

God at Work in our Community

Opportunities to Trust: An Update from Naomi's House

by Julie Busteed

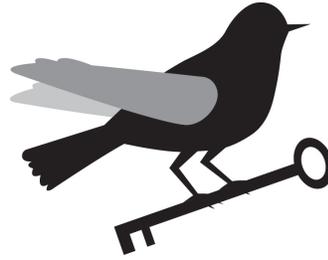
Hard but good. That's how I would describe the journey of the last four years.

It was four years ago that the idea of Naomi's House came into being. It began as just an idea—a dream, a passion to open a home for women who have been victims of commercial sexual exploitation, and it was a sense of calling to see God work in the lives of these women. During the next four years, there were many opportunities to trust him. We would often look at a successful and growing program in Atlanta that became a model for us and wonder how we could mirror that. We looked at houses. We looked at the price tags on those houses and looked some more. As I said, all opportunities to trust.

But the entire time, the team felt a clear calling from God that kept pushing us forward.

Naomi's House finally opened in December 2016. I'll be honest: there was a part of me that expected the road to get easier once the house was open. Working through permits for extra bathrooms, considering what landscaping could be done, debating whether we needed railings on the front walk—all these were one time challenges. Of course, now that the house is open, there are new challenges and new blessings as well.

Currently we have three residents. We will eventually be able to have eight women. We've had a total of five women come through our doors, but two chose to leave. Naomi's House is more than just a roof over one's head. It involves a loving, directed curriculum to help these women thrive in a world that has been hostile to



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them. It's about equipping and empowering. The program can take between 8–12 months to complete, and as such, takes a great deal of courage for the women to commit to change. When some decide to leave, it's another opportunity for all of us to trust that God knows their journey. Our call is to be faithful in the portion of the journey he has entrusted to us.

The Naomi's House journey has been exciting and scary at the same time, but it is a miracle to see this dream actually realized—to have a house and a program and women who are actually being reached. God has been faithful in all this, leading, directing, providing. There are so many trust opportunities ahead. Pray that we will remain faithful.

If you'd like more information on how you can be involved, email me at Julie@gapdigital.com or visit our website www.naomishouse.org.

Church and Community Life