

Grantee Spotlight:

Titus 3

Giving Women a New Start and a Second Chance

For the women at Titus 3 House, it isn't just a place to stay, it's a home. It's also an opportunity for a new start and a second chance.

When Jane (not her real name) came out of prison, she had no possessions beyond a small backpack. She had undergone drug rehab in prison, but could not return to the community of friends that had sent her life into a downward spiral of drug addiction. She needed a fresh start, an opportunity to pick up the pieces and build a future for herself. She was fortunate to have a place at Titus 3 House in Dallas. "It's really a great place to get your bearings," she explains. "It's comforting to come here because it's like a home."

P.J. Johnson established Titus 3 in 2010, filling an unmet gap for transitional housing for women in the community. These women may come from prison or jail, or are referred by the Department of Human Services because of drug addiction. Unlike other shelters which typically allow women to stay 30 days, women can stay at Titus 3 House for up to a year. According to Johnson, the longer timeframe is significant, because it allows the women to get established in a safe and secure environment. They can get the drug treatment they need, pursue education, employment and find stable housing. "I am such a believer in second chances," she says.

Starting with nothing – no basic toiletries, no money, just the clothes on your back – it is no simple task to lift oneself up. The typical food stamp



allocation these women receive is \$189 a month. They may owe fines. They have to pay for transportation to and from appointments, school and employment. The financial realities mean these women must find gainful employment in a relatively short time frame. Their choices may be limited by lack of education or training, having a felony on their record, and proximity or availability of transportation. It's an uphill battle. But thanks to the Titus 3 program, they have a home, a solid base from which to start. Until they have resources to pay the \$300 monthly "bed fee", their portion of rent, it is covered by several local sources such as the Department of Human Services, Dallas Ministerial Association and community churches.

Though each woman is responsible for her own food preparation, the women live communally, sharing house duties. Often they work together on meals. The house is kept meticulously clean, both inside and out. Everyone at the house maintains a structured schedule. Following breakfast each day, they write out their daily plan, a skill that will help them stay focused and task-oriented as they transition back into the community. A house manager lives onsite, ensuring curfew and other house rules are being followed.

The bed fees only cover half the cost to operate the house. The balance comes

from fundraising, donations from the community and the support of local churches. One of the organization's big needs was the replacement of worn, old, and very tired mattresses. With a Dallas Community Foundation grant, five new mattresses have been purchased. Johnson explains, "You have no idea what a blessing the grant was. All of the mattresses were second-hand when we got them five years ago. The girls were constantly telling me how they couldn't get a good night's sleep. 'It's so lumpy!' they would say. I prayed for those mattresses...and the DCF grant came."

Since her release and time spent at Titus 3, Jane has a new lease on life. She is away from her previous social group, and is rebuilding the trust and relationship with her family, something that was lost when she turned to drugs. She is near the end of her drug treatment program and proudly states she has been drug-free for 18 months. She has a local job and pays her own bed fee at the house. She will study horticulture this fall at Chemeketa Community College. The house garden has been a great outlet for her to pursue her love of plants, gardening, and fresh produce.

DCF is pleased to support Titus 3, assisting women like Jane successfully transition to productive, responsible, drug-free and law-abiding members of the community. 

Transportation Program Gets a New Ride

Nettie, a Dallas resident, uses the West Valley Hospital Connections Van service twice a week to receive medical treatments at the hospital. Without the service, she would have no way to get to her appointments. She comments, "I'm very pleased. It is a good service for people to get to the hospital." Her voice echoes that of others who rely

on the free, on-demand, curb-to-curb transportation to access non-emergency medical services.

With the support of DCF grant funds, the West Valley Hospital Foundation recently purchased an ADA-compliant passenger van with a wheelchair lift for non-emergency medical transportation.

The new van replaces an older van that, after 15 years of service, had reached the end of its useful life.

Most of the riders are senior citizens who no longer drive, but the program also serves anyone with mobility issues. The service is provided by a team of volunteer drivers and one part-time driver. The Connections Van service can be scheduled on short notice, if necessary,

and it has two types of vehicles to accommodate different patient needs.

Another Dallas resident, Jan, explains that the service "has been a life saver." Since coming home from the hospital, her husband has transitioned from in-home services to regular outpatient services. "The Connections Van has made it easy and possible to continue his therapy." He is confined to a wheelchair and is not to a point that she can transport him herself. "Everyone, all the volunteers are nice, helpful, caring people. I can't praise it enough. I'm really thankful for this service."

DCF is pleased to support this vital community service. For more information on the Connections Van service, call 503-831-3474. 



DCF Grants Support Local Organizations

This year, the DCF gave back \$40,000 in grants to the Dallas community, supporting the efforts of 24 local non-profit organizations.

Bambinos Oregon

\$1,000 to provide diapers and wipes to low-income families in need.

CASA of Polk County, Inc.

\$1,000 to design and build a website.

Community Mediation Services for Polk County

\$1,000 to support phone and internet service.

Cross and Crown Ministries

\$1,000 to provide grief recovery seminars.

Dallas Education Foundation

\$3,000 for small grants for teachers.

Dallas Emergency Food Corp.

\$4,000 to purchase protein food items.

Dallas Retirement Foundation

\$1,500 to provide Music and Memory Program certification and equipment.

Dallas United Methodist Church

\$1,000 to provide a respite opportunity for low-income participants in West Valley Housing Authority's Family Self-Sufficiency Program.

Family Building Blocks

\$850 to support the Dallas Therapeutic Classroom for highest risk children.

Friends of the Dallas Public Library

\$500 to purchase large print and audio books.

Garten Services

\$2,000 to purchase commercial washing machines for the laundry facility.

