

Lamb's Fold Celebrates Our 25th Anniversary Year *2010*



153 S. Ottawa Street, Joliet, IL 60436 * 815-723-5262 * www.lambsfold.org

Founding Inspiration: To fulfill our Lord's command in Matthew 25:35-36 by feeding the hungry and thirsty, clothing the needy, praying for the sick, and taking in the homeless. . . . Being convinced that when we do so, we have done so for our Lord Jesus Christ.

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From our Board President

Dear Partners in the Lord's work at Lamb's Fold Center for Women and Children:

Greetings to you in this special season of celebration and wonder. Gratitude and thankfulness is in great supply here at Lamb's Fold. We all agree that only our Lord is responsible for our continued service ministry here at Lamb's Fold. It's hard to believe that so many years have come and gone making 2010 our 25th anniversary year. What an honor and privilege it has been to watch lives change because of our offering many an opportunity to hear the precious gospel message of God's forgiveness and love poured out by our Lord's sacrifice and redemptive work of grace at Calvary.

Many can give food or clothing; but only Christians are able to present the gospel message and make an offer as though God himself through us were making an appeal: be reconciled to God. II Cor: 5:20 As God's fellow workers, we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. "In your time of my favor, I heard you; and in the day of salvation I helped you." II Cor. 6:1,2. "Freely you have received, freely give." Matt. 10:9.

We appeal to you today, please help us to continue providing food, clothing, housing, counseling, case management, prayer and good ground for the gospel to be heard and received.

One shining light in particular has been very responsible for the continued progress at Lamb's Fold. Rev. Ron Atkinson, past President of the Board has been one of God's humble, willing workers for the gospel message. Pastor Ron was called home to heaven on January 1, 2009. Pastor Ron, through personal sacrifice of his time, finances, and health, truly has been greatly used by God to oversee the purity and fruitfulness of this ministry for the last 18 years. His life has been a testimony of God's goodness and kindness. His love and thoughtfulness to each and every person has touched all of our lives.

Many have already given memorials and offerings in Pastor Ron's name; some of you may not have had the opportunity to give as yet. Would you be willing, in appreciation of this one man's willingness and ministry, to send an offering in Pastor Ron's name, celebrating his life's work and 25 years of service? Over 4,100 women and children have received the message and hope of Jesus Christ while living at Lamb's Fold. We need to hear from you now!

On behalf of the 65 women and children we serve daily, Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year to each of you. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Because He lives,

Rev. Doris L. Atkinson, President, Lamb's Fold Board of Directors



**25th Anniversary Year 2010
Annual Dinner and Auction
"A Tropical Getaway in February"
Please Join Us on February 27, 2010
Joliet Holiday Inn Ballroom
\$125 Per Person**

For more information regarding the Annual Dinner please check out our website at www.lambsfold.org or call our office at 815/723-5262, Ext. 101



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Lamb's Fold Mission Statement: The Lamb's Fold Center for Women and Children serves homeless and abused women and their children by providing them with supportive housing, personalized recovery services, and assisting them to achieve self-sufficiency.

Program Highlights ----

Domestic Violence Services - Community-Based Legal Advocate at Lamb's Fold

We are delighted to have as part of the Lamb's Fold family a full-time community-based Legal Advocate, Betsy Neumayer. Betsy is employed by the Will County State's Attorney's office, she has offices both at the State's Attorney's office and at Lamb's Fold. Betsy works between the State's Attorney's Office and Lamb's Fold Center to assist victims in understanding what domestic violence is, obtaining Orders of Protection and Safety Planning and advocacy services for victims.

As domestic violence is the number one cause of homelessness among women and children in the United States, most of our residents are victims of this crime. Our residents, both women and children, need special care and compassion to help them recover from these devastating events in their lives. Domestic violence services continue to be an essential part of the Lamb's Fold program; many of our staff are trained domestic violence advocates.

Ms. Neumayer has a bachelor's degree and is currently pursuing a degree in Legal Studies. She is a specially-trained professional offering the highest level of advocacy services to residents of Lamb's Fold and the community.

