



Miracle Hill[®]
MINISTRIES

Miracles In The Making

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Winter 2011

The Road To A Family Reunion

Three years had passed since Darlene Blackwell had seen or heard from her brother Ray. Drug and alcohol addiction held a strong grip on Ray's life for many years, driving him away from those who loved him most.

In April 2008, Ray lost his home, his job and everything he owned leaving him homeless for the first time in his life. It was at this point a friend told him about Miracle Hill Rescue Mission • Spartanburg. Through the Mission, Ray gained his GED and got back on his feet, but his battle with addiction didn't allow him to stand for long. By June 2010, he was once again deep in bondage.

In the meantime, Darlene had left her secular job and was looking to partner with Miracle Hill's thrift store operation and ministry. In March 2010, she was hired as a store manager in our thrift store in Berea, SC. "I had been praying for Ray for years, especially since coming on board with Miracle Hill. When I learned about the Overcomers Program, I specifically began to ask God to send someone to him to tell him about it. Ray needed something more powerful than rehab to be free from his addiction. He needed Christ in his life, and I knew Ray could find Him at Overcomers."

When Ray hit rock bottom in June, he immediately sought help and remembered hearing about Overcomers during his previous experience with Miracle Hill. He enrolled and began the program as soon as possible. The first few months of the program were eye-opening in more ways than one for Ray, "I eventually realized that it was time to get back with my family, so in one of our chapel meetings, I prayed and asked God to send a miracle and reunite me with my loved ones." Afterwards, Ray went about his business and didn't think anymore about what he'd asked of God. Little did he know, the Lord was diligently working to bring all forms of restoration in his life.

Six months into Darlene's time on staff with Miracle Hill, she was able to take her tour of the ministry's facilities after several postponements. The Greenville Rescue Mission was one of her first stops. "When I walked into the Mission's kitchen, I saw the back of a man's head and thought, 'There's no way.' and then, Ray turned around." They were standing face-to-face for the first time in years – only four days after Ray's prayer!

Ray is now a successful graduate of Overcomers and is currently living in transitional housing. Darlene is the thrift store manager for Miracle Hill in Easley, SC. The two see each other often and rejoice together over the great thing God has done in their lives.



Darlene and Ray Blackwell

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Volunteers Make A Difference

While Miracle Hill heavily relies on the faithful giving of monetary donors to help keep its doors open, those who volunteer their time have an equally powerful impact on this ministry. Without our volunteers, we would be unable to serve others in such a large capacity.

Recently, God used hundreds of volunteers to bring about some wonderful changes in our ministry. One project they helped complete was the opening of the new Overcomers Center. The other project was the renovation of one of our transitional homes for Overcomer graduates.

At first, both projects were tremendously overwhelming but God in His infinite grace sent just the right amount of people in His perfect time so that the work could be completed. Opening the doors of the new Overcomers Center was the bigger job of the two.

Larry Donaldson, the Overcomers Center's resident supervisor, organized the projects for the men who were currently in the program. They took care of moving in all the office and day room furniture.

Mark Ells with Landscaper Supply, Butch Reeves and Bill Schulze revamped the monastery grounds by planting shrubs, laying mulch and cleaning up what was already there, among other things. Mitchell Road Presbyterian Church spent a Saturday with the Overcomer men planting shrubs and laying mulch.

Henry Van Dyke spent hours installing the room numbers on all the dormitory doors and also took the time to collect books from Miracle Hill's many thrift stores for the Overcomers' library.

Shelli Wilburn, Ashley Coppins and a friend numbered all the beds and lockers after Roger Castle and his "A Team" assembled the beds with a group of volunteers from Edwards Road Baptist Church and Life Song. Roger also helped Southern Traditions hang window blinds throughout the building.

As for the cleaning, groups from Forrestville Baptist Church and North Greenville University stepped in to fill those shoes.

