



Restoring Peace · Reaffirming Worth · Renewing Hope

This September we celebrate four years of operation! During these years, if you have heard me speak about the beginning of Restoration Advocates, you may recall me sharing something along these lines: "Back in 2019, local business proprietors generously provided us with a building, leasing it to us for a symbolic \$1 per year, including utilities."

Today, I am writing to express our deep appreciation for the business owners who graciously extended the use of their property. We want to publicly acknowledge Bobbie and Keith Nichols as the kind individuals behind this gesture. Up until this point, we refrained from mentioning the Nichols' names to avoid any association with the building due to confidentiality of our location.

Bobbie and Keith are also the proprietors of Three Oaks Retirement Center, in addition to CCS Medical Equipment and Supply and CCS Hospice, all in Dublin. Upon learning of our mission of providing a safe haven for domestic violence survivors, the Nichols generously offered us a portion of their property. Those familiar with the area's history would recognize this locale as the former Dublin Hospital. The Nichols permitted us to undertake necessary renovation of the property to convert examination rooms and restrooms into more spacious bedrooms with full bathrooms. They even encouraged us to use supplies from their well-stocked storage building, which would be helpful in the renovation so that we were able to create the warm and inviting shelter that has accommodated forty-eight women and forty-seven children.

I cannot adequately convey the immense advantage that this offer brought to our organization. We expected to dedicate at least two years to fundraising for the acquisition of a property to serve as a shelter. However, thanks to the incredible generosity of Keith and Bobbie, we managed to inaugurate the shelter within a single year and have consistently operated from that location ever since.

I am choosing to make this information public at this time due to our decision to discontinue using this facility. Unfortunately, during the past winter, a portion of the building lost its heating, and over the course of this summer, the air conditioning in another section also ceased functioning. Regrettably, these systems are beyond repair, and we do not feel it is appropriate to burden the owners with the expense of purchasing new units, nor do we feel that allocating funds towards purchasing new units ourselves would be a wise allocation of resources.

As we were contemplating our available choices, we were presented with an opportunity to make use of a separate residence elsewhere in the county! This particular residence is a five-bedroom house located in a rural area, and the owners have generously proposed to lease it to us for the symbolic fee of \$1 per year. Importantly, this house is readily usable as it stands, requiring no renovations or repairs. Our plan entails erecting a fence and bringing in furnishings, and in the near future, we will begin operations at this new location. We will continue to make use of the house we are purchasing, resulting in a combined total of nine bedrooms available to accommodate individuals affected by domestic abuse.

We remain astounded and deeply moved by the ongoing support and kindness we receive from this community, which has empowered us to offer refuge and assistance to numerous women and children. We will again ask for assistance as we seek to obtain furnishings for the new house. While we will relocate furniture from the now-closed facility, we will need to furnish three additional bedrooms. The best use of our space involves furnishing each room with a twin bed and bunk beds. Consequently, we will be in search of twin beds, bunk beds, and dressers to furnish all of the bedrooms, as well as a few more household items to fully complete the new shelter. The RA board is extremely excited to make use of this new space and look forward to serving many more women and children in the coming years.



A crew working on the Nichols building 2020

Thank you for your continued support of this important ministry without which we could not continue.

Jeannette Maxwell
Executive Director Restoration Advocates



Pictures taken as we prepared to open.

