing checkbooks and college study skills. Thereby, furthering a youth's success for living independently.

Other program development aims include incorporating recreation therapy, art therapy and collaborating with a Horse Therapy program. These services provide additional opportunities for the girls to express unresolved emotions and provide healing.

In our efforts to stay informed of techniques and research involving quality residential treatment, we aim to provide extensive training for staff development. With continued education, we will meet the needs of more challenging youth.

Overall, we are eager to continue providing quality care for these youth in need. And as always, we are very grateful for your support.

Sincerely,  
 Julie Barry  
 Director

*Contributions & In Kind Donations continued:*

Bobby Amos Plumbing  
 Mr. & Mrs. Cy Timmons  
 Sonny & Marguerite Mitchell  
 Bald Ridge Chapel  
 Chris & Martha Lappe'  
 Bennie & Jeanne Marie  
 Cowdrey  
 Andean Motor Co. Employees  
 Michael & Janice Gilmore  
 Bill & Carolyn Gay  
 DeLaine Quinn  
 Melanie Gibbs  
 Bunco Divas of Laurel Springs  
 Larry Morris Family  
 Chris Bibb Family  
 Dennis Carlock Family  
 Robert Sutter Family  
 Dorothy McCulloch  
 Paul & Krista Hein  
 Elaine Reins  
 Sawnee Art Association  
 Anne & Adam Moore  
 Clara Carpenter  
 Holbrook Circle—CFUMC  
 The John Garrott Sunday  
 School Class—CFUMC  
 Chancellor Choir—CFUMC  
 Collage Hair Design  
 Brenda Brinkman

**OUR SINCERE APOLOGIES**

*To all deserving persons out there who were inadvertently not listed. We continue in our goal to improve our efficiency.*

**Board of Directors**

Steven Morgan, President  
 Rafael Rodriguez, VP  
 Jeanne Marie Cowdrey—  
 Treasurer  
 Joyce Tisovec, Secretary

Barbara Barnett  
 Donna Mincey Collins  
 Jason Dudley  
 Nancy Gilbert  
 Mary Henderson  
 Martha Lappe'  
 Terry Morgan  
 Michele Morris  
 Tom Pelky  
 Chuck Pugh

**SPECIAL THANKS**

**Troop 39 Eagle Scouts**—Eagle Scout **Adam Moore** selected Jesse's House for a leadership project. Along with his peers and several adults, the girl's bedrooms and 3 bathrooms were painted. Thank you Adam for thinking of our girls. The result made a wonderful, caring difference in the home.

**BUNCO Diva** of Laurel Springs visited the shelter shortly thereafter and purchased new bed sets, including comforters and sheets for the girl's bed to coordinate with the new paint. The women also donated many other items, including appliances, tableware, a stereo, VCR and a computer desk. Thank you ladies for your time and talents.

**Taylor/Brooks Salon**— Closed their salon for a time to all but Jesse's girls, who were pampered with a full hair styling and a manicure. Each girl was given a flower and a basket full of hair products. Thank you to **Julia**, owner of Taylor/Brooks, for providing this unique and special opportunity.

**The Polo Women's Bible Study**—has been actively involved with Jesse's House. Along with the groups financial contributions, individual members have cooked dinner with the girls and spent time making crafts with them. Two members completed makeovers for the girls, and donated Mary Kay products to each girl.

**All you individuals and groups** who donated Christmas gifts to the girls/shelter. The list is extraordinary, and made Christmas a special time for Jesse's House, reminding us all of the true meaning of Christmas.

**JESSE'S HOUSE NEEDS**

Food—Milk, orange juice, canned and fresh fruits and vegetables, soups, etc.

Paper products—Toilet paper, paper towels, feminine hygiene products, etc.

Gift Certificates (Wal-Mart, Kroger, etc.,) for unexpected needs.

**3rd Annual Christmas Tour of Homes!**

Thanks to the efforts of Michele Morris and the Polo Golf and Country Club, the annual Christmas Tour of Homes to benefit Jesse's House, held on December 7, 2002, was a huge success. Our thanks to the dozens of volunteers and the many attendees. The proceeds from efforts such as these help keep our shelter open!

**Jesse's House 5th Anniversary Gala Fund-raiser Scheduled for March 29th at the Polo Fields Country Club!**

Mark your calendars for March 29th! Our gala will include a silent auction with a "Wines of the World" theme—wine lovers take note. Dress is Semi-Formal with black tie optional. Prices are \$75.00 per individual. Corporate sponsorships will be available.

For more information, call Jason Dudley at 678.513.7901

**IN HONOR OF YOUR MOTHER**

Here is a really neat way to honor the mother who has everything. Remember that special Wife, Mother, Aunt, Grandmother, Godmother etc., in your life, with our special Mother's Day Card.

When we receive the form below, we will send your "Mother" a lovely card, honoring her and relating to her that you have made a donation to Jesse's House in her name. You will receive an acknowledgement that your donation was received, and notice that a card has been sent as you directed. All cards will be mailed the week of Mother's Day.

**Mother's Day Gift**

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_ In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Jesse's House  
PO Box 84  
Cumming, GA 30028

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Matching Funds \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Operating Expenses

Please send a Mother's Day Card to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send acknowledgement notice to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Jesse's House  
P. O. Box 84  
Cumming, GA 30028  
Ph # 678.947.6217

NON PROFIT ORG.  
U. S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
CUMMING, GA  
PERMIT NO. 125



### Memorial/Honorary Gift

Jesse's House  
PO Box 84  
Cumming, GA 30028

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Matching Funds \$\_\_\_\_\_ Operating Expenses

Is in Memory of / Honor of (circle one):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send honorary card to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

This gift is made by:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

### Contribution

Jesse's House  
PO Box 84  
Cumming, GA 30028

Please earmark my gift for:

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Matching Funds

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Operating Expenses

This gift is made by:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_