# Restorations Newsletter

Issue 04 | 2026

My Sister's Place
*Restoring Hope*

## *Save the Date*
## ANNUAL GALA

Mark your calendars for our most exciting night of the year! Join us for the 27th Annual Fundraising Gala, featuring The Andrews Brothers Dueling Pianos: an unforgettable night of music, food, community, and giving at the Ramsey Conference Center (Lanier Technical College).

## *Rebuilding Together:* A Story of Hope

What if the person who helps change your life is someone you meet while rebuilding your own? When Hannah* and Mary* arrived at My Sister's Place (MSP) in Gainesville, they were facing different challenges, but they shared the exact same goal: creating a stable future for their families. During their time in our 90-day shelter program, both women worked hard to take advantage of every opportunity. They attended classes, found steady employment, and secured reliable transportation.

As they neared the end of their time with us, they faced another hurdle. Hannah had two past evictions on her record, making it difficult to find housing, and Mary couldn't afford a place entirely on her own. Rather than letting these barriers stand in the way, they chose a creative path forward: they decided to become roommates.

With the support of MSP, they moved into a new duplex completely furnished with everything they needed for a fresh start. Around that same time, Hannah reached another incredible milestone, regaining custody of her seven-year-old child.

Today, Hannah and Mary are still living together. They hold one another accountable, celebrate each other's accomplishments, and have both recently earned raises at work. By continuing to share a home, they are saving money and building a foundation for a stronger future.

Their story is a reminder that the ultimate goal of My Sister's Place isn't only to provide a temporary home - it is to foster a lasting, supportive community. Sometimes the greatest gift isn't a just second chance; it's finding someone willing to walk that journey beside you.

*Names changed for privacy

## *Contact*

**Office Phone:** 770-532-5111

**Physical Location:**
2480 Martin Luther King Blvd.
Gainesville, GA 30501

**Office Hours:**
Monday - Friday
8:30am - 4:30pm

*If you are in need of shelter, please call our service line at 770-503-1181

## *Making Room for More:*
## An Update on the Ministry's Plans to Expand

My Sister's Place is prayerfully taking steps forward to expand our ministry to serve more women and children experiencing homelessness. The qualified individuals we must turn away due to limited space continues to grow with 500+ in 2023 and 2024; over 600 in 2025; and numbers are trending even higher in 2026. The need is there and we are willing.

After looking at multiple properties that would give us capacity to meet more of the need, God is leading us in a different direction. We are revisiting the possibility of renovating and building on our current site; taking us from 18 beds to approximately 70, maximizing the property that we already own with no debt. Designs and renderings will soon be completed and shared. We covet your prayers as we seek God's will and continue along this exciting journey!

***"Cheerfully share your home with those who need a meal or a place to stay."*** *– 1 Peter 4:9*

## *Driven by Kindness*

### Community Car Donations Fuel Fresh Starts

Generosity is moving fast at MSP. Our community continues to step up in a huge way through life-changing car donations. Recently, one of our amazing volunteers gave a reliable Ford Hybrid to a resident in dire need of transportation. To ensure it was completely safe and road-ready, the volunteer even had the vehicle fully inspected at a local shop, installing four brand-new tires before handing over the keys.

This incredible act sparked a trend. Less than a month later, a second resident received a Chevy Traverse. The donor, a local church member, felt inspired to gift her car after hearing about MSP's mission during a presentation at her worship service.

The impact of these gifts goes far beyond mileage and mechanics. As one of our generous car donors beautifully stated: "We hope this will help her get a fresh start. No one is an island. We all need help at some point in our lives."

To keep the process simple and direct, the receiving resident signs the vehicle title directly, meaning the transfer of ownership goes straight to them without passing through MSP. Thank you to everyone who keeps our residents moving forward toward independence!

## *Second Annual Serving Hope Tennis Clinic*

### Restoring Hope with Lobs and Volleys

The courts at Brenau University were buzzing with energy for the 2nd Annual Serving Hope Tennis Clinic. Whether participants were seasoned players or picking up a racket for the very first time, the day was packed with skill-building and purposeful play.

Five local tennis professionals graciously donated their time and expertise, guiding players through drills to improve their game, while generous donations from Target, Kroger, and Publix funded lunch and refreshments to keep everyone energized. Players were treated to complimentary assisted stretching sessions provided by InMotion Wellness Studio.

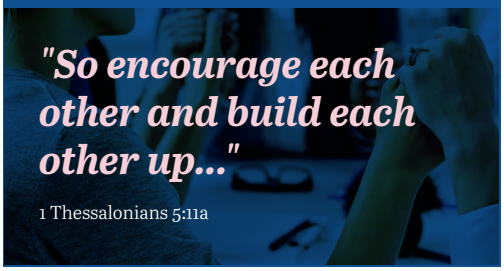
With 47 registrations, the event shows incredible momentum. Led by Alison LaMay and her dedicated team of volunteers, the clinic is quickly becoming a staple local tradition. Each year, every single volley, serve, and smash helps us continue to bring hope to women and children. Thank you to everyone who stepped onto the court to turn a love for tennis into powerful community impact!

***How are we doing?***
We value your feedback. For suggestions on how My Sister's Place can enhance our relationship with you, please reach out to Jennifer Bero, Executive Director at 770-532-5111 or jbero@my-sisters-place.org.

