



flourish.
a quarterly publication from watered gardens ministries

SPRING 2020

GRAND OPENING OF THE WASHINGTON FAMILY HOPE CENTER

"Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a dream fulfilled is a tree of life." - Proverbs 13:12

The Washington Family Hope Center (WFHC) is truly a dream fulfilled and will be a tree of life for the families we serve. Previously, we could shelter mothers who became homeless, but not their children. Now, we can keep families together as they get back on their feet.

The finished first-floor renovation of the old school building provides six family units with 30 beds total, plus a commercial kitchen, commons area, laundry, and showers. Work is also underway on a playground and outdoor courtyard.

Barring any delays due to COVID-19, the WFHC will begin sheltering families by June 1, but before then, we'd love to have you join us for a grand opening on Thursday, May 28. We'll cut the ribbon at 11 am and host an open house until 6, complete with refreshments, entertainment, tours, and the chance to join our donor club.

Thanks to all those who have and

continue to dream, pray, give, and work with us to bring hope to hurting families in the Four States.

Special thanks to those who helped renovate the WFHC, many of whom donated their services.

- ABE Painting
- APAC
- Blaylock
- Blevins
- Comarco
- Commercial Glass
- Crossland Construction
- D10
- Delden
- Goins Enterprises
- GW Construction Services
- Joplimo Mattress
- Joplin Venetian Blind, Inc.
- KS Wood
- Missouri American Water
- Norbury
- Pittsburgh Interiors
- RP3
- Satterlee Plumbing
- Schuber-Mitchell Homes
- Signature Granite
- Twin Oaks Cabinets

VOLUNTEER NEEDS

OUTREACH CENTER

- Office Asst - Fri
- Kitchen Asst - Tue & Thu
- Mission Market - Tue & Thu
- Care Coordination - Tue & Thu
- Maintenance Asst - Mon
- Shelter Check-in - Mon, Tue, Thu & Sat
- Evening Program Classes - Tue, Thu, Sat & Sun
- Overnight RAs
- Breakfast Crews

WORTH SHOP

- Inventory Asst - Mon & Fri
- Recycle Asst - Thu
- Check in - Thu
- Craft Asst - Thu
- WorthShop Asst - Mon, Tue, Thu & Fri

WASHINGTON FAMILY HOPE CENTER

- Building Hosts
- Childcare Asst
- Breakfast/Dinner Crews

To get involved, contact:

Dana Bunn
Volunteer Services Coordinator
dana@wateredgardens.org
wateredgardens.org/volunteer

UPCOMING EVENTS

20TH ANNIVERSARY OPEN HOUSE

Monday, June 1, 12-2 PM | Outreach Center

Hard to believe it's been 20 years since we opened the doors of our mission. To celebrate, we're hosting an open house. Stop by to see us and the good work underway, and arrive by 12:15 if you'd like to be part of a large group aerial photo and video message to our community.

FORGE GRADUATION

Friday, June 26th | Outreach Center

Each quarter, we host a graduation for Forge students as they move from one phase of the program to the next or complete it entirely. These events are open to the public; you're welcome to join us in encouraging these men as they transition back into a healthy, productive life.

TRUE CHARITY SUMMIT

September 22-23 | Billingsly Student Center, MSSU

Our 2020 Summit will feature keynote speaker, Dr. Larry Reed, President Emeritus of the Foundation for Economic Freedom. To learn more about Dr. Reed and the Summit, visit TrueCharity.us.

John Doe
123 Street
Joplin, MO 64801



RECENT EVENTS

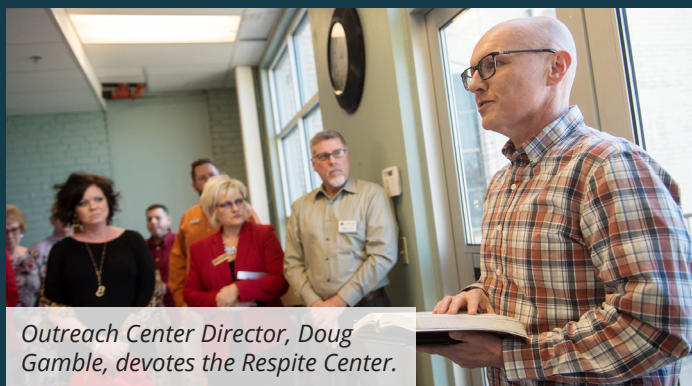
RESPITE CENTER GRAND OPENING

Friday, March 6

The Chamber of Commerce and members of the Mercy Hospital Joplin Auxiliary joined us for the grand opening of our Respite Shelter, a 6-bed addition to the Outreach Center.

