



Life Saver Ministries  
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Dear Life Savers,

I'm a pretty good carpenter. I've done a lot of renovations to my house over the last 38 years. The problem is that, while my skills are pretty good, my expectations are much higher. Some in my family have said that my desire for my work to come out perfectly borders on (or enters deeply into) OCD.

This combination can lend itself to certain problems. For instance, I can't abide a misaligned joint. This means I have to make corner cuts as many times as it takes me to get them just right. Combine this with the fact that I live in an old house, where nothing is square, and the result is that it generally takes me a long time to finish a project.

This leads to another problem, because Cathie, for some reason, doesn't like having the house disrupted for an extended period of time. You'd think she would be used to it by now, since it's been disrupted with one project or another for 38 years. When the subject of home maintenance comes up, I often say I'll finish working on my house just in time to die.

A case in point: I just laid a laminate floor in my dining room. Cathie has been "encouraging" me to do something about that floor for a long time. I've heard that laying a laminate floor is easy. My brother-in-law, Tony, laid laminate throughout his cottage at the beach. He told me that he laid the floor in the room he recently finished while my sister was out shopping.

After listening to Tony and watching a bunch of YouTube videos, I figured I could knock off my small dining room in a few hours. That was before I discovered just how out of square my dining room was. It took me most of the first half-day just to cut the first row of planks to make up for the non-square walls and get the next few rows down.

The second day went pretty well. I had a lot of cutting to do, because each row consisted of one full plank and 2 cut planks. That meant I had to go outside to the saw, since Cathie would kill me if I got saw dust all over the house, twice (at least, remember my OCD tendencies) for every row. I didn't get as far as I had hoped, but I was pleased I was getting the job done. Until...

While you are working on a laminate floor, you are supposed to place spacers around the outside to allow for expansion and contraction. The blank space around the outside will be covered by the baseboard. There's a lot of hammering to get the planks to fit together. A laminate floor "floats," and I didn't notice that the hammering had made the spacers along the first wall (yeah, the one I spent so much time fitting the planks to on the first day) fall out, and the entire floor had shifted.

This meant there were now spaces around the edges that the baseboards wouldn't cover. I could remedy this by adding quarter round molding to the baseboards, but that would drive me crazy for years. So, even though I had already reinstalled a 300-pound radiator on the portion of the floor I had completed so I could turn on the heat, I huffed, and I puffed, and I shifted the floor to a point where all was well. Or almost well. I now needed to replace the first row, because, well, I just did.

There were some tricky places around the bottom of the stairs, but I got it finished before Thanksgiving and my son, Josh's, wedding, which was the same weekend.

I saw Tony at the wedding and said, "Laying that laminate floor wasn't as easy as you said." To which Tony replied. "Yeah, there's a knack to it. The first time I did it, I had a heck of a time."

I would have felt a lot better about how my job was going, if I had known that before I started.

We had a nice Thanksgiving, both here at My Father's House and with our family, and Josh's wedding was beautiful. I have a lot to be thankful for.

I'm especially thankful for all of you. Your generosity and faithfulness have kept the doors of My Father's House open for twenty years, allowing us to welcome hundreds of young girls and children in the name of the Lord. That is *astounding*, and you are *amazing*.

I don't know if you are aware that My Father's House is the *only* home and learning center for teen moms in Massachusetts that doesn't receive any government funding. We don't accept government funding for two very important reasons. First, we are a Christian ministry, and our ability to share the love God has for these young women and children would be greatly restricted. Second, there are many pregnant and parenting teens who don't qualify for the government funded programs. When God brings a young woman to our door, we don't want to be unable to welcome her because of government regulations. That's why *your* generosity is so vital.

My Thanksgiving letter wouldn't be complete without a word of thanks from one of our residents. Kiahara has been with us since January, and her beautiful daughter, Isabelle, was born in May.

*I am very thankful for My Father's House, because when I needed a place to stay, when I was 17 and pregnant, they welcomed me with open arms. I had never realized how much work it was taking care of an infant around the clock. I'm thankful for Cathie and Kevin for putting a roof over my head and opening many doors for my future and pushing me towards my goals. I'm thankful for Michelle, who became like a second mother to me and is always there for me, on or off the clock. I'm thankful for all the staff and volunteers, who are very helpful every single day.*

*If it wasn't for My Father's House, I'd probably be bouncing from house to house, unable to conquer my goals. It was difficult to leave my family and move in with strangers, but despite the difficulties I had, no one at My Father's House ever gave up on me. I am thankful for everyone here.*

*Kiahara*

We are hoping to keep the doors of My Father's House open for young families like Kiahara and Isabelle for many years to come. With *your* help, we will be able to do that. Right now, we have a deficit of \$32,000 for 2017. Anything you can do to help us erase that deficit by the end of the year will be a great help and an even greater blessing to us. There's not much time. We can't keep the doors open without you. Thank you and God bless.

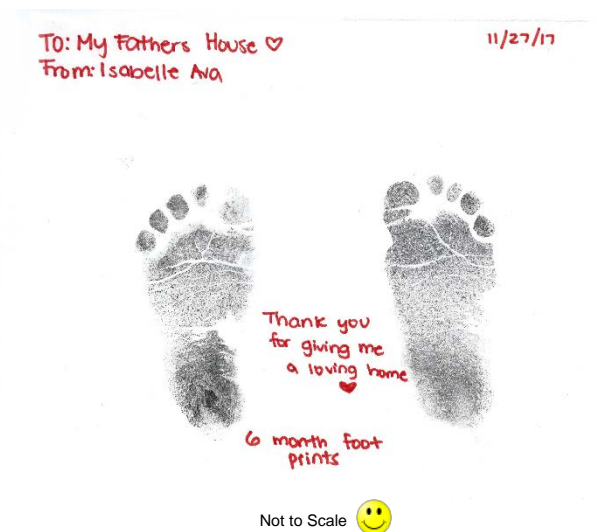
### Save The Dates



The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual My Father's House Comedy Show is Scheduled for Friday, March 9<sup>th</sup>. Tickets will be available in January.



Our Walk the Walk for Homeless Children Will Be Held on Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup>. Mark Your Calendars and Bring a Few Friends.



In His service,

*Kevin*  
Kevin Coffey