



Happy Holidays, Wesley Friends!!

The Christmas Season is officially upon us! So much to do....everything from balancing family and holiday guests, maintaining and honoring traditions, staying on top of things at the office or running a household, holiday church activities....and, the need to help others and show the love of God to those in despair. Let me briefly share what God has done this year, and what He is in the process of doing at Wesley House Community Center, Inc.....I pray you really do read this, because you will be blessed and even touched by the gracious God that we serve!

This year, the community donated \$45,000 to the Child Advocacy Center, located under the Victim Services Agency...**one** of the six agencies presently located at Wesley House. If you remember, this was done when we were denied accreditation by the National Children's Alliance, as a result of Wesley House keeping the crosses on our walls. God provided. **ALL** of those donations...every penny, have been earmarked for that **ONE** program, under that **ONE** agency...other programs located under the Victim Services Agency are the East MS Sexual Assault Crisis Center and the Domestic Violence program. There are **FIVE more agencies** that have equally important programs as it pertains to helping people to pull out of situations and back into a productive, God-centered, life.

Currently, Wesley House is working with partner agencies in our community and the National Family Justice Alliance, to organize the **FIRST** Family Justice Center in the state of Mississippi!

What **IS** a "Family Justice Center", you should ask? It, basically, operates under the same concept that Wesley House has been using for as long as I can remember....(many years), only it deals, specifically, with victims of sexual abuse, child abuse, domestic violence, elderly abuse and vulnerable adults. Here is how it works...a victim will come into Wesley and will be able to access any service she/he might need **there on the spot!** Mayor Cheri Barry and Chief Lee Shelbourn have graciously agreed to "on-site" police presence.....to be located **RIGHT HERE**, on campus! There will also be attorneys, medical providers, etc.!

Let me say that *each* participating organization will do what **THEY** do on a regular basis, we all just contribute our services toward making things better for victims of crime, at a time that **OUR** community really needs to **STEP IT UP**. We are so grateful for the support of this city government and community. Something else you should know... there **will be NO DUPLICATION**, on the part of Wesley House, or any other participating organization. *In fact*, well...did you know, for instance, that Wesley House has had a "**crisis line**" for **27 YEARS?**

We were a part of the **Domestic Violence Coalition** long before we ever had a domestic violence shelter here in Meridian! **That's right!** My family never knew WHO Mom would bring home and protect! Haha! She's **amazing!** Also, our **Christmas program** has been in place for **40 years**, that I have witnessed, but started out in 1904.....we have offered **tutoring** for **37 years!** Wesley House has done **prevention programs** in our schools and communities for **27 years**, before the grant money was there to support it! Wesley House has had a **Clothing Center** for **40 years** and we **GIVE it away**...we **DO NOT sell clothes** that others donate to help the needy in our community! That's pretty AWESOME!!! We have *always been lead toward the NEED of our community, rather than grant money*, and **KNEW** that God would supply!

SO, here we are...Christmas 2011! In spite of the wonderful things that are happening in the Victim Services Agency, for example, the *Family Justice Center*... the **other FIVE** agencies are ALIVE and well....growth happens, but **services do not stop!** We need your help this year like no other. There is no "Toys for Tots" campaign this year, (we love the Marines and this is not their doings!), and we have more children than we ever have had in the past. We are adopting out **600 Foster Care children**, (those are abused and neglected children who have been taken away from their parents), and hundreds of needy families in our community.....that equates thousands of people....last year, alone, we served close to 5,000 during the holidays.

.....won't you *please* help?

Every penny that you donate for Christmas will be used for just **THAT!** It might interest you to know, and *should*, that we have *monthly financial statements* prepared by a certified public accountant, **as well** as *annual audits*. Also, in the year of 2010, **94.6 %** of total revenue was spent on program services.....that means, people were being helped by your donations!

Thank you for your prayerful support of this mission...I can tell you that it is, indeed, anointed and belongs to God. I pray blessings on each of you and your families, and that this Christmas Season will spur a *new "breath"* as it pertains to your *spiritual walk!*

God bless you as you continue to JOYFULLY bless others!

Merry Christmas!

Love,

Ginger Grissom