For the Overcomer's transitional house renovations, God provided

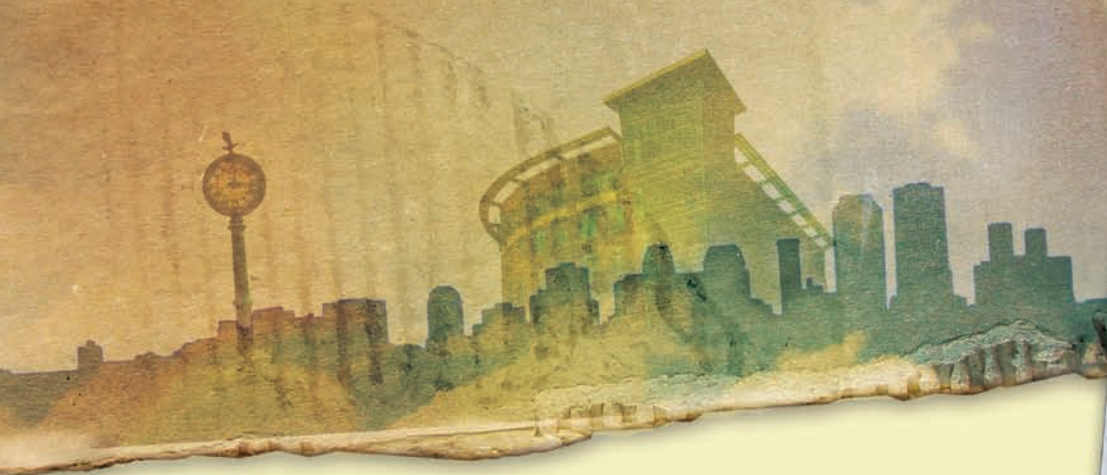


Total Comfort Solutions at Transitional Housing Project

help from Total Comfort Solutions, a Greenville area company. Over twenty of their employees dedicated time and expertise to completing the project which involved replacing the heating and air conditioning system, landscaping and painting at the Cyrus Court property. The company also donated \$15,000 to cover the expense of the improvements.

Because of these volunteers and many others, the Overcomers Center and transitional house are both in great condition to serve many men in need for years to come. We at Miracle Hill cannot thank these individuals enough for their time and dedication to God and His unbelievable work through this ministry.

Last year, 7,301 volunteers worked selflessly to help those in care at Miracle Hill.



*Overcomers Center
Dedication Ceremony*

Miracles By Design

While the past two years have been financially challenging, we at Miracle Hill continue to be amazed by the ways God provides for the ministry's financial needs through the kindness of giving individuals throughout our community. While many investments in the ministry have come in the form of outright cash gifts, others have come as a result of planning on the part of some of our donors who wished to leave a legacy after they are gone.

Gifts of appreciated assets, will bequests, trust proceeds, life insurance proceeds and gift annuities have helped Miracle Hill to not only complete some significant capital projects, but also to increase the Miracle Hill endowment fund further strengthening future operations and serving to stabilize the ministry's income during the financial valleys.

A significant portion of funding for our addiction recovery centers, the newly renovated men's Overcomers Center and women's McCall Renewal Center, were provided by **gifts of appreciated stock**. These generous gifts made it possible not only to expand the program to more individuals in need but also to provide spacious living quarters and a safe, peaceful environment while focusing on recovering.

A portion of the \$1.2 million in estate gifts received during this period was used to complete a much-needed elevator at Shepherd's Gate, our homeless shelter for women. Certain

individuals had a burden on their hearts for the people that Miracle Hill serves and decided to leave this ministry in their estate plan through their **wills**. As a result, the shelter is better able to care for the elderly and handicapped ladies who walk through its doors.

Recent renovations at the Children's Home have come about as a result of Miracle Hill being the beneficiary of a **trust** left by a donor who had a heart for the children we reach out to on a daily basis. Staff members and children alike have been blessed beyond measure by the wonderful ways their living quarters have been improved as a result of others' generosity and planning.

The Miracle Hill endowment has grown to over \$6.5 million. Several **gift annuities** and proceeds received from a **life insurance** policy contributed to this growth. The donors who made these planned gifts saw the importance of not only meeting current needs but also building savings for the future.



