



From the Director

We are family! That's the feeling our kids must have when they come to live at His House. If they don't feel the love, warmth and acceptance of family, we would not be fulfilling our call. It is this family unit that fosters trust and healing.

I often see the children's attitudes and negative behaviors radically change when they start to sense the unconditional love

and care provided at His House. So many have never felt that someone cares about them, is tending to their needs or that they are important. Although the children may have had parents around, the father and mother were often wrapped up in their own addictions, problems or bitterness.

It sounds so simple to say that love turns a child around, but that's the only way I can express this change. Kids need to feel the "belonging" of family, even while they're in a "shelter," to thrive and be happy.

Our kids have had a fun-packed summer. It's been a great family time and we really tried to make it a memorable one for our children. There was a Memorial Day barbecue at the Gonzalezes, fireworks and sizzle sticks on the Fourth of July, a three-day vacation in Orlando and lots of park and pool outings before and after summer school, not to mention all the Vacation Bible Schools. As many children who have been with us for over a year move to more permanent homes, we know they will not forget they are part of His family.

His Servant and yours,

Jean Caceres-Gonzalez
Founder and Executive Director

Did You Know?

You can designate your United Way payroll deduction to His House. The Contributor's Choice program is a convenient way to fulfill a commitment of participation in your company campaign and also make your donation work where you choose.

FOSTER & ADOPTION TRAINING CLASSES

MAPP

(Model Approach to Partnership in Parenting)

Class Schedule

English MAPP Training

September 1 and 2
September 15 and 16
September 29 and 30

Orientation Meeting for Spanish MAPP Training

Friday, October 6 at 7 p.m.
Saturday, October 14 at 10:30 a.m.

Spanish MAPP Training

November 3 and 4
November 17 and 18
December 1 and 2

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Please don't throw this newsletter away—
pass it on to a friend!

In His House

Summer 2000 • A newsletter of His House Children's Home

A Longing Fulfilled

Throughout their 20 years of marriage, Bob and Mary had tried unsuccessfully to have a baby. They endured the emotional trauma of two miscarriages and invitro fertilization. A couple who was always entertaining their many nieces and nephews in their home, they longed for a child of their own.

Then, a friend told Mary about His House Children's Home.

As with most childless couples who come to His House looking to adopt, Bob and Mary wanted an infant. They went

through the procedures of classes, home inspection and licensing. Expecting a baby, they were surprised to learn of a brother and sister who were ages 5 and 6 and were available for adoption.

Staff was cautious, knowing that the children had come from an abusive family and were acting out frequently with emotional outbursts.

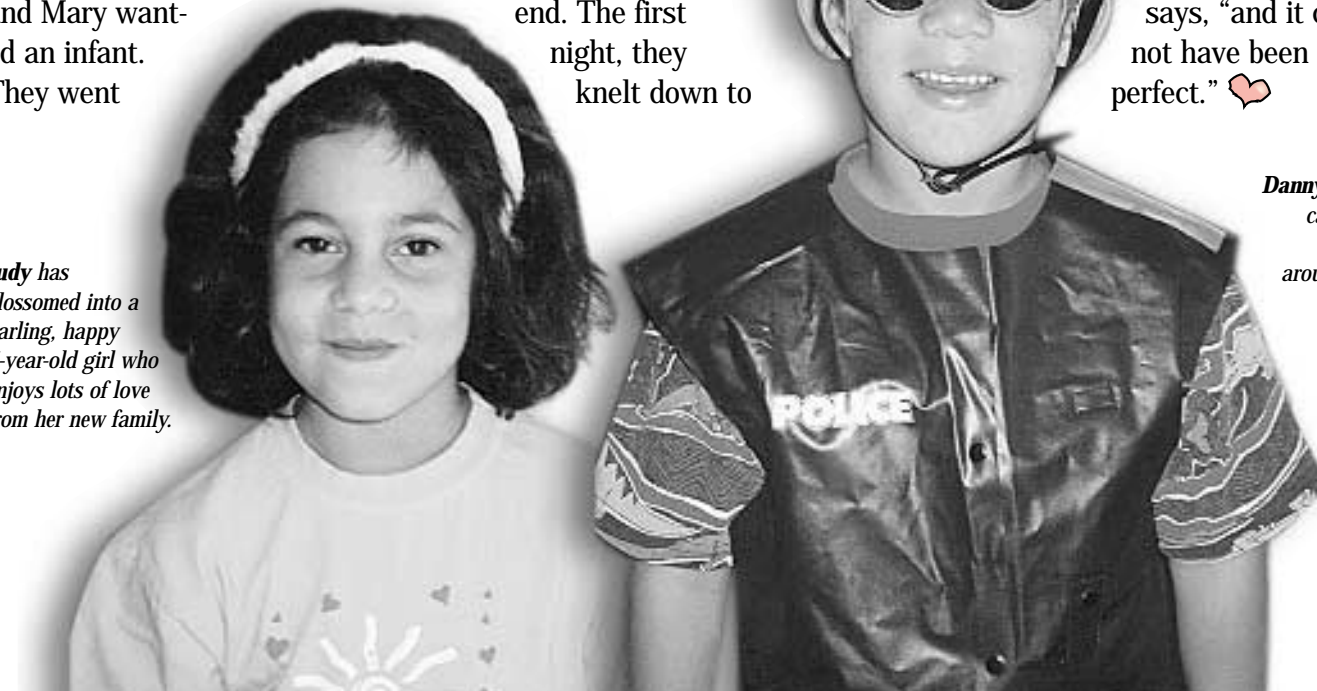
Bob and Mary took the children home for a weekend. The first night, they knelt down to

