

A publication of Sheridan House Family Ministries

1700 South Flamingo Road • Davie, FL 33325 • (954) 583-1552 • www.shfm.org

# THE Family Advocate

July 2010



BREAKING THROUGH  
& BREAKING FREE



Honoring Christ by serving the needs of children and families

## A Note From Bob -

### It Didn't Take Much to Get Him Excited!

"I get to get a backpack!" That was the statement from a six or seven year old at last year's Back-to-School event. As I was standing at the front door welcoming hundreds of our single moms, this little boy looked up at me and excitedly exclaimed why he got up that morning. He was getting his first backpack for school. I will never forget the look on his face.

Remember how exciting the start of school used to be? Beginnings are important. Having the right tools are very important. Additionally, the sensation of being ready is also important; and that's exactly what we want to offer to children of single parent households as they get ready to go back to school this August.

Sheridan House gets to hand out the supplies, but people, like you and I, get the privilege of providing those necessary supplies. This is that time of year each of our readers can use the enclosed envelope to help Sheridan House help single moms and their families.

We are so excited about helping single moms because the vast majority of children who will need residential care or foster care are children from single parent households. Imagine how we can cut that number down by proactively jumping in early and helping the parent and child now.

Nobody has to give. We get to give! Please help us come alongside these worthy parents and their children.

His was a face I will never forget.

Serving Him,



SHERIDAN HOUSE IS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FIGHT BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL, LIFE AND DEATH. A FIGHT BETWEEN THE ONE WHO WANTS TO GIVE LIFE ABUNDANT AND THE ONE WHO SEEKS TO KILL AND DESTROY. NOWHERE CAN IT BE SEEN MORE CLEARLY ON A DAILY BASIS THAN IN THE SHERIDAN HOUSE COUNSELING CENTER.

### **"We are leaving and we will not be back!"**

This was the angry comment from Sophia and her mom during the first counseling session. They had just been reminded that abuse of a minor child has to be reported, by law. Both Sophia and her mom became vehemently protective of the abuser. However Sophia, whose trauma started at the age of 8, was not the only one who had suffered.

*Continued...*

Her mom was beaten more times than she could recall and hospitalized for the most severe beatings. She had lived through years of abuse at the hands of her husband. It was not until Sophia approached her mom and told her that she could not take the abuse any longer, that her mom packed what few belongings they could carry and fled - no job, no car, and few clothes. Her flight to safety brought her to South Florida, and then, to the Sheridan House Counseling Center.

As Sophia and her mom sat in the counseling center, it became obvious that each of them had learned to cope with the abuse in very different ways. As the mom cowered in her chair in the corner of the room, she barely made eye contact on her first visit. Even after recounting the horrific abuse she endured, she was convinced that she deserved to be beaten and suffered in silence.

Then there was Sophia. She stuffed nothing. She was explosive and full of rage.

The first counseling session lasted two hours as the counselor helped Sophia's mom to see that if she walked out the door and chose not to return to counseling, the suppressed rage her daughter was feeling would come out in some way...maybe a tragic way. When the counselor told Sophia that someone should have reported the abuse years before, her shoulders slumped and tears slowly began running down her face.

Over the next several months, Sophia and her mom received both individual and family counseling. Ever so slowly, Sophia's mom began to change. She learned that as God's child, she is His "treasured possession." Instead of thinking that she deserved to be beaten, she slowly began to see herself as God saw her and began to take care of herself. She learned to draw on Jesus for strength. She even began to smile and laugh.

Sophia has made incredible strides as well. The school she attends is no longer concerned about her explosive rage. In fact, she is making great grades and talking about college. After having an abusive earthly father, her counselor is pointing her to the truth about her loving Heavenly Father.

*Isaiah 61:1 - He has sent (Sheridan House Counseling Center) to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners.*

\*The child's name has been changed for protection and privacy.



sheridanhouse.org

Side By Side – A Single Mom Outreach

Recently, our Single Parent Ministry launched our first 2-week training course on Godly Parenting. Over 45 moms received practical parenting instruction and wisdom taught by Dr. Bob Barnes and shared laughter and connection with each other.

Due to the changing times and increased needs in today's world, we have re-tooled the Single Parent Ministry. It now includes more individualized and intensive training sessions in areas such as: finances, parenting, resume preparation and interviewing skills, meal planning on a budget, appropriate dress and more. In partnership with many local churches, Sheridan House will be able to further assess and meet the needs of single moms based on their attendance to the on-going, training courses offered.

The objective of this program is to help the single mom help herself for the long run by equipping her with the training and knowledge necessary to help her succeed. More than a "hand out," we want to offer her a "hand up" in a warm, friendly, and welcoming environment. At the conclusion of each course, participants are awarded "Sheridan House points" which they can use while shopping during a private, scheduled appointment at our in-house boutique. The boutique offers items such as clothing, shoes, and house wares.



**The single moms who attended this kick-off session excitedly expressed their thoughts:**

"I really needed this class. I didn't know many of these principles."  
Kisha

"I am very encouraged by these sessions."  
Laressa

"I've learned how to come up with a parenting plan and how to be consistent."  
Senia

"Today, I've been given hope for my children and me."  
Margaret



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## BASIC ITEMS NEEDED:

- 2 solid color  
Spiral Notebooks
- 2 Composition books
- Loose leaf paper  
(college ruled)
- 3-ring binder (1 inch)
- Packet of 3-ring  
index Dividers
- 4 solid color  
Duo-tang folders
- 2 blue ball-point pens
- 2 red ball-point pens
- 2 black ball-point pens
- Packet #2 pencils
- Pencil sharpener
- Pencil eraser
- 2 Highlighters
- Packet of  
colored pencils
- Packet of  
colored markers

Your contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free (1-800-435-7352) within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state. Sheridan House Family Ministries registration number is CH24786.



**Help an underprivileged child get ready for school!**

**With your donation of \$30, each child will receive the supplies necessary to start the school year off right.**

If you are interested in "Filling a Pack," please see the list to the right or contact Miriam Duame at [mduame@sheridanhouse.org](mailto:mduame@sheridanhouse.org) for more information.  
**All supplies are needed by Monday, August 2, 2010.**

**Thanks for making a difference in the life of a child in need!**

