



Fall/Winter 2012

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NONPROFIT ORG

NEWSLETTER

Alexandra's



Fall/Winter 2012 Volume 12 Issue 2

From The Founder We Asked For Your Prayers...



Esteemed Friends,

It doesn't seem possible that our Holy Year, which I could tell you that this and every prayer has been opened last December 12, is ending. It was not answered, but only time will tell. While the beauty of marked visibly but in hidden ways where we were seeing the world

one in prayer for Alexandra's House. While all your actions were unseen, they were palpable, and we came to rest upon your strength. One of our intentions was to further our call to build a Culture of Love and really hoped for evidence of the slightest success, and even though we can't quantify it, can't

you sense it on the horizon? I wish with all my heart

transformed into Culture of Love may be for the future, we still need to work for it in all we do; being intentionally good people, asking for and giving forgiveness, being genuinely kind to those both known and unknown in our daily paths, praying for our enemies, surrendering our own needs on

the future, we still need to work for it in all we do; being intentionally good people, asking for and giving forgiveness, being genuinely kind to those both known and unknown in our daily paths, praying for our enemies, surrendering our own needs on

occasion to another's, and always striving to be a light for this darkening world. People are hungry for a smile, to be seen, for an unexpected kindness. One heart at a time, this is how this world will be renewed. Above the story of sorrow, is the over

From Runae to Alexandra's House

I wanted to share the below email with you. My sister-in-law Jennifer Rhoad wrote the story about the services you provide. She was so touched by the last newsletter that she contacted our preacher and asked if the church would pray. God is truly at work in your ministry.

Thinking of you.

Runae

Subject: Please Pray for Alexandra's House

Date: Tue, 13 Dec 2011 13:40:13 -0600

Dear Church Family,

I encourage you to join with me in praying for Alexandra's House, a perinatal hospice that has been a tremendous help to Lee and Runae Rhoad. Many of you are probably not familiar with Alexandra's House and the excellent ministry they provide. Jennifer Rhoad has written the following information so you might know more about the ministry, and be better able to pray. Please be faithful to pray for them for the next year. George (*Preacher*)

arching triumph of love, which ignites souls into action in the service of mankind. These are the stories of love that we want to share with you as we come to the culmination of this wondrous year of 2012.

Thank you one and all. Be filled with hope and faith in 2013.

With Love from Your Servants
of Alexandra's House,

Patti

Ultrasounds are wonderful things. This modern technology lets us have an intimate picture of the beautiful life God is knitting together. When parents go to an ultrasound, they expect wonderful feelings, great memories, and good news. But ultrasounds have another side. They can also help doctors

determine that a genetic disorder, a chromosomal abnormality or other anomalies will render the precious baby with a terminal condition. Often parents of gravely ill, unborn babies are alone in their

grief, in their search for information, and their

continues on page 2



Dori with her Earth Angel

Jason and Dori Walker

In March of 2011 we found the amazing Alexandra's House after learning our daughter had Turner Syndrome at our 19-week-ultrasound. Even though Turner Syndrome itself is not terminal she had complications that made her chance of survival very minimal. We had six beautiful, emotional weeks with her interiorly before Jesus took her home. During that time we found that God makes no mistakes and even death is beautiful and has so much purpose. We held and baptized Mathilda Hope. Even with her anomalies, she was made perfect in His image! She changed our lives and gave us so much drive and

need for support. While hospice services exist for adults, it is limited for babies, especially those still in the womb. Grieving families should not have to do this alone.

Alexandra's House is a perinatal hospice. This non-profit is important to me because it helps families honor the life their baby will have, even if it's not the full, long life the family had hoped for. They do this by bringing meaning to suffering, assistance in grief resolution, parent to parent partnering, birth planning, funeral planning, long term support, one to one and group meetings, and housing support for families whose newborn infant needs special medical attention for as long as the baby survives.

