

## Reflections of Gratitude

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#### From the Executive Directors Desk

For questions about Green Gables Haven, our Auction Raffle, or any additional information on our program, please feel free to contact:

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## Annual Charity Auction and Dinner Returns

On Saturday, February 12, 2022, Green Gables Haven has elected to hold our largest annual fundraiser in the hopes we will be able to share and celebrate a new beginning. To you, our amazing sponsors, and guests, please join us at our Annual Charity Auction and Dinner at Ever After Banquet Hall and Conference Center, in Hastings, MI.

This annual event will benefit operations at Green Gables Haven – an organization dedicated to being the Chance for Hope, by Believing in Change by providing the Courage to those we serve. Stopping the Silence to End the Violence in our community remains at the forefront of our work.

The evening filled with fun and the dedication to Hope and Happiness kicks off at 5:00pm with a social hour, the opening of the silent auctions and raffles, followed by an open buffet dinner and Live Auction.

Over the past 19 years, this annual event has brought an incredible amount of support and hope in assisting those we serve to find a safer, more secure way of life. Your commitment to this event, our largest fundraiser, has offered over 2,174 individuals Hope and Courage to Believe in Change and has set them on their path for a New Life!

Four (4) Levels of Sponsorships are available as well as Individual Tickets at \$60 per person.





## 2021 in Review

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### Blessed by Community

There is certainly a lot of things that have to happen in order for our Mission, to provide a temporary, secure, nurturing environment and support to enable victims of domestic violence in Barry County to make appropriate life altering changes, to be implemented every day, and chief of among them is the gift of time, services, goods, and dollars that come from Hope and Courage to Believe in Change for our Victims of Domestic Violence.....and that's YOU!

I know it has been a tough couple of years for all of us in Barry County, in our families, organizations and overall community, and sadly we may not be quite out of the woods yet, but thankfully the pandemic has not prevented supporters of Green Gables from continuing to enable the Staff and the Board of Directors in fulfilling our Mission.

As the sole shelter for Barry County, Gables Haven acts as a safety net to individuals caught in crisis situations and in our over fifteen years of operations, we have assisted 2,174 individuals with 839 of those being children. Our program serves men (as non-residents), women and children from newborn to the elderly. The objectives of Green Gables Haven and our mission is to provide those in crisis a safe haven to receive services that will assist them in making necessary changes without having to leave their jobs, schools, and support systems.

In September, Green Gables Haven learned that we lost our Grant through the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) for consideration under the Domestic Violence Programming - 2022. We had been funded through a VOCA Grant since 2017 with an average funding at \$210,000 annually.

This grant paid for the dedicated staff to be in the shelter 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, including holidays. This Grant allowed us to always be available to help of victim of violence. This grant paid for Legal services saving clients from losing everything, this grant helped pay for essential counseling, this grant paid for so much. It allowed us to help the most vulnerable in our community, hence helping our community to be stronger, safer, and happier.

### Going Forward

We are blessed in the knowledge that the great people of Barry County will do all it takes to keep our shelter open. We do believe we will overcome, but we can't lie. We know we need help in our efforts to get Green Gables Haven, one of Barry County's greatest resource for safety and healing its best chance for the future.

We are most thankful to the individuals, organizations and businesses that have contacted us and sent support since the loss of our grant in September. You have allowed us to continue our good work for victims of domestic violence.

We have been and will continue to seek all forms of funding assistance from applying for grants, to escalating fundraising efforts and compiling a plan continue to grow our Endowment Fund that will allow for Green Gables Haven to become a to build a self-sustaining organization allowing us to be less reliant on donations and grants.



## **Because of you...Victim's Gratitude**

From a CLIENT-AN: I started working with Green Gables over a year ago and it was the best decision I ever made. I feel so relieved that I get to say my story was a success. A year ago, I was in a place that seemed like a dead end, I was in a battle fighting for my kids and fighting for myself, I thought I was stuck and trapped with where I was at with no resources to help. When I found Green Gables, they laid everything out for me, they showed compassion and they gave me hope for the first time in a long time. I was in an abusive relationship for most of the 6 years of my marriage and in that time, I was stuck with the belief that I had no options, that I would be unsuccessful at any attempts to leave.

