



From Sonshine’s heart,

Every day, much less on Jesus’s birthday, we are to be joyful and focused on the fact that Jesus came down to earth and died to set us free. It’s hard to do though, especially in this world. As we try to focus on Jesus, joy and family, God is faithful. He already knows. I’m convinced God is sad, that some don’t know Jesus as His gift to them, and some who do know Jesus, lost their focus on him, their faith in him, their joy in him.



Me? Recently, I became joy-less. The effects of a world pandemic on me at Worthy Women, came subtly. By October, I lost my first love, my focus, my joy. I needed time off because living here for 4.5 years, with three staff positions to cover, took its toll. AND then, COVID-19 hit.

March 1, 2020, had Jenna within 3 months, and Theresa within 5 months, of graduating the WRI 12-month program, two ladies had new jobs, two were successfully completing their sentences, and two new residents were pretty content. Theresa was hired by WRI, the ladies all

Jenna reunited with her son Ashton, graduated WW and works as a lead tire technician at Carter Tire & Automotive

respected her, and were thrilled to be living free, progressing, and making plans for their lives.



March 13, 2020, this COVID-19 caused great discontentment and great unhappiness at Worthy Women, FAR TOO MUCH of it, honestly. A month later, I fractured my wrist in four places. My first broken painful injury, complaining residents, no resident visits, residents could not work, no new residents, expenses increasing; the world seemed to stop moving and planning life screeched to a halt.

Then two new residents quit, four finished our program, and by October 2, the last resident became so defiant, that I called her Probation Officer and drove her back to jail. I was done. I was all out of joy, I just wanted to be away.

Theresa catching Baby Jay at her graduation celebration July 25th, 2020. “He ran right up to me, Sonshine. It’s the best feeling ever!”

Then I had to let Theresa go; I was depressed. She was reunited with her son, bought a car, filed, and paid for her name to be restored, loved working here, is a great facilitator and is so kind. It hurt; it was one too many things to endure.

I wanted to return to just

residents. So, I called my Board of Director’s and they gave me to December 31, 2020 to plan.

facilitating programs, I was tired of living with

I called donors, business friends and mentors, and prayed with many of them. After three weeks away, and 8 ladies calling for information on WW, I was convicted of God’s priorities for my life, AGAIN:

1. I love telling women about the purpose of Jesus Christ, and
2. I love using therapy programs to affect change in willing hearts.
3. WRI needs to change our policies to reflect GOD’S MINISTRY foremost:
 - a. Ladies who come under false pretenses or just to get fed for a while, create a lot of dissension.
 - b. Residents need more time to learn and understand God’s love and eternal salvation.

4. Worthy Women needs greater functionality, which will increase self-sufficiency for the residents:
 - a. Remodel: Main dorm divided into two rooms, for various levels of residents to have space.
 - b. Resident lockers will offer purse, work items & PPE safety storage, decreasing staff involvement.
 - c. My former bedroom will be the new ADA/Quarantine room with its own bathroom.
 - d. the basement epoxy floor is rough, it needs to be resurfaced to reduce cleaning time (1400 sq ft)
 - e. After **4.a** above, we will have enough space to store storage and fundraising items in the home.
5. I need my own home to go to, so I can come to work like a normal person does. (Jan 5, 2021)

Since Oct 2, in my “time off”, MANY PRAYERS have been answered:

- ✝ I have a **mature spiritual mentor**/prayer buddy,
- ✝ \$18,100 in **TUCKPOINT Expenses met**, thanks to the LPUEA for \$9,050 & an additional \$4,000 match,
 - ✝ the **storage unit** is empty, DONE, (THANK YOU Angie L. ☺)
 - ✝ a \$5,000 **GIVING TUESDAY match** was met raising \$10,000, special thanks to Robin S. and Lindsey H.,
 - ✝ **new lockers** are being installed in Friend’s Foyer,
 - ✝ The basement **epoxy floor** is almost recoated (lots of moving furniture around).



Andrew Pazera (2014 Banquet Photo) was voted onto our board at our Dec. 2020 meeting. He has worked at the IDOC for 38 years with 22 as deputy warden and warden; an answer to our prayers as we revise our policies. I met Andy when I worked for the IDOC at the Westville Correctional Facility. Andy often reminded me to focus on God and shared this bible verse: ‘You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, whose thoughts are fixed on you! Isaiah 26:3’

The WRI Board of Directors met with Jessica Romine, of Parkison & Hinton, Inc. CPA’s. The BOD then voted to amend our business name to **WORTHY RECOVERY INC. (WRI)** with a broader **MISSION STATEMENT:** Worthy Recovery, Inc. is a Christian ministry that offers housing and education to women suffering from criminal thinking and or substance abuse.

This will allow for non-residents in La Porte County to attend support groups facilitated by Worthy Recovery Inc.

‘Suzie’ lives in La Porte; she rang our doorbell on **Oct 23, 2020**, unexpectedly, while I was meeting with Linda Jeffers. I knew this was out of sorts, so I excused myself. ‘Suzie’ said, “Hi Sonshine, do you have any NARCAN? The girls at work overdose all the time.” I didn’t. I remembered seeing her eyes like this **twelve years ago**. She had been a guest speaker at a WRI Banquet. Yet, here she was, HOLLOW, EMPTY, DYING, similar to a time at the **LP Co. Jail in 2008**. I met her in my MRT class, so staff asked me to talk to her. ‘Suzie’ had a safety suit on, she was placed on suicide watch. After 20 minutes, her eyes “looked somewhat alive”. ‘Suzie’ is kind, but she lets men abuse her for heroin. She has a B.A. in Accounting and is highly intelligent. Yet, she has no confidence.

Linda asked me what happened, as I sat back down with tears in my eyes. ‘Suzie’ is not ready for recovery.

HOWEVER, THERE ARE ‘SUZIE’S’ waiting for our help. PLEASE PRAY SPECIFICALLY FOR:

- ✝ **18 Residents** who were baptized and asked Jesus into their lives, and for the **43 more** we served as well.
- ✝ **Two Board Members**, obedient to the Holy Spirit, skilled in Marketing and Fundraising.
- ✝ Partners to consider **WRI in their planned giving**, keeping their legacy alive in Worthy Women.
- ✝ Our staff and funding needs to be met as outlined in **the WRI 2021 Budget** of \$186,000.00.
- ✝ **Credentialed, qualified staff and sub-contractors** who will be friendly but not be resident’s friends.
- ✝ **Wisdom in WRI policy** reviews and revisions, to reopen Worthy Women by March 1, 2021.
- ✝ **Four potential residents**, on a waiting list for March, to believe they need Jesus Christ.
- ✝ **A former resident** who is so obedient to God and who I have the privilege of calling friend

I know that I speak for each WRI Board of Director when I say that **we are grateful and thankful for every financial partner, every volunteer, and all of our prayer warriors**, and we do thank God for each of you.

THANK YOU, GOD, for sending **Jesus** here, for ALL of us! Merry **CHRIST**mas and a **JOY**-FULL New Year,

D. E. "Sonshine" Troche, WRI Ex. Dir.

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Worthy Recovery Inc. (WRI) is a 501c3 Tax-deductible Not-for-Profit Charitable Organization