

Avonlea Acres FAQs

What is the current status of Avonlea Acres?

We are currently in the developmental stage. We are diligently writing our policies and procedures manuals and developing our program. The legal work is being done. The behind the scenes work is nearing completion so we can begin aggressive fundraising. We are looking for a land donation to begin the building process. This process can't be completed quickly enough for us as we know the local women's homes are turning girls away regularly because there isn't enough homes and programs available.

How can I help?

Pray. Donate land. Contribute to the building process.

Where is the Avonlea Acres located?

We are planning to be in Clark County, Washington, preferably in or around Battle Ground, Brush Prairie, or Ridgefield. We would like to be semi-rural to avoid the pressures of "street living" and to benefit from the ambiance of country living, yet, we need to be accessible to public transportation and the necessary amenities to make life easier for the residents.

How much land do you hope for?

We are hoping for approximately 5 acres of land so that we may use the land to subsidize the cost of operation and have room for future expansion. We intend to develop programs where the residents may contribute through fundraising projects such as gardening, greenhouses for growing flower baskets, etc.

How big will the house be?

Avonlea Acres will house 6 women with their children and a house parent couple.

How will you build Avonlea Acres?

The entire project will be funded by donations and volunteer labor.

How will the house be maintained?

The home will be maintained by volunteer labor which will be overseen by the house parents whom will live onsite.

How soon will you house women?

We know the need is imminent therefore as soon as land is acquired we will begin the building process. As soon as we are built we will begin housing women and children.

Who is involved from the community?

Avonlea Acres is and will continue to work with local ministries, agencies, and organizations. Community networking is very important to us. Our volunteer base will be made up of community members whom are led to minister in this area.

Is the home operated by any one church?

Avonlea Acres is a charity and ministry in itself. Although no one church will be overseeing this ministry, Avonlea Acres will work closely with all churches of the area. Avonlea hopes to enlist Pastors from numerous Christian faiths to serve the various women that may reside in the home.

Do the women have to be a Christian to live in Avonlea?

No, the women do not have to be Christian to live in Avonlea Acres but the home will be sustained and operated on Christian morals, principles and values and each woman must agree to abide by these when living in the home.

Will Avonlea accept any religion?

Any woman of any background will be accepted into Avonlea Acres but will be expected to adhere by house rules and guidelines.

How is Avonlea Acres funded?

This ministry will be funded 100% by tax deductible donations and grants. Fundraising will be an ongoing effort.

What are the requirements to become a resident?

You must be a woman age 18 -28 with children 2 years and younger and need a stable place to live. Each woman will need a referral or recommendation from a maternity home, pastor, social worker, counselor, or the like to be considered for residency. Each woman must be willing to make the necessary changes for becoming self sufficient and independent.

What are the requirements to become a volunteer?

All volunteers will be interviewed and screened for the safety of all staff and residents and must agree to adhere to all policies and procedures of the ministry. Each volunteer will be required to promote and protect Avonlea Acres' mission, vision, and core values.

What kinds of volunteers will be needed?

Numerous volunteers are going to be needed. The successful operation of the home will require many dedicated people to perform duties including but not limited to transporting the women without valid driver's licenses to various appointments, spring cleaning, maintenance, fundraising, events, mentors, and organizing the donations. We will attempt to keep current volunteer opportunities listed on the website once we are in full operation. If you are being led to volunteer, please contact one of the board members at any time.

Does it cost anything to live in Avonlea Acres?

It will cost each resident \$200.00 to live in Avonlea. As we know, finances can be a difficult thing to get organized so the inability to pay will not keep a woman from moving into the home.

Will Avonlea Acres be staffed?

House parents will live onsite and oversee the daily operation of the home. A Case Manager, counselor, maternity director, financial coach, and education director will have regular contact with each woman.

Does Avonlea accept any woman?

Avonlea will accept any woman who meets the published guidelines.

Can the residents have more than one child?

Yes, they may have more than one child but all children must be 2 years old or younger.

