



Work in Progress Update

June 1, 2005

Dear Friends:

They now call themselves the “cycle breakers”- called and rescued by God to create a new way of living for their children and grandchildren.

On Sunday, May 22, we graduated our first group of young mothers from Moms’ Place. What an amazing night of testimonies, recognition, and celebration!

Can it be that this group of women is now taking a place of leadership and responsibility in their church, families and community? These 12 women who have known drug addiction, abuse, generations of abandonment, low education levels (only 2 had graduated from high school), and no family or personal expectations. Is it possible that we really heard them saying to the next group of teenage moms in the program:

- “We’re your mentors; we’re coming back into this program to be your mentors.”
- “My children will be educated. They will graduate from high school. How about yours?”
- “They roused me out of bed to get me to rehab. Now I’m a good mother to my children and I have a job.”
- “Jesus and Moms’ Place (the staff and volunteers) physically rescued me from the life I was living and the dangerous people around me. I saw Him in their lives because there is no one in this room who ever gave up on me.”
- “I learned to trust others. They helped me decide to live sober. They showed me how to ask for help.”

While the younger group of moms served food to the 120 in attendance, they listened and watched as their role models were honored. Each Moms’ Place graduate received a special necklace: a cross embedded with their children’s birthstones. “It’s the most perfect gift I’ve received in my whole life,” said one mom, “The cross with my children attached!”

They also received a photo scrap book of their families since they began their time in Moms’ Place. None of the women have any family pictures of themselves from their childhood. Their childhood families didn’t keep memories. Imagine if your family never kept a picture of you or if you didn’t have any trophies, plaques or diplomas to put on your walls. If you’re going to build a legacy, you have to have memories.

Susan Leon, Moms’ Place Director, reflected after the graduation on her memories of the women.

*I remember some of our first events in Moms’ Place five years ago when we fixed food for 40 and two women came. We had meetings that were supposed to start at 6:30pm. By the time we picked up those we could find, got their children dressed, and came to our meeting, it was often 7:30pm or later. Many times, our*

*volunteer mentors only lasted a few months because it was just too hard to go out to their houses and pound on their doors to wake them up.*

*At our last meeting a few weeks ago, eight moms provided their own transportation and were in the room with their children ready to begin at 6:25pm. These are now women and mothers with Jesus at the center of their lives and families.*



Congratulations to all the Moms' Place graduates, our staff, volunteers and supporters. A new legacy has been established for these families in our community.

Grateful to God,

*Kit Danley*  
Kit Danley  
President

*Richard Speck*  
Richard Speck  
Executive Director

**Upcoming Events:**

- ◆ June 13 Jr High Kids Club
- ◆ June 27- July 8 Kids Club  
(July 1 Carnival Day)  
(July 8 Lake Day)

For details: 402-252-5225 or  
[www.neighborhoodministries.org](http://www.neighborhoodministries.org)



P.S. Our summer programs begin in June. We have the largest group of interns and Workcrew ever. Over 90 say they want to be on Workcrew (the group that runs Kids Club each day). Many of them are young adults that experienced Kids Club for themselves when they were children. Please pray for our summer activities and events.

If you have a boat and want to help on Lake Day, please call Sarah at the office!