In 2019 when my son witnessed his dad hit me, I saw my son become angry and he tried to defend me I knew then that I needed to find a way out. The next morning, I sat at a table with the Case Manager at Green Gables Haven made feel hopeful. She explained to me that I didn't have to fear losing my kids and I can't say how much of a relief that was. To be stuck in a bad relationship is one thing but to fear losing your children if you feel leave is a fear that's unimaginable, she gave me the encouragement I needed and the clarification that I needed to make sense of my situation. I remember justifying things and making sense of the unthinkable things that had happened and the Case Manager at Green Gables Haven helped me break my thoughts into reality and see sides of things that I didn't want to see. It was hard to be in the spot I was to know that I needed to listen to the truth and understand what has happened so I could realize how strong I was. There wasn't a moment after I started working with Green Gables that I was alone. To know that I had someone there at 7am to take my call or even at 9 at night it was a relief to know that I wasn't alone.

After I filed for divorce and during the custody battle for my kids there was an incident that resulted in me getting my nose broken and my daughter being the one who had to watch. I will never forget the fear that I felt that day when I reached out to Green Gables to tell the staff what happened. I was swarmed with so many people who wanted to help, they made the phone calls I couldn't, they checked on me, they made sure I had what I needed and most importantly they reminded me that I was not alone. I remember sitting in court and the whole row of woman sitting beside me no matter how alone I felt inside I looked around me and saw everyone who was there to help me, who was there fighting with me.

I didn't get the justice I deserved through any of it, my abuser was not arrested after he broke my nose, but I watched Green Gables fight for me. I wanted to crumble but I had joy that I wasn't in this alone, I had people there for me making the hardest days of my life possible to get through.

I wouldn't be where I am today just over a year later if it wasn't for the hope, they gave me and the things they made possible. I never had to go to court alone and that was huge because facing my abuser was the scariest thing I could have done. They gave me the strength to stand up in front of him and defend myself for what he did. I had a support system that understand the depths of things I couldn't.

Green Gables Is more than just a shelter. I didn't have to go stay there for them to help me but was offered to me if I needed it, but they gave me so many resources that I was able to use while still managing life. They helped me with counseling, finding an attorney, and resources to get help, but most importantly they helped me understand why I stayed for so long they helped me make sense of what I couldn't and because of that I was able to be strong enough to not go back. I was able to be honest about my feelings and the reality of things without being judged or having someone tell me how to feel. I moved to a new city and started a job I've been wanting for the last three years something I never thought was possible. I can't say that all my problems disappeared when I started working with Green Gables, but I can say the load I was carrying was so much lighter afterward.

## 2021 in Review

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### Because of you...Victim's Gratitude

#### This is what our clients say about Green Gables Haven....

*"I am going to miss you all! My children and I are so thankful for our stay."*

*"You helped inform me in so many ways."*

*"I have confidence and life skills I didn't have before coming here, Thank you."*

*"I gained insight by using the power and control wheel and talking with staff how I allowed my husband to gradually take control of me."*

*"Thanks to you, I left a bad relationship and have started a new chapter. I found safe housing and more importantly, I found self-worth."*

### Years of Providing Change, Hope, Belief and Courage

Thanks to you and your commitment to support Green Gables Haven since April 1, 2004, over 2,174 victims with 839 of those being children have been served and saved from a life of violence. It is incredible to know that Green Gables Haven has been in our community changing and often saving lives for nearly 18 years!

This service for victims of domestic violence would not be available if it wasn't for you, our donors who work with us to ensure our doors stay open and those in need always have a place to go! You are the caretakers of our program. You have provided the **Change, Hope, Belief and Courage** that we share with those who enter Green Gables Haven.

It is an honor and privilege to work with each of you in ensuring our community stays happy, healthy, and safe!

Thank you - Here's to a fabulous 2022!



⇒ Yes, We/I Do wish to continue to be the Change, Hope, Belief and Courage!

⇒ Gift: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ To: General Fund \_\_\_\_\_ Endowment Fund \_\_\_\_\_

⇒ Please keep my gift anonymous: Yes: \_\_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_\_

**Send Acknowledgement to:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_



⇒ In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

⇒ In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

⇒ As a Gift to Someone Special: \_\_\_\_\_

**Reference my gift in Memory/Honor of to:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_