

One House's Story

Behind our basketball court sits an abandoned house. This house has been neglected and vandalized, and since August of this year, *five* people have been shot and/or treated for gunshot wounds in and around this house. Despite the trauma this house has seen, we had the idea to decorate it and place a Christmas tree inside the living room of this house.

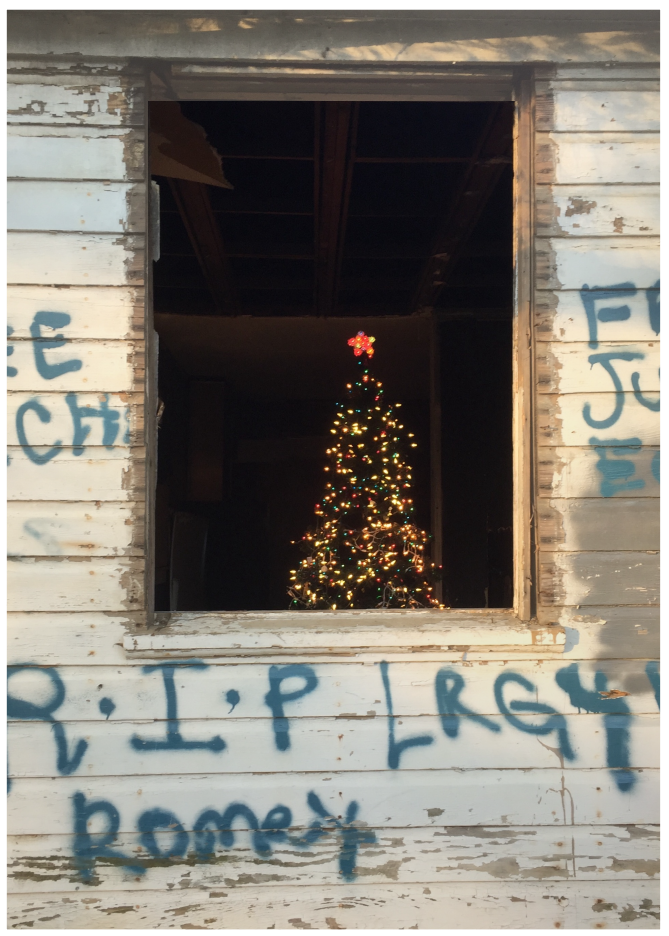
As the sun set, the scars of vandalism became less noticeable and the graffiti faded, but the light from the tree remained and seemed to get brighter. This little abandoned house stood alone, lit from within amidst the darkness of the other abandoned dwellings and in a neighborhood prone to violence. The truth is, this house shares a story with many people we know.

THIS LITTLE ABANDONED HOUSE STOOD ALONE, LIT FROM WITHIN AMIDST THE DARKNESS.

In the gospel of Matthew we read, "And for those who lived in the land where death casts its shadow, a Light has shined." Matthew 4:16

The Light of Christ will shine in the darkest of places, even where death casts its shadow, in the hopes that each individual, no matter what his situation, will open his heart and let the Light of Christ inside. Once inside, the glow from the Light will enlighten one's life making it stand in contrast to the darkness outside.

We at Light of the Village sincerely wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas. Additionally, we pledge our efforts to continually share the Light of Christ, one person at a time, inside this special community in the years to come.



"THE PEOPLE WHO SAT IN DARKNESS HAVE SEEN A GREAT LIGHT. AND FOR THOSE WHO LIVED IN THE LAND WHERE DEATH CASTS ITS SHADOW, A LIGHT HAS SHINED." MATTHEW 4:16

*Merry Christmas
from the
Light of the Village
Team!*

BRAG BOARD



TASHJIAN IS TRAINING TO WELD AT JOB CORPS!



JERMISHA GOT HER DRIVERS LICENSE!



ERIC GOT HIS DRIVERS LICENSE!



BETTY IS WORKING AT ACADEMY!



TERRRANCE GOT HIS DRIVERS LICENSE!

2015 *By the Numbers*



25 INDIVIDUALS FOUND EMPLOYMENT



13 YOUTH WERE BAPTIZED

553

KIDS ENROLLED IN OUR SUMMER BIBLE CAMPS



124

KIDS ENROLLED IN OUR AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS



12 OF OUR TEENS GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL



7 OF THOSE 12 STARTED COLLEGE

12

TEENS EARNED DRIVERS PERMITS



13

TEENS EARNED DRIVERS LICENSES

1,100 Served at Thanksgiving Eve Meal!

