



Breaking the bondage of poverty for those who want to **WORK** to escape

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**Linda Lanclos
Founder &
Director**

Did you know?
4 out of 5 attending
Our first classes
ESCAPED FROM
POVERTY!

NEW CLASSES LAUNCHING: Want to volunteer?

Escape From Poverty is taking off! St. Paul Catholic launched classes this Fall. Classes are held at Holy Family Catholic School. About half the students in that class are homeless, living in SMILE family shelter and St. Joseph Men’s Shelter, presenting a whole new set of challenges – most don’t have jobs or transportation.

In January two new churches are launching classes: Progressive Baptist and Spirit and Truth Church on Simcoe. We are excited about the acceptance being gained in different churches as we go forward.

Volunteers from all churches are invited to join these groups – the St. Paul class has volunteers from 8 different churches! Volunteers serving as mentors come to weekly meetings for 9 months with phone calls in between. Those serving as budget counselors come weekly for two months, then once a month for 7 more months. Join with us and make a difference while bringing fulfillment to your life!

Jerusa: A Success Story:

When I did Jerusa’s initial interview for our class which started last April, she cried throughout the entire interview. Her kids were in foster care. She lived in a FEMA trailer behind her ex-step father’s house, worked at a breakfast restaurant – a job she hated, and drove a clunker car. She was estranged from and angry with her mother.

Even upon entering our program, she just seemed so angry – blaming the world for her problems. We honestly didn’t know if we were getting through to her.

First thing her mentor Marilyn Harris, and budget counselor Carol Short encouraged her to do was change jobs – she had an associates degree from a technical college, but didn’t know how to find that type job....they worked with her in that area. Once she found the better job, things began falling into place. She got a new/used car – following the advice of her budget counselor – and told us later “this is the first time I trusted an authority figure and God blessed me because of it!” Then she got her own 3-bedroom mobile home in Breaux Bridge and got her utilities turned on. She joined a church she loves in that community and got involved.



Jerusa with her “new” car!

She’s come a long way in the past 8 months since she started with EFP! She has found peace in her life and has overcome her anger with her mother and wants reconciliation with her. She accepts responsibility for the choices she made in her past which caused chaos in her life. She has a court date for December 9 to see if she can get her kids back – please pray for God’s will in this situation!

She is only one example of how lives can be changed with education (life skills classes), relationships (mentoring), and accountability (budget counseling). You too can make a difference – join us by volunteering or donating to make these classes happen in multiple locations.

How can you help?

PAY

Donate resources to help programs work

PLAY

Volunteer with us or help create connections in your profession

PRAY

WORKING

TOGETHER,

WE CAN

MAKE A

DIFFERENCE!

Escape From Poverty is a 501(c)(3) Organization. All donations are tax deductible

A gift for that person who has everything...

... a memorial donation in their name to inspire good feelings. You can make your donation to Escape From Poverty in their name and give the donation certificate acknowledging the donation as the "present". Now only will you get your Christmas shopping done quickly, but you will also give a "hand up, not a hand out" to a family in poverty. What a wonderful way to acknowledge the true meaning of Christmas! It will be mailed by us to your loved one in time for Christmas in a lovely card. Send in your donation in the enclosed envelope with the response card, and we'll do the rest.



EFP GOING NATIONAL

This year we rented a booth at the CCDA conference (Christian Community Development Association) and took our curricula to introduce it to other non-profit organizations that help in poverty situations around America. It was exciting to see their reaction as they accepted this new tool which they can use to help folks find success in their own communities. So, our classes are now being shown in 9 states in the U.S. This curricula is also available for purchase through our website – it would make great Christmas gifts for friends and family members who struggle with finding success in their lives.



A WAY TO GIVE AND MAYBE GET

Some very nice items have been donated to Escape From Poverty, and we'd like to give you an opportunity to win one of them: So, for every \$10 you donate between now and Dec. 20, we will enter your name into a drawing to win one of these gifts. – you can keep it or give it as a Christmas or Valentines gift:

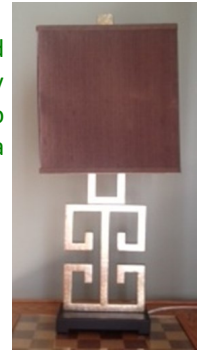
\$100 certificate for Fun Jumps

\$50 certificate to Spa Mizan for products and/or services

\$50 certificate for Premier jewelry

\$25 certificate for Premier Jewelry

Beautiful lamp from Dunn's Furniture & Interiors, along with 2 hours accessorizing services (value \$270)



TWO BOARD POSITIONS OPEN

Two of the members of our Board of Directors are scheduled to rotate off the board this month – being on the board is a 3-year commitment. This leaves two positions open. Interested? The main responsibilities of board members are:

- Attend monthly meetings (usually on Tuesday early evenings)
- Make business / financial decisions which govern this ministry
- Develop and maintain community connections, promoting the work of the organization
- Provide adequate resources for activities of the organization through direct financial contributions and commitment to fund raising

We are about to create our 5-year plan, which will include focusing on helping our participants with employment options. Please check the response card and return if interested.



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