

## News and Updates

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### Special points of interest:

- A success story from a recent graduate
- Housing challenges in Louisa County
- Ways to get involved

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER

There is a critical need in Louisa County for affordable housing. The rural 510 square miles hide the many homeless people that are in a crisis situation. God cares about each one of these individuals. He was the One who gave the vision and calling to me in September 2013 for a transitional home where people would be supported in rebuilding their lives. A safe place of hope to temporarily live where spiritual, vocational and practical education would be available to prepare them for their next step towards permanent housing. I believed it would happen. Not because of any efforts on my part, but because it was God's idea. What God has done since then to make The Journey Home (TJH) a reality is truly miraculous. The ministry is unique in that it addresses the complex root causes of homelessness and the many barriers to overcome that cannot be accomplished by simply placing a



*The Journey Home has seven guest units & one house manager unit.*

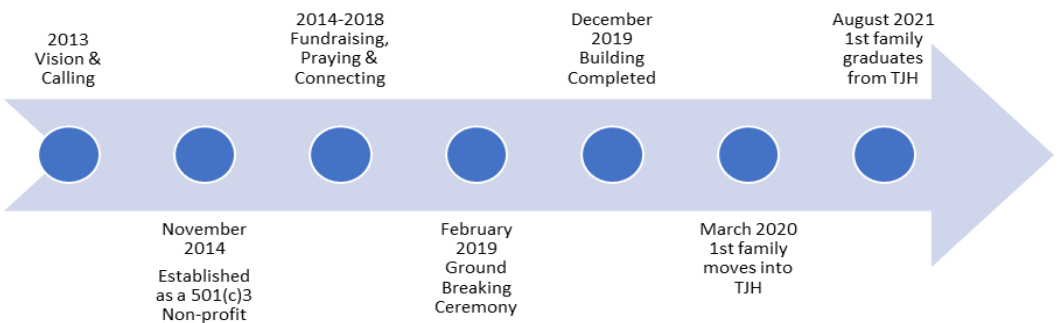
family/individual in a house. We are so grateful for you and the many people who also had faith in this vision and have generously given of their prayers, time and financial gifts to partner with us. Working together, it has been our joy to see people become independent and our privilege to have them embrace the healing and hope that only

God can provide as we seek to point them to Him.



*Debby Read,  
Founder, Executive Director &  
Board Member*

## THE JOURNEY OF THE JOURNEY HOME



# A GRADUATE’S STORY

My name is Tori. I’ve been clean & sober for 2 years. My sobriety date is October 17th, 2020. I never thought that I could make it one day and here I have 2 years!! Only God could do that! I didn’t

see any way out and honestly, I didn’t think it was possible for me to live a normal life. I moved into The Journey Home in April of 2021. The Journey Home has been such a blessing to me and I have learned

so much by being there. For the first time in my life, I actually want something different — I want a life worth living. Today, I can actually live and the Lord gets all of the glory for that. My Journey Home family believed in me when I didn’t believe in myself. They helped get me ready to be on my own with two children and I am forever grateful for that. I know I will always have good support and people who care about me. I am so thankful for their unconditional love and not giving up on me. God has given me a purpose and I now pray that He will use my testimony to help others. My recovery journey has not been easy but the Lord didn’t promise it would be. He did promise in *Hebrews 13:5* that *He will never leave me*. I have so many things to be grateful for and I know that if I continue to seek the Lord, He will always carry me through.



The Journey Home volunteers and guests enjoying an evening of fellowship and fun.

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*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

*Romans 15:13*

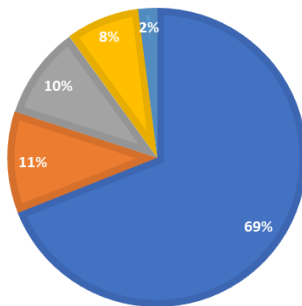
## FINANCIAL UPDATE

TJH has been blessed financially by many faithful and generous donors through the years. We raised funds for the construction of TJH for about five years before we were able to build and open our doors to serve people in 2020. Over the past year, the vast majority of our operating expenses (about 84%) have gone toward supporting the programs that serve the guests of TJH. However, about

10% of our expenses were interest-only payments on the balance of our construction loan. We are continuing our Capital Campaign with the goal to raise \$250,000 by the end of 2022. This will enable us to become totally debt free and direct more funds into supporting our programs. While we did initially receive some large grants for construction, the bulk of our funding over the past three years

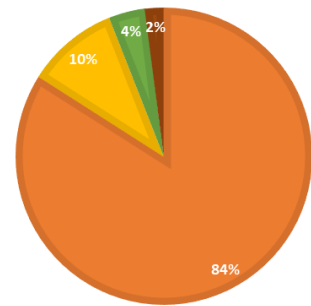
of operating (about 80%) has come from individuals and churches. God has truly provided for TJH in many miraculous ways over the years. One such miracle came in the form of a grant to install solar panels on the property in the summer of 2020. This amazing gift continues to serve us by producing over 90% of the power for the home.

