



# AGAPE HOUSE

303 E Gurley St. #459 Prescott AZ 86301

Newsletter

March 2016

## "There is Hope"

Prescott Daily Courier January 2, 2016

Four months ago, Les Lee and his three children were on the streets living out of his car and showering at the YMCA.

"The kids never really complained, but I know they didn't like it," Lee said this past week from a Prescott apartment; one of his daughters said the experience was OK, rather like camping.

They had been living in a trailer park with bugs and rats with windows falling out and no heat. Lee couldn't always pay the rent after he and the children's mother split. "The owner did what he had to



do," he said, and the \_\_\_\_\_ family found themselves evicted with nowhere to live but their car.

After a couple of weeks, St. Vincent de Paul stepped in and moved the family to a motel room for a week, but as the days counted down, Lee once again grew desperate trying to hold his family together.

"Other organizations are for women and children; there aren't many for a father and kids. They look at you different – I have two teenage girls," he said.

Then Agape House, a faith-based nonprofit organization, selected the family and put them up in an apartment. A mentor meets weekly with family members, helping create a budget, and setting and reaching goals.

"God is the one who kept us all together," Lee is quick to say.

He and the children – Richard, 11, Jobie, 12 and Patience, 13 – regularly attend church, and the kids are doing well in Prescott Unified School District schools. They are glad the family did not have to move to Phoenix where family shelters are more plentiful.

"We didn't want to leave our church," Richard said.

"I didn't want to leave in the middle of the school year. I made a lot of friends," Patience said.

During transitions in living conditions, children do better if they are able to stay in their home school with classmates and maintain regular attendance. All three are taking music lessons. They also spend time at the library doing homework and using the computers.

The family plans to spend the next two years saving up for their own place, or maybe they will stay in the apartment. They all have goals for the future. Jobie wants to attend veterinary school. Patience would like to enter the military and become the first U.S. female sniper – she's good with the Nerf gun, Lee said with a laugh. Richard wants to ride motocross, and said he, too, may join the military and build tanks, as he is good creating with his Legos.

When asked about sharing their experience with readers, Jobie said she wants people to know there is hope.

## Kiwanis Boost Building Fund



Randy Loemker and Jim Flower accept a \$10,000 check from Kiwanis Treasurer Chris Blight and Kiwanis President Gary Ballard.

## HOPE GROWS

At the end of January, Agape House received a donation of \$250 from a local couple which then became the start of our building fund. The hope once watered blossomed in a matter of three weeks. The gentlemen pictured above, at right, of the Kiwanis Club of Prescott took quick action and bestowed upon Agape House a check for \$10,000 for the building fund. Then before the joy of that had waned a single bit, the sorority of Preceptor Alpha Delta donated \$500. Then while we on the board were marveling at the blessings, another local couple donated \$500. God is good.

Thank you to all for your generous gifts. The vision of the building fund is to raise enough for a proper down payment on a tri or four plex. Our own property will be a more effective use of the general/operating fund that so many of you are donating to with monthly and quarterly donations. The cost of rentals in the Prescott area are continuing to climb, as are the operating expenses from rental management companies.

## IT TOOK A VILLAGE.....

To turn our newest families apartment into a home! You all are the village. Our newest family left an abusive situation with not much more than their clothes. So they needed everything from bedding to kitchen supplies. Everybody came through for them! They experienced the love of the Lord from all the wonderful people and organizations that came together to furnish their home. N.O.A.H. , a local thrift store let us “shop” free of charge for the kitchen supplies. The wonderful volunteers helped us pick out everything needed to supply the families kitchen. A life group from Calvary Chapel donated numerous items, including a beautiful doll for the youngest family member. Several individual donors gave beds and dressers. The mother was especially excited about a kitchen table and chairs that were donated so the family could all sit down and eat together. One individual wrote a check to cover the purchase of new mattresses and pillows.

**Thank you Village! Your generosity is always appreciated.**



### Thank you Project Linus!

The children in our newest family love their blankets, handmade for them from Project Linus, an organization that makes and distributes blankets to children in crisis. Agape House is grateful that Project Linus donates blankets to each new family. What a wonderful way for the children to be welcomed to their new home.



Do you shop on Amazon? Did you know that Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchase to Agape House of Prescott? It is easy to pick Agape House of Prescott as your charity of choice. You only need to select Agape House once and then every time you shop on Amazon a portion of your purchase will be donated to Agape House. You can visit [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) for more information. Thank you for ALL the ways you support Agape House.

## Prayer Needs

Pray for future residents that are experiencing difficult situations at this time.

Pray for wisdom as we accept new families in April and July.

Pray for the Board of Agape House as they seek to follow the Lord's leading in locating a property to purchase for housing the families.

## Agape House of Prescott Mission Statement

Agape House of Prescott exists to provide long term transitional housing for families who are without a residence. We actively seek to keep the families together while helping facilitate additional support services in order to equip the families for an independent and self-sustained future.

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