

Homes with Hope

Volume 3, Issue 3 December 2006

A community designed for children in foster care

A season of girls ... 3 more foster children to love and care for:

Ashante (4 years old) living with the Trevino's
Samantha (1 month old) living with the McKittrick's
Aaliyah (1 year old) living with the Pace's

Newly licensed foster family:

Eric and Amy Pace

Nearly licensed foster family:

David and Wendy Dimmock

OUR STAFF HAS Expanded... to meet our agency challenges and position us for growth to care for more families and more children.

Ruby Douglas, LCSW has joined our staff as our new Program Director. She comes to us with over 25 years of experience as a social worker, 19 years with Lutheran Social Services and the past 6 years as the Director of Foster Care at Homes of St. Mark. She is the mother of three adopted children, the youngest an avid High school basketball player. We are thrilled with the experience she brings and we are excited about setting our sights on pursuing our license as an adoption agency.

*I am pleased to say that **Kathy Gamble, LCSW** will remain with us as a part time social worker. This will enable her to spend more time with her family and enable us to continue to benefit from her quality of work.*

*In addition to these changes ... we have also gained the enthusiastic part time assistance of **Paige Spraggins**. She has helped with the task of fund raising and has organized our first Christmas party for our community. Though she is presently in college working on her degree in Social Services, I appreciate her experience and understanding of the nonprofit world. Beginning as a young teen, she worked for 15 years building "The Bridge", a nonprofit for battered women, established by her mother.*

SPECIAL THANKS to everyone involved in making our first **CHRISTMAS PARTY** for our community a hit! From the Candyland tournament, the cookie decorations and then Santa who was a hoot (thanks James) as he stopped by on his way to a janitor supply convention (You had to be there). Thanks to the **4 Houston Vineyard Life Groups** who purchased gifts, prepared food, decorated and made it all happen: *Paige & Brent Spraggins, Tracy Robinson, Matt Whaley, Tapley Seaford, Brandon Coffey, Michelle Fritzenshaft, James Burke, Samantha Tramonte, Ashley Oatman, Gabe Aguliar, Elia Ristine-Miller, Rick Stevens, James Kurtz, Misty McMillan, Nelly Deleon, Lisa Bush, RG Vaughn, Chris Belfi, Derek Stanart, Monique Delagrentiss, Elizabeth Hancock, Jose Batres, Chris Barnett, Laura Liptak, Leighnae Hanley, Teresa Madden and Ron Lucas ...* **You did a great job, thank you for your support!!**

I hope and pray that you & your family will have a very Merry Christmas!

Sincerely,

Tricia Herren, Executive Director

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Asking for money and **searching for more resources** is an awkward and exhausting part of running a nonprofit. Providing quality homes for children in crisis is the worthwhile and rewarding part. Unfortunately, we can not accomplish the rewarding part without the awkward part.

The financial support for Homes with Hope comes to us in a variety of ways ... all through God's faithfulness. From a young girl at my church who has donated her allowance on several occasions to companies with the ability and willingness to write us a \$25,000 check. Truth is we need all types of contributors and we are sincerely grateful for each and every one of you.

Here are just a few ... 2006 Contributions from \$2,500 to \$25,000

U.S. Coins—Kenny Duncan

O'Neil and Vickie McDonald

3 Vineyard Churches: Houston, Pearland, and Sugar Land

Contango Oil & Gas

The Connections Center— Dr. Steve Gutstein & Dr. Rachele Sheely

Deerwood Homes— Steve and Renae Norwood

Phil and Lynne Redding

Alan and Eileen Hubbard

Special thanks to **EVERYONE ELSE** who contributed faithfully with their time, talents and finances to enable us to grow and provide families for children in our city in great need. Thank you, we are humbled and grateful.

Thank you Rita Springer!

Thank you for taking time from your busy schedule to fly to Houston in August and lead such an incredible night of worship benefiting Homes with Hope. We love your heart for the orphaned and fatherless, we appreciate your love and care for Homes with Hope.

Thanks for your friendship and support!

Thanks to all who participated in making our 3rd annual Gala in September

“Jazz It Up” at The Plaza Club

such a great success!

With your generous help, we raised \$20,000.

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

Katie Achim, Jill Lively, Janice Beem, Paige Spraggins, Brent Spraggins, Gloria Garza, Hershel Rosser, Teresa Madden, Ashley Oatman, Rachel Hanley, Nathan Kvinge, Bunmi Ogunleye, Debbie Scott

Our Master of Ceremonies:

Ron Trevino KHOU Channel 11, morning anchor

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!



Bill and Tammy Berry

Mike and Donna Bahorich

SAG ENTERPRISES

George and Isabela Canjar



Mark and Ann Stoehr



Dr. Louie and Jane Pisters

Save The Date!

**Homes with Hope 3rd Annual
Charity Golf Tournament**

March 22, 2007 Tour 18 Golf Course

Humble, TX - 1:15 Shotgun



The following is a special essay written as a school assignment by one of our foster parents 13 year old daughter, and printed with her permission.

Thank you, Danielle, for opening your heart and home.



ONE BIG HAPPY FAMILY

This is a story about Jack and how he joined my family. Jack came to us on December 2nd, 2005. He was only 10 days old. Our family had recently been licensed for foster care, because we felt that we could make a difference in children's lives. Little did we know the impact a foster child would have on us.

My name is Danielle Dudley. I am the middle child of three. My parents have always taken good care of my siblings and I. They called us all together and asked us if we would be interested in being a foster family. I was so excited I didn't know what to say, the first thing in my head was is it going to be a boy or girl? I had so many questions, but after talking it through we all said yes.

In December my mom got a phone call while I was at school. CPS was calling to see if we would like to foster a baby boy who was only ten days old. My mom said "yes" and that is how Jack joined our family, and began to change my life.

Here we are almost a year later and here are some examples of how Jack has changed my life. I have learned how to pitch in and help, even when it isn't convenient. I have seen how other kids have to live and that not all children are born into good homes. I have grown to love Jack like a brother, even though at times he can be a real pain.

I never knew how much we could impact someone else's life. I never thought we would have such a wonderful chance to change his life, not to mention the way he has changed ours. They have asked us if we would like to adopt Jack, and of course, we said "yes". As I look at him today, I'm, so glad we took this chance to change not only his life but ours as well.