Is there a minimum stay requirement?

We are not a shelter and do require a commitment. We prefer each woman to commit to a minimum of the 30 day probationary period upon move in.

Is there a maximum length of stay?

We feel that the 2 year maximum will be sufficient time for the residents to become comfortable with their parenting and life skills; to complete basic education and be in their career paths; and to secure sufficient employment. We acknowledge that most women will not need the full 2 years and will move on when they are ready and able.

Where do the women go when they leave Avonlea Acres?

Our ministry will aid them in securing permanent housing by enlisting the services of the established local ministries and agencies. If they should be evicted from Avonlea Acres they will be responsible for finding their own housing.

What is required of the residents while at Avonlea Acres?

Each resident will be expected to abide by all policies, programs, and procedures. They will be expected to be working toward their personally defined goals. Each resident will be required to parent their child(ren) in a healthy manner, advance themselves, further their education and pursue permanent employment. All residents will be expected to act and react in a respectful manner at all times.

What is the daily/weekly schedule like?

Beyond all daily chores and parenting their own children, each resident will be expected to commit 2-4 hours per day (5 days per week) to their education and/or employment goals; will be expected to attend regular support group meetings; will be required to attend weekly counseling sessions; will be required to attend any rehab and/or doctors appointments necessary; will be required to attend weekly bible study and church; they will cook one supper per week; participate in fundraising activities; and generally assist in the successful operation of the home.

How much can extended family be involved?

Family is very important to this ministry and an integral part of life, therefore each resident will be encouraged to communicate with extended family when it is healthy and safe to do so.

Can the residents have visitors?

There will be at least one evening a week open for visitors. Generally the weekends will be free time when all chores are completed.

Is the facility safe?

Safety is the single most important aspect of Avonlea Acres. The facility will be maintained so that it is a safe place to live.

How do you address criminal behavior?

Any and all criminal behavior will be reported to the appropriate officials immediately.

How much accountability is expected?

Each resident will be 100% accountable for their own actions and behavior. Because the programs of Avonlea Acres are such, each resident must be self motivated and accountable to themselves and the staff on a regular basis. This will be done by weekly evaluations and reports. If a resident is not participating as expected, her case will be reviewed and she may be asked to find housing elsewhere.

What type of supervision will the residents have while at the house?

A house parent will be available at all times. When the live in house parent is not available a replacement will be made available.

Will you require drug testing of the residents?

Random UA's will be done as drugs and alcohol will not be tolerated on the premises. We believe that sobriety is necessary for a healthy and happy lifestyle.

What will you require medically of the residents?

Each resident will be instructed and required to keep their health and the health of their babies up to date. They will be required to make their regular doctor and dentist visits.

Is confidentiality important?

Each residents case will be kept confidential unless notified before hand and only after a written release form has been signed.

If a woman leaves can she ever return to the home?

It will depend on the reason why she left in the first place. If she was evicted, she will not be able to return.

If Avonlea Acres is full, where do the women who need housing go?

Avonlea will keep a list of housing organizations and ministries available.

Do you take special needs children?

We will not turn a mother and child away because of special needs. But, the mother must be able to care for her own child in Avonlea Acres as it is established. If a child needs extensive special care another facility may be better equipped to house them

Do you supply transportation for the residents?

One of the first priorities of each resident should be to obtain a valid drivers' license and reliable vehicle. Until such time transportation will be provided by volunteers.

Is secular music, TV, etc allowed?

All music, TV, and movies will be screened and allowed only if deemed appropriate by staff.

Will donations be needed and accepted?

The majority of life necessities will rely on donations. Every residents will need clothing and the children will need baby supplies. This will be a very large part of the ministry.

Where can I take donations?

As soon as we are built all donation may be dropped off at the facility donation garage. Until that time we will only be taking donations regarding the building process. Please contact any one of the board members if you can help with this.

How will the donations be distributed among the residents?

Each resident will earn what they need out of the donation garage by attending classes and contributing to the household.