



**Fall 2023**

## Upcoming Events

Check Our Website For Details

- **LAZARUS HOUSE OPEN CHARITY GOLF OUTING**  
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15  
PRAIRIE LANDING GOLF CLUB  
100% OF BENEFITS TO LH
- **SCARECROW FESTIVAL**  
OCTOBER 6TH - 8TH  
PLEASE VISIT OUR SCARECROW  
IN DOWNTOWN ST. CHARLES
- **GRACEFUL ORDINARY**  
OCTOBER 30, 2023  
NEW SPECIAL EVENT  
DETAILS SOON
- **ELECTRIC LIGHT PARADE**  
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25TH  
MAIN STREET, ST. CHARLES  
CHEER ON OUR FLOAT

*A cord of  
three strands  
is not quickly  
broken!*

Ecclesiastes 4:12

Alone, each of us are much more vulnerable, more easily falling into precarious situations. Two can more easily pick each other up when one falls and receive much more in return when working jointly. God created humans to build relationships with others, work together as a community, to share in love and support one another.

This Bible verse made me think about how the Lazarus House community comes together to create a strong, three strand cord that is not easily broken. It is comprised of the individuals and families seeking shelter, the staff that comes alongside them and the community, at large, who reaches out their hands and opens their hearts in support.

I see this strong cord woven each and every day at Lazarus House but have recently been especially thankful for it, as I find that it strengthens me too. I see it in the walking buddies that come and spend one-on-one time with our guests. I experience the gift of fellowship and generosity given by our supporters and donors especially when I speak with them and share stories of how they make a difference. The Lazarus House staff, as a whole, walk alongside our guests and work diligently to help them see hope for their future. The meals that are delivered to feed those who are hungry and volunteers giving of their time and talent.

Together we are STRONG and I am GRATEFUL.

~Julie Purcell, Executive Director



I was witness, recently, to the **great work that our Homeless Prevention Services (HPS) does for our community.** A homeowner/father called one morning, had hit hard times with his pending home foreclosure that he worked hard to get caught up on. In the process, he got behind on water/electricity and it was turned off. Within hours of calling HPS, he was here filling out an application, the check was cut shortly after and Kajsas, the HPS Manager, drove the check to the city office. That same night they had electricity and water back on. This man was very proud and I could tell it was hard for him to come and ask for help. When he left, it seemed like his spirits were lifted and he expressed great gratitude. **A CELEBRATION for sure!** ~Wendy Gruber, Associate Director

## Special Thanks!

Lazarus House had a beautiful evening June 9th to celebrate our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Posh Picnic. We send a heartfelt THANK YOU to everyone who attended our record-breaking year! With the generosity of attendees, donors, sponsors, volunteers, and our Board of Directors, more than \$260,000 was raised to directly support the guests of Lazarus House. We are sincerely grateful and thankful to all of our amazing sponsors including our Presenting Sponsor, the Emir and Patricia Abinion Family Giving Fund.



This magical evening took place under the elegant white tent at Heritage Prairie Farms where guests dined, participated in the live auction, Fund-A-Need, and hoped to be the lucky winner of the Golden Ticket drawing. So many opened their hearts to raise much-needed funds for Lazarus House during the night. To end the evening, guests enjoyed dancing to the music of Miss Jacquelyn Vale.



### Posh Picnic

A special thank you to the Posh Picnic committee who volunteered months of their time and talent to make this evening so special: Darlene Riebe, Sue McDowell, Dan Campbell, Carolyn Hanna, Bob Tardella, Paulina Szczepanek, Barb Potter and Jeanne Ward.

## Great Western Freedom 4



The hot, July weather didn't stop over 250 runners and walkers from showing up for the Lazarus House Annual Great Western Freedom 4 held on the morning of July 4th. Congratulations to all of our enthusiastic participants for helping Lazarus House raise much-needed funds. Lazarus House gratefully thanks all of the volunteers, sponsors and donors who made this annual holiday event so special. This year, our sponsors included: Colonial Café, Flatlander Fitness, Hosanna Lutheran Church, Exchange Club of Elburn, Elburn Lions Club and Mason, Faith and Hoscheit DDS.

We couldn't put this race on without your support, and also the help from our amazing announcer Jonathan Wilson, Nicole Devine who sang the National Anthem so beautifully and Boy Scout Troop 13 for presenting our flags. Special thanks to our race committee: Marcy Speare, Lynette Anderson, Craig Drennan, Scott Dutton and Kate Matallanes. Thank you to everyone for a successful event! We look forward to seeing you all again next year!

