

Love & Grace

Spring Newsletter • June 2016



A Note from the Directors Desk By Nancy Turner, Executive Director

December 10th - the day that turned my world upside down. It started out as any other day. I had breakfast with a friend then was off to meet with my primary care doctor to see why my sinus infection wasn't getting any better. I shared with her some pressure I had the night before in my chest. Her look told me that something may not be right. An EKG showed I had a heart attack perhaps 10 days prior or was about to have one. I was put in an ambulance (first time I ever rode in one) and taken to our local hospital. They discovered that I had blockage and the next morning I was in the operating room having triple by-pass surgery. I was numb and couldn't comprehend what was going on. The only thing I remember was a voice telling me; *"You will be okay, trust Me."*

I had major setbacks after the surgery. Fluid around my lungs slowed down my rehab. They drained over 3 liters of fluid from my lungs which was very painful. My cardiac surgeon wanted to do a procedure to stop the fluid which would put me back in the hospital and leave me with a three inch scar on my side. I saw him on Monday, February 1st and the surgery was scheduled on Friday, February 5th. He wanted to see me the day before for x-rays. My prayer was; "Lord, I need a miracle, I don't want this surgery." The x-rays showed that the fluid was gone!



That was almost 5 months ago. Recovery is slow and I was told I wouldn't feel back to normal for at least a year. Praise God, I have been given permission to start playing golf again and to travel. I haven't been back to see the boys since October. I'm counting the days when I will return this summer!!

I have asked myself why me. I was perfectly healthy before all this. Through it all I have seen Him use this to heal relationships within our family. I was scheduled to fly to Haiti right after Christmas and if I had this

happen to me while I was there I'm sure I would not be alive today. God is good - all the time!

Thank you so much for your prayers. I never would have made it without them. The cards you sent were such an encouragement. They helped me get through rehab. It is such an awesome thing to know so many people are praying for you.

February Team By Lisa Cresta

This past February, I had the privilege and honor of accompanying the PATAJE MUSIC team to the Love & Grace Boys' Home. A more talented and unique team, I could not have hoped to join along with Nancy Brown and the L&G staff. Their music brought joy to my heart and to those of the children we visited at L&G and to the many schools we visited throughout Haiti. I am blessed to have a large, close family and love is aplenty. I'd been looking for an opportunity to go beyond my everyday existence and make a difference to my fellow citizens of the world. I have been able to travel quite a bit but this trip touched my heart and soul in a unique way. While traveling, I enjoy immersing myself into the everyday life of the people and places I visit. Not difficult to do at Love & Grace, I was welcomed with open arms ...

I learned at Love & Grace that a HOME comes in many forms and I felt as at home in a foreign and unknown culture as I did in my own backyard in Maine. I left Love & Grace knowing that each boy was loved and taken care of in such beautiful ways – physically, educationally, spiritually. I doled out as many hugs and kisses as possible. I came to learn that I could not move mountains in a week but I was going to do whatever I could to make life a bit sweeter for the



wonderful Haitian people – I came to learn that it was THEY who made my life sweeter with their faith, courage, hope and love. At almost 56 years old, I was reminded that human interaction is paramount to well-being. To be out of your comfort zone and to embrace all people – we all have stories to tell and that was never more apparent than in Haiti. A complex country of beauty and struggle and I have hope that each day will bring peace, calm and comfort to this wondrous land.

Sponsor Gifts/ Wish List Items

If you would like to send a gift to your sponsored boy (labeled with boy's name) or any items from L&G's wish list to the home, please have all items to Stacy Shrefler by July 10th. Contact Stacy at stacy@shrefler.net with questions. Mailing info Stacy Shrefler 4038 Hill Church Road, Lebanon, PA 17046.

BUT he gives us MORE GRACE. THAT is WHY SCRIPTURE says:

“GOD OPPOSES THE PROUD BUT SHOWS FAVOR TO THE HUMBLE.”

James 4:6

Golf Outing By Sam Shrefler

In 2010, I had convinced one of my closest friends to travel to Haiti to visit Love and Grace with our team. The whole team fell in love with the boys and became passionate about wanting to make sure they would continue to have a home. At this time Love and Grace was hoping and praying to find sponsors, supporters, and funds to provide a home for these boys. The one night as we were sharing our other passions with the team... the conversation turned to golf and then the possibility of having a golf outing to raise funds for L&G. It doesn't take much convincing to get me and my friends out on the golf course. In 2011, we held the first golf outing, and we were beyond blessed. From that first golf outing, we gained more than just golfers, but many of L&G's current sponsors and devoted supporters. Now, in its 5th year, the golfers delivered once again... \$5,973.00 was raised. The funds raised from the golf outing help cover the deficit that is not met by regular donors. More importantly though, this golf outing is a fun day to raise awareness of a group of amazing boys in Haiti.



Transition Home By Stacy Shrefler

In the fall, we shared that Haitian law is now mandating that once the boys are 18 they may no longer stay at the L&G boys' home. Without completion of their education and skills for managing life on their own, the thought of leaving the boys' home was a scary reality for these young men if "The Bridge" was not created by your support.

We are passionate about the work being done at the transition whome. Recently, I was chatting with one of the young men living at "The Bridge" about what he loves about living at this new home. There was a long list of items including, continuing his education, attending church, having a family, and learning new skills. I then asked, "Where do you think you would be if there was no transition home?" His response, "Oh, no, no, no, I don't even want to think about that." Without this opportunity the boys know their futures would hold a much different outcome.

Please know how much we and the boys appreciate all you have done to help start this program. We hope you will continue to pray for this home and partner with us to help these boys become young men who are self-sufficient and pillars of their community. Check out www.loveandgracehaiti.com for more sponsorship information.



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LoveAndGraceHaiti.com

Please feel free to contact the director or any board members for information on Love and Grace and how you can become involved with this ministry.



Love & Grace

To be added or removed from the mailing list, please contact Stacy Shrefler at stacy@shrefler.net

Gifts That Matter by Stacy Shrefler

What do you give to the child, friend, parent that has everything? How can you make a gift last longer than the time it takes to rip off the wrapping paper? What about a donation to L&G in their honor? Many of you have already donated birthdays, wedding favors, and gifts in memory on behalf of L&G. Make sure to check www.loveandgracehaiti in the near future for printables for donating an event to L&G.

If you receive the newsletter in print and would prefer the electronic version, or receive the electronic version and would prefer the printed version, please email Stacy at stacy@shrefler.net.

Summer Trips

We have three teams scheduled to visit this summer. The third team will be visiting from July 25 - August 11. We still have a few openings on this team. Your dates can be flexible - we would love to have you join us for as much of the time as you have available.

