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**Dear Faithful Friend,**

Do you recall what it was like to be a child, waiting for summer to officially arrive? All of life's wonderful bounty seemed to be found in summer. It held the promise of excitement and rest all wrapped up together. It was freedom! And the anticipation was so great that you could almost feel summer waiting for you just around the corner.

It is like that with Northfield right now. The Northfield Home is almost complete, our business plan is in order and we have young women desperate for our help just waiting for our doors to open. The bountiful life that God has in store for these girls is within reach and the tools they need to break free from their burdens are waiting for each one of them at the Northfield Home. It is all just around the corner, but we cannot round it without you.

So many of you have walked this ministry with us and given to it generously; in time, money and prayer. Because of your generosity, Northfield has been able to provide several scholarships to the girls we currently serve for the treatment they need. But our heart's cry is to not only to help these young ladies find treatment, but to also be that place of restoration and healing for them.

We hear from women every week who are waiting for the Northfield Home to open its doors. They fight against their burdens every day, faithfully holding on until a place of healing opens up for them.

*I want to feel like I have a reason to live, and not constantly have thoughts of dying going through my head. I know, "With God ALL things are possible," (Matthew 19:26) but I don't*

*know how to give control over to Him.*

The Northfield Home will soon be a safe haven for young women, just like this. The anticipation for opening day is so great that we can already feel the Holy Spirit filling the halls, preparing a welcome for each young lady.

We are so thankful for the support we have received. We feel your prayers, and we know and trust that God will continue to provide for Northfield Ministries. But we would like you to know how you can help Northfield Ministries today.

Our biggest need right now is funding. We need funding to complete renovations on the house and cannot open the Northfield Home without at least 3 months of operating expenses in hand—that totals roughly \$375,000. This funding request is a large one, especially during these difficult economic times, but we cannot afford to let another young woman slip away when the safe haven she needs is within reach.

We hear from families regularly who have experienced God's grace and mercy through Northfield's ministry. Below is one mother's message:

*I honestly believe that my daughter wouldn't be where she is now, or for that matter even alive, if not for the guidance, love, prayers and the financial support of Northfield Ministries. I am looking forward to the day when the Northfield Home can open its doors and welcome the troubled young women like my daughter.*

In this issue, you will get the opportunity to walk through real struggles with one of Northfield's young women. You will also discover how Northfield supporters have found ways to expand our mission through simple acts of generosity and time. These amazing stories show us how a small sacrifice can make a big difference and how a huge leap of faith can save a life. They are beautiful reminders that we are all children of Christ with one mission; to live the abundant life that God has planned for each of us.

We cannot thank you enough for your support along this walk. With your help, we will round that corner and open the doors to the Northfield Home. And finally, these young women will be able to find healing through our Lord Almighty, Jesus Christ.

All For God's Glory,

Gwen Seiler  
Founder, Executive Director



Gwen Seiler with young women from the University of Richmond

**Haggai 2:9** *"The glory of this present house will be greater than the former house," says the LORD Almighty. "And in this place I will grant peace," declares the LORD Almighty.*

## “Black Veil”

By J

*I walk through the world almost as the head-covered women of the Middle East do (or at least how they used to) with a black veil covering my face, as if I am in hiding. The only difference between us is that they are required to do so. My black veil is the comfort of self-inflicted pain, controlling what I eat or what I don't eat, what stays in and what doesn't. That is my black veil, my painful reminder from Satan. I am tired and weary of feeling like I have to hide from the world because I will not meet its standards and expectations of me.*

*I am better off alone because I don't have to worry about disappointing those around me. Through my eyes, my life is worthless. I am the last thing (yes “thing,” not “person”) on this earth people would want to be around. I am not an enjoyable person. Over the years I have added to this black veil bitterness, stubbornness, and I guess every other negative adjective you can think of to describe a person. I walk through this world and look in the eyes of others and see frustration and disappointment with where I am and where I have been.*

*I want so badly to be in the place where I once was: this innocent little girl running around, as carefree as they come. I want to be the girl that feels love and not hatred, pity, or disappointment from others. I want to be the girl everyone is so fond of, but in my eyes I am far from all the things I want to be.*

*I want God to remove this black veil from my face so I can be seen as a pure and innocent little girl. I also want it to be removed so I can feel like I have a reason to live, and not constantly have thoughts of dying going through my head. I know, “With God ALL things are possible,” (Matthew 19:26) but I don't know how to give control over to Him.*

Above is where I was just a few months ago. But now I am in a place of abundance and my veil has been removed.