Lamb's Fold has served the community for 25 years.....so just what does that mean?

It means we have housed over 4,100 women and children, providing 122, 278 nights of shelter; we have served over 453,457 meals; we have provided 827,727 garments and packages of diapers. We have offered 10,572 hours of in-house classes in life skills, 8,467 hours of in-house counseling and uncounted hours of case management and advocacy services. These are significant numbers for any organization, but especially for one like ours that is smaller than others in staff and financial resources. We are doing a huge amount of work, serving a huge amount of people literally on a "shoestring" budget. Most importantly, people are fed spiritually as well as physically. Each person is offered the opportunity to hear the gospel.

We know the most successful residents are those who have the support of a house of worship and we encourage each one to find a church support.

*****There are currently nearly 300 on a waiting list for residential services at Lamb's Fold.*****

Volunteering Opportunities



Lamb's Fold has the best volunteers in the world!! We are so grateful for our terrific volunteer helpers--we couldn't do it without you!! Our part-time volunteer coordinator, Tarah Manheim, will be working with our faithful volunteers and recruiting new ones! **If you are interested in volunteering, please call Tarah at 815-723-5262, extension 113.** We need you! Volunteers work nearly 15,000 hours each year to help us operate as "lean" an operation as possible and are a critical part of the Lamb's Fold team.

What kinds of things do volunteers do at Lamb's Fold? Sorting donations, building maintenance, donation pickups, painting, driving residents to medical appointments, yard work, spring cleaning, child care, and holiday helpers are some popular areas for volunteers. Holiday helpers pickup, receive and sort donated Christmas gifts, and wrap gifts for the 65 people we serve.

Some of the things accomplished so far in 2009 by our wonderful volunteers: remodel of two bathrooms, working at Tag Days to generate operating funds, repair of our deck stairs (emergency exit from second floor) painting of resident areas, child care so mothers can attend classes; many hours spent in the food pantry and clothing rooms, organizing donated items for the direct benefit of residents; and more.

We are blessed with many long-time, faithful volunteers we'd like to acknowledge but space prohibits. All of our staff members volunteer additional hours (or days!) to help out on an ongoing basis. Many others help out occasionally as they can and we are also grateful for you! Thank you, thank you, thank you!! We couldn't do it without ALL of you!!!

If you are interested in volunteering, please call Tarah Manheim (815) 723-5262, ext. 113

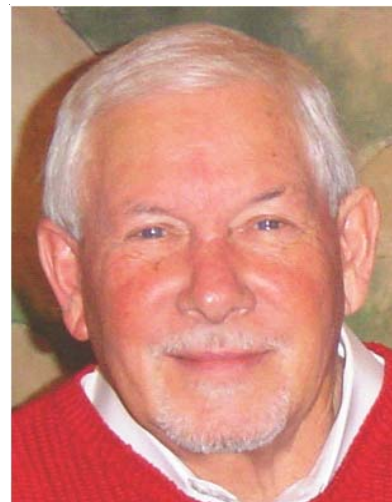


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A tribute to our Leader, our Mentor, our Friend.....

On January 1, 2009, Lamb's Fold lost our "founding father", Rev. Ronald Atkinson, President of Lamb's Fold Board of Directors since 1991. "Pastor Ron" as he was fondly called, also co-pastored Church of the Good Shepherd at 81 N. Ottawa Street in Joliet, along with his wife, Rev. Doris Atkinson. He took an early retirement from his management position at Com Ed to do the Lord's work both at the church and at Lamb's Fold, working tirelessly at both locations. He served as Executive Director of the Lamb's Fold, along with Rev. Doris, until January of 2000 when Rhonda Sykes joined the organization full-time. He often volunteered 60 hours a week, doing anything and everything. He rose to the challenge every time, facing difficult situations at every turn, but always with patience for others and faith in our Lord. No job was above him or beneath him, from unclogging toilets (often retrieving Matchbox cars or the like, with a chuckle) to financial administration to public speaking on behalf of the Lamb's Fold. None of the staff or the mothers will likely forget the joyous choruses of many toddlers: "Pa'tuh Won! Pa'tuh Won!" as he would come in to the Lamb's Fold, cheerfully greeting each child by name.