Our first guest in Respite, Alex, came directly from Mercy Hospital. Diagnosed with a rare autoimmune disease, he was in need of extended rest while he recovers.

"I'm so thankful for this place," said Alex. "I'm getting the rest I need, and the people here are so encouraging. It's not only helped me regain strength in my body, but it's strengthened my faith."



Outreach Center Director, Doug Gamble, devotes the Respite Center.



Alex

IMMEASURABLY MORE COMPLETED MEASURABLY FASTER

By Travis Hurley, Director of Advancement

Thanks to God's provision through the generosity of his people, Watered Gardens' first major capital campaign, Immeasurably More, was funded measurably faster than expected. A full year ahead of schedule!

Starting in 2018, contributions of more than \$1.5 million came in from over 650 households, businesses, churches and foundations. With additional in-kind donations of buildings, materials, labor, and expertise totaling over \$570,000, Immeasurably More reached its goal of \$2.1 million in October 2019, funding all the campaign projects without the ministry incurring debt.

The new Worth Shop and Thrift Store opened in March, 2019. Then in August, we completed renovations to the men's upstairs residence at



the Forge Center for Virtue and Work. Finally, the much-anticipated Washington Family Hope Center was completed this spring.

If you haven't taken a tour of our new campuses, schedule one soon. Come see first hand how God is doing immeasurably more than we could have asked or imagined to bring redemption, relationship, hope and human dignity to the lives of our struggling neighbors.



Washington Family Hope Center



Worth Shop



Forge Upstairs Residence

LIGHTING A FIRE FOR TRUE CHARITY

By Jeff Lofting, True Charity Director of Education

"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire." - Plutarch

Eight years ago, a fire was lit inside me at the Leadership Forum for the True Charity Initiative (TCI). Like many people, I felt compassion for the raggedly-dressed man holding the cardboard sign, but wrestled with how to truly help him. There had to be something more than just handing him a bill and going my way.

That day at the Forum, I learned about a better way, and it wasn't simply a theory being taught, but was a reality being lived out at Watered Gardens.

Not long after, my wife and I moved to Tokyo on a six-year assignment with the Department of Defense. While there, I stayed engaged with TCI, completing graphic design projects and developing

True Charity University courses. We moved back from Japan in February so I could join TCI full-time as Director of Education.

I'm thrilled to be promoting charitable practices that are authentic (privately-funded), accurate (challenged-oriented), and actualized (outcome-driven). Through our University, annual Summit, and many other types of in-person and virtual learning, we're engaging charity workers and volunteers, donors, and business partners—lighting a fire for True Charity around the nation.

Please let me know if you have suggestions for future educational opportunities by e-mailing me at jeff@truecharity.us.



TIME TO FLOURISH

By James Whitford, Executive Director

Thank you for reading this second newsletter of 2020. In some ways, though, it's a first. You've already noticed the changes in our layout, and there are a couple of others worth mentioning.

First, I want to make sure you note our new logo. Twenty years ago, we were "Watered Gardens." Yes, that was confusing for some who were searching for businesses to help with landscaping! We changed that to Watered Gardens Outreach in the first few years. When we began sheltering the homeless in 2009, we joined the Association of Gospel Rescue Missions and changed our name to Watered Gardens Gospel Rescue Mission. Since then, we've continued to expand our services and reach, requiring a name that is more encompassing: Watered Gardens Ministries.

Of course, the common thread has always been Watered Gardens. Those two words are vitally important for us to remember especially during these trying times. In Isaiah 58, God makes a promise to those who will abandon comfort for the sake of helping the poor, sacrifice to provide shelter for the homeless, and extend life to others: You will be like a Watered Garden and a spring whose waters never fail (Is 58:11). In other words, you will flourish. That's the new title of our quarterly. Flourish will bring you the most recent news from our mission's front lines; testimonies of transformation; and important things for you to note, pray for, and put in your calendar. Thank you for being a faithful reader

**"You will be like a Watered Garden and a spring whose waters never fail."
- Isaiah 58:11**



and supporter.

As we approach our 20th anniversary, I want to let you know that the hope my wife and I had when we opened the doors on June 1st of 2000 hasn't changed. We want you to flourish. The world's definition is different than ours. Flourishing isn't found through wealth, comfort or security. It's found in real charity marked by selflessness. The world's

economy works such that if you hold onto more, you'll have more. God's economy opposes: If you hold onto less, you'll have more.

So, in this season when loneliness is on the rise, anxiety seems contagious and new crises are striking families in our own neighborhoods, hold onto less. Be that watered garden for the one who is lonely, anxious or hurting. You can do that by volunteering at the mission, but more importantly, you can live it daily wherever you are. And the more you do, the more you'll flourish.

