



Clare Guest House

Srs. Gwen Hennessey and Grace Ann Witte
Sioux City, Iowa

In Jesus' footprints we attempt to live out our Franciscan values. Clare Guest House is a transitional house for homeless women getting out of prison, most on intensive parole. It is a way of "**standing with the poor.**" Our first guest of Hispanic origin arrived on the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe in 2005.

We walk hand in hand with the "village" near and far that supports us-our material gift givers, our Board, our House-Sitters, our community service young people, those who hold us up with their prayers!

We walk with broken lives-women with horrendous backgrounds attempting to stay focused, to stay clean, find a job, pay off restitution, find their true selves and build new lives. Of our forty guests, it has been about a 50/50 so-called success rate. "**To make peace and practice non-violence,**" our deep seated angers are always a challenge.

We recycle and attempt to use resources in a sane manner. Weatherization, twenty new windows, planting beauty spots inside and out help to gentle us and "**deepen our relationship with Mother Earth**" and our reverence for "Sister Water."

In the words of the prophet Micah
"all that is asked of us is to
act justly,
love tenderly and
walk humbly with God"
in Jesus' footprints,
striving **to live out our humanity.**

"When shall we have the courage to outgrow the charity mentality and see that at the bottom of all relations between rich and poor there is a problem of justice?"

-Dom Helder Camara