James 2 Community Kitchen

\$3,800 to provide 7,800 meals.

Kids, Inc. of Dallas

\$500 to provide scholarships for youth.

Law Enforcement for Youth

\$1,750 to provide essential safety equipment for low-income families.

Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency

\$2,000 to provide gap funding for urgent needs assistance.

Oregon Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation

\$1,500 to support vision screening, examinations, eyeglasses and hearing aids in the Dallas community.

Polk Community Development Corporation

\$2,000 to provide staffing and supplies for the children's afterschool and summer program.

Polk County 4H Leaders Association

\$600 to construct a drainage system for the Dallas Youth Garden.

Sable House

\$2,000 to provide children's trauma support and educational services.

Salem Free Clinics

\$2,000 to assist with Polk Community Free Clinic's general operating expenses.

The Salvation Army

\$2,000 to assist to domestic violence victims transitioning to a stable living environment.

Titus 3

\$1,500 to fund improvement projects.

West Valley Hospital Foundation

\$3,000 to assist with the replacement of the existing Connections Van.

West Valley Housing Authority

\$500 to purchase and distribute school backpacks for low-income youth.

Dallas Students Receive Scholarships

In June, graduating seniors received scholarships from the Dallas Community Foundation and 11 other funds administered by the Foundation. In total, \$26,350 was awarded, giving students a hand-up toward the costs of pursuing their post-secondary education.

Thanks to the generous support of donors, the DCF awarded scholarships to four very deserving young women.



Jasmine Sosa-Santiago will study medicine at Western Oregon State University. She plans to become a pediatrician. Her goal is to build a clinic in the rural area of Mexico where her

parents came from. She has heard stories from her mother about the lack of medical facilities and how her mother lost a sibling because there were no clinics or hospitals.

Jasmine will be the first in her family to attend university. She has been an active volunteer both at school and in the community and is a member of the National Honor Society. "Receiving the scholarship has given me more hope and determination to put everything into moving forward and succeed. It means so much to know that people are supporting me."



Ashley Dupée plans to major in sociology at Portland State University and will use her degree to become a caseworker. She hopes to be a catalyst for change in the foster care system.

Having grown up in the system, she has personal experiences and insights to draw from.

"Children in the foster system often go by unnoticed and feel as though people do not care. I want to show them that someone does. Someone who understands what they are going through. Someone to show that anyone can achieve success." She adds, "It is a great honor to achieve such an award. I feel very privileged to be accepted by the Dallas Community Foundation. The award further enables me to be an advocate and engage in what I am passionate about. I will not let my community and fellow youth down."

Ashley is a member of the National Honors Society and has been involved with school theater, and actively volunteers in the community.



Leah Tabtab-Ensey plans to study pre-med at Whitworth University, with the goal of becoming a family practice doctor. She hopes to work for several years in a low-income area before opening her own clinic. "I have always had high hopes for schools and a career, and my life circumstances have made it difficult...because of scholarships from the Dallas Community Foundation I am now able to attend my first college choice and begin my journey."

Leah is a member of the National Honor Society and has been very active in her church, school and community.



Jessica Fenton will study nursing at Linfield College, and plans to continue her education at OHSU to become a CRNA (nurse anesthetist). Science and math have always been

her strong subjects, and she chose her career path after talking with a surgeon. "That moment was the turning point for my goals and aspirations. I have seen many other health career options; being a student in the Health Occupations program at West Valley Hospital helped me to see many professions and options, and allowed me to see the interconnectivity of a hospital environment. I have also job shadowed the CRNA at West Valley Hospital. These experiences helped me to confirm that I truly want to be a CRNA."

"To me, being the recipient of this scholarship means that others believe that I will be able to reach my goals, and are willing to support me as I try to accomplish them. I am incredibly grateful for all the help, support, and advice I have received over the years, and receiving the Dallas Community Foundation scholarship means that I am also able to get help financially."

Jessica is a member of the National Honor Society and has been very active in school leadership and community service projects, all while maintaining a 4.0 gpa. 🌈

Other DCF-administered scholarship fund recipients include:

American Legion

Leah Tabtab-Ensey

Jeremy Buller Memorial

Emily Cuno

Edward Caillier Memorial

Everett Minahan

Oregon Department of Forestry

Hannah Clothier, Lindsay Golly

Beatrice Gallaspy

Naomi Howe, Lindsay Golly, Sarah Ussery

Chester B. and Jeanne R. Healy Memorial

Lindsay Golly, Emily Weninger

Hank and Wanona Kliever Memorial

Hannah Clothier

Carl E. Morrison/Rotary

Lindsay Golly, Leah Tabtab-Ensey, Emily Weninger

Paul Olliff Memorial

Jessica Fenton

Helen M. Smith

Maci Ackerman, Danielle DuMond

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Caleb Will

What Happens When I Give to the Dallas Community Foundation?

When you give to the Dallas Community Foundation, you are empowering others in ways you may not even be able to imagine. Your contribution to the Community Impact Fund, where all undesignated gifts are directed, will support scholarships and non-profit organizations in the Dallas community. Victims of domestic violence, those facing hunger, homelessness, and those needing a hand-up in a time of crisis, seniors, youth and families will benefit from programs that enrich their lives. Together, we can make our community stronger.

All gifts to the Foundation are prudently invested to maximize returns. Each year, based on a calculation of average earnings, the Foundation board of directors allocates funds for grants and scholarships. Applications are reviewed and assessed to determine the worthiness and impact. Following award, Foundation staff monitors the use of DCF funds to ensure compliance by recipient organizations. And the results? That's the good things you read about here. Thank you for helping to make a difference in your community! 



Dallas Community Foundation

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Our mission is to enhance the quality of life in the Dallas community by building a culture of giving.



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