Alexandra's House was a big help to Lee and Runae when they learned that baby Noelle developed without kidneys. Not only did they provide help dealing with the news, information about what would come next and help planning for baby Noelle's delivery, Alexandra's house also helped connect Lee and Runae to local resources like "As I Lay Me Down to Sleep" (professional photographers) and "Caden's Cubs" (Tools to help older siblings grieve the loss of the baby) free of charge.



They were also able to direct Runae to a blog written by a fellow William Jewell alum that had also had a baby with undeveloped kidneys. After baby Noelle's short life, Alexandra's House has continued their support of Lee and Runae by connecting them with a family that makes remembrance bracelets and an artist that drew a portrait of Noelle. The director of the not-for-profit is still in contact with

purpose! We live by the motto, if she could change a world she never saw, Lee and Runae and is a great

comfort to them.

Noelle Tilly Rhoad

think about what we can do! So we decided to foster! We were lucky and our forever baby came to us in March of this year! Our boys Jason Jr. and Lance loved her at first sight! Her adoption will be finalized in a couple of months and Jason and I named her Luella Brienne! We also foster 3 other beautiful children! God's timing is perfect and he gave us an angel in heaven and one here on Earth. We are forever thankful to everyone at Alexandra's House. Their love and support helped me to find peace and hope during one of the hardest journeys of my life!

Alexandra's House will be celebrating next year on 12-12-12 two significant events. One is the 10th anniversary of the dedication of their current location in Westport. The other is the 18th anniversary of the birth of

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continued from "We Asked For Your Prayers..." on page 2

centers and buildings that offer space to Alexandra's House to host families for events that will not fit in their small, humble location.

You can pray for God's guidance as the not-for-profit looks to the future and expands into other gaps in service for these families. Pray that God would lead more volunteers and supporters to Alexandra's house. Pray for the families that are grieving. Pray for the little babies.

Thank you for praying!

Jennifer Rhoad

Gloria's Journey

Baby Gloria was our very first referral in 1999 and her dying caused us

immense sorrow. To console us, a prayer



Gloria's Rose

...You Are Continually Faithful

November 24, 2012

Patti,

Just wanted you to know that we have taken your challenge and we prayed for

the little girl the charity is named after. Alexandra's House is celebrating with a year of prayer. Would you be willing, beginning on December 12, 2011 and ending on December 12, 2012 to offer a prayer every day for Alexandra's house?

You can praise God for the volunteers that come to take pictures, drive families to the hospital, offer support and love in a devastating time, and for those who create and deliver the Wee Care packages for the birth of a much loved baby. You can praise God for the community

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ALEXANDRA'S HOUSE NEWSLETTER



Shivley Family

service was held in her honor on Memorial Day. To commemorate her life, we planted a rose bush. This poor little bush has a 13-year history of being transplanted, trampled, cut back, cut down, dwarfed in growth, and always possessed but a very fragile looking stalk with a single gaunt stem. However, no matter what, every year, for 12 years, Gloria's rose bloomed a single, beautiful rose, and

Alexandra's House every night since last year. We will continue until 12/12 and maybe even longer. ;). The kids actually fight over who gets to say "pray for Alexandra's House". They also send it out in daily prayer at school. Amazing!!!

Thanks for the challenge!

Christy Shively

Wendy's Story

Wendy found and consulted us through our website and we are so grateful we've "met"! Their baby Jordan was diagnosed with Turner syndrome, other anomalies, and not expected to survive. We have been following them since mid-summer and here are



almost exclusively on Memorial Day, the day of her original memorial service.

2012 was different. She failed to bloom at her usual time and still, with just a main stalk, one stem, and no flower, it made us wonder if finally the odds were against her and she would not survive.

Then, not in May, but in October, a single bud formed and

seemingly, with great effort, a pink rose emerged. We rejoiced in the sight, dared not pluck it, but left it for visitors to enjoy, should they even notice. For us, it was

enough to know that Heaven and Gloria knew we still remembered.

