

Homes with Hope

A community designed for children in foster care and adoption

Volume 4, Issue 2 December 2007



Our annual Christmas party set in an icy winter wonderland was a great success! **Graciously Hosted by the Vineyard Church of Houston**, we had food, crafts, and a visit from Santa. Fostering and adopting abused and neglected children is a huge commitment and we love to show our appreciation each Christmas by providing a gathering for our families. They were able to connect with each other and visit while their children and their foster children enjoyed the crafts, face painting and even got a penguin tattoo! We love our families very much!

The Holy Spirit Episcopal School generously organized a toy drive for us, so our children had plenty of gifts! **THANK YOU Becky White!**



Over 35 volunteers made the event happen and we are very thankful for their support. Hoping to not miss anyone, we want to thank those who donated their time, talent and energy towards our event. **Byron & Heather Williams, Jill Lively, Becky White, Marcie Kern, Julie Jennings, Jamie Lottinger, Rebecca & Brian Lewis, Ryan Bell, Lauren Kleinschmidt, Edyta Worthy, Andy & Cindy Davies, Gabe Aguilar, Mary Lou Adolfsson, Jett Petit, Mariella Lane, Nathan Howell, Wendy Dimmock, Mike, Rita & Jonathan Henderson, Jeff and Terry Armstrong,**

Brent & Paige Spraggins, Amy Marusik, Julia Johnson, Grace Kvinge, Nathan Kvinge, Stephen Huey, Sylvia & Allison Munson, Veronica Brabcova, Dan Needham, Marvin Westerly and Chris Belfi.



Our families help themselves to some great food!



Stephen Huey, Grace Kvinge & Marcie Kern ... along with lots of waiting children!

THANKS to all who generously provide our financial support throughout the year, we literally can't do this without you!

We are grateful for **everyone** who helped make 2007 such a productive year. There have been approximately 164 hardworking volunteers who made it so. That is a lot of people who truly care about the plight of children in crisis in our city and we are thankful for each and everyone of them.

In 2007, together we:

- Provided care for 19 children
- Licensed 6 additional families
- Became an adoption agency and completed our first adoption
- Organized 2 major fund raising events
- Hosted a Christmas party for our community of families

Our history so far:

We have cared for children ages birth to twelve years old

12 Anglo - 9 Hispanic - 8 African American - 3 Biracial

- 15 of those children were under 2 years old
- 115 days is the average length of stay
- 3575 - Total number of days of care provided

Tattoo artist extraordinaire ...
Jill Lively ... wouldn't be a
party without her!



I hope and pray that you & your family will have a very Merry Christmas and a great New Year filled with a new hope and expectation of serving Christ!

Sincerely, Tricia Herren, Executive Director

Homes with Hope P.O. Box 70146 Houston, TX 77270
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Thanks to all who participated in making our 4th annual Gala in September a success!

"All That Jazz"

With your generous help, we raised \$28,700.

Thanks to the volunteers who worked so hard to make it happen ...



Committee Chair:

Janice Beem

Auction Committee:

Katie Achim

Susie Chin

Photographer: Julia Johnson

Video Production: Nathan Kvinge

Décor and Display: Ron Lucas, Lynne Redding

Registration & Checkout: Paige & Brent Spraggins

Event Volunteers: Chris Barnett, Lauren Kleinschmidt, Jill Lively, Gloria Garza, Teresa Madden, Elia Ristine-Miller, Tracey Robinson, Elizabeth Hancock, Karen Pannell, Chip Simmons, Hermes Rubio, John McCormick, Joanna Floyd and Erin Rogers



Special thanks to our amusing auctioneers!

Wes Edmondson & Angela Foster The InterActive Theater

Thank You - to our event sponsors who are instrumental in helping us care for foster children in need!

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WEST**
OFFICE SUPPLIES

*Drs. Ryan and Anu McDonald
George and Isabela Canjar
Wildberry Links, Bill and Tammy Berry*

*Dr. David and Helen de Lemos
Steve and Kathleen Smith
Dr. Louie and Jane Pisters*

*Stephen Huey
Mike and Donna Bahorich*

Save The Date!

Homes with Hope 4th Annual Charity Golf Tournament



March 13, 2008 Tour 18 Golf Course
Humble, TX - 1:15 Shotgun

We have the best families!!



**Foster parent training
class with trainer,
Pam Sneed**

**Foster mom,
Ann McKitrick**



**Foster
mom,
Meshell
Vorsbough**



**Board member,
Janice Beem visiting our
foster baby in the hospital**



**Foster/Adoptive dad,
Dave Dudley and
his sons**



Two of our kids, stealing a kiss by the fire

The following is a note written by one of our foster parents, Ann McKitrick and printed with her permission.

Ann's husband, Kent McKitrick, is the founding Chairman of the Board of Homes with Hope. Since volunteering his time for that position, Kent and Ann have fostered five children along with their family ... Megan, Grant and Kendall. They are a valuable asset to Homes with Hope and we appreciate them very much.

Tricia,

I wanted to tell you about a conversation I had last week. Our church had an outreach at a trailer park in Pearland where we distributed backpacks with school supplies and had hot dogs, moonwalk, etc. There were many residents there. I struck up a conversation with a young woman who had a baby in a stroller. I had my foster child with me so we exchanged baby info with one another - age, weights, etc. Then I said, she's not my baby, we just have her for a short while, she's our foster baby. She then told me that she had just gotten her children back from foster care. Her nine month old had been taken at birth, and her other two kids had been in foster care before that. She had worked hard to complete all her services - classes, drug rehab, AA, held down a job, gotten a safe residence, etc. She was working so hard to do these things as well as be a good mom to her three young children. I told her how proud I was of her for working to keep her family together. We talked for quite a while, and I invited her to come to church. Anyways, it was sweet to have a conversation with someone on the opposite side of our work with kids.

Ann

