



OCTOBER 2020

# FIVE SISTERS PROJECT

## Newsletter

### What's the Buzz?

BY TRACY MUHLENBECK

I grew up around the military. There was a funny expression that was used that I remember well. Hurry up and wait. It seemed there were two extremes. Either your activities were urgent and immediate or you were sitting around waiting for the next orders to come about what to do. It was a challenging thing to get used to. Many military people are either hard wired or trained to “get stuff done” and so the activity that was productive seemed natural. But waiting around? That was a different story. I think this is true in and out of military life. We do not do well with waiting, do we?

We have gotten so much done in the housing project lately that it has made my head spin. How extraordinary that the Lord opened up the time of the helpers and the resources to get some big things done. But recently, I was spending time with the Lord asking for the answer to a decision that I felt an urgency to make about fundraising to continue our work. The scripture the Lord gave me is in Numbers 9:22-23. “Whether the cloud stayed over the tabernacle for two days or a month or a year, the Israelites would remain in camp and not set out; but when it lifted, they would set out. At the Lord’s command they encamped, and at the Lord’s command they set out. They obeyed the Lord’s order, in accordance with his command through Moses.”

In the margin of my bible, I’d written, “WAIT! Even when it feels uncomfortable, DO NOT MOVE until the Lord tells you to move.” Clearly, I’d had the same answer in the past and here it was for me again. WAIT! It affected my innermost being and I knew it was the answer to my question even if it felt uncomfortable and unnatural.

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# THE BUZZ

## Continued

It sometimes seems we are a microwave or fast food type of society. We want what we want, we want it done and we want it done NOW! At least, that is often how I feel. There is another message in our culture that says if you aren't moving or producing, you are lazy. When I visited Haiti, I was so impacted by the culture there. Productivity was just not a priority. The priority was on relationships. Much time is spent together. Time spent talking about really deep subjects, time serving one another, time having fun and laughing. There is a significant difference in the value we in the United States place on getting things done versus developing relationships.

We are in a very strange season right now with the restrictions and regulations enforced due to Covid 19. Many of us who are hard wired to be productive are struggling. But it is clear from the scripture the Lord gave me, there is a purpose to the waiting. Otherwise, He would have let the Israelites move and wander about at their own pace. During this season in the desert when the Lord was appearing as a cloud by day and a fire by night, He was teaching them that He could be trusted, even in circumstances that did not appear safe or comfortable. He was saying that He was the source of all of the provision they could ever need and their priority was to follow Him at His pace in the direction He wanted them to go.

Everything in me wants to push forward to finish this housing. If I have not adequately expressed the urgency of this need, I have failed you. We have families with no safe place to go and we are not ready so we cannot help. Shelters are full, housing in our communities is full and there just aren't enough resources to help those in need. So it is uncomfortable and confusing to me when the Lord says to wait. But I have experienced enough of His goodness to know that His plan will include perfect timing and will meet every need. So I will wait.

In the meantime, please continue to support this work. Your giving of time, talent and treasure is critical. We cannot do this alone.

Is there something in your life you have wanted to plow through but you can't seem to make progress? Maybe it's about the timing. Maybe you are supposed to be waiting instead of moving. Maybe it is the relationships in your life that are the current priority.

Whatever it is the Lord is asking you to do in this "Waiting Room", it is just as important as the times He is asking you to move. May God bless our obedience in the waiting.

Blessings,  
Tracy Muhlenbeck  
Executive Director

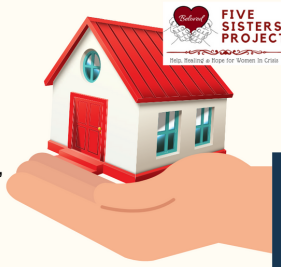


# What we have been up to

## Donations

### SPONSOR A ROOM!

AS AN INDIVIDUAL, FAMILY, SMALL GROUP, CHURCH OR BUSINESS YOU CAN SPONSOR A ROOM AT THE NEW FIVE SISTERS PROJECT TEMPORARY SAFE HOUSING FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN.



KITCHEN	COMPLETED \$8,000	BEDROOM 3	SPONSORED \$1,200
PANTRY	SPONSORED \$250	LAUNDRY ROOM	SPONSORED \$1,500
★ LIVING ROOM	\$2,500	BATHROOM 1	SPONSORED \$700
BEDROOM 1	SPONSORED \$1,800	BATHROOM 2	SPONSORED \$500
BEDROOM 2	SPONSORED \$1,000	★ ENTRYWAY	\$400

All of our rooms have been sponsored besides the entry way and living room.



Our shower of blessings live event was a success and we continue to receive donated items for the housing. Attached is a link to our live event on Facebook. [Click here](#)



Arnolds of Alden donated fire extiguisers for our housing project.



Nordass American homes donated flooring for the bedrooms and kitchen.

Our toilets, refrigerator, and stove have been donated anonymously.

Despite COVID-19 Our financial supporters continue to be faithful and supportive of the Five sisters project mission and we are grateful for them



# What we have been up to

## Volunteers

Many volunteers hours have been spent working on our housing



We had a painting day with an energetic group of volunteers.



We had a work day on Thursday September 18 and amazing volunteers that painted all of our trim!



We had another work day on Saturday September 24.

With hardworking volunteers in the morning and afternoon.

Want to help us out? You can get a group together and spend time being handy. You can even use your thrivent action teams.



# What we have been up to

## Progress

Despite COVID-19 we have made amazing progress on our housing!

We have our kitchen cabinets and counter tops installed  
Our bedrooms are nearly finished.

Our entry way, thanks to our volunteers, looks amazing!

Our bathrooms are finished besides installing fixtures.

Doors have been hung. Lights have been put up. Kitchen has items in it. Blinds have been installed, fans put in, fire alarms in place, closet shelving installed, and its starting to look like a home.







# What we have been up to

## Updates around the office

We have a new team member around the office. Juliann Wiersma joined in August as the new assistant executive director. Watch her introduction video on Facebook to learn more. [Click here](#)

We have updated and launched our new website. [Go check it](#) out and let us know what you think!



## How you can support the five sisters project's mission?

**THERE ARE MORE WAYS THAN ONE!**

- 1. CONTINUE TO SUPPORT US FINANCIALLY**
- 2. BECOME A FUNDRAISER**
- 3. VOLUNTEER WITH US**
- 4. JOIN OUR WEEKLY PRAYER WARRIORS EMAIL CHAIN**