A few weeks passed and amazingly, another bud easily *some more recent updates. October 14,* *Baby Jordan's smile*
2012 brought inside, but no one remembered

Well, I actually have a good update for you. Baby Jordan Aubrey Dunham was born on September 24th weighing 11lb 14oz. She was 11 weeks early! She is currently in the NICU in Virginia and is doing well! She now weighs 2lbs 6oz! She is breathing room air and has never needed oxygen. She is on a C-pap mask for air pressure into her lungs but that's it. She currently has no tubes other than a feeding *continues on page 4*

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Welcome Friends & Patrons of Alexandra's House



As the days grew closer to our fourth annual 'Bow Ties for Babies', our committee became anxious as we hoped for another successful event. It was!
continued from "Wendy's Story" on page 3

tube that she will keep until she learns to swallow on her

It was so great to see our past friends once again, with so many new faces to share our mission. Friends of Alexandra's House was formed to support Patti's 'very special work'. Without your love and generosity,

Alexandra's House vision would be more difficult to attain. We are so pleased to share with you that we were able to give Alexandra's House a check for \$40,000. It took all of you to make this happen!

Our committee wants to say "Thank You" with our deepest appreciation. We hope to see all of you next year, with some new friends to join us. May our Lord keep you in His care and under His protection. God Bless all of you and all of our "special" babies.

Sincerely,

burst into a gorgeous bloom. The immediate forecast called for blustery winds and near freezing temperatures, so the rose was to be cut and

to do so. Three days later, we noted that, not

only had the rose survived those hostile elements, it was as beautifully formed as it was days before, with no sign of stress. Gloria's rose had, in these most unusual times and circumstances, doubled in height and width, and blossomed beautifully. Her coloring is better and the plant appears more robust. Attached is a photo of her glorious rose from our Holy Year, in honor

of a baby girl we will never forget. 3
own. Her heart is great! The hygroma has pretty much shrunk to nonexistent. All that we can see right now is some extra skin, but obviously we don't care.

Thank you so very much for your thoughts and prayers! We would love to keep them going. Our sweet girl is still fighting for us and things seem so positive right now, but she could use all the prayers she can get. I sincerely appreciate your support as talking to me during the hardest time of my life. I've kept in touch with Dori on Face book and she, too has been

October 22, 2012

LOVE IN ACTION

Friends of Alexandra's House

Thanks

Love In Words

For Alexandra's House –
As the fourth anniversary of Mallory's passing gets closer (December 6th!) I wanted to thank you again for all you have done. It is so nice to get the Mother's Day and Father's Day cards in the mail, and the ones remembering her birthday. It means so much, and I am grateful she led us to you. The

She is almost a full pound heavier and almost an inch longer!

Although you don't have the opportunity to share many good outcomes, your website and the people that you have lead me to (including yourself) have helped me more than you know. While the thought of having to bury my unborn child was the most awful thought I've ever had to face, knowing that there were people (out there) with the same news and that I could talk to, made it a little more bearable. Thank you again.

November 27, 2012

Jordan is doing great! She is still in the NICU, but we are basically waiting for her to get the hang of bottle feedings and then hopefully she will be closer to home! Praying for the best Christmas gift ever! She is up to 4lb 14oz as of last night, so she has gained a whole 3 pounds :) She is such a fighter and is trying so hard to get home. I can just see it in her eyes. We are so blessed by this little angel and I'm so thankful everyday for the strength to continue with the pregnancy that every doctor was so sure was 'lost'. She is the light of our lives and we couldn't be happier. We are patiently (well, as patiently as we can be right now) waiting for the news that she is just fine and can go home. That will certainly be the biggest weight off of our shoulders and the happiest day ever! Thank you so much for all of your support and prayers and for sharing her amazing story. I can't wait for people to hear her story.

XOXO

Wendy, Jason and Jordan Dunham

Yes, she is such a little miracle and we couldn't be happier. She has proven every doctor wrong who didn't give her a chance. She is such an inspiration, such a testament to faith and prayers, and I pray her journey inspires others as well. Maybe there will be more statistics for Turner babies because people will start to give them a chance.

