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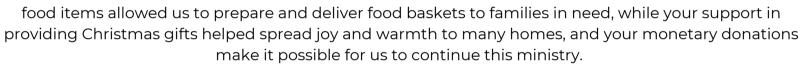






## Thank you for being such an important part of our mission!

As we reflect on the holiday season, we are filled with gratitude for everyone who contributed to our ministry. Your donations of



Thank you for partnering with us in this mission and for making a meaningful difference in our community. Wishing you and your loved ones a happy and blessed New Year!

I believe this program is wonderful! It helps to encourage women through the work of God and Jesus Christ to move forward in life after living in such a discouraging way. It is positive, they are very uplifting, and it helps to motivate and give hope that there is a better Life for us. ~Lannette

# **OUR JAIL MINISTRY**

I really like this class, it puts me in a better place and makes my day. It helps me maintain my relationship with God and gives me hope ~Brittany

I enjoy coming here every week. It has helped me regain my relationship with God. Laura has brought me joy every week when she is here, also contentment with what may or may not happen while I'm sitting in jail. I am very blessed and grateful for Women of Courage. ~Amber

Women of Courage is a continued reminder of God's love, blessings, forgiveness, and His place in my life. These women continue to do the best they can to get a message to us and feed our spirit. I hope to enjoy more from them outside of jail. Women of Courage, thank you for the times you've been available to me. There were days that I didn't have good spirits at all but I knew that at least if I come to the Women of Courage program I had a chance to fill my spirit, change my attitude, and walk with God. Thank you for giving me continued faith. Thanks for everything, God bless. ~Allexis

## Believe

One of my favorite movies of all time is "It's a Wonderful Life" I would think that most have you reading this have seen the movie at least once in your lifetime. For those of you that haven't, its about a young man named George Bailey who dreamed of someday leaving his small hometown and going out into the world to make it big, but instead he gave up his dreams, stayed in his town, and gave of himself to his family and friends, and even strangers. George goes through a tough time and was about to lose everything he had, and eventually considers suicide thinking that his family would be better off without him. Through the prayers of his family and friends, an angel is sent to help him, and George receives the rare gift of seeing what life would have been like had he never been born. Years ago, a 15-year-old girl who was in our program was in a terrible car accident that left her fighting for her life. Grace is a true sweetheart of a young lady. She is beautiful in every way, both inside and out. As all teenagers do, she struggled with self-worth, and I had many conversations with her about just getting through high school, knowing who she is in Christ, and her purpose in this world. It was hard to believe that someone who had so much going for them could ever feel these things, but as we all know, life is hard, especially in the teenage years, and people are not always kind. Every time I was around her, I enjoyed her company so much. She has a light about her that just makes you smile. After the accident, Grace was taken to Cleveland Metro Hospital with multiple skull, jaw, and ear fractures, a brain bleed, and small tears in her carotid artery. She was put on a ventilator and faced many surgeries and other hurdles. Grace was a cheerleader at West Branch High School. Their community immediately surrounded the family and in no time at all, hundreds of people were praying for Grace. They started a "pink out" movement at her school since pink was Grace's favorite color and sold pink T-shirts that read "Grace's Warriors" to raise money for the family and show support for Grace. They sold over 1100 shirts in 24 hours. Friday was game day. Grace would have been cheering that night if it weren't for the accident. A family member put a post on Facebook asking anyone who was wearing pink for Grace that day to send a photo so they could get it all together to show Grace when she woke up. Hundreds of people were wearing pink for Grace! It was amazing! That night, all of the local schools participated in the "pink out" for Grace. West Branch, Marlington, Salem, Minerva and Alliance. The fans wore pink, pink drumsticks, flags, gloves, ribbons, socks, pink everywhere! Her family was overwhelmed with all the pink in support of Grace. Just at game time, I walked through my kitchen and saw out my window that my entire patio was pink. I walked outside and absolutely everything was pink. God had painted the whole sky with the most beautiful pink I had ever seen in a sunset. This was no coincidence. Our awesome God had participated in the "pink out" as well. He even went one step further and painted the sky pink for three nights in a row, adding in His promise rainbow for us. I believe He was assuring all of us that He had her in the palm of his hand. Many people wrote beautiful memories of how Grace had touched their lives, even at only 15 years old. It's a beautiful thing how each person's life touches so many others, and most of us never even know it. She was given this rare gift. Grace missed about 5 months of school and was eventually able to cheer again. She will graduate from High School in a few months and plans to go to cosmetology school and someday open her own salon. I recently asked Grace how her life has changed since the accident, this is what she said: "My faith has grown so much. I got to experience God's healing, love, and the power of prayer firsthand. It has taught me to never take anything for granted and always have trust in the Lord." I'm sure George Bailey would have said the same. With God, it surely is a wonderful life.

### The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands Psalm 19:1





