



*A home & program for young women with unplanned pregnancies.*

August 2011

*"I realized I would be getting the help I needed..."*

- Samantha, recent alumna

## Meet the New House Parents



Please join us in welcoming Tim and Vickie Holley to the Ruth Harbor team! The Holleys recently began their new role as house parents.

For Tim and Vickie, the path that led them to Ruth Harbor was both a surprise and a blessing.

"From early on in our marriage, we felt the calling to work with young people in need," Vickie said. After years of working in church ministry and then as church planters, they found God leading them in a new direction to serve as house parents. However, they never imagined what God had in store, moving them halfway across the country from their home in South Carolina to Iowa -- not once, but twice!

From 2008 to 2010, Tim and Vickie served as house parents at Cherish House, a Christ-centered maternity home in Spirit Lake, IA. While there, the Holleys helped to establish Cherish

### Did You Know?

Four Ruth Harbor alumni are guests in a "host home" at this time.

### Mark Your Calendar

Save the Date!  
**Thursday, Nov. 17**  
Fall Fundraising  
Banquet

### Featured Wish List Items

- Flat screen computer monitor
- Postage stamps
- Electric can opener

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House Creations, a "cottage industry" designed to teach business skills to house residents, giving them the opportunity to learn how to make soy candles and wax bears to sell to the public.

After returning to South Carolina, the Holleys had no idea they'd be back in Iowa again so soon! "That was a God thing," Tim said, "because we weren't looking for it." When Executive Director Mark McDougal contacted them this spring about the open position for house parents at Ruth Harbor, they watched in amazement as one obstacle after another was removed from their path. "God's timing was clear," Tim said. "There are some confirmations that you just can't ignore, and we knew that Ruth Harbor is where God wanted us to be."

Now, Tim and Vickie are working prayerfully through this period of adjustment, as they establish relationships with the Ruth Harbor residents. "We are excited to be serving them," Vickie said, "and hoping to model a healthy Christian home."

The Holleys are excited for what lies ahead at Ruth Harbor and feel blessed to have seen God's hand so clearly throughout the journey that brought them here. "When God puts it on your heart, it's hard to deny," Tim said. "Every day is a faith walk. We love what we do. It takes a lot of grace and a lot of patience, but *where God calls us, He equips us.*"

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Join us in welcoming Tim & Vickie to Ruth Harbor! [Click here](#) to send them a greeting, commitment to pray, or a note of encouragement.

**Learn more about the Holleys!** [Click here](#)

## Newborn

As last month's eNews was being drafted, news of another newborn at Ruth Harbor arrived from Mercy Hospital here in Des Moines! Praise God with birthmother Erin upon the safe arrival of Comet Dakota. He was a very healthy 9 lbs. 4 oz. and arrived at 1:43 a.m. on June 19.

Erin says that Comet is a strong baby and continues to be very high on the growth percentage charts.

Erin's journey has not always been easy. Today, she is grateful to live in a host home set up by Ruth Harbor. Just a few months ago, Erin's creativity and resourcefulness were important while she lived on the street and in the homeless camps of Des Moines.

Getting her own place to live and pursuing more education are Erin's next goals.

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**Comet Dakota**

[Click here](#) to send congratulations or an encouraging note to Erin.

## **Ruth Harbor Volunteer Receives Community Honor**

Long before Ruth Harbor opened its doors to serve pregnant young women in our community 10 years ago, Joyce Fedderson was already hard at work pouring her time and talents into the ministry's success.

Joyce played an instrumental role in getting Ruth Harbor off to a good start by helping establish the organization's policies and procedures manual and serving as Ruth Harbor's first counselor, a position she held in addition to her other counseling work at the time.



Over the years, Joyce has faithfully served Ruth Harbor by volunteering in a variety of ways, including her current role providing "counseling oversight," a case management support process that increases professionalism and enables Ruth Harbor's ongoing license by the state of Iowa as a residential care facility. According to Ruth Harbor Director Mark McDougal, this service that Joyce provides free of charge is a significant blessing, as the service requires

trained expertise and would otherwise cost Ruth Harbor a large per-hour rate.

Joyce's passion for serving Ruth Harbor runs deep, but this energetic woman has also made other incredible contributions to the community and the state. This month, we congratulate Joyce in being selected as one of ten community leaders to receive the honor of Women of Influence for Greater Des Moines.

[Click here](#) to see the July 29 edition of the Des Moines Business Record about Joyce, her commitment to Ruth Harbor, and other areas of service to the community.

[Click here](#) for "Joyce's own words" describing how God led her to Ruth Harbor and why she continues to serve to this day.

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