

**July
2010**

Lydia Place

20 years Strong and growing!



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Message from a long time night manager.....



My name is Jody Marie Wade and I have been asked to write about working at Lydia Place.



In 1996 I was working with a man from DSHS to find a job or a volunteer position so I could gain more experience and better myself. I was told about Lydia Place, so my worker and I went to there to see about a current volunteer position. The lady we met with told us more about Lydia Place and that there was currently a Night Manager position available. When my worker and I were leaving I told him that I wanted the Night Manager job. He talked to some people and I started on March 28, 1996. It was a Saturday night and it was crazy, but I made it through.

I enjoyed coming to work at night and having the children come running to me for hugs. I liked helping the women learn how to cook or how to work with their children.

I too knew what it was like to be homeless. I was living in San Diego, CA and because of an abusive husband I took my kids and left to stay at a mission in downtown San Diego. We were homeless from October 85 to February 86. Once



you are on the street it is hard to get off. You are not sure where you will stay or what you will feed your children. So, I knew what these ladies at Lydia Place were going through.

*Jody is the heart & soul of Lydia Place. She inspires our staff and continuously touches the hearts of our clients. – Mindy Kuyper
Case Manager Supervisor*

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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.

In 2007 , I was told I had ovarian cancer and in 2008 I was told by my doctors that I would not be able to night manage anymore. I couldn't be around the children anymore in case they were sick, it could make my condition worse. That was hard to hear, I don't like a lot of change. It was hard on me over the years to see the lady's I work with leave Lydia Place for different jobs. Now I had to make the biggest change of all. I still work in the office as a program assistant as often as my illness will allow. I love working at Lydia Place, it has been the best job I have ever had. My heart will always be at Lydia Place!

As Jody celebrates 14 years here at Lydia Place, staff and former residents would like to share thoughts and memories of her with you. We all wish her well.



As Jody's illness progresses she finds comfort in the form of her feline friend Gilbert. Who she found at the Humane Society a little over a year ago.

Jody is direct, open and caring. She is a refreshing breeze that will always blow through the windows of Lydia Place.—Teresa Josephson, Executive Director

I still remember when Jody used to make us elephant ears to eat when I lived there.—Bobby Wight '07



I'm grateful to Jody, she was wonderful to Cody & I. I could tell she really loved us.— Tonya Shelton & Cody '06



|| Jody earns friendship and respect in her relationships with all the women and is strong in her convictions.—Anita Mapes Client Support Staff



Jody has always been a wonderful person to be around. She is so nice and is a really good friend to everyone.—Amber '07

Jody was one of the first faces of Lydia Place for me. I started as a night manager and always looked up to and admired Jody. She's the back bone and glue that holds Lydia Place together and will always be one of my favorite memories of working here. - Maryann Schmitt Family Services Coordinator



If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering, please contact Noriko Lao, Volunteer Coordinator at norikolao@cs.com or 734-4410. Visit www.lydiaplace.org and click on **Volunteering** to learn about volunteer opportunities at Lydia Place.

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www.lydiaplace.org



Thank you to Darlene and Richard Olsen who share their donation of bread with us from Avenue Bread.



Thank you to Nick Spring from BUGS-Bellingham Urban Garden. Who has been bringing us wonderful vegetables every week.



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