



RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT CENTER

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in Vision of Hope. We've been praying that God would bring young women to us. We're excited to think you may be one of our future residents!

We're assuming, since you've contacted us, that you've been facing some significant trials in your life. Perhaps you've gotten sucked into using drugs or alcohol. Maybe you practice habits of self-harm or have developed unsafe eating habits. Perhaps you have an unplanned pregnancy.

Vision of Hope was established because we believe God can be your refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble. God has been our refuge and strength. We are overwhelmed by the goodness and compassion of God. We've experienced the hope God gives, and we are eager for you to know it too. Our vision is to work beside you as God works in your life to bring beauty out of ashes.

You may be at a point in your life where you've become enslaved to destructive habits. It may be that you've been hurt time and again. It may be that just when things seem to be getting better, something else hits. You've been trying to cope, but the pit just seems to get deeper and the darkness just gets darker. You may have begun to realize that practices like cutting or drugs that you thought could provide freedom from problems have turned out to be an ugly master. And that ugly master demands more and more from you - more drugs, deeper cuts, etc. It stinks!

God offers Himself as a new master. Romans 6:16 tells us we have the choice whom we will be slaves to - sin or God. God is a master who is compassionate, loving, merciful, and gracious. He urges "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. **For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.**" (Matthew 11:28-30).

Make no mistake. We are talking about a master. We're talking about putting one's trust in God and doing it His way. Making Him *Lord* - boss. And God is a jealous God - He's not going to put up with any other master in life. In fact, He clearly says that if we choose to run after other masters, our sorrows will increase.

You have a choice. You can continue to hope in your old ways of doing things, or you can trust in God. If you do trust in God you can expect to not **just** have hope but to **overflow** with hope (Romans 15:13). Think about what *overflowing* with hope would look like. Has that been your experience so far?

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You need to understand that the program at Vision of Hope is tough. It is very structured and will take hard work on your part. Changing is not an overnight process. Changing takes sustained daily effort over a long period of time. You won't always feel like persevering, but by God's grace you can. Christ endured when it got really hard, and He'll help you do it too. We'll do everything we can to help you as well.

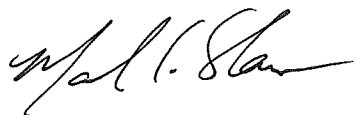
On the Vision of Hope website you will find a number of documents that will help you get a picture of what that hard work will involve and how we'd like to help you. Please read these documents carefully before you decide to make a commitment.

Please be aware that Vision of Hope exists to help young women like yourself by giving you the opportunity to learn a new way of living, a more beneficial method of handling problems, and a chance to be completely committed to pleasing God and growing to become more like Christ. Making a decision to come to Vision of Hope will be difficult for you and your family. Please pray about this decision and seek the advice of your parents, pastor, and wise counselors. Please be aware that the guidelines that have been sent to you are for real, and your decision to come to Vision of Hope means that you will be willingly submitting yourself to operating under the authority of the staff and within the boundaries of the guidelines of the program.

Please feel free to call with questions or concerns as you make this decision. We want what is best for you. If Vision of Hope is the right decision for you and your family, we will be glad to assist you in your journey to find hope and healing.

In closing, I would like to take the opportunity to encourage you from Romans 8:18-21. The Apostle Paul says in this passage that one day you could look back on this painful period of life and be able to say "It was worth it!" because of all of the good God can accomplish in you during this time. God promises that he will **never** waste your pain! If you are willing to allow Him to work in your life through His Word, one day you **will** be able to look back on this painful period of time as a difficult but absolutely beneficial stage of your life. If you are willing to take some steps of growth through the ministry of Vision of Hope this could be an opportunity to allow God to work through your present sufferings to begin bringing about glorious freedom in your life.

Sincerely,



Mark E. Shaw, D.Min.
Executive Director, Vision of Hope