

Heathers Haven Christian Journal Article

March 19, 2008:

Twenty years ago, on February 9, 1988, a little girl named Heather was killed by a drunk driver. Heather was riding in a car with her grandmother on Vilas Road in Central Point when a drunk driver slammed into their car. That grandmother knows the pain of losing a granddaughter. From that experience, the grandmother, Betty Frederick determined in her heart to do something to prevent that tragedy from happening to another family.

Fifteen years ago, Frederick opened Heathers Haven, a Christian based recovery home for women in Medford where women learn to live without alcohol and other drugs and become productive citizens. For the past fifteen years, Frederick has been operating Heathers Haven.

Over the years there have been many news articles about the remarkably low rate of traffic deaths in Southern Oregon. And no one seems to know just why.

Could part of the reason be that today hundreds of women in Southern Oregon are not drunk drivers because of Heathers Haven?

Today, somewhere in this valley, there lives a family whose granddaughter was not killed by a drunk driver because that driver was sober. And nobody knows who that lucky family is.

Today, However, Heathers Haven is in danger of going out of existence.

As the years have gone by, time and finances have taking their toll. Frederick has never taken any pay for her services. In fact, each month she subsidizes the cost of operation. In September, Heathers Haven was forced to suspend operation.

The women in the program at Heathers Haven are required to pay a participation fee, but that fee covers only a portion of the actual cost of operation. Over the past fifteen years the financial support of Heathers Haven has eaten away at the family finances to the point that the Frederick family is no longer able to bear that financial burden. Also, two years ago, Frederick underwent heart by-pass surgery and is now growing weary of carrying the full load.

In April, Frederick is attempting to resume operation of Heathers Haven. For this to happen, the community must step forward and help. Two kinds of help are needed: Volunteers and Financial support. Volunteers are needed to help interact with the women. If you are driven to this cause, please step forward and join the team. The financial support is for ongoing pledged sponsorship. Just a few sponsors, pledging to sponsor the difference between the actual cost and what the women are required to pay will allow Heathers Haven to not only restore the lives of women in recovery, but to save the lives of those who might otherwise become the victims of a drunk driver, because that driver will not be drunk, because of Heathers Haven.

If the financial support does not materialize, Heathers Haven cannot continue. If you want a Christian based recovery house for women in Southern Oregon, we must have pledges of financial support from the community. Pledges totaling only a few hundred dollars a month will make the difference.

See the web site at www.heathershaven.com

Call 541-234-7407 to volunteer or to make a pledge or donation.

Heathers Haven is a 501(c)(3). charity and donations are tax deductible.