I am the little, carefree, innocent girl I wanted to be because I let God have control. I am no longer filled with shame or guilt from my past life choices. Instead the weight of my sins has been lifted because of God's grace and unfailing love.

“The Lord directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives. Though they stumble, they will NEVER fall for the Lord holds them by the hand.” Psalm 37:23-24

Does a life of freedom mean I will never trip or fall again? No. But it does mean that my heart and soul are protected when I do. God's strength is greater than the enemy's. We need to lean on Him when we are under attack and use His strength to jump over every hurdle in our way.

Accepting yourself for who you are, the way God does, is another way of living abundantly. This is when you will find yourself filled with unlimited grace for the choices you have made; even when you make a mistake. Take the black veil away from your face and allow the blood of Christ to cover you and see what it's like to live in freedom.

God, you are just so, so amazing, for giving your son Jesus Christ to die on the cross for our sins. It just takes my breath away to know that because of this your love is never failing. Today I am asking you, God, to take Satan's lies away, and for those in bondage to be set free. Let them have the freedom they truly deserve and feel what it is like to be carried in your arms. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

**Galatians 5:1** *“It is for freedom that Christ set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.”*

## A Mother's Turn

By an Extremely Grateful Mother

Northfield Ministries was nothing less than a God-send to us when our daughter was coming to the reality that she needed help with eating disorder. As we have learned, eating disorders have a very profound effect on the entire family, not just the one with the illness. Resources are very limited and the financial hardship it can place on a family is overwhelming. Insurance coverage is not even close to what is needed and even finding professionals who specialize in treatment of eating disorder is difficult.

As we began our journey for treatment, Gwen Seiler, Northfield Ministries' Founder & Executive Director, walked with our family but especially walked with our daughter through the entire process. When insurance rejected the professionals we needed Northfield stepped up and provided scholarship money to offset some of the expenses we incurred.

I honestly believe that my daughter wouldn't be where she is now, or for that matter even alive, if not for the guidance, love, prayers and the financial support of Northfield Ministries. I am looking forward to the day when the Northfield Home can open its doors and welcome the troubled young women like my daughter.

To God be the glory!

### Northfield's Prayer Council Needs You!

More and more young women are contacting Northfield seeking help. We need to get the doors of the Northfield Home in Cumberland open! We need Christians who are willing to stand in the gap and persistently pray for this mission. Are you ready to join us?

The Northfield Prayer Council is seeking individuals who are willing to demonstrate a commitment to prayer for Northfield in one of the following ways:

1. I am willing to meet together with the Council once a week for prayer.
2. I am willing to meet together with the Council once a month for prayer.
3. I am willing to set aside a certain time everyday/ every week to pray specifically for Northfield. (Our eventual goal is for prayer 24/7!)
4. I am willing to pray for Northfield prayer requests sent to my e-mail address once a week.

It is time to storm the gates of heaven with prayer. Please join with us now as we cry out to the Father that He would bless this ministry, that His favor would be on all we do, and that He would multiply every effort and every dollar.

To join the Northfield Prayer Council contact Brenda Bell at [northfieldprayercouncil@gmail.com](mailto:northfieldprayercouncil@gmail.com). You can also join by visiting our website at [www.northfieldministries.org](http://www.northfieldministries.org).



