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RE: Expansion

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Hello Friends and Family of Hope House,

We thank God for His faithful provision, and the blessing it is to serve in this amazing ministry. The countless lives that have been changed are priceless!

I am writing you today because Hope House is prayerfully seeking wisdom for the new season that is ahead. **Due to limited space and resources we have to turn down about 50% of the applicants who seek residency in our program.** Most that go on the waiting list never come in because they end up back where they started. We have applicants that are incarcerated in state prisons that have applied and have been accepted, but we never know when they will get out unless they are serving their full sentence. Hopefully we will have a bed when we get the call.

Our focus right now in the midst of these struggles is that we are asking God for our own place in 2019. The fact is we need room, and I am asking our Father to pour out this blessing for His glory. Just for the record, Double H Construction (our vocational program) helps support what we do, but nowhere near covers the expenses it takes to run Hope House. Each and every month it is only by the grace and provision of God that He allows us to do what we do and pay our bills; most of you are a big part of that provision.

Yesterday I visited a couple more ladies that are incarcerated in Bastrop County. One of the young ladies is 19 and had aged out of the foster care system just last year. She was actually traded for drugs by a 44-year-old man that she was living with because she had nowhere else to go - thank God the man was pulled over and they both went to jail before he had his way with her. When she was 11 her father passed away, and she had no other choice but to go into foster care. This young lady brought tears to my eyes as she told her story as one who had absolutely no hope; she told me that she dreamed to one day be a Veterinarian. I will take this young lady even if I have to put out an air mattress on the floor. The problem is, there's ladies in front of

her already. This is just one story among the numerous I hear from the women who seek entrance into our program.

The need for more room is vital for the sake of helping these ladies who I believe God is continuing to bring to Hope House. One of our current options is to lease another home within walking distance to our current residence. This would require at least an additional \$2,000 per month but would change the life of countless women who can call the new residence HOME. Another option is a place on Pope Bend Road that would be perfect place to purchase. It has a large home on acreage with a barn and a shop. We can't wait to start raising organic vegetables and working in the wood shop! Acreage would also allow us to build a community that would change the lives of generations of women and their friends and family.

Everyone reading this letter is a blessing to what God is doing here. I was really hesitant to send this letter but I know I have to communicate so people can know what's really going on here at HH. Sometimes I ask myself why, why isn't God allowing us to expand? I truly believe now that He is. **He's just waiting on those who He has called to make the move.** Lord we ask You to move those who you've called to move!

If you could share with friends, send to your pastor, stand up in front of your church, send to someone who loves to help folks, or - most important - ask God to open the sky for us, it would be very much appreciated. I will call, visit or do whatever it takes to raise more support. Thank you to our intercessors for your faithfulness in prayer! Thank you teachers, financial supporters and volunteers for all you give to Hope House! I am honored and humbled at your faithful service!

For Jesus' Sake!

Billy Helm