The front page of the Daily News, December 8, 2009 reported the following: “Faced with a dramatic drop in funding, the Women’s Care Cottage - a North Hollywood fixture that has served as a lifeline for thousands of homeless women and children - plans to close by next week unless a “miracle” occurs. The announcement comes as the number of women and children the nonprofit organization serves has skyrocketed from 1,900 last year to more than 4,000 as the sour economy left a growing number of people unemployed and down on their luck.”

Unfortunately, the miracle never occurred and the Women’s Care Cottage permanently closed its doors, further exasperating the plight of homeless women and children in the San Fernando Valley.

With the bleak background of reduction in services and increase in need among this most vulnerable population, I present to you in this newsletter, the incredible story of how the Genesis House, a shelter for homeless women and children, is coming into existence!

Ken Craft
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The Genesis Project
Rescuing Homeless Women and Children

Just a few weeks after we opened the John E. White House of Hope, our Men’s Recovery Home, I received an unsolicited phone call. The gentleman on the other line proceeded to tell me that he had something I might be interested in. I asked him to explain. He proceeded to tell me that he owned a 12 bedroom, 6 bathroom, 3,750 sq. ft. fully permitted house in Pacoima. He informed me that the house was built by the Catholic Archdiocese in the 1950’s for Nuns in training and that he would be willing to give it over to the Mission if we would assume the payments.

Within hours, I drove by the property and walked around it. It was PERFECT...exactly what we needed to open a shelter for homeless women and children! I contacted our Board of Directors and they felt the same way.

We are now in the process of preparing this unique property to become The Genesis House: A New Beginning for Homeless Women and Children. When the renovation is complete, kids and their mothers will occupy 30 beds.

Estimates of the number of homeless children range from 800,000 to 1.2 million, and recent estimates state that 1 in 50 children in the United States are homeless (National Center on Family Homelessness, 2009). Now is the time for the Genesis House!

Elevations

Floorplans

3-D Genesis House

Ken I want to help rescue women and children off the streets. I am so thankful you are opening the much needed Genesis House. Enclosed is my gift of:

- [ ] $300 to provide breakfast, lunch and dinner to the entire house of (30 people) for two days
- [ ] $150 to provide breakfast, lunch and dinner to the entire house of (30 people) for one day
- [ ] $100 to provide breakfast, lunch and dinner to 20 people for one day
- [ ] $50 to provide breakfast, lunch and dinner to 10 people for one day
- [ ] $ _________ to support where needed

To use your credit card or give online, please see other side. Please make checks payable to Hope of the Valley Rescue Mission or HVRM. All gifts are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

Please detach and mail...thank you.