## New Northfield Site

Thanks to Richmond Media, the new Northfield website, [www.northfieldministries.org](http://www.northfieldministries.org), is finally up and running! This new site provides a simple layout, beautiful pictures and great resources for all things Northfield. Its user-friendly format ensures that if you need it, you can find it.

First time visitors to the Northfield site can easily access the ministries' vision and mission, and learn more about our Northfield staff. The site now includes a Calendar tab to keep you informed of upcoming events, newsletters and volunteer opportunities.

Visitors to our new site will also find a fantastic slideshow of the home, as well as our completed business plan and operations budget.

The next phase of website construction will bring ministry tools and resources to the site for anyone seeking help from Northfield.

## Taking Northfield to the Next Level

Catherine Schuermann Boyle has been named Chief Operating Officer for Northfield Ministries. Catherine joined the Northfield Ministries Board of Directors in 2006. She is also a member of the Northfield Ministries Communication team.

"Cathy's expertise in business is just what we need right now," says Northfield Ministries Founder and Executive Director, Gwen Seiler. "Having Cathy on board as Chief Operating Officer will definitely take us to the next level."

Catherine worked for Crestar Bank for 13 years, serving as Vice President of Corporate Trust, Strategic Planning, and Y2K. Catherine's first book, *Hungry Souls: What the Bible Says About Eating Disorder*, was released in 2007. She has also written and taught *Hungry Souls* as a Bible study and contributed to several other books.

**Galations 6:9** *"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."*

## Taking Off!

Now that Northfield's business plan and budget have been completed, we are ready to take off! Northfield has developed a budget that will sustain all of the Northfield Home's operating expenses once opened.

As we have shared with you before, our biggest financial hurdle right now is finding the \$375,000 needed to get our doors open. Once we have that funding, the home will be able to remain open, month after month, and be the place of hope, healing and restoration that we have envisioned all along.

## God and Golf

What could be better than fun in the sun and a little friendly competition for a great cause? On May 12, 2010, Northfield Ministries held its first annual golf tournament at Independence Golf Club in Midlothian, Virginia. With 73 participants and 10 volunteers in attendance, Northfield was able to raise over \$4,000!



"We are so blessed to have the support we have been given," said Northfield Founder and Executive Director, Gwen Seiler. "We are already looking forward to and planning for next year."

Tournament organizer, Brad Dalton added, "I hope it will continue to raise community awareness of the ministry and draw others from our churches, businesses, and the overall community, who will assume leadership roles for Northfield."

Many thanks to our hole sponsors who helped make this day possible: Hartford Mutual Funds, Franklin Templeton Mutual Funds, Sri Vemuri, Luck Stone, Signs By Tomorrow, Edward Jones, FA Jack Snyder, Pacific Life Insurance Co., VanKampen Mutual Funds, Lincoln Moneyguard, Bank of VA, The Carillon Group, Protective Life Insurance Co., John Hancock Long Term Care, Paul D. Harvey DDS, Creative Retirement Systems, Holbrook Hill, MFS Mutual Funds, and Genworth Long Term Care.

Congratulations to the members of the Swartz team, who collectively shot the lowest score of the day! Thanks so much to all of those who helped to make this such a blessed day for Northfield Ministries. Check out pictures from the day's events on Northfield's facebook page!





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*"Northfield Ministries...a place  
to break free."*

#### **Northfield Ministries Board Members**

Skip Windbiel  
*Chief Financial Officer*

Catherine Boyle  
*Chief Operating Officer*

Gwen Seiler

Sig Seiler

Patricia Harper

Sherry Shrader

Dennis Stone

Tom Mishoe

Gwen Seiler  
*Founder & Executive Director*

Erin White  
*Communication Consultant*

Christine Shepard  
*Northfield Home Coordinator*

### **Northfield Ministries Mission Statement**

Northfield Ministries embraces young women and their families where they are, embarks with them on a journey of restoration and healing, and empowers them with the knowledge to break free.

### **Northfield Ministries Vision Statement**

By journeying with Northfield Ministries, young women and their families will know good health, well-being and an abundant life.