



*A Teen Residential Program and Community
Counseling Center*

December 2019 E-News



Joy To The World

By: Steve Lowe, Executive Director

Blessings That Break the Curse

Joy to the World is one of my favorite Christmas songs. I love the line "He comes to make his blessings flow, far as the curse is found". The ramifications of man's fall and the extent of the curse are profound. Lately, I've thought of this often. We suffer from broken bodies, thoughts, and even desires. We see the effects of sin in broken relationships in our families, divisiveness, hatred, lives wrecked through substance abuse, others destroyed through greed and sexual immorality, on and on we could go. But, Christ's power and grace to break this curse goes deeper still. We indeed experience the **JOY** of seeing this at The Joy House.

I think of Ethan M. who completed the program this year. When coming to us he was failing almost all his classes at high school and was making some poor life decisions. He caught a different vision for his life here and completed the program and two years of school in a single year to earn his diploma and is now on his way to serve our country through an enlistment in the Navy. I think of Mary who is completing the program after learning how to handle some intense emotions and working through difficult tensions with her parents. She also earned her diploma and will be enrolling in college after the New Year.

What **JOY** it brings us to see Christ's blessings flow to break the power of the curse.

We've also seen many find freedom from the curse through our Counseling Center this year. It will again be a record year for us seeing more clients than we ever have.

We indeed have much to be joyful about and we look forward with great anticipation to breaking ground on our new girl's home very soon. We're also excited about new opportunities the Lord is putting before us for 2020.

I know many of you consider ministry investments at year end. We're praying and asking for a record year end to set us in good stead as we begin 2020. Thanks for your consideration and partnership. May you indeed know the **JOY** and power of Christ this Christmas in finding victory over the curse.

Merry Christmas,
Steve



Our 2019 Holiday Newsletter has made its way to many mailboxes this month. If you received it, we trust you enjoyed the update, including a testimony of one of our recent Residential Program graduates, Ethan. We encourage you to use this newsletter as a tool to share about our ministry with your friends, family and coworkers over the holiday season. If you would like to download a digital version, you may do so by clicking the button below.

[Click Here to View our Digital Holiday Newsletter](#)

By: [Garry Barber](#), Director of Counseling Center

Object Permanence is a term used in developmental psychology to describe what happens in games of peekaboo like those I play with my one-year-old granddaughter, Elizabeth. It is thought that young children believe that what cannot be perceived does not exist but when the person or object can be perceived again existence is reestablished. Another way to express this understanding would be to say, "If I can't see it, hear it, feel it, smell it, or taste it - it isn't there." One of the indicators of progress toward maturity is observed when a child begins to understand, "Just because I can't see something does not mean it isn't there." Or even more so, "Just because I can't see you doesn't mean that you can't see me." (Picture here a three-year-old covering her eyes and thinking that makes her invisible.) I believe we can make a helpful application of the theory of Object Permanence to the painful reality of many people's lives, especially during the Christmas season.

[Click Here to Read Full Article](#)

Year-End Giving Instructions

If you are mailing a gift it must be postmarked no later than **December 31, 2019**. If you want to donate online, you may do so by going to thejoyhouse.org and clicking on "**Give**." You can make donations online until midnight on December 31, 2019. If you want to give the donation to us personally, it must be in hand by midnight on December 31, 2019.

We will not be maintaining normal office hours from Monday, December 23rd through Friday, January 3rd. However, if you need to speak to Steve personally regarding a year-end gift you can contact him by leaving a voicemail or by e-mail at steve@thejoyhouse.org. He will be checking both of these and will be glad to contact you.



[Give Now](#)



Our Girl's and Boy's Homes have compiled Christmas Wish Lists. We are grateful for our supporters that enjoy blessing our ministry in this special way during the holiday season. Click below to view the lists and contact Steve Lowe, Executive Director, at steve@thejoyhouse.org or 706.253.7569 for more information.

[Click Here to View Christmas Wish Lists](#)



Ready to Receive a Dollar-For-Dollar Tax Credit?

You can make a difference in the lives of our Joy House Academy students through dollars you are already going to spend and receive dollar-for-dollar tax credit. This is accomplished through the Georgia Qualified Education Expense Tax Credit Program. Each year, the State of Georgia allows a portion of state income tax dollars to be designated for school scholarships. In 2019 the portion was raised to \$100 million. **This program allows individuals and companies to receive a dollar-for-dollar tax credit for donations for student scholarships at accredited non-profit private schools in Georgia, which includes The Joy House Academy.** You can get all the details about this program by [clicking here](#). You may also contact Steve Lowe directly for more

information at 706.253.7569 or by [e-mail](#). Scholarship contributions can have a significant impact on supporting The Joy House program, as nearly 20 percent of our budget needs are for education. Thank you for your consideration!



By: Steve Lowe, Executive Director

I wanted to give all our partners an update regarding the new girl's home. Our hope was to break ground before the year-end after reaching our financial goal to begin (thank you). Since then I've been in touch with our builder and we've discussed possible placement on the property to best meet our goals with this home. He is working out the details of that while we're waiting on him to finish up some other projects before the year-end. He needed to complete these projects before beginning ours. We will begin the home in the New Year. Please keep a lookout for an announcement regarding an official ground breaking in the New Year.



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