



Hope in Healing Fund:
Mary Bayard Honorary Scholarship



May 1, 2010

Marjorie's story:

After years of fighting to overcome her past, Marjorie was devastated to find herself being abused once again.

With devoted parents, Marjorie had a good start in life. But at 8 years old, Marjorie's life was changed forever.

Sexually abused from ages 8 to 13 years old she was trapped in her lonely nightmare by her more powerful and older cousin who had threatened her to keep her silence.

Trying to put her past behind her, she worked hard in school and became an admired science teacher for a youth program. Her personal relationships, however, seemed to be filled with pain and confusion. She wanted help to stop the destructive cycle. Marjorie called Shepherd's Counseling Services 2 years ago and attended 21 weeks of group therapy with other survivors of childhood sexual abuse. She graduated with increased hopefulness about her future.

Marjorie called Shepherd's again last fall. She had been **sexually assaulted by a former boyfriend**.

Her financial situation had changed. She had been laid off from her job. Her unemployment was about to run out and her medical insurance benefits had lapsed. She was dependent on the help of relatives to make ends meet.

She turned to Shepherd's, as the place she had come to trust, and tearfully told her therapist about her recent sexual assault. She wanted to come back to Shepherd's but didn't believe she could afford therapy.

Last spring, we founded the Hope in Healing Fund: Mary Bayard Honorary Scholarship to provide services to those who can afford the least.

Fortunately we had just begun a new scholarship program. **Because of the Hope in Healing Fund, Marjorie received** weekly individual therapy sessions at a very low fee that she could afford. She could get the support she needed for her recent assault and continue the healing she had begun.

Since founding the scholarship fund last spring, **9 men and women have needed and received scholarship funding** to receive therapy. Their circumstances vary widely.

Marjorie is our first recipient of Shepherd's Hope in Healing Fund: Mary Bayard Honorary Scholarship.

Some people are like Marjorie and their current circumstances make it impossible for them to pay the sliding fee scale, but they will get back on their feet and be able to pay the sliding fee scale at some point. Others are **struggling to pay bills to support a family on low-wage jobs** and *have a hard time even paying the gas money to get to Shepherd's.*

Nine men and women have needed and received Hope in Healing Fund scholarships since spring of 2009. Scholarships are available based on donated funds.

Last June, Shepherd's reached out to raise funds for this new scholarship program. The Hope in Healing Fund was created to honor former long-time clinical supervisor, Mary Bayard, and her dedication to providing healing opportunities to all survivors of childhood sexual abuse, including those who need the greatest amount of financial support.

In the first months of 2009 before the scholarship fund was created, sadly, **5 survivors of childhood sexual abuse were turned away** because we simply were not able to provide the level of financial assistance they required. Without a dedicated fund, serving our lowest fee clients can easily compromise our ability to serve other clients. **The Hope in Healing Fund fills this gap** making this great level of assistance available for survivors to receive the long-term therapy provided at Shepherd's.

Happily, because of generous contributions to the Hope in Healing Fund, so far in 2010, we have been able to say *yes* to clients who need the highest level of financial assistance and *not one person has been turned away* because they could not afford our therapy services.

Donors to the scholarship fund last spring **provided therapy to 5 women and 4 men who otherwise would have been turned away from services.**

Approximately \$500 provides a scholarship to a client for six months of weekly individual therapy sessions. We hope to raise \$4,000 this month to fund scholarships through spring 2011.

Please help keep Mary's legacy of care alive. Your gift of \$10, \$25, \$100 or more will go into the pool of donations that provides Hope in Healing Fund: Mary Bayard honorary scholarships. Each recipient receives a scholarship for a minimum of six months of weekly therapy, to continue if needed, so they can experience profound, long-term healing from childhood sexual abuse.

What sexual abuse took away in childhood, you can help give back now. What is this worth? I'm asking that **you consider making a gift today of \$25 or more** to provide hope in healing to survivors of childhood sexual abuse **who can't afford therapy without your help.** You can give hope and healing to a survivor who calls Shepherd's today.

Thank you,



Janice Palm
Executive Director

P.S. An average of one client per month has needed a scholarship since September of 2009. To continue to serve clients who need scholarships at this rate, ***the Hope in Healing Fund needs \$4,000 more in donations to ensure a scholarship for each survivor who calls for help between now and our Hope in Healing Fund drive next spring. Please send your support today.***

* Marjorie's name and some details of her story have been changed to protect her identity.