



Our Staff – Website - www.icanstillshine.org

Founder/Executive Director - Brenda Jackson

At one time, I felt all good things had ended. I felt despair, loneliness and forgotten. Where was God and how could he leave me in such a mess? But it was not God's fault. I had made the choice to marry this man. After the wedding, he began to mentally and physically abuse me. He said I was fat, ugly, and a bad cook—a bad everything. He tried to run over me with a car. I prayed for relief, and it came, but not in the way I had imagined. It was one final blow on a Saturday morning. All had seemed normal until a few minutes later, when my neck and throat were wracked with pain from the blow of a shotgun barrel.

My hip felt broken, and I could no longer stand, let alone walk. I cried, "God, please save me. Please, help me." A flash of light appeared over my head, almost like a window from Heaven had been opened.

He dashed out the door.

I told myself, "Hurry. You must crawl next door to get help." I knew I did not have long to live. As I lunged down my stairs and used my last bit of strength to reach my neighbor's door.

She ran every stoplight to get to the hospital.

Now over 20 years later, I have the greatest joy to reach out to others whose bodies are broken and spirits are suffering—to bring hope to those who believe they have no hope—to be blessed every day by showing people a future they never believed was possible.

I look into those swollen eyes and tell them God loves them. God will make a way. He saved me so I could reach out to the broken-hearted and give them hope.

Where would we be without hope? Because of God's love and mercy, we give hope and change lives every day. We need you. God needs you. Will you join us?



Gary Smouse, Manager and his Staff at Target, Darryl Jackson, Ernest Mims, Dottie Nicholson, Mark Coughlin, Brenda Jackson

President - Mark Coughlin

Mark Coughlin has been in ministry since 1984, after attending Jerry Seville International Bible School and Morris Cerullo School of World Evangelism. He was a missionary and evangelist to Costa Rica in 2000. He has sponsored several missionaries. He was associate minister for three years at a local Fort Worth church.

After serving his county in the Navy, he opened one of his many business ventures. He is a successful businessman. He joined our board with a passionate desire to help others. A single parent of five children, Mark knows a great deal about the struggles of life. His desire is to give everyone a second chance. When you have hope you can press on with life. He is a great addition to our board, and we are glad to have him.

Prison Ministry - John and Leah Harner



When searching for a greater power, we discovered the greatest force in the universe: love, which can go anywhere and change everything. We put love first in our lives and it changed everything. Their goal is to let the love of Jesus shine through us into your lives.

A lifestyle in addiction destroyed our family relationship, costing everything we owned and ultimately our freedom. The suffering we experienced has become the basis for our ministry. We can't talk about our future without describing where we've been. Toward those who reach up like desperate children, we grasp their hands to lift them up in encouragement, giving them relief from the world's heavy burdens. To whom much is given, much is required.

John and Leah are working for speaking opportunities at the Tarrant County jail and women's prison. They will oversee an outreach to other prisons. They are a huge blessing to this ministry.

Children's Director - Dottie Nicholson

I taught early childhood classes for the City of North Richland Hills for twelve-and-a-half years. I left to pursue teaching classes on my own, teaching early childhood classes for the City of Hurst. I have also taught classes for the City of Bedford and City of Colleyville.

I grew up around the florist industry and worked in that field for several years. In the 1980s my mother and I owned a Ceramic shop. In the 90's we had our own craft



business, she is a certified Ceramics Instructor and Certified Craft and Hobby Industry Instructor. For more than ten years, I have taught Sunday school at Peace Lutheran Church. I have lots of patience, necessary for my work with children of all ages. During the summer, I teach camps for kids, age 7–12, as well as classes for ages 2–6.

Dottie is such an amazing teacher and a wonderful asset to our children's program.

Ernest Mims – Donation Manager – Also Director of www.Ernieshouse.us Ministry

Years ago, I met Brenda Jackson at church. Members said I should get to know Brenda, that she had the Battered Women Shelter, and she also had a book about her life. I thought my wife and I were okay. We didn't have any violence problems.

Brenda asked if I would help at the shelter. I was so excited, although I had no idea what God was about to do for me and my family.

Brenda started me part time and then asked if I could work full-time for the ministry. We picked up donations and made deliveries. It was such a blessing, both for me and my family.

We not only help the women at the shelter, but we also get to help other families with their utilities, food, and shelter. I understood Brenda's heart to help people when she offered to let abused women move in with her family. What a blessing the I CAN STILL SHINE ministry is.

Mr. Mims has a passionate love for God, which shows in his boundless compassion for hurting people. During 2010, I needed God and friends more than ever. Some days, he would say, "Give it to God." He never said no when there was a call for help. He would work until midnight if necessary. We are so honored to have him.

Vickye Key Gorrell - Director Recovery Program – Also our "Shining Star Award Recipient for 2012"

What I like best about Vickye is that she believes we all need a second chance. She has been a trusted friend for over 10 years. Together, we have worked diligently to help women start over.

One Christmas she and her husband, David, worked until 11 p.m. They wrapped and delivered gifts to 55 forgotten kids who did not get on anyone's Christmas gift list. Wow! That is just the kind of person she is.



*Brianna Rose, Mark Coughlin,
David & Vickye-Key Gorrell,
Brenda Jackson, and Ernest Mims*

Those kids would have had no Christmas if Vickye and David had not delivered gifts in the cold and rain. Her only answer to a need is yes. Once she hesitated for 10 minutes, but apparently no isn't anywhere in her vocabulary. She wants to help everyone, because she knows, except for God's grace, it could be any of us out there, needing help.

We are honored to have her as director of our drug and alcohol recovery programs. She is experienced in chemical dependency counseling for special populations, the homeless, and women and children. She has the ability to direct complex projects from concept to completion. She is a goal-oriented individual with strong leadership capabilities—an organized, highly motivated, detail-directed problem solver, working well with everyone.

Vickye is a licensed chemical dependency counselor for over nine years. She is an LCDC Counselor at the Recovery Resource Center in Fort Worth.

You're a wonderful addition to our team, Vickye.

Dear Friends:

I have known Brenda Jackson for over seven years, and I am acquainted with her work, having attended several of her functions.

I have watched as Brenda reach out to battered women in the Dallas / Fort Worth, Texas, area.

In January of 2010, I hosted a women's safety event, attended by about 450 women. In these seminars, I teach women how to stay safe, as well as other topics of concern to women's safety. At this event, we "charged admission." We asked women to bring items that battered women would find useful—diapers, toiletries, toothbrushes, detergent, and other items useful to women who were on their own, in need of such items.

We filled two trucks to overflowing, all of which was donated to Brenda's organization. We knew that giving it to her would ensure that these women would receive this much-needed help.

I spoke at an event that was hosted by a church. Brenda's "clients" came to our church and were treated royally. Brenda tended to every matter with great care.

As a thirty-one-year veteran of police work, I am grateful for Brenda and her work among women who have been victimized by assault and the like. I am also very proud of her.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Meeks

Texas Police Officer

817-437-9693