Thanksgiving Eve is probably our favorite event of the year, and it's definitely the biggest! It lends us the opportunity to invite all who wish to attend to our campus to share a meal together. And for those without the means to come to us, we deliver hundreds of meals into the community. This year, the Lord blessed us with a peaceful meal, plentiful food, and an abundance of wonderful volunteers! We are inexplicably grateful to all who contributed their time, talent, and resources to this beautiful event!

We wish to extend a very special thanks to the following churches and organizations who were key to the success of this event:

- Rotary Club of Bay Minette
- Cooks for Christ
- Food for Less
- iHeart Media
- Spring Hill Baptist Church
- Dayspring Baptist Church
- Lafitte Baptist Church
- Airport Boulevard Baptist
- Redemption Church
- City Hope Church
- Cottage Hill Baptist Church



It was nothing but smiles all around this Thanksgiving Eve!



Volunteers of all ages came to help us with this very special event!

LOV Serves with Gladness

It has been such a blessing this year to watch our kids, teens, and adults come alongside our staff more than ever to serve others, both inside their community and elsewhere. They have truly shined the Light of Christ this year!

January

Our teens tutor at the after school program throughout the year.



February

Our kids worked alongside a local church for a neighborhood cleanup.



August

Teens return to Juarez to launch a Summer Bible Camp for 150 kids.



November

Our kiddos packed Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes for children all over the world in need of the hope of Christ.



February

Teens travel to Juarez, Mexico to build a house.



June and July

More than 30 teens committed their summers to working Summer Bible Camp.



September

Teens began making candles to raise funds for their upcoming spring mission trip.



November

Volunteers of all ages jumped in to help make our Thanksgiving Eve meal a huge success.



BRAG BOARD



JUNIOR IS GOING ON TO ADVANCED TRAINING AT JOB CORPS!



JOHNNIE GOT HIS DRIVERS LICENSE!



DEE COMPLETED HIS AIDT TRAINING!



JONAH IS GOING TO COLLEGE!



TRENT GOT HIS DRIVERS LICENSE!

LOV Snapshots



Left: The Light of the Village Lions basketball team prepares for another winning season!



Left: Our TeenLeaders were invited to a bonfire out in the country and loved every minute of it!

Above: TeenLeader, Jesse hanging out with LOV intern, Erica, as she serenades the streets at Art Walk in November.

MEET ERICA

We are so excited to introduce you guys to Erica Barksdale, our new year-round intern! Erica is from Tampa, FL, and is the product of a unique partnership between her church and LOV. Erica first came with her youth group to volunteer at LOV for a week in the summer of 2013 after graduating from high school. She returned the next year as a leader with her church, and again the following summer as a SBC intern. She says, "I wanted to work at LOV because honestly I love it here, and I love the feeling of knowing that I am following God's will for my life."

Erica assists in many aspects of our programming at LOV, but has been particularly instrumental in one new project: a children's choir! We are so glad Erica is willing to lend us her talents to teach our kids how to worship the Lord in song. It is truly a blessing to see their joy in praising.

This year, Erica says she hopes to discover who she is on her own in regards to owning her own faith walk and really being a light for Jesus in her everyday life. And she is just that, a light and a joy to all those around her!



Erica and Lamar leading Sunday worship at LOV.

SPREAD THE LIGHT!

- SPONSOR A HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR: \$300 OR \$25/MO
- SEND A TEENLEADER ON MISSION: \$600 OR \$50/MO
- PROVIDE ITEMS FOR AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM: COPY PAPER, TONER, NOTEBOOK PAPER, BINDERS, NOTEBOOKS
- INVITE AN LOV REP TO SPEAK TO YOUR CHURCH OR ORGANIZATION
- COLLECT ITEMS FOR OUR MONTHLY FOOD GIVEAWAYS
- ORDER CANDLES OR HOST A CANDLE SALE
- PRAY FOR THIS MINISTRY

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF LIGHT OF THE VILLAGE!



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jan. 11 GED Classes Resume on Mondays and Wednesdays
9:00-11:00am with Bible study to follow
- Jan. 16 LOV Workday 11:30am-4:00pm *Volunteers welcome!
- Jan. 18 Closed for MLK Day
- Jan. 19 After School Program Resumes on Tues. and Thurs.
3:00-5:00pm *Volunteers welcome!
- Jan. 30 Charity Chase 5K Race on USA's Campus
Sign up now at www.thecharitychase.com!
- March 3 Annual Night in the Light Banquet
6:00pm at The Grounds. Invitation to follow.

Light of the Village Ministry