ALEXANDRA'S HOUSE NEWSLETTER

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To Our Alexandria Home Family,
This blanket is a long time
the most worthy cause I have
by in my entire life.

I lost my son, Samson Pa
when he was born at only
It was heart breaking for my
had so many hopes and dreams
Samson. But when we were
moment, we received a memo
Alexandra's House, and it made
in the world. Thanks to you
beautiful pictures of my son
knitted hat and bunting
by the kindness of someone
something so beautiful for
would never meet, especially
how making items like this

It took a year to fully
In that time, we started our
in honor of Samson. We've
bunting, blankets, clothing
hand made items to hospital
box programs across the country
have never made a donation
organization that supported a
from day one. Thank you so
love and comfort you inspire
We will love you and pray for

to
Samson

LOVE SHARED

What has been brought together is nothing short of miraculous -- God has absolutely put all these pieces together to grow life and love in this wilderness through the work of your hands. -- I will pray for your strength to continue this beautiful work.”

Emily, Seattle, WA

are, whether they are born sleeping, or stay for a little while. Thanks again for all that you do, for families and for babies. We will be forever grateful.

*Amy Fordham, and Byron,
Megan and Noelle.*

Dear Patti Lewis,

Your vocation (mission) impressed me. I pray for your work for God’s glory. Pray for me and I will pray for you. *Blessings,*
Fr. Ubald, Rwanda

“What a joy to talk with you yesterday. I had a chance to read more about your ministry.

I am thankful that God brought you to us when He did. I am thankful for your HUGE hearts, your willingness to go where He sends you and the care you give. The above and beyond love you give to so many families that are in need and your dedication to His calling is a blessing to so very many. You must be angels God sent to Earth.

Julia, Midwest

It has been well over a year now since our visit to learn about the extraordinary work of Alexandra’s House. It remains an unforgettable experience for me.

Russell, UK



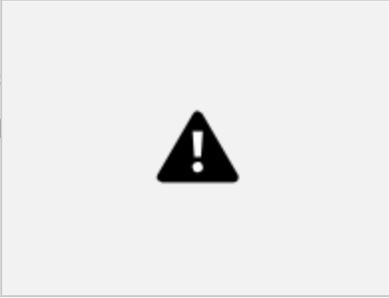
Sara & Miegians for Li

My name is Sara Lauterwasser a community at Mieg Alexandra's House, goal.

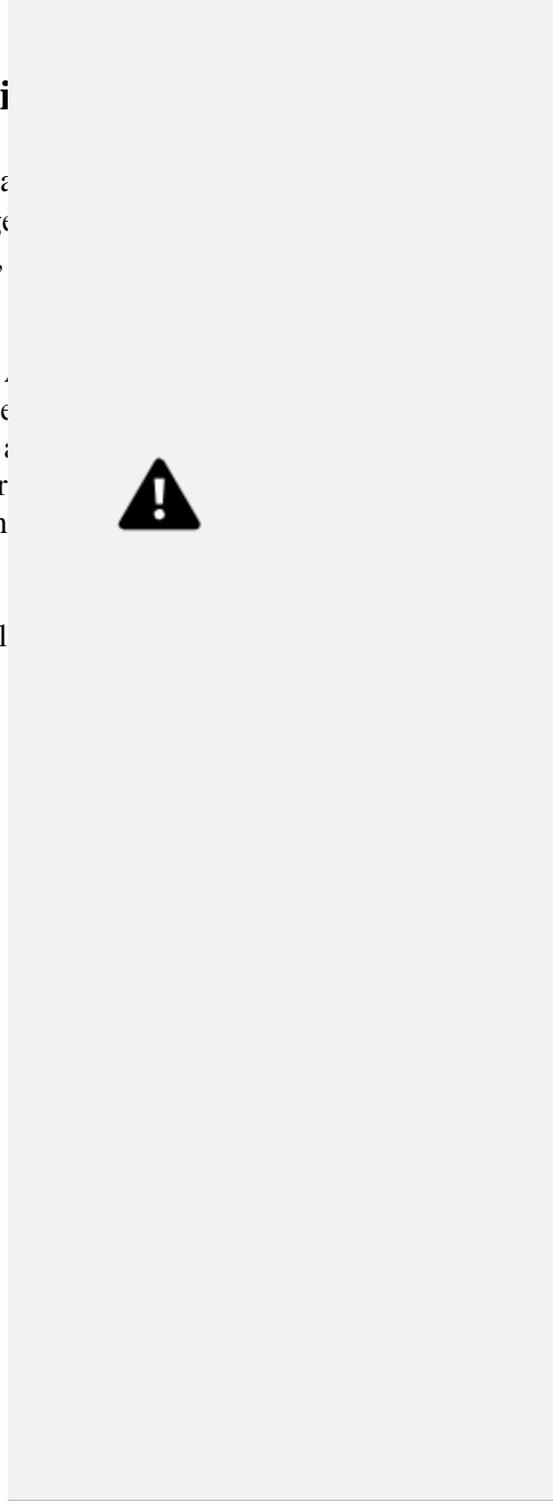
including prayers promised
create Lasting

