



# The Vine



Vine Maple Place

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## Thank You!

This edition of *The Vine* is full of stories of transformed lives. Your support made that possible.

We appreciate you!

*The Vine* is a publication of  
Vine Maple Place.

## Rising from the ashes of her past

*A young mother overcomes past trauma and builds a life of success and stability*



*Victoria now faces the future with confidence and hope.*

After growing up in a dysfunctional and often dangerous home, Victoria\* had very little positive interaction with her family. As a young adult, she struggled with drug and alcohol abuse for nearly seven years. She quit using the day she learned she was pregnant.

Victoria immediately recognized that her unstable lifestyle couldn't continue, but without any family support she had

no one to turn to for help. A severe injury from a car accident, shortly after giving birth, left her unable to care for herself or her son and isolated her even further.

A distant relative allowed her and her child to move in for three months as she struggled to heal, but she had nowhere to go when it was time to move out. "I had no life skills, a son and an injury impacting my daily life. My home wasn't stable for

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\* Identity protected

# From the Director



Our vision, when Vine Maple Place was first established, was for a safe, stable home for every child and parent in our community.

Our goal is **ZERO**. Zero homeless families in our community! Yes, that's an audacious, ambitious goal, and some would even say it's crazy. If the goal isn't ZERO then what is it? How many

homeless families are acceptable in our community? How many kids should be allowed to experience the fear, trauma and turmoil brought on by homelessness?

I'm sure you agree that anything more than ZERO is unacceptable. That's why we're mobilizing individuals, churches, businesses, schools, social service agencies and community groups to work together to end family homelessness in our community NOW.

I invite you to join us!

*Colleen Starr*

Colleen Starr  
Executive Director

## A gift of hope

*This family lived in a car for over two months before coming to Vine Maple Place. The community rallied to get them moved into their new home on Christmas Eve!*



## Restoring a rocky relationship

*A mother and son are repairing what once was broken*

When a family comes to Vine Maple Place, there are often wounds from the trauma of homelessness that need to be healed. Katie\* and her son Josh\* had a broken relationship, and there were problems in both the way Katie was parenting and how Josh was reacting to stress and conflict.

During an argument, Josh punched holes in the walls of their apartment. In what became an excellent learning experience, he was held accountable for the damage and worked with a male



***Taking responsibility for correcting mistakes is a powerful lesson in rebuilding broken relationships.***

volunteer to make the necessary repairs to his home.

Katie began counseling and learned about setting boundaries for herself and for her son. She was taught how to let go of overly controlling behavior, and how to engage appropriately in productive conversation with Josh.

Katie and Josh are learning not only how to repair walls, but how to repair their relationship and grow stronger as they move forward.

*\* identity protected*



# Taking the initiative pays off

*A Vine Maple Place client is taking a proactive approach to realizing her goals*



*Sarah is doing all the right things to continue moving forward.*

One of the barriers that clients often face is having poor credit that prevents them from obtaining

housing. Sarah\* decided to be resourceful and examine her credit report in order to clear up any

discrepancies. With the help of her case manager, she pulled her credit report and checked for errors. Sarah found that many of the negative items on the report had already been paid, yet had not been removed.

Sarah contacted the creditors who were reporting her debt and asked to have the paid items deleted. She was able to significantly improve her credit score, and the only cost to her was time and effort.

Both her improved score and her initiative to take action are crucial factors to her obtaining permanent housing. Sarah is making great progress toward her goals of being able to provide a more stable future for her family.

## Dressed for success

*Generous donations from the community allow clients to build professional wardrobes they couldn't otherwise afford*

One of Cassie's\* main priorities, after arriving at Vine Maple Place, was to find full-time employment at a livable wage so she could stabilize her housing situation. Staff and volunteers worked with her on job placement, mock interviews and resume writing.

Cassie also attended a Wardrobe Consultant event\*\* at Vine Maple Place, facilitated by volunteer Lori Knight. This gave her the opportunity to obtain professional clothing for work and interviews, in addition to receiving input from a personal consultant who helped her

put outfits together that fit her style and needs.

Cassie and the other clients walked with confidence as they showed off their new looks. Each woman left with her bags full and her head held high.

The timing was perfect for Cassie, who landed a job in an office setting where professional attire was expected. She says of the experience, "I can't believe so many people donated their beautiful clothes and shoes to us. It was the best "shopping trip" I've ever had!"

\*\* Vine Maple Place accepts donations of professional clothing, shoes, and accessories for use at Wardrobe Consultant events.



***Volunteer Lori Knight helps find the perfect fit from clothing donated by the community.***

## Rising from the ashes of her past

*Continued from page 1*

my son, and I didn't know how to be a good mother. I had no hope, only despair. I felt like I had no purpose - except those big, bright brown eyes that would look up at me," she says of that time.

In desperation, Victoria found herself on the doorstep of a local church asking for help. They referred her to Vine Maple Place where she was able to enter into the program. Coming to Vine Maple Place was life changing for her. As she says, "For the very first time I felt a glimpse of hope. For the first time I realized I wasn't alone."

Victoria met with her case manager weekly to talk about goals and make plans to achieve those goals. She had help writing a resume and gained interviewing skills. Clothing

donations gave her a more professional wardrobe, and a financial coach helped her create and follow a household budget. Counseling allowed her to address the trauma of her past, and provided crucial parenting support and skills.

*"For the very first time, I felt a glimpse of hope."*

Victoria's stability and self-sufficiency grew quickly as she found employment and took control of her finances. She can now say, "I've grown as an adult and as a mother. Knowing I can raise my son in a stable, healthy environment, filled with love, gives me joy and a peace of mind that I can provide what he needs. I have purpose and self-worth. I know that I am loved - that people do care. A year ago, I thought I could never take care of my son. Now, I have a new confidence and the tools I need to move forward."

## Why you may want to consider a Charitable Remainder Trust...

- To get a tax break on the sale of real estate or stock.
- To receive a quarterly income stream for life.
- To earn an immediate tax deduction.
- To reduce your estate tax.
- To support vulnerable parents and children in this community who need a 'hand up'.

For more information please contact Vine Maple Place or your tax professional.

## Vine Maple Place Mission Statement:

Vine Maple Place is a Christian organization that breaks the cycle of homelessness by helping single parents and their children build lives of hope, stability, and greater self-sufficiency.



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We're on Facebook!

## My Gift — because every child deserves a home!

### Yes! I want to change more lives!

☐ I am making a one time gift: ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ other \$\_\_\_\_\_

☐ I will provide ongoing support for homeless families by donating:

\$\_\_\_\_\_ ☐ monthly ☐ quarterly ☐ annually

☐ Check enclosed (made payable to *Vine Maple Place*)

☐ VISA/MC # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

☐ My employer \_\_\_\_\_ will match my gift. Enclosed is a match form.

☐ I am interested in information about including Vine Maple Place in my will or Charitable Remainder Trust.

☐ I am a first-time donor to Vine Maple Place.



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