



## Dear Friends by Brenda Roskos

Dear Friends Old and New, Family, and Generous Donors,

It's time for a Peggy's House update! Sooo many great things are happening! To begin with, the windows are in, the roof is on and the siding is coming along nicely! So many blessings! This simply designed home contains 9 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms and is 4000 square ft. Next up: decks, drywall, insulation, cabinets and tops, floor coverings, painting, doors and trim, etc. (There is still much to do, however we are making great headway!)

We're using conservative materials for cost and functionality and have been able to keep the spending down due to donated labor and materials. However, we still need your help. The estimated value of Peggy's House is roughly \$450,000 and estimated expenditures will total about \$180,000 when all is said and done. At this point we need approximately \$50,000 more to accomplish our goals and get Peggy's House up and running.

For those of you new to our ministry, we'd like to share our purpose. The women's and children's shelter will house those that are in a vulnerable situation: single women, mothers, children, widows, elderly, infirmed, the foreigner, and the poor and needy.

We provide budget counseling, financial wisdom and discipline, accountability and teach responsibility. We will be providing cooking and nutrition classes for mothers and children, age appropriate Bible studies and lessons, worship, prayer, child training, and much more.

The women and children (who are able bodied and old

enough) will be helping with responsibilities of the home and day to day living.—working outside the house, raking, yard clean up etc., as well as inside including clean-up duties and basic life skills. The goal is always to achieve wholeness and to provide a sense of structure and self worth in a Christ based setting. The women will be taught how to help run Peggy's house effectively and with grace and wisdom.

We would like to take a moment to thank our generous donors and helpers who have assisted us, especially with their time, finances, and materials. Many thanks to: RBM Lumber, Inc., Wild West Plumbing, LHC Inc., Aluma Glass, Midway Rental, Rustic Rails and Rock This City!

Another way to help is to become a part of our "Brick by Brick"- A Path to Hope program. Simply purchase a brick for the pathway to Peggy's House. You can create your own personalized inscription on them. The costs are \$100 for Green 4"x 8s", Sandstone 8" x 8s" are \$250, and the Peach 12" x12" bricks are \$500! Please become a part of our Peggy's House legacy! Call Wayne @ 755-4673 or email him at arohwayne@gmail.com.

Once again thanks to all our helpers, volunteers, and donors for your generosity. We couldn't do it without you!

P. S. Health Update- Peggy has her up and down days but is stable, sends love and greetings to you all and wants you to know that she's hanging in there and covets your prayers!

In Christ,

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## The Story — From Christina Thunder

Christina Thunder.

The past is the past. Mine was rough to say the least. I have lost my children, became a junkie because of it and drank heavily. When my rights were finally terminated I wanted nothing more than to end my life, I was heartbroken and beaten down from the whole experience. I met Joe in the midst of all this insanity and he was there when I wanted to die, he talked me out of that

thought process, he gave me hope again. I still grieve over the loss. I am not perfect and neither is Joe but together we find a nice balance in our imperfection.

We spent almost an entire year out in the woods in Marion MT living off the grid.... No electricity, no running water, nothing that most people think they need in order to have a good life. We would heat up water to clean ourselves and our dishes, we would drive 10 miles up a mountain to get drink-

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ing water. To me this was paradise, I didn't have anything to honestly worry about except for us and our two dogs Mater and Cujo. We were happy and I was learning the beauty of living this way.

Slowly Meth started creeping back in to our lives and we were hooked once again. We would wait for the people who showed up like clockwork to get our fix. Now looking back, I know it was their way to destroy us, to tear us apart. They brought us some one night that was laced with God knows what and Joe started to hallucinate, it scared me, I didn't know what to do—we were so far from the hospital that I was worried that I was going to lose him. I got him to get into bed with me and I just held him crying my eyes out.

He eventually came out of it and decided that we needed to be done with those people. He took them their car, and the woman broke his nose, then she and her "husband" chased Joe through the woods trying to kill him. He made it back to me and we knew that it was time to change. But we were stuck with this old man who desperately needed our help, or so we thought.

Looking back on all this now I realize that we were in a very terrifying situation, and only thanks to GOD did we get out. Joe packed all our belongings into our car and we drove out of our campsite not looking back. We made it halfway to Missoula and we got a phone so I could contact my family, I had been having a horrible feeling for weeks at this point that something was wrong with someone.

