

Community Ministry *Newsletter*



November 2022

NOVEMBER 6, 2022

Light on the Hill Contribution

Hillcrest collects a special contribution each fall to fund evangelism and benevolence programs in our community. About two-thirds of this is devoted to meeting the physical needs of our members and neighbors as well as assisting non-profit organizations with whom we partner in Abilene.

This newsletter describes one of the ways these funds are used.



Houses for HEALING

The organization now operates four houses. Below: Those who volunteer include John Barton, Bill Bratcher, Carlin Brooks and Teresa Brooks.

You and your loved one sit nervously in the examination room – waiting.

The doctor enters and delivers the news: “We can’t treat your condition here,” she says, “but I have arranged for you to be admitted to the Big City Medical Center for several days of treatment. Can you be there Monday?”

The first thought that runs through your mind is, “Of course, we can be there.” Then slowly it hits you – “Where will we stay during that time?”

Many people come to Abilene from the surrounding counties for extended medical treatment.

For some of them and their caregivers, Houses for Healing provides a “home away from home,” and at no cost to them.

During the past three years, more than 4000 nights of free lodging have been provided to patients and their caregivers in the small houses that

make up the Houses for Healing complex, located in the 3000 block of Hickory Street in north Abilene.

Each house has a fully functional kitchen, dining table and chairs, bathroom with shower, queen-sized bed, washer and dryer, comfortable sitting chairs, a TV and internet connection.

Four houses are fully operational, and 16 additional houses are in various stages of construction. Upon completion, the complex will consist of 20 houses and a central building housing a laundry facility, a workshop, and office space.



How Hillcrest is involved

Hillcrest has adopted one of the Houses, with **Carlin and Teresa Brooks** leading a team of volunteers who assist with the client’s food and transportation needs. **Essie Childers** delivers a personalized Bible to each guest, praying with them and offering friendship. **Laura Boswell** and her family do a deep cleaning of the house between guests. Congregational funds provide for the upkeep of the house as well as replacement of items like paper goods for the kitchen and bath.

Carlin Brooks also serves as the Community Outreach Coordinator for Houses for Healing. In this role he visits various churches and organizations soliciting funds needed for the completion and operation of the houses now under construction.