~ Karen W. – Lazarus House Event & Donor Coordinator

### OVERNIGHT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Lazarus House is looking for help with overnight volunteering. Currently we have 13 overnight spots a month that we are looking to fill. We need individuals 21+ to come in regularly each month OR to fill in as needed.

A Lazarus House trained staff member is present & awake the whole night. Our overnight volunteer sleeps during their shift, only to be called on by Operations Staff to be present should staff need to handle a quick emergency on site. Overnights can arrive between 9:00 and 10:00pm, then wake and leave any time after 6am to end the shift.

Please note that all overnights will have access to:

- \*A regularly sanitized & private sleeping space
  - \*A volunteer key to staff restrooms
- Contact Megan—volunteer@lazarushouse.net for more info.

#### Days we're currently looking to fill every month:

- 1st Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays
- 2nd Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays
- 3rd Fridays and Saturdays
- 4th Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays
- 5th Thursdays and Saturdays



## Thoughts from the Lazarus House Staff

### What I enjoy about working at Lazarus House:

- diverse people working together for same cause
- staff that support each other and every guest
- listening to peoples' stories
- everyday is unique, you never get bored
- helping guests foster new skills & opportunities
- partnering with our guests and seeing them leave standing a bit taller, more confident and with more resources
- collaborating with a team to tackle seemingly insurmountable challenges
- enjoy seeing relationships with clients grow and become more meaningful over time. Together we share a respect and trust.
- the people; our guests, our great volunteers, caring staff and Board Members

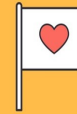


### What I have learned during my time at Lazarus House:

- deeper understanding that I am not in control of anything, except how I react
- everyone has a story and it shapes their circumstances
- there are a large variety of reasons someone may need shelter
- we are constantly learning as no two of our guests are the same
- a lot goes into keeping people fed, housed and supported
- expect the unexpected
- human connection & dignity are essential
- as a team we can brainstorm and figure out solutions
- learning the names, faces, fears and hopes of those we serve
- we are not changing peoples' lives, but giving them the safety needed to grow
- importance of taking the time to really listen to everyone's story and practice the opportunity to honor the dignity of each guest
- to be open-minded to what may come on any given day to accommodate a client's needs



### 5 WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT LAZARUS HOUSE



SCHEDULE A TOUR AND LEARN ABOUT OUR MANY PROGRAMS



VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME AND TALENT



HELP SPREAD AWARENESS-INVITE US TO SPEAK TO YOUR GROUP



MAKE A CONTRIBUTION VIA LAZARUSHOUSE.NET



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA-COMMENT AND SHARE

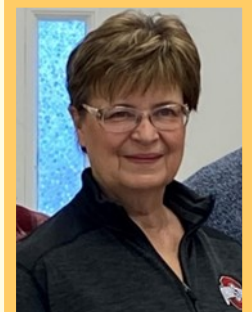
<https://lazarushouse.net/>

## Volunteer extraordinaire, Mary, shares thoughts about her time volunteering at Lazarus House!

In 2021, Geneva Lutheran Church (GLC) voted to support several local missions, Lazarus House being one of them. Along with another congregational member, I met with Julie and Megan to learn more about the services provided to those needing hope for the future. Wow! I had no idea that so much was happening beyond providing shelter. We asked, where can we help? We were immediately challenged with organizing a clothes closet, and I took it on. With Megan's help we gathered clothes stored throughout the building into one central location. To help staff quickly find what was needed, GLC purchased several clear plastic bins which were labeled to identify what was inside. I periodically check on the closet, organizing new donations and identifying gaps to be filled. The staff make this chore a joy.

But that's not all, Lazarus House sends out quarterly newsletters, like the one you're reading now! Our congregation enjoys the fellowship of sitting at tables and preparing the materials for mailing.

Want to volunteer at Lazarus House? It's so easy. Just ask! Megan will not hesitate to give you ideas!



Lazarus House  
214 Walnut Street  
St. Charles, IL 60174

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Return Service Requested



**Lazarus House**  
*Luke 16:19-31*  
Working together to offer hope  
and a future

**6TH ANNUAL**  
**LAZARUS HOUSE**  
**GOLF FOR GOODNESS**  
**SCRAMBLE**

**SEPTEMBER 15TH, 2023**  
**12:30pm Shotgun**

**Prairie Landing**  
GOLF CLUB



Scan to register



Thank You Business Friends of Lazarus House

Learn more about Business Friends on our website,  
[lazarushouse.net/business-friends/](http://lazarushouse.net/business-friends/)