Spiritual
from clas

Mem



I was introduced to Miegians for Life le Alexandra's House : testimonies that wer he was telling me th involved.

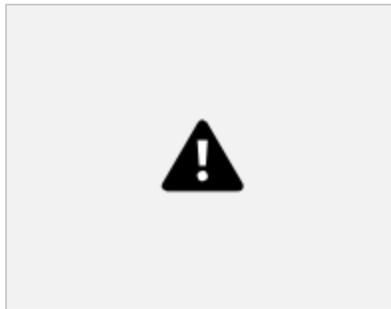


Babies'
first
present
Gown &

High School in Shawnee Mission, KS. As a leader of Miegians for Life, my goal is to encourage the
Cap

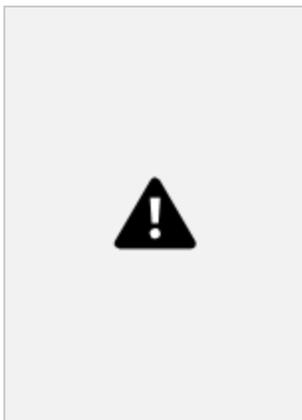
Keepsake
Boxes from
volunteers

could help and they shared with me the need for their backyard furniture to be painted as well as boxes to be made through Champ's Wee Care Packages. I gathered up a group of Mieg students, and we agreed to help.



LOVE IS SERVICE

Babies' first toy made by volunteers



Handmade



Something for siblings to snuggle

Gown

As we arrived at Alexandra's House, we were overwhelmed with a sense of Christ's presence. For a place that sees such sorrow, we were pleasantly surprised with its atmosphere filled with hope, peace and serenity. The people who work for Alexandra's House truly are being Christ to these families. The first time that I talked to them, I could sense their care and compassion. The way they turn sorrowful situations into positive outcomes is something that cannot be matched. Everyone who supports

Alexandra's House provides an excellent example of respecting life even in the most difficult situations. Alexandra's House in any way that you can. Your service, donations and, of course, prayers make a difference in the love, care and

My service experiences have allowed me to live out my beliefs. I encourage you to support support that they provide. I truly believe that with Alexandra's House leading the way, we all can make a difference in our community.

