

**April
2011**

Lydia Place

Spring is here!



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An interns insight into Lydia Place.....



My name is Michelle and I have been a case management intern at Lydia Place since January. Like many other students, my main concern in seeking out an internship was having one more experience listed on my resume. I attended an internship fair at WVU, hoping to make a good impression. When I went to the Lydia

Place table, I knew it sounded like a good fit. I would get a chance to sit in on case management meetings where the women would work with a case manager on personal goals. I would run life skills groups. It sounded ideal.

Mindy Gravley, the case management supervisor, offered to talk with me and take me on a tour of Lydia Place. I saw all the wonderful services Lydia Place had to offer: a pantry, a craft room for the kids, and a night manager's office full of toiletries and games. I left that night with an internship offer.



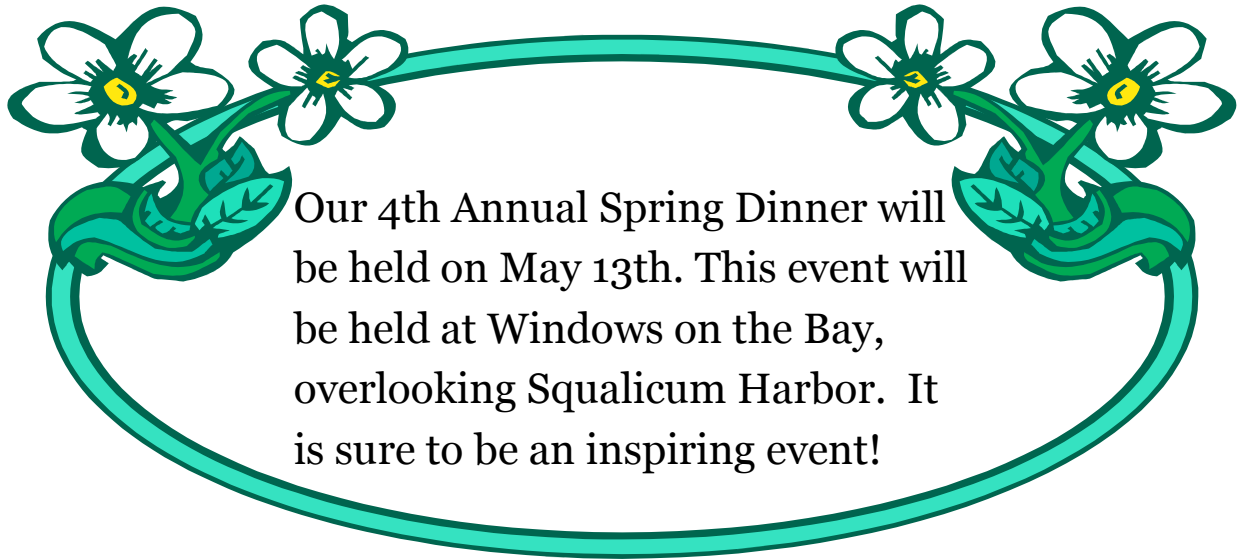
On the first day of my internship, I experienced my first life skills group. Meeting the residents was what I was most excited for and also most nervous about. Would they like me? What would their stories be? My fears were put to rest when we all began doing an art project together. These women are strong women, each with a unique background. Life had served them ups and downs but they were here and grateful for what was offered to them.



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Lydia Place Mission Statement

Lydia Place provides a multi-faceted program that supports women and their children in transition from homelessness to independence.



Our 4th Annual Spring Dinner will be held on May 13th. This event will be held at Windows on the Bay, overlooking Squalicum Harbor. It is sure to be an inspiring event!

Thank you to our dinner sponsors

Boundary Bay Brewing Company, State Farm Insurance, WECU

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Over the next few months, I saw new residents come in and got to see others graduate and move into a place of their own. Every week, I spend time with the women in life skills group, which has quickly become my favorite part of Lydia Place. I learn something new right along with them and get to see each of their different talents emerge whether they excel at art or have a wicked sense of humor. I've shared some special memories with the residents of Lydia Place.

What started out as an effort to enhance my resume has turned in to a passion for the Lydia Place program and caring for the women who are a part of it. They have each overcome many obstacles in their lives and are working very hard to make a better life for themselves and their children. Their courage amazes me and I know that each of them will continue to make great progress in the journeys they are on. Lydia Place has opened my eyes to what it truly means to help and care for others and that experience will last throughout my lifetime.



~A window into my world at Lydia Place~

My name is Megan. I was forced to come to Lydia Place because Child Protective Services (CPS) wanted me where I could be supervised. When I first came here I was scared, I'd never lived with women before.

Now, I like it here at Lydia Place. I think it's an awesome program that has helped me grow in many ways. I like the support it gives with housing, budgeting, family and I enjoy the nurturing parenting program. I've grown in independence. I'd never been independent before and always had roommates or parents to fall back on. My parenting skills and patience have grown since being at Lydia Place.



I have three very busy children. Seven year old Lily is very independent, very kind, and sweet. Everyone thinks she'll grow up to be an actress or singer because she's so outgoing, enthusiastic and dramatic. Jonathan is 3 yrs old. He is a very sweet and kind person and very attached to his mom. He has a medical condition that causes his platelet cells to be attacked which makes his blood not clot. He's being treated with steroids every other day. The steroids give him escalated behavioral issues like major melt downs, too much energy and aggressive behaviors all of which he is unable to control. Lydia Place has helped me to handle and evaluate my sons "roid" rages.



Sammy is 2 yrs old, and she is also very independent and out spoken. Her favorite words right now are "MINE and NO". She really enjoys playing with babies and reading books, she's nurturing to kids, animals and adults. My family is very close and we all care very much for each other.

I have been at LP now for 7 months and I still love it here! I'm about to get my kids back full time, all three of them and Lily's CPS case will be closed this month. I plan to move into Lydia Place's new Supportive Service Program in May with my kids. I'm going to start school in the next year to be a dental assistant. I would not be where I am today had it not been for Lydia Place. I'm on my way to independence and I'm very thankful that I moved in here.

Mark your calendars!

The Lydia Place "Mother of all Garage Sales" will take place on August 12th & 13th at the Sportsplex. 1225 Civic Field Way- Don't miss it!

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DONATIONS NEEDED!!

Spring is here, time for spring cleaning! Wondering what to do with all your old household items and knick knacks? Why not bring them on down to Wise Buys? They are in need of donations!

They are located at 1224 N. State Street, a couple of doors down from the YMCA. Open Monday thru Saturday, 10am-5pm.

The great thing about donating your gently used items here is, ALL the proceeds from sale of your items goes directly to fund the Lydia Place program!

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