



AGAPE HOUSE

Newsletter

December 2015

Dear Friends of Agape House of Prescott,

This year is nearing its end and we reflect back on the months that led up to this moment. This year has been full of tremendous progress for Agape House in its ability to serve those in need within the quad city area. We were able to serve others because of you who have supported us with your finances, talents and prayers. WE are enabled to bless others because you have blessed us.

The family that we were alongside of at the last newsletter has transitioned into independence and their self-sustained future. Their ten months with us saw many successes. The youngest, who was failing at school even with tutors, is now a straight "A" student. The mother acquired a job she has come to love and her confidence has grown greatly by her successes. The extensive dental work donated by a local dentist now allows her to smile the biggest of smiles and to live without the pain in her mouth. All this and more would not have come to be if not for your support.

We, that's you and Agape House, have been able to assist another family with some of their needs since September. That mother and her three children were able to secure their own reduced rent housing. WE are helping them transition through it all into independence by the end of this month.

At the end of October, we were able to fully come alongside a third family. This single dad and three children had been living in their car. We are providing them with a two bedroom apartment and all their utilities. These three families have the added benefit of a volunteer mentor to help them navigate through this difficult season in their lives. We are working towards housing another family by January or February of 2016.

Again, thank you for being a part of the solution to help homeless families. You have enabled us to secure safe individual family housing for 12 total persons during this past year. Last year it was reported that 65 students in the Prescott area were without a residence; with your help Agape House was able to house 9 of them. They were able to have a dry, warm bed for a good night's rest and a table to do their homework at. We are just beginning to make a difference in the lives of children and their parents. To each of these your caring support is HUGE! You are greatly appreciated.

Keeping families together through transitional housing.

The Board of Agape House.

An all volunteer organization.

“Agape House of Prescott is pleased to announce that we are a Qualified Charitable Organization for the AZ CHARITABLE TAX CREDIT. This is a unique giving opportunity that really benefits our nonprofit organization with little effort from our donors. An individual can give to their favorite charity, then the state will pay them back! You can earn a dollar-for-dollar tax credit on your AZ State Tax Return to reduce your AZ tax liability. This can be taken in addition to the School Tax Credit. This will reduce the amount you owe by the amount of your donation. The Arizona Department of Revenue allows an income tax credit up to \$200 for single or \$400 married filing jointly, to any nonprofit Qualifying Charitable Organization. For example, if you are a single filer and donate \$200 (about \$16/month), you will receive \$200 in return. If you are a married couple, filing jointly and donate \$400 (about \$32/month) for the tax year, you will receive \$400 in return when filing your taxes. To qualify for this credit you do not need to itemize your taxes, it is a credit, not a deduction. Anything above the \$200 or \$400 credit is a tax deduction and would require you to itemize your taxes. Should you have further questions, please call the office or consult your tax specialist. Must be received by December 31st.

All participants in the Charitable Tax Credit will receive a beautiful Christmas Poinsettia. This will help us prepare for our monthly budget greatly.

Goals met for 2015

Agape House of Prescott will have provided:

- 1,458 nights of bedding for homeless children
- 486 nights of bedding for homeless single parents
- 177 hours of volunteer family mentor/case management
- Met 64 family goals
- Provided rent and utilities 58 times
- Donated professional licensed Christian counseling
- Donated dental work

*Bedding is a shelter service term, Agape House use of the term means that these family members were housed in their own place; with bathroom, bedrooms with beds, full kitchens while together as a family. This has helped restore them as a healthier family , physically and mentally.

Prayer and Needs

A report out this year by the Urban Institute states that for every 100 extremely low income households there are only 29 affordable units available. It was our experience that this is even more a fact in Prescott. It was and is a challenge to find a renter that will allow us to co-sign for our families we are seeking to hours. Due to these facts we are working towards the goal of having our own facility to house multiple 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.

You are getting this email because you have expressed an interest in Agape House of Prescott. If you would prefer to have this email sent to a different email address, please reply to this email with the email address you prefer. If you do not want to receive email updates from Agape House of Prescott, please reply to this email and simply state "unsubscribe". Thank you.

Come see us at the **LAST MINUTE STOCKING STUFFER BAZAAR** on

Saturday, December 19th at the Old Armory, 824 E Gurley St. Prescott between 10 am and 4 pm. This is a chance for you to buy Christmas presents



while supporting local charities.