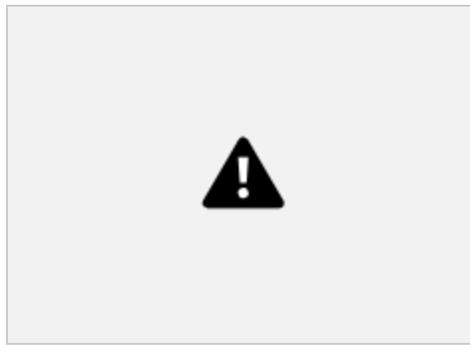
ALEXANDRA'S HOUSE NEWSLETTER



**A Family's Gift for Alexandra's House
Families**

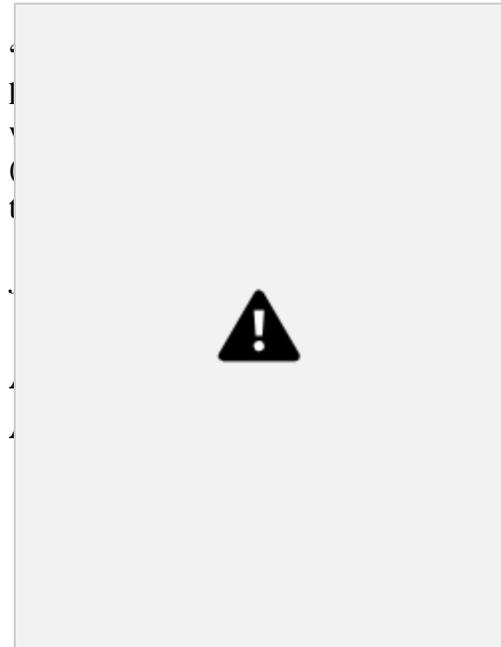
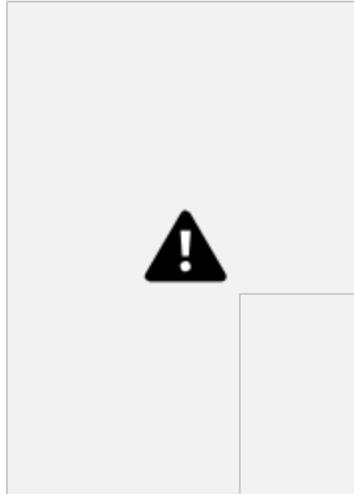
*Alexandra's House has a tradition of holding an annual
Reunion and Celebration of Alexandra's life for our*

Alexandra's House families. Redemptorist Church in mid-town now hosts this for us in their Sullivan Center and their Altar and Rosary Societies provide the lavish decorations, food, and special activities. This is a fun event designed to build happy memories for our families and is held on the Saturday of December most closely approximating Alexandra's birthday, December 12th. Soon one hears the sound of bells ringing and who enters but Santa? He soon settles into his special chair and begins attentively listening to every child's wishes.

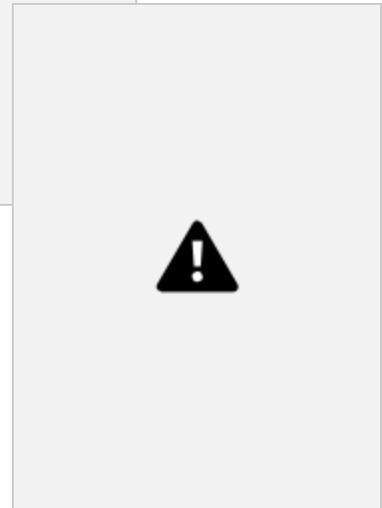


Baby Lacy

Three years ago the Charles and Jeanne Haake family decided they wanted their collective family Christmas gift to be a shopping spree for children's gifts, that would then be given to Santa to present to each child who comes to the reunion that day. This was an incredibly generous act for the Haake family to do once, but they have decided to do this gracious act again and again. Here is their note to us in anticipation of our 2012 party:



gain this year. We
ion for us. Hope you
ist the gifts left over
ist accordingly for
the work you do!"



Kathe Higgins has written and illustrated a book of poetry called "Alexandra's House: A Place to Share" for the siblings of Alexandra's House.



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Meet Some of Our Holy Year Babies!

Baby Margaret

*Baby Noah
Runnebaun*

*Dylan with
Baby Delilah*



Baby Sophia Grace

Baby Ella Rose
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