



HANNAH'S HAVEN, A Teen Challenge Center

"...and the Lord remembered her." -1 Samuel 1:19b



**You are Invited to Tour
Hannah's Haven on Dec 6 from 2-4pm
Read these excerpts from Lorenzo
Torres who did just that.**

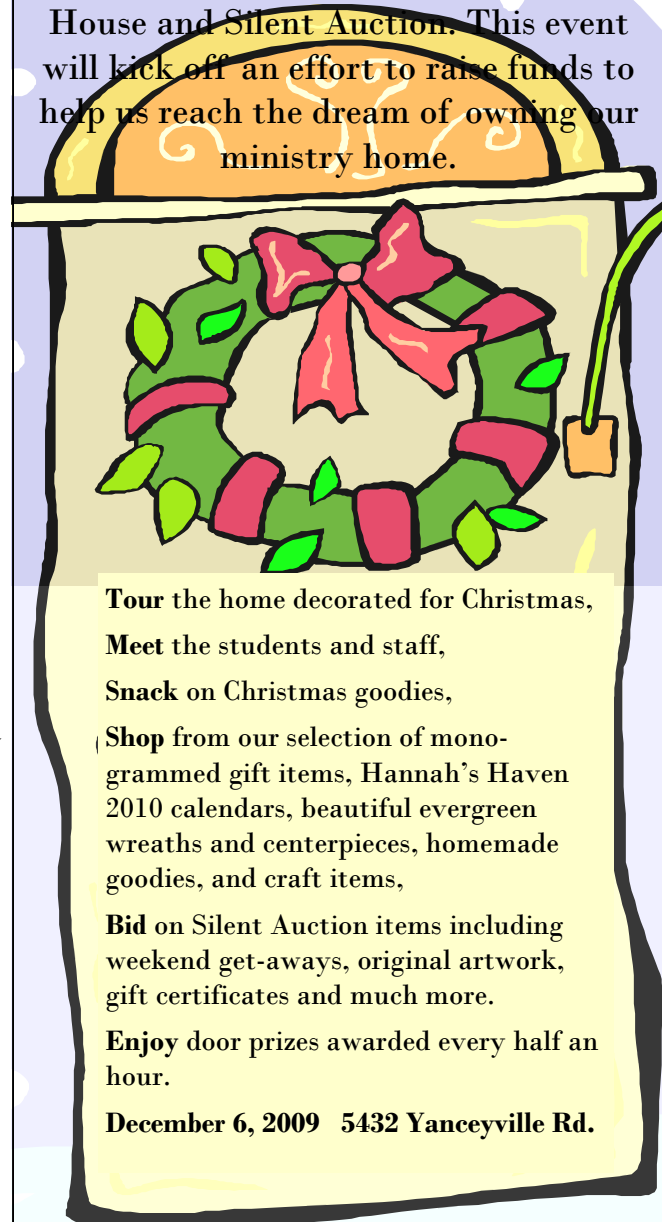
Hannah's Haven is nestled in the Northeast Guilford County community of Browns Summit. The thing you immediately notice is that Hannah's Haven is not your traditional drug rehab center. Hannah's Haven is a place where women can be freed from addiction, learn to value themselves and the people around them, and grow closer to God without being discriminated against. When you see this lovely home you would not know what goes on inside the walls of Hannah's Haven. Hannah's Haven is a nationally accredited Teen Challenge Center for women. By applying biblical principles, Teen Challenge endeavors to help people become mentally-sound, emotionally-balanced, socially-adjusted, physically-well, and spiritually-alive." Teen Challenge also has nearly 200 hundred locations nationwide.

I arrived just in time for dinner and the house smelled like corn and collard greens. The food was laid out on the counter buffet style, the most efficient way to feed so many people. Freshly prepared by two of the students the food was delicious. Cooking is one of their many daily tasks, shared among all of them. The dining room was beautiful with a large formal table for ten, then a small corner table for additional guests.

After dinner I spoke with a 42 year old Hannah's Haven student named Mary. She began to tell me her story when asked how she heard about the program. Mary said "I heard about it in prison. My case manager called after an internet search." Mary later talked about how she was afraid to return home to Fayetteville out of fear of dying from her addiction to crack and AIDS. She talked about living in a cold barn on a mattress during the winter months, with her male partner that she contracted AIDS from. She was very comfortable telling me this story, but it was so powerful that tears began to stream down my face from the shock, and she began to comfort me instead, since I was lost for words. I saw a photo of Mary after arriving at Hannah's Haven, she only weighed 85lbs. and looked dead in many ways, and she now weighs 165 lbs. She now appears healthy and strong with no signs of such a terrible disease. Mary continued to talk about how she loves it at Hannah's Haven, and does not regret coming here. She mentions the increase in wisdom and knowledge she now has. She added that after graduation she would like to do ministry and AIDS awareness. I have no doubt she will be a powerful speaker. The next day, I heard Mary speak to an audience of 300 at a banquet, in a powerful, yet humbling way. The crowd stands up and applauds her, as she walks off the stage. It is hard to believe, a little over seven months ago she was, homeless,