I found out that my mother was lying in a hospital bed dying in Maryland. I hadn't spoken to her or anyone in months. I desperately wanted to get to her to be by her side, but instead I got arrested in Missoula on a warrant that I didn't even know I had. I learned that if you want to make GOD laugh tell him your plans!! I got transferred back up to Flathead county and I was released the next day on MOR ( my own recognizance).

From there I had Joe come pick me up and we slept in the car with our dogs for just about 3 weeks. It was at that time he and I were getting extremely frustrated with our situation but we didn't want to give Mater and Cujo up. But I had begged Joe to call A Ray of Hope to see if we could come to live there so we could get on our feet the right way. I didn't like the rules, especially the "no fraternizing". Joe was the only one I knew I could trust. I got over this in a quick hurry our relationship slowly but surely got way better than it had ever been.

We were both sober and to be honest it was nice to meet Joe's sober side. He was way more loving and less in attack mode all of the time. I used to think that I was never going to see this side of him and that I was fighting a losing battle over him. I am glad I never gave up and never gave in to those thoughts.

My mom died October 2<sup>nd</sup> 2016. I couldn't believe it. I felt like I was going crazy because bad things keep happening even though I was doing things right for the first time in a long time. I was extremely angry with GOD for this one I couldn't believe he was taking even more from me. I pulled away from God and was getting more and more angry in my daily life... I felt the way pottery feels when smashed against the floor! Joe finally sat me down had told me that I was scaring him and made me watch some Dr. Jeremiah videos, ones talking about what I was going through.

It started to help a little more each day... I was getting closer and closer to my long awaited due date (I was tired of being pregnant!!) and things started to feel a little better in my heart and mind. June 10<sup>th</sup> 2017 at 11:45am our daughter was born, 9lbs 14.6 oz 19 inches. We named her Brandi Eila-Mae Vachal. Brandi is my mom's name and we thought it would be a good way to honor her memory, and Eila-Mae is after Joe's grandma who is still with us.

I was fine for about a week after Brandi was born but then I started going through the post-partum hard core. Once again my behavior was scaring Joe. I promised I would talk to my Doctor about it and do whatever he suggested.

I have lost a lot throughout my years and I have found that being angry at GOD for it does not work, and believe me I have been angry at him a lot!! What I learned is to thank him for giving me these challenges, for believing in me enough to make me stronger, and for trusting that I will not give up.

I am still grieving over what I have lost and I will take some time to heal, but what I do know is that I will overcome the pain I have endured. I may have lost a lot but, God brought me Joe, and He gave me the opportunity to be a mom again to another beautiful baby. He put me at A Ray of Hope so that I could help others and see what took me so long to learn.

God let me take my time in wandering through all the troubled waters, and then lead me to what I have been so passionate about my whole life—helping others! Joe and I have been here almost a year, since September 1<sup>st</sup> and we are so grateful for Peggy and Bob for what they started here because they believed in "A Hand Up, Not A Hand Out", We are grateful for Cody who helps us every day and truly helps show the real meaning of Team-work. We are grateful to Ian for always bringing us smiles in one way or another!! There are many people we work with day in and day out that we are grateful for. So here and now I say Thank You from the bottom of our hearts for believing in us as much as you have and do.

Joe and I were Married on August 12<sup>th</sup> 2017 at his Grandparent's place. We are so excited to see the next chapter of this life we will have together!! This place has helped so many people and I hope to be around for a while because this is what my heart and soul wants to do!!

Christina Thunder

**Adopt a Family for Christmas**

We started "Adopt a Family" in 1999, and our newsletters over the years have been filled with stories of life changes when families get a hand up to have a Blessed Christmas given in love by people who know the man and the

reason for the season. Extending grace and giving renews the spirits of broken hearted people who think no one cares about them. We are gearing up for Adopt a Family for Christmas 2016. This is the start of sales in many stores for those who want to start a little early. Please call 406-755-4673 for more information.