*Elevator Groundbreaking
at Shepherd's Gate*

To learn more about planned giving options that will help transform lives and leave a legacy, please contact Greg Hynds at 864-268-4357 or ghynds@miraclehill.org.

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Upcoming Events

Hilarity for Charity ~ February 18, 2011

On February 18th James Gregory's Hilarity For Charity Comedy Show will be held at Broad River Electric in Gaffney, SC. Proceeds will benefit the Miracle Hill Rescue Missions in Spartanburg and Cherokee Counties. To purchase tickets, please call 864-489-5737 or visit www.funniestman.com/events.php.

Annual Fundraising Banquet ~ April 28, 2011

Miracle Hill Ministries invites you to join us on Thursday, April 28th at the Carolina First Center in Greenville for our Annual Fundraising Banquet. Charles Martin, author of several highly-acclaimed novels, will be our speaker for the evening. Charles will share some of the incredible stories that inspired his most recent novel "Chasing Fireflies," the tale of a broken child in search of the truth.

The banquet will begin at 6:30 p.m. and all funds received will go to support Miracle Hill's Children's Ministries. Please contact Cindy Kelly at 864-631-0137 or ckelly@miraclehill.org for more information about table host and sponsorship opportunities, or to reserve your seat.

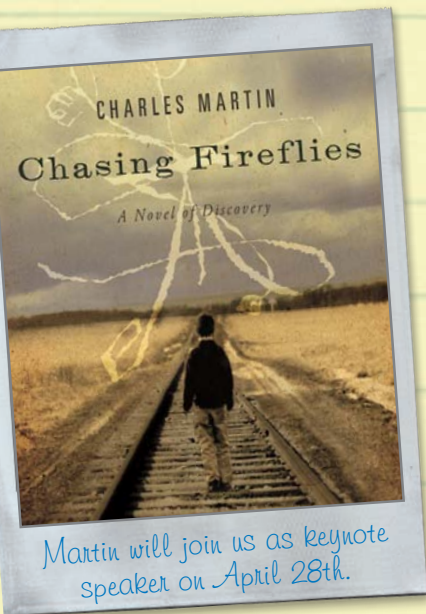
While Charles Martin's novel "Chasing Fireflies" is a fictional story, the gut-wrenching truths scattered within its pages resonate with many true testimonies. Publishers Weekly describes the author's writing in saying, "Martin's strength is in his memorable characters . . . [his] prose is lovely." Books are available for purchase at our administrative office for \$10.00.

7th Annual Cycling Challenge ~ June 4, 2011

On June 4th, Miracle Hill will hold its 7th annual Cycling Challenge to raise support for the ministry's expansion project at the Greenville Rescue Mission. The challenge consists of three different distances from which each rider may choose: 25 miles, 62 miles (metric) or 100 miles (century). All bikers will depart from Sistine Stadium in Greenville at 7:00 a.m. and will return to the same location for the finish. A small family ride will also take place for those who simply want to enjoy a good time with their loved ones.

For more information about entry level fees and fundraising requirements, please contact Steve Lambright at slambright@miraclehill.org or 864-631-0144.

Please visit our Facebook page – www.facebook.com/MiracleHill - to read the incredible story of Don Dobbs, one of our previous Cycling Challenge bikers. Although Don is a 70 year old heart attack survivor, he made the decision to ride his bike across the United States. His reason for doing so – to give God all the glory!



Martin will join us as keynote speaker on April 28th.

Miracle Hill does not discriminate with regard to race, color, sex, national origin, marital, veteran, handicap or any other legally protected status.

*Names and photos of clients may have been changed to ensure their safety.

Miracle Hill Ministries, Inc. is a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability.

miraclehill.org

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Miracle Hill Relief Ministry	864.242.2911
Miracle Hill Rescue Mission	
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• Greenville	864.242.6933
• Spartanburg	864.583.1628
Miracle Hill Shepherd's Gate	864.268.5589
Miracle Hill Thrift Operations	864.242.6931
Miracle Hill Auto Sales	864.268.1960
Miracle Hill Overcomers Center	864.631.0088
Miracle Hill Renewal Center	864.242.2166