

“Guns for Roses”

A Special Night Celebrating A Dangerous Philanthropy

To my generous friends:

Let's face it. If you're receiving this letter, you're already generous with your time and your dollars within the Akron community. You probably attend galas and fundraisers all the time – preserving local history, promoting the arts, protecting local medical care. Your generosity is so important to organizations in our community. It's fantastic that you're willing to help – and that you help so often!

An Angel on the Streets

My friend, Becky Moreland, wanted to help the community too. One evening, for whatever reason, instead of locking her car doors in one of the worst sections of town, she and some friends actually pulled over and parked. They saw people in need; they got out, and began to minister to them there, right on the sidewalk. The main focus was to comfort the “women of the evening,” the prostitutes working the streets. Becky believes in them, that they deserve a better life. And I believe she's right.

Now let me assure you, this is not a scene out of Pretty Woman. There's no Julia Roberts walking around in a wig and go-go boots on South Arlington. But, if you believe as I do, that everyone deserves a chance at change, then you'll completely appreciate, respect and celebrate the work that my friend Becky is attempting to do for these women.

You always hear people say, “What would Jesus do?” In this case, I think Becky has the right answer. Her work with prostitutes has evolved into a non-profit called RAHAB. Based on a similar organization in Chicago, the Akron group can use a little help as it celebrates its fifth year.

You Can Make a Difference

Now, hold on a minute here. Getting out of your comfort zone to be up close and personal with a bunch of hookers and street folk may not be your cup of tea. You're probably a lot like me. You want to help, but you're not quite brave (or crazy) enough to do what Becky's team does, though you absolutely want to support their work in some other way.

(over, please)

Well, there's a great way you can help. I'll give you the details in a moment, but before I do, let me share with you a quick story. It's about what lurks on the other side of your locked car door.

My Dear Abby

"Abby" has no options. She really has no where to turn. She was always the pretty one, the smart one in school. How she went from being a "good girl" to being a "call girl" is a long, sad story. She can't afford her addiction, but at this point in her life, she can't afford to stop. Her body protests withdrawal with unspeakable pain. She lives in fear. She lives in denial... But at least she lives.

Now, after two years homeless, she's just not strong enough to fight anymore.

She laughs, calls herself a survivor. Says she just needs to "keep on keeping on." What that really means is "getting it on" with whoever will pay.

She prays quietly that they won't hurt her.

Night after night, she sleeps with the Devil. Day after day, she prays for her Angel.

Be an Angel

You can answer Abby's prayer. It's easy to be her Angel by supporting the work of RAHAB. Becky has already answered the call, starting this group, committed to reaching out to women in need – women like Abby – and reconnecting them with the Holy Spirit, and to the community agencies that can offer them a way out.

Rahab Who?

RAHAB stands for "Reaching Above Hopelessness and Brokenness." In the Old Testament (Joshua 2: 1-16), God calls a successful prostitute named Rahab to help protect two Jewish spies who came to the city. Though Rahab was both a Gentile and an "unclean woman," she accepted God's mission, kept the men safe in her attic and helped them escape from their would-be captors. Her involvement helped bring victory in the Battle of Jericho. From harlot to heroine, God's intervention in Rahab's life helped her become a respectable woman – and Jesus himself was among her descendants.

Rahab was a prostitute who risked everything to serve God's will. RAHAB serves God by offering His promise to women in desperation. A team of 3 to 6 members gather each week to go out and minister to the women they meet, sharing with them love, compassion, prayer, encouragement and community resource information to help them rise above their circumstances. But now RAHAB needs help too.

Celebrate with Your Support

Here's what you can do: You and your friends can join me at RAHAB's special fundraiser, "**Guns for Roses**" on Saturday, October 6, 2007. Your invitation is enclosed.

Now, I know your dance card is full – you're probably feeling tapped out after a busy season of events. But (pretty please) I do hope you'll join me (with sugar on top) to celebrate. You don't even have to buy a new dress! I thank you in advance for your help. See you there!

Best regards,

RAHAB Supporter

PS: Imagine the satisfaction you'll feel as you support Becky's work. A night out at the shooting club will actually help those women find a better life through Christ. It's an important mission that deserves a strong start, which is why I look forward to seeing you on October 6th. Be sure to send in your response card right away – it's a unique event; reservations are limited.

PPS: Even if you can't make it to "**Guns for Roses**," RAHAB can still use your help – you can donate your time, talent or money. Send us a note or a check along using your RSVP envelope (enclosed). For more details, feel free to call Becky Moreland personally at 330-819-5333.