



Oliver Gospel

SPRING 2023

NEWSLETTER

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New Beginnings

The pain was familiar, Mary thought to herself, but this was the final straw. Mary was trapped in yet another abusive relationship. How did she end up here... again? Little did she know that God was about to turn her story of pain into one of resilience and beauty.

Read more..... P.2

Pictured: Mary with her graduation certificate from Oliver Gospel.



New Beginnings, cont.

As a child, Mary was abused by her father. As a teen, she was sexually assaulted multiple times, and as a result, became pregnant at the young age of 13. After moving to South Carolina in her twenties, Mary became trapped in yet another abusive relationship that resulted in a second pregnancy after moving to South Carolina in her twenties.

Mary's life never had a chance to begin before it was stripped away from her. Pregnant, alone, and hurting, she escaped to find solace at a domestic abuse shelter, where she would give birth to her daughter. Two weeks later, Mary and her new baby found a home at our center for women and children, Toby's Place.

"The moment I got out of the car, they were happy to see me, and I could feel the love. I could feel God here... it brought me to tears that night just thinking about it."

Mary was safe, loved, and cared for at Toby's Place. The community of women

gave her an opportunity to raise her daughter, establish healthy relationships, and begin pursuing her dream of becoming a teacher. Toby's Place was full of new beginnings for Mary – a chance to start over and become who she was created to be.

Mary graduated from our program in January and moved back home, where family and friends welcomed her back. **A place once filled with trauma has become an opportunity for her new beginning.**

"When all hope was lost, I got a second chance and now I can have my life again."

Toby's Place is the setting for many transformational journeys. By building a community of love, understanding, and grace, women are celebrated as they let go of the troubles of their past and step into the future with their heads held high. **Your donation of \$25 today supports an environment of safety and healing for women and children in need in our community.**

“

I'M MORE LOVING ON MYSELF THAN I WAS BEFORE. I LOOK IN THE MIRROR AND I'M LIKE, YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL. I LOOK IN THE MIRROR AND I'M LIKE, YOU LOOK GOOD TODAY. I LOOK IN THE MIRROR AND I'M LIKE, YOU CAN DO IT."

”

Fun for the family!



OLLIE'S CORNER

- Read Jeremiah 29:11
- How do you feel when you try something new? Scared? Excited?
- Write down 3 new things you want to try.



LET GO AND LET GOD

Nathaniel looked at his siblings with fear in his eyes. Every detox center in his city was full. His life was spiraling, and he was running out of options.

“Lord, what do I do now? I need help.”

He grew up in a healthy home, but after his parents passed away, the love of his older sisters could not relieve his grief. He was lonely and angry, and he turned to substance for answers. **He never expected his decisions would destroy his relationship with his siblings.**

Family was everything to Nathaniel, and it broke his sisters’ hearts to see him struggle with addiction. Despite their disappointment in his choices, they agreed to help him find help.

Together, they found Oliver Gospel’s Recovery Program, and

soon the counselors and staff welcomed Nathaniel with open arms, treating him as one of their own. The hope and care he received not only strengthened his relationship with God, but with his family, who are so proud of his progress.

Nathaniel learned to create healthy, sustainable habits and to forgive himself for the decisions of his past. He graduated from the Recovery Program in February and entered the Career Phase proud of his new relationship with the Lord.

“The mission taught me to start my day off with God. Let go of myself and ask God for direction.”

Nathaniel has found restoration, hope, joy, and life through the power of Christ’s love and thanks to the **generosity** of partners like you.

“
THE MISSION TAUGHT ME TO START MY DAY OFF WITH GOD. LET GO OF MYSELF AND ASK GOD FOR DIRECTION.
”

It only costs \$12.50 to provide a night of safety, nourishment, and care for a neighbor like Nathaniel.

Donate today by mail or online at olivergospel.org.

VOLUNTEER TODAY!



Over **10,000 items** are donated to our Thrift Store every year, and we need your help to sort, organize, and price them! You can **impact** your community through volunteering with us. Every dollar received at our Thrift Store supports our life-transforming programs!

Scan to sign up or call
(803) 254-6470 ext. 1200



DID YOU KNOW?



38%

of those experiencing homelessness in 2021 were women.

Oliver Gospel’s center for women and children provides safety and hope to these women through:

Faith-Based Programming



Case Management Services

Mental Health Counseling



Life-Skills Classes

2022 SCICH State of Homelessness Report



A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

During Springtime in the south, pollen is always irritating, but there's also a silver lining to the yellow powder that makes me sneeze and covers everything in sight. Dogwoods, azaleas, and daffodils burst with color as they create a beautiful landscape throughout my neighborhood and our great city.

Every year, winter fades away and new life springs forth. The fresh start is a reminder that just as God makes the flowers bloom, he is also constantly at work within us. Joy comes in the spring because we have a God of love, forgiveness, second chances and **NEW BEGINNINGS!**

Many of the guests we serve desperately want to stay on the right track but face circumstances that often lead them to spiral into a dark and lonely place. Oliver Gospel walks alongside men, women and children during their most vulnerable and scary times as we point them towards hope. I thank you for partnering with us, as **TOGETHER**, we can extend the love of Christ so that new life will spring forth and bloom in all of us.

"Behold, I am about to do something new; now it shall spring forth; shall you not know it?" Isaiah 43:19

TRAVIS MCNEAL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TO PRAY FOR:

- Pray for our recent graduates as they prepare to transition into the new opportunities that are waiting for them.
- Pray for good health to those in the homeless community who are fighting sickness. Pray that the Lord will provide the strength and resources they need to overcome their illness.
- Pray for our staff members that walk alongside our residents throughout their journey of healing and recovery.



Oliver Gospel

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Donate
online
today!



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