

290 Bethel Road
Oxford PA 19363
(484) 368-7268

www.oxfordoaksministry.com



Rooted in Christ's Love

A View from the Top

by Robin Martin, Executive Director

The verse in Philippians 4:13 states that "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." This is a verse that God brings to my mind often when I wonder how everything on my plate will get accomplished. BUT GOD (two of my favorite words), continually makes himself known. I press on daily doing what I can and trusting in the Lord to do what only He can, which is to change hearts and lives of the special ladies that he brings through the doors of The Oaks Ministry homes. I am so thankful for our Program Manager, Dawn, who works tirelessly along side of me to help with the work God has called us. I am also very thankful for our managers, volunteers, donors and all of the other people God has placed in our path to assist in His work.

The Oaks Ministry initiated a structured in-house program on August 1st. Our residents are now required to attend classes, attend workshops, and do volunteer service in our community before seeking employment. Our desire is for them to learn structure and discipline before entering the workforce. This is working well, but has increased expenses and the need for more volunteers. Dawn and I have been in contact with organizations, churches, and businesses to share our mission and ask them to prayerfully discern becoming a financial partner.

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God's Not Done

In the Spring, we took the ladies from Oaks to the beautiful Sandy Cove Ministries on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay in North East, Maryland. There, we heard excellent teaching from Girlfriends in God founder: Sharon Jaynes. We had an amazing time relaxing in God's magnificent Creation and deepening relationships with fellow sisters in Christ. Best of all, we were encouraged to learn that God is not done writing our stories yet!

ART - GARDEN - COOKING and MORE!

As the Summer began our program manager, Dawn introduced various new workshops for our ladies. They enjoyed some fabulous fellowship while re-doing the raised flower beds in the back of Oaks 1. The fun continued with gardening activities: harvesting mixed greens and



strawberries from the community garden.

The ladies even learned to make their very own garden fresh salad. Our volunteer, Nilda taught the girls how to make Ranch dressing from scratch using the herbs planted out back. The meal prep was complete when our volunteer, Jessie taught the women her family baked ziti recipe!

CELEBRATION!!

As we look to September, we will be celebrating yet another graduate! Mary has succeeded in nearly every aspect of the program during her time at Oaks. She has grown deeper in her relationship with the Lord and been a leader as she models consistent bible reading and daily prayer. Mary is an amazing example of trusting God to provide in ways only He can! We have watched her work with her financial counselor to improve her credit score, to increase her savings account month after month, and to even purchase her own new car! All glory to God!



SAVE THE DATE

Fall Fundraiser Brunch

Saturday Nov. 5th 10 AM at Waterway Church!

THE OAKS MINISTRY

290 Bethel Road
Oxford, PA 19363



Rooted in Christ's Love

Hope
Healing
Restoration

In a Christ-centered residential
environment for woman in need.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

VIEW FROM THE TOP (cont'd from page 1)

We realize that not all people are called to give in the same way. As we make our needs known, we are trusting God to work in the hearts of those to whom he has called to a greater role in this ministry. It is written in **Philippians 4:19** that "God will meet all our needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus" and He does. We believe that every woman can be changed by the knowledge of and a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. We strive to show the love of Christ to women who are facing difficult times and are in a transitional stage of life. By sharing Christ's love, we encourage these women through professional Christian counseling, guidance, and support services so they can become financially stable and responsible members of their community. **Is God tugging on your heart to play a greater role in this ministry?** For more information about The Oaks Ministry visit our website at www.oxfordoaksministry.com.

PARTING IS SUCH SWEET SORROW

In August, we said goodbye to long-time House Manager, Brenda Moore. We are so grateful for her time spent with the Oaks and the impact she made during her four plus years with the ministry. She will be so very missed!

INTRODUCING SHARON

With Brenda's departure, we welcomed Sharon Brubaker to the Oaks Ministry as the new House Manager of Oaks 2. We believe Sharon was hand-picked by God to join the ministry. We knew she would be something special when 2 or 3 different people told Robin about her. Well, they were right! Sharon is warm and compassionate and a perfect fit for the Oaks organization and is already beloved by the residents!

