

NEW LIFE NEWS

“FOR WITH GOD NOTHING WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE.” LUKE 1:37

MEET OUR TEAM: DEB THORN

New Life Ministries is made up of a team of multiple individuals with a passion for serving people and meeting needs. Our team contains people who are mission- and people-focused and serve in their roles because of their passion and calling.

One of our amazing team members is Deb Thorn. Deb is one of our Part-Time Team Members at the Women's Life House and she has been a part of our team for over the past 10 years. Although her roles have changed or she has taken breaks here and there, Deb has always been a team player and an encouragement to our team and residents.



When talking with Deb, we asked her to share what a typical day may look like for her at the Women's Life House. For Deb, her role is not only to be the eyes and ears of the home, but she also does a lot of management tasks. For example, she explained that she often checks the mail, checks that residents have filled out their calendars, checks the sign-in/out log, does walk-throughs of the home and bedrooms, and makes sure everything is in order and done as needed. Deb also assists our Life House Director by checking the supplies of the home and creating the grocery lists. And, as needed, Deb will ensure that residents are following the rules, getting to their classes on time, being a listening ear when needed, and helping make sure there is no conflict in the home.

But these tasks are only a portion of what Deb does. When speaking with Deb, we wanted to know her “why.” We wanted to know why she chose to work at the Women's Life House when she could simply enjoy a retired life. Deb explained, “I like helping the ladies, sometimes I even feel like the house mom.” She continued, saying, “I like seeing the ladies progress and do well in the program and graduating.”

Even as Deb explained some of her favorite memories and parts of her job, it is clear her heart is for serving these women. “Even though I may not have experienced the same things these women have experienced, I hope I can be a role model for them. I often think about the ladies that I have taken under my wing and how I have tried to be a support system for them. I hope that all the women know that the office door is always open for when they need to talk.”

Deb is an important member of our team, and we know that she is making a difference at the Women's Life House. We are thankful for her heart for these women and for serving as a Part-Time Team Member at the Women's Life House.

REDLAND BAPTIST CHURCH RETURNS TO SERVE



From March 30 to April 5, Redland Baptist Church of Valdosta, Georgia joined New Life Ministries for a week of ministry work. As in previous years when they have joined us, this team was made up of mostly youth aged students with an eagerness to serve.

Serving alongside Redland Baptist Church is always a blessing for us at New Life Ministries because Redland Baptist Church shares many similarities with New Life Ministries and New Life Fellowship Church. Similar to us, Redland Baptist Church is not just a church but they also have their own ministry (with its own 501c3) in Georgia, known as Camp Rock of Georgia, where they run camps, rapid release housing, equestrian therapy, and much more focused on ministering to children and families.

During their week here, we had the opportunity to sit down and talk with Garrett Stout, one of the pastors of Redland Baptist Church, to learn more about their experience serving with us and why they serve. Garrett shared, “serving at New Life feels like coming home. We (Redland Baptist Church and New Life) have a like mindedness for ministry, and even though our ministries are unique, the way we both view ministry and our attitudes towards ministry are the same.” Garrett continued by saying, “when we come to New Life Ministries to serve, we know we are making a difference and we know that the work continues once we leave. By coming in and helping with projects, it helps free up time for you (New Life Ministries) to do ministry.”

While here, Redland Baptist assisted in cleaning up and doing some prep work at the Life Center, relocated the washer and dryer at the Women’s Life House from the basement to the main floor, served all meals at the New Life Community Meal Ministry, and revisited some of their past projects that were experiencing some wear and tear.

“We were encouraged by the visible things, like seeing the projects we started being completed. But also we were encouraged by hearing the recent success stories and hearing how people are continuing to come to the Life Houses and are having success at these programs.” Garrett shared when reflecting on their time in Huntington. “But more importantly, we made sure that we daily recentered our purpose and focus for serving during this trip. Every night we would sit down as a group and remind each other that we are doing Kingdom work, taking a moment to share where we saw God today in the work that we were doing.”

Redland Baptist Church made a big impact while serving with us for a week. We give praise for the work they helped accomplish and pray they continue to make an impact through their church and ministry back in Georgia. And, as Garrett shared before we finished our conversation, “missions doesn’t stop when the trip stops.”