Save The Date

The house is decorated and the goodies are in the oven. You are invited to join us at Hannah's Haven on **Sunday, December 6 from 2-4pm** for our **Open House and Silent Auction**. This event will kick off an effort to raise funds to help us reach the dream of owning our ministry home.



- Tour** the home decorated for Christmas,
 - Meet** the students and staff,
 - Snack** on Christmas goodies,
 - Shop** from our selection of monogrammed gift items, Hannah's Haven 2010 calendars, beautiful evergreen wreaths and centerpieces, homemade goodies, and craft items,
 - Bid** on Silent Auction items including weekend get-aways, original artwork, gift certificates and much more.
 - Enjoy** door prizes awarded every half an hour.
- December 6, 2009 5432 Yanceyville Rd.**

Hannah's Haven, is a 501(c)3 organization.

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in prison, addicted to crack, and on the verge of death; what a miraculous change. Bonnie Harris, the director begins to tell me how Hannah's Haven got started and then the phone rang. It was a former client needing to talk about an issue. Their phone conversation seemed to go on forever. Awhile later, Bonnie and I reconvened our conversation. She began to explain how God revealed Hannah's Haven to her in a dream. She did not have an idea on how to begin a non-profit. See Bonnie use to be a former homeless drug addict that lived on the streets with her two children. After receiving healing from God and an extended amount of time with a stable life, God began to reveal things to her one step at a time and everything began to come together. The location came first, then new furniture, computers, décor, supplies and much needed funding began to come in by donations from individuals and corporations.

Bonnie continued to tell me how the program helps the clients. She insisted calling the clients "students". Bonnie also mentioned "It's not a group home, but a family care facility." There is a small application fee, and entrance fee; that is usually waived according to the student's ability to pay. Their family and friends are encouraged to donate. Funding is solely relied on God who provides through various donors. No federal or state funding is received. Hannah's Haven is governed by a board of directors, and has an annual audit.

Bonnie adds that the clients come into the program angry, bitter, hurt, confused, self pitied, and blameful of others. She explained that the program teaches them how to identify their emotions. The program has several key components to it such as daily biblical teaching, Christian discipleship, a 12 step program, community volunteering, vocational assistance, one on one mentoring, and aftercare upon graduation. She also explains the students have educational classes like nutrition, parenting, drug physical and psychological effects, budgeting, healthy relationships, etc. When asked, what usually happens after graduation? Bonnie said "some return to their past, some move away from home, some go to college, receive a GED, some get a job, and some go back to being a wife." She goes on to say "A lot of people try to get clean without God. When a person gives up drugs, alcohol, sexual things, etc. a person is grieving, and they wonder how to fill that emptiness. I know the only thing that will fill that emptiness is the word of God. Usually everyone has been to other treatment centers before they arrive at Hannah's Haven."

After speaking with Bonnie; I tour the home. There is a quiet formal sitting room as you enter the front door with a couple of large chairs and a large plush ottoman. There are two large bedrooms, with three beds to a room; where the ladies sleep and store their things. Arranged on the walls are paintings, with pictures of their loved ones scattered around them. There are also pictures of the students together, revealing the strong bonds that are formed at Hannah's Haven. Off the back of the home is a large wooden deck with patio furniture that looks nicely worn from all of the intimate conversations of the student's. You can see a newly built outdoor worship center that looks powerful and majestic. Newly constructed benches made from large construction timbers line a large powering cross, which symbolizes their faith, their healing and their God. The cross appears to be made from the same material but significantly stands out alone in workmanship, color and texture. Perhaps because the cross symbolizes: Hannah's Haven source of power, motivation, needs and their God alone and nothing else. When asked about Hannah's Haven the staff and students (past and present) look back at you awestruck and in wonder of what God has done through Hannah's Haven. This must truly be a place where women's lives are changed and are healed from their addictions.

You are Invited to A Hannah's Haven Graduation
Come Celebrate With Us. Graduate; Ashley Luffman
Sunday, November 22, 3pm at Grace Community
Church, 643 West Lee St. Greensboro, NC 27403

**Please consider your end of year gift to
Hannah's Haven.
All gifts are tax-deductible.**



Hannah's Haven
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