Monthly Report January 2023

As I expected, January has been a busy month.

We began Jan 1 with one resident in Dublin, and one in Stephenville

Residents in Stephenville

CM has rented an apartment and plans to move at the end of February. She has been helpful living in the Stephenville house the last three months as we worked on repairs, and this month as we received new residents. She continues to try to come to an agreement with her husband regarding custody of their child, but he has refused to agree to any offer, so the divorce has been delayed. She has stayed strong, is working and looking forward to moving on with her life.

On January 4, we received a new resident in Stephenville, AA, and her two daughters, 10 and 15. She came from Plano by Families to Freedom. We were able to register the girls in Stephenville schools easily, with assurances the school would provide supplies and they would have free breakfasts and lunches. AA quickly began looking for work and, with the help of a new contact who owns a Home Health company, she began work on Monday, January 16. She does not have a car and walks the ½ mile to work, even in cold or rainy weather without complaining, but she is hoping to be able to drive an RA car soon.

DW came from DeLeon to Stephenville on Jan 8, with her three children who are 5, 3, and 1. She is trying to find a lawyer and working on paperwork to receive state assistance. Her situation is complicated and she is struggling to get all the paperwork she needs.

JB came from Irving through Families to Freedom on January 16. Her children are young adults. She has applied for several jobs. She also does not have a car but is willing to walk as far as Walmart area for work.

Stephenville now has four women and six children. It is more full than it sounds because of the ages of the children; 15, 10, 5, 3, 2, 1. There is an empty spot for one more woman, but the house is somewhat chaotic now, so I will not take anyone new in unless there is a true dire emergency.

Stephenville Building Update

The house is furnished and set up well, with beds in every bedroom, a complete living room, and a play area Joanna provided.

We hired Jonathan Chaine to repair the holes in the garage ceiling. We had an electrical issue which we had to hire Rutledge Electric to repair, and we had to call the plumber when we realized the sewer line had backed up and our sewer waste was running down the street! Les has been able to do other small repairs.

Residents in Dublin

RW continued to stay in Lewisville with her hospitalized son, still with possession of the car which belongs to RA, and not communicating with me regularly. On Jan 9, I notified her that Les and I were coming on Thursday, Jan 12 to put the new registration sticker on the car and visit with her. I continued to text her the next three days but she never responded. We drove to the hospital but could not locate the car in any parking area. I told her we needed to find the car. Since she never responded, I called James and based on his advice, I sent her a text to notify her she no longer had permission to drive the car and must return it or make arrangements to have it picked up by January 17 or I would report it stolen, and that I would clean out her room and put her things in a storage room at the shelter. January 17 she texted Joanna and me with a lot of excuses. She said she could bring the car back and pick up her things on Sunday, Jan 22, but Sunday she said she was not able to get a ride. On Monday, I realized her things were gone. She came in the middle of the night to get her things, but did not leave the car. After many more texts and excuses, and my notification I was going to report the car stolen, her “brother” called and agreed to a plan for the car to be picked up at a nearby hotel. Joanna’s mother and stepfather who live in the area, were able to get the car on Monday, January 23, and have it now. I do not know what happened with RW who had been a model resident until December.

NA came from Comanche and moved into Dublin on January 8 with her two sons who are 12 and 8. She works part time in Comanche and her sons attend school there, so she chose to be in Dublin. She has a lawyer and is working on getting a divorce.

On January 24, I had a call from PS, in Dublin, who needed a place for herself and three adolescent children. I explained we had one room and they would be crowded, but she did not mind, she just needed a safe place. They arrived with nothing except the backpacks the children had at school. We provided toiletry items from our supplies, and I was able to gather clothes and coats for them. She works when needed cleaning houses, is very grateful and has a positive attitude.

Dublin building Update

The west end of the building does not have heat. We knew that heater was old and was barely working last winter. The plumbing on that end of the building also continually backed up. We will use the bedroom on that end for storage, and operate with only the other two rooms.

Funding

I have completed the application for Erath County United Way. I hope the financial information is complete enough, since we did not spend the money for a third party review.

I am working on the Mary Kay Ash Foundation Grant Application.

Fifty Women Strong meet on February 15 to decide on grant recipients.

We have not received the NFL grant yet.

Final

At the end of January, we have a total of six women and ten children in the two shelters.

Volunteers have really come through this month. Les has found someone who helped move the furniture from our storage and is helping him move furniture from place to place. I had help moving all Robins things, then cleaning and setting up that room for the next person. Several volunteers have spent time with our residents, including Joanna, Nancy, and Kim. Dana Whiten came last week and cut everyone’s hair. My call for help with coats brought coats, hats, gloves, and some clothes.