A Day at the Lake....Thank you!

Many of us have very fond memories of going to the lake, swimming, barbequing hot dogs and hamburgers, and hanging out with family and friends. The staff at Naomi’s House treated the women to a trip to Bass Lake this summer. It was a memorable day for the clients and staff. The ladies were able to swim all day, enjoy the great scenery of Bass Lake, eat great food and benefit from each other’s company. Each woman received a gift of a beach towel and an inner tube. It was even more special trip for one woman because she was able to celebrate her birthday with a rice crispy cake made by staff.

It was a day for each of the women to laugh and have fun, relax and catch a tan. Some clients talked about how great it was just to get away and be able to forget about their struggles and obstacles. Some even reflected on when they used to go to the lake as a child.

On the drive home staff and the women sang traditional camp songs. Everyone was smiling and joyful. This experience the women had at the lake is priceless. These trips enable them to enjoy the simple things we take for granted such as companionship and the natural beauty of a lake. It also gives them the opportunity to experience a day free from homelessness and hopelessness. A day at the lake for the women is only made possible from generous donors in our community. On behalf of staff and the women of Naomi’s House we want to thank the donors for giving us a wonderful day at the lake and a beacon of hope.

Upcoming Events

The Central California Women’s Conference - September 20, 2016
As a long term case manager we sometimes think we have clients that are beyond our help. Peggy, for example, had stayed at Naomi’s House for over 13 years. Although I knew her well, it was very difficult to communicate with her because of her disabilities. One day, the Director of Naomi’s House gave me a challenge: “Work with Peggy to find her housing...there has to be a way.” I took a deep breath and went to work. It was very challenging to work with her because like many of the long term homelessness there are many barriers to housing. Many times simple conversations were challenging. I did however, learn to communicate with Peggy. After a few months I was able to get all the documents she needed for housing and I was able to link her to an appropriate housing program. Moving day was very emotional for both of us: she was smiling, and I was crying. It took kindness, patience, understanding and determination to move Peggy from homelessness to housing. Her smile however, reminds me why we do the work we do at Naomi’s House.

Rosa was a client who we all really liked but for some reason she is always “getting into trouble.” We would constantly bring her into the office because she was breaking the rules and pushing boundaries. Staff was confused why this fun loving talkative woman was breaking the rules on purpose. Finally, after repeated offenses, Rosa admitted that she loved being called in and spending time with us because she loved the attention she received. Rosa stated that her mother never paid any attention to her unless she got “into trouble.” Negative attention was better than no attention at all. At the time Rosa was estranged from her grown sons. Loneliness and sadness can cause a person to act in very negative ways.

Naomi’s House staff was determined to bring a positive outcome of Rosa’s behavior. If attention is what Rosa needed, then we’re going to give it to her in a positive productive manner. Rosa began working with her case manager every day to get her own apartment. Together they gathered documents necessary for housing and met with agencies to find her forever home. During this process Rosa mended her relationships with her sons.

The staff’s happiest and saddest day is when Rosa moved to her own apartment. Happy because she was no longer homeless and sad because we got used to having her around constantly keeping us “on our toes.” She had become more than just a client to us, but a vibrant woman who made us laugh, cry and remind us how a little love and attention can change a person’s life forever.
Drop off your donation at Poverello House and let them know it’s for Naomi’s House and they will bring it over to us. Thank you for all the support!

**Wish List**

- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Perfume/Body Spray
- Nail Polish/Remover
- Hair Dye and Accessories
- Flip Flops/Slippers
- Pajamas (XS-XXL)
- Feminine Products

---

**Big Hat Days and iHeart Media**

Because of a generous donation from iHeart Media, Naomi’s House was able to have a booth at Big Hat Days. At Big Hat days, Naomi’s House sold candles made by the clients and talked to people regarding our services. Big Hat Days was especially special for staff because we talked to former clients that we had assisted in the past. It was great to see them able to buy candles and talk about their successes.

---

**Naomi’s House Candles**

The women of Naomi’s House are creating homemade scented or unscented soy candles for purchase. The purpose of the candle making is to learn about creating a business and giving back to the community. All proceeds from the sales of candles go directly back to Naomi’s House. Each candle is handmade by a women staying at Naomi’s House and has her own personal story. If you are interested in learning more about or purchasing these candles, please contact Naomi’s House (559) 443-1531 or email Melissa at daniels@naomishousefresno.org

---

"BEAUTY BEGINS THE MOMENT YOU DECIDE TO BE YOURSELF."

- COCO CHANEL
Phone: 
(559) 443-1531

Fax: 
(559) 443-1538

E-Mail: 
daniels@poverellohouse.org

“A gentle haven for homeless women”

Where Your Dollars Go

Programs 95%
Administration 3%
Fundraising 2%

Follow us on Social Media