

As we celebrate our first 5 years of ministry, the Board of Trustees has been reflecting on the beginning days of Grace Initiatives.

Inside are excerpts from our journal entries from 2002 and 2004.

Notice the parallel journey made by Pat Semeraro and Rhonda Tomko to the founding of Grace Initiatives in March 2004...

May he give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed.

Psalm 20:4

Will you consider a special 5th Year Anniversary Gift to support Grace Initiatives' ministry to pregnant young women?

- My special gift is \$1,000 \$500 \$250 \$100 other \$ _____
- I would like to make a **NEW** monthly pledge for 2009 of:
- \$100 per month (\$1,200 /yr total)
 \$ 75 per month (\$900 / yr total)
 \$ 50 per month (\$600 / yr total)
 \$ 25 per month (\$300/yr total)
 Other \$ _____
- # _____ Charge my contribution/monthly donation to my credit card.
Exp. Date _____

I have other thoughts to share. Please contact me.

Name _____
Street _____
City, St., Zip _____
Home Phone _____ Cell _____
Email _____



Grace Initiatives

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From the Journal of Pat Semeraro, President

February 14, 2002

"The Greenhouse" - In the greenhouse young plants are nurtured into strong plants that will blossom and bear fruit. Instead of responding to their plea for help with "be warm, be fed, be on your way", I want to be able to say "Come and be fed, be warm and stay and grow and when you are strong, go and be fruitful." Give the young, pregnant woman who wants to help herself the encouragement, resources and opportunity to do so in a loving home environment.

Journal Entry February 6, 2004 Since leaving The Open Door on December 31, 2003, I have been asking the Lord to show me...what next. Starting a maternity housing ministry has been on my heart for a least 2 years (to the date :) But, outside of standing on the corner with a sign in my hand saying "All interested persons wanting to sacrifice to provide a home for unwed mothers - apply here", all I can do is ask God to show me if this is really His will - and make me a magnet for the cause. So...this week a woman called and said The Open Door and a friend of hers said she should call me because I've been talking about this too. Rhonda & Pete Tomko want to parent in a maternity home. They've been foster parents for 8 years...

From the Journal of Rhonda Tomko, Executive Director

1/11/04 Pete & I had a discussion after church about starting a group home for pregnant girls

1/14/04 Spoke w/ a woman at The Open Door; she said a maternity home is desperately needed; they've been praying for a home; I told her I don't think I'm ready to be an "answer to someone's prayer" Pete & I think this is a long way off; The Open Door's former director left in December and it's her desire to start a maternity home; a woman named Pat,

2/3/04 Visited Open Door Pregnancy Center - asked workers/volunteers if they see a need for housing; "YES" there's nothing local for the girls; lots of girls choose not to go away b/c they'd be too far; Pat Semeraro is the former director and wants to start a maternity home

2/4/04 A friend said she knows that Pat Semeraro is looking to do the same thing I am; I sense God's prompting to call her and seek advice; I have no idea how to run a non profit - maybe she's got ideas or would help.

2/5/04 Looked up Pat's phone number in the phone book; I called her and our visions are similar; we are going to try and meet, together w/ our husbands next week

2/18/04 Met w/ Pat & Tony Semeraro tonight - AMAZING!! our visions are identical; it was SO encouraging to speak and pray with another couple that desires the same type/style of ministry; Pete envisions a greenhouse at a maternity home, giving the girls skills and a purpose; teaching them to nurture and grow and plant themselves in a new life - We all agreed on a name - "Grace Initiatives Inc."