From **Joe Vachal**

Peggy has a dream of a home where women and children have a safe place to heal from life and get back on their feet. Last year ground was broken to make her dream come true. Part of that dream has come true but I don't know if she knows it yet. Even before Peggy's House has been finished, hearts and souls are beginning to heal inside of the house. Tears of joy have fallen on those unfinished floors. How can tears fall in a home that is not built yet? How can rooms bring hope when it's not a room yet? To me the answer is easy, my tears have fallen on those floors. I have been given hope in those rooms. I have found God inside those unfinished walls. If a poor sinner that was lost a broken can do all that in a house that is still being built it brings tears to my eyes to think of all those that will be saved when Peggy's dream is finished. I have a dream and I need some help to make it come true! My dream is to have Peggy see her dream come true and see the smile on her face when she is looking at the new home that she has seen in her dreams. A house that is filled with God's love and that can heal hearts and souls as well as giving women a safe place to start over.



Joe Vachal

Dear Peggy and Robert,

First Craig and I would like to thank you so much for allowing us to stay in your home here in Kalispell after our truck accident.

We would also like to thank you for the bus tickets that are bringing us home!! Craig and I left Maryland in March.

We set out on the open road looking for a break in life from both of us working eight to sixteen hours a day never being able to enjoy life. We camped in as many National Parks along the way that we could find. We saw so many beautiful places from the Desert in Sedona Arizona to the beautiful Mountain tops in Colorado and the Sierras in California. Some of our hikes were 10 miles or more, but the breathtaking lakes that we would finally arrive at were well worth the hike.

After driving through Oregon and Washington state, we were looking forward to camping in Glacier National Park. When we pulled into Kalispell at Walmart to stock up on supplies, we met a man and his father who had a Winnebago that had signs in the windows saying "the Lord saves". We ended up talking to them for a bit and they had asked us if we wanted to go pick some huckleberries with them to make some extra money. It sounded like a great adventure at that time. So we followed behind them for at least 40 miles up the mountain. Once we reached the campsite it didn't seem right and we decided it wasn't a good idea to stay.

When we went to leave it was dark and very hard to see so when the road we were following out turned into a dead end with no warning, the truck went into the air and landed on a huge mound of dirt road that ended up totaling our truck. The frame was bent almost in half and all of the tires were off the ground. We ended up walking through the woods down the mountain and then down a steep waterfall. We found a lake that we ended up setting up a camp and stayed there for about a week and a half.

Eventually a sheriff found us after we made it up to the road. He informed us that he had helicopters out looking for us and that they had contacted our families back home. Our phone had been dead for a while and we had no way of contacting our families. We finally were able to find a ride into a town called Hungry Horse where I was able to charge my phone at a grocery store and let our families know that we were ok.

I thanked GOD for our safety and the girl that let me charge my phone was able to give us a ride to Evergreen. Once there we walked around for 3 days just trying to find somewhere safe to sleep and work.

We applied at the local staffing place for work, but they said there were no guarantees that they had any work for us. I stayed in prayer all day and night. We decided to walk to social services to see if they had any emergency services that might be able to help us, but they said their funding was very limited. They gave us a list of churches, and homeless shelters in the area, and we chose to come to A Ray of Hope first.

We were dirty, tired and hungry when we walked up!! The welcome we received here brought Craig and I to tears. The blessings that were poured upon us coming into this home were more than I could have ever imagined.

We were clothed, fed, cleaned and safe. The love and compassion was felt at the deepest level a human could feel. We want to thank each and every person here at A Ray of Hope for not only allowing us to feel safe and human again, but for the friendships and the familylike atmosphere that surrounded us each and everyday that we have been here. You all will forever be held dear to us in our memories and our prayers. Thank you



Rachel and Craig

A Ray of Hope  
PO Box 5407  
Kalispell MT 59903

Visit us at <http://arayofhopemontana.com/>

Phone 406 755 4673

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## A Hand Up Not A Hand Out



Helmville

2340 Hope RD 406 260 8084

We have good workers that need a Hand up  
with Work  
Call 755-4673

### MISSION STATEMENT

A Ray of Hope shall provide a safe harbor for those in the community with nowhere else to turn. It will provide those who seek help not only with food, clothing and shelter, but also with knowledge and a avenue to develop competency in meeting life's financial, emotional, family, and legal rehabilitation challenges.



Shelter

46 5th Av West Kalispell MT 59901 PH 406 755 4673



Thrift Store

105 6th Av West Kalispell MT 59901 PH 406 260 4184

Please send donations to PO Box 5407, Kalispell MT 59903