## Be the Support She Needs:
## **Join Sisters of Hope!**

**Sisters of Hope** is seeking additional mentors as we head into our second year of the program. Our mentors act as a supportive friend, prayer partner, and coach. You don't need all the answers - just a willingness to walk alongside residents as they journey toward stability and independence.

As Jackie, a current mentor, says: ***"I want the girls to know they are valued, they are loved, and that they always have someone to reach out to."***



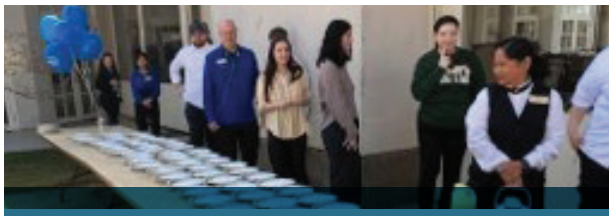

## Got an Hour to Spare?
## **Share Your Knowledge with our Residents!**

Do you have practical life skills you can share with our residents? We are looking for evening volunteers (presently on Thursdays at 6pm) to lead one-hour sessions on essential everyday topics. If you are knowledgeable in the following subjects, we'd love your help:

- **HOUSING:** Finding affordable options or tips for being a good tenant.
- **CAREER:** Resume writing and job-seeking strategies.
- **GROWTH:** Developing emotional intelligence and keeping personal boundaries.
- **HOME:** Teaching basic cooking skills or standard household cleaning techniques.

For more info on volunteer opportunities: email info@my-sisters-place.org or give us a call at 770-532-5111.

***We'd love to meet you for coffee to discuss how God might be calling you to be an encouraging presence to support our residents during their time with us and beyond.***



## *Pi Day:* A Sweet (And Messy!) Celebration

Seventy-five pies were smashed at the Chattahoochee Country Club to raise funds for My Sister's Place in celebration of Pi Day. Members and staff gathered for a unique fundraiser where anyone could make a donation to MSP for a coveted chance to throw a pie.

The target of the day? The club's incredibly brave General Manager, Matthew Collins, who selflessly took the hits for a great cause.

By the end of the celebration, all **75 pies** were thrown, with every single smash translating directly into support for the women and children experiencing homelessness in our community.

## *Christ Place Central* Celebrates Mothers with Love on Mother's Day

*"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth."* 3 John 1:4

## *Welcome Rebekka Haley as Shelter Case Manager*

Rebekka has been a wonderful addition to Team MSP. She first joined the staff as a Volunteer Coordinator, then added gained experience as a Shelter Specialist, finally landing in her present position of Shelter Case Manager. After sharing her testimony at several local churches, the Lord called Rebekka to use her life struggles surviving homelessness and her corporate management experience to make a difference with our residents, and we are certainly glad He did! Welcome to the team, Rebekka!

## Help Stock Our Shelter:
## Essential Items Needed Today!

### Bed & Bath (New Items Only)
- Bath & Face Towels
- Twin Sheet Sets
- Standard Bed Pillows

### Cleaning & Personal Care
- Laundry Detergent
- Paper Towels & Toilet Paper
- Feminine Hygiene Items

### Kids Snacks
- Individual Packages of Kid-Friendly Snacks
- Juice Boxes & Bottled Water

### Prepared Meals
If you like to cook, we can always use a few more recurring meal donations from organizations, churches, or individuals!

### Gift Cards
for Resident Transportation to Work:
Uber & Visa/Mastercard

### Amazon Registry
Check out our Amazon Registry for more ongoing shelter needs!

## *We've Been Found!*

What a joy to be a stop on the annual scavenger hunt for the Northeast Georgia Health System! We were able to welcome this year's family medicine residents to Gainesville with three "rounds" of shelter tours. We love sharing about My Sister's Place!

Become a **Hope Hero** and make a life-changing impact on women and children experiencing homelessness in our community. With your recurring monthly gift, you will immediately provide critical shelter, clothing, life skills training, and most importantly, a deeper understanding of the love and grace of God that brings **Hope** for a brighter future. Join us and be the **Hero** these women and children need to find a new beginning.

**You can be the key to providing critical resources for women and children who have nowhere else to turn.**

my-sisters-place.org/projecthope

# My Sister's Place

*Restoring Hope*

PO Box 908492
Gainesville, GA 30501
770-532-5111

## Find Treasures. Give Hope.

Shop beautiful finds while supporting the mission of My Sister's Place. All proceeds financially support shelter operations and our shelter residents shop for needed items at **no charge.**

### SHOP
Mon - Sat
9:30am - 5:00pm

### DONATE
Mon, Wed, Fri
10:00am - 4:00pm
*Sat by appointment only.*

*"The staff at the resale boutique is one big happy family. We help each other. We know what the purpose is:* **to help fund the shelter so the shelter can help the ladies that come in there...** *It's a joy to volunteer here. Everyone leaves with a smile."* - A Boutique Volunteer

130 John W. Morrow, Jr. Pkwy
Gainesville, GA 30501

(678) 971-4241

mysistersresaleboutique.com

## Ways to Get Involved

- PRAY: Please pray for God's guidance and protection for our residents and staff.
- GIVE: Your gift of any amount makes a difference in the lives of the women and children served by My Sister's Place.

## Partner With Us

- SHARE: Share this newsletter and the mission of My Sister's Place with your church, neighbors, and co-workers. And don't forget to follow us on social media!
- VOLUNTEER: From sorting donations to helping with building maintenance or answering phone calls, volunteers are an essential part of the MSP family.

**Want more ways to get involved?**

**Email us: info@my-sisters-place.org**