### INCOME SOURCES



■ Individual Donors 69% ■ Grants 11%  
■ Church Donations 10% ■ Program Fees 8%  
■ Corporate Donations 2%

### ANNUAL EXPENSES



■ Programs 84% ■ Loan Interest 10%  
■ Management 4% ■ Fundraising 2%

# HOUSING CHALLENGES & THE NEXT STEP PROGRAM

Every guest of TJH faces a daunting challenge of finding suitable long-term housing after their stay. One factor that has greatly increased this burden in recent years is the high demand for rental housing. There simply are not enough rental units available and rental prices have continued to skyrocket beyond affordability. As TJH programs help to prepare our guests for this challenge, we have also been compelled to help the situation by creating our own affordable housing through our Next Step Program. Currently we own one single-family home that was donated

to us and is made available to guests who are graduating from TJH. The Next Step Program provides an affordable, independent living situation while maintaining the connection to the resources and relationships at TJH. While the Next Step is not a permanent housing solution, it does give guests crucial additional time to find housing and save funds for rental fees like security deposits. We plan to own more of these homes in the future, but we would also like to expand the Next Step Program through strategic partnerships with local landlords.



Our first Next Step home has housed three families so far.

If you, or someone you know, owns a rental unit and are interested in learning how you can help with the Next Step, please contact us.

## REBUILDING & RECONNECTING

Have you thought about what life would be like if you had to start over? If you ended up with no money, no vehicle, no stable housing, and no job?

It's a huge hurdle many of our guests face when they arrive at TJH with, sometimes, just a bag full of their belongings. They may not know where to start, but with the help of

dedicated volunteers and staff, they soon learn to find hope in the journey toward successful independence.

The Journey Home is blessed to not only offer stable housing but other programs that teach life skills, build confidence and connect guests with community resources.

Some of our current services and programs include:

- Bible Study & Devotions
- Life Coaching
- Parenting Classes
- Budgeting Classes
- Individual Counseling
- Job Search Assistance
- Resource Connection

*“With the help of dedicated volunteers and staff, our guests soon learn to find hope in the journey toward successful independence.”*

## POWER IN PARTNERSHIP

We are so grateful for the individuals and churches that partner with us to give of their finances, time and prayers to make a difference for now and for eternity. They understand that we are all broken and in need of God's healing. We have a great calling to come together as God's Church to partner in His work in our community as we treat people with the dignity they

deserve as a person made in the image of God. Together we can be part of the solution to help a family find their way out of poverty, so they will not be homeless again. United we can give them hope in their journey as we show them Jesus—in both words and actions. We need and invite additional persons and churches to join us in God's amazing work at TJH.



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**Check us out on the web  
and like us on Facebook!**

*The Journey Home is a 501(c)3 organization that welcomes your tax deductible gift. Call, email or check our website for ways you can donate today!*

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**MISSION:** *The Journey Home provides Christ-centered transitional housing to individuals or families in need of a temporary place to live where they receive support in rebuilding their lives and find hope for the next step in their journey to being independent members of our community.*

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## BE A PART OF OUR JOURNEY HOME FAMILY!



### Save the Date!!

We hope to see you for  
our Annual Banquet on  
August 26, 2023



*Do you shop at Amazon?  
Find us at "The Journey Home, Inc" and a donation will be made to us every time you shop!*

What a blessing it is that God gives us unique gifts to serve him in so many ways! The Journey Home is thankful for each and every donation, whether it is through volunteering your time, praying for us or giving a financial donation. Knowing we can count on you, allows us to plan for the future of The Journey Home and the people it will serve now and for the years to come.

If you are wondering how to get involved, I'm sure we can find the right spot for you! Here are a few of the ways you can help:

#### Community Support:

- ◆ Landlord partnerships
- ◆ Notifying us of available rentals
- ◆ Donating house supplies

**The Journey Home is Hiring a House Manager!**

**This is a rewarding ministry opportunity to truly make a difference in the lives of others as you assist them in rebuilding their lives and reaching their goals. Housing, utilities and many other benefits provided.**

**See the ad on our website for more details!**

#### Financial:

- ◆ Amazonsmile.com
- ◆ Amazon Wish List
- ◆ Monthly donations
- ◆ One time donations
- ◆ Buy a memorial brick
- ◆ Help us be DEBT FREE!  
**Donate directly to our capital campaign fund.**

#### Volunteering your time:

- ◆ Ministering to our guests through skills training, transportation assistance, job search, fellowship and so much more
- ◆ Helping with special projects
- ◆ Fundraising Committee
- ◆ Prayer