Ron Atkinson was a very special person--leader, mentor, encourager, teacher, helper, administrator, advisor, advocate, counselor, Pastor, husband, father, grandfather, but most importantly ...a friend to all he met, showing forth the love of Jesus Christ each and every day. We all miss him dearly but we know we will see him again in Heaven!



***Rev. Ronald E. Atkinson
1939-2009***

Meet Nicole, one of our successful ladies....

"Lamb's Fold saved my life and the lives of my four children! I had no other alternatives. No family, no job, no money, no one to help me. I couldn't stay at the other shelters. If not for Lamb's Fold, we would have been on the street. Literally. My life was very difficult before coming to Lamb's Fold; I was a victim of domestic violence. I had no where else to turn. I had stayed at Lamb's Fold a while back and I knew there were people there who love me and care about me and my kids. It's like a family there who helps you all they can. I am so grateful for Lamb's Fold because I have learned so much there that has changed my life. I learned that I have value as a person and I can change my life. I can succeed and I will. I am getting my own apartment soon. I will be completing classes soon to get my C.N.A. license and then I am going to nursing school. I will finish and I will become an R.N. The Lamb's Fold case manager helps me set goals and be accountable; they have given me that little "nudge" I needed to do the things I really want to do anyway--to move forward with my life.

The Legal Advocate really helped me understand domestic violence and helped me heal from it. The classes I have taken at Lamb's Fold have helped me understand relationships, child development, parenting, conflict resolution, and much more. I learned non-violent ways to resolve disagreements. The staff says I have really grown and made many positive changes.

I am very grateful to my "Lamb's Fold family" for all the ways they have helped me. It is a good feeling to know there is someone who loves you, no matter what, and will help you do what you need to do.

I am so glad Lamb's Fold was there for me. Please help the Lamb's Fold "be there" for others!" -----Nicole

Cottonwood Farms Hosts Lamb's Fold residents at Pumpkin Fest

Thanks to our friends Paul and Sue Siegel at Cottonwood Farms for hosting our residents at their annual Pumpkin Fest. The kids (young and old) really loved it! They enjoyed the rides, hayrack ride, inflatables, petting zoo, corn maze and a delightful lunch. We are very grateful for the lovely outing.

The Siegels were one of our very first community donors when the Lamb's Fold expanded its program in 1995 and moved to its present location on Ottawa Street. Paul Siegel rang our doorbell and cheerfully offered two bushels of delicious apples which were quickly enjoyed by the many children who had just moved in. We were very encouraged by the gift then; today we are still encouraged by the faithfulness of so many friends like the Siegels.

Joliet's Old Navy Hosts Lamb's Fold Night

A big thank you to the staff of the Joliet Old Navy store for hosting a special event for Lamb's Fold residents. Old Navy opened their doors to our residents after hours for a special evening of pampering-- dinner, private shopping night with store gift cards for each woman, "goody" bags, hair cuts and manicures.

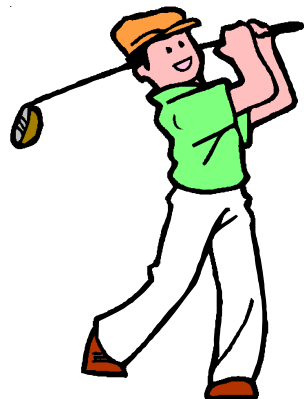
Our residents enjoyed themselves so much--they are so grateful for the kindness and generosity of the Old Navy staff. This was such a wonderful event and we want to send a big Lamb's Fold thank you to our friends at Old Navy!



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Please Join Us for our Upcoming Golf Event.....

Ronald E. Atkinson Invitational Golf Outing



**August 13, 2010
at Green Garden
Country Club**

\$150 Per Golfer

***Please Register Early
to Reserve your Spot!***

***Golf with Special Guests from the
'85 Chicago Bears, huge raffle
prizes and more!!***

Thanks to Everyone Who Supported the 2009 Golf Outing:

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Please Patronize our Sponsors!***