pray with Danny and Judy. Judy, in a little voice, prayed, "Please, Lord, let the visit last longer."

It did. After that weekend, the children came to live with the couple, who give them lots of love and attention as well as the continual assurance that they were chosen to be part of their family.

Bob reports that it is truly a match made in heaven. "We wanted a baby but God chose for us," he says, "and it could not have been more perfect." ♥

Judy has blossomed into a darling, happy 7-year-old girl who enjoys lots of love from her new family.

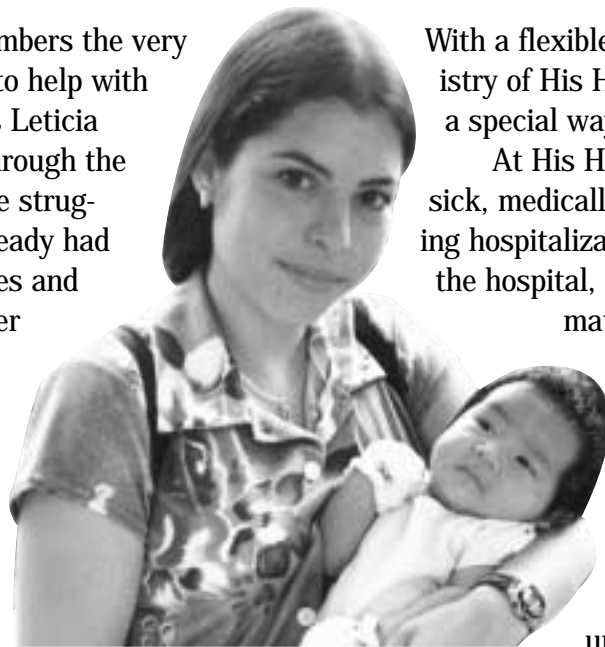


Danny's laughter can be heard many days around his new home.

Leticia Labors Long Hours With Love

Leticia Juan fondly remembers the very first night she volunteered to help with the babies at His House. As Leticia gently rocked the infants through the night, she thought about the struggles and hardships they already had to endure in their young lives and she reached out to them. Her only thought in those long hours was to comfort and share the love of Christ.

Leticia, a young energetic 25-year-old Cuban, founded "Midwives of Miami," a much sought after midwife practice.



With a flexible schedule and a love for the ministry of His House, Leticia began to serve God in a special way.

At His House, our children may come to us sick, medically neglected and sometimes requiring hospitalization. Little ones are never alone in the hospital, thanks to Leticia's caring heart. No matter what time of the day or night

Leticia receives a call, she is there at the hospital to sing hymns, soothe aching little bodies and bring gifts of little yellow bunnies. In the still of the night, ill babies are touched by the love of God through our wonderful, caring volunteer, Leticia. ❤️

Vacation Time! What a Blast!

Three theme parks in three days with 33 children—that was the His House vacation marathon. The His House family piled into vans, prepared for the long road trip with chips, drinks and songs. For many of the



children, it was their first vacation trip. Smiles, lots of laughter and good times were had at Cypress Gardens, especially at the ice show and ski show. Shamu the whale gave the children a thorough drenching at Sea World, and slippery, winding slides at Water Mania thrilled those brave enough to dare ride them.

"Awesome! This is the first time I ever left Miami," 9-year-old Pete shared with his house mom, Siggs. When Zachy's house mom, Betty, asked him if he had missed her, he responded, "Too much, all the time." He proceeded to tell her how much fun he'd had on the roller coaster. The children had a blast! ❤️

Wish List

- ✓ Point and shoot cameras for our two homes
- ✓ Diapers and wipes
- ✓ "Veggie Tale" and other Bible videos
- ✓ Paper products such as toilet paper, tissues, paper towels
- ✓ New sneakers
- ✓ Office supplies
- ✓ Twin sheet sets
- ✓ Children's chewable vitamins
- ✓ Computer learning games
- ✓ Picnic tables

His Kids Need a Loving Home

In order to serve Miami's multicultural community, His House is launching a Spanish foster and adoptive families recruitment and training pro-



Tyson is an adorable 6-month-old who needs a home. He's a happy and healthy bundle of joy.

gram. The 30-hour course will be offered for the first time in Spanish with the hope of adding 15 to 20 Hispanic families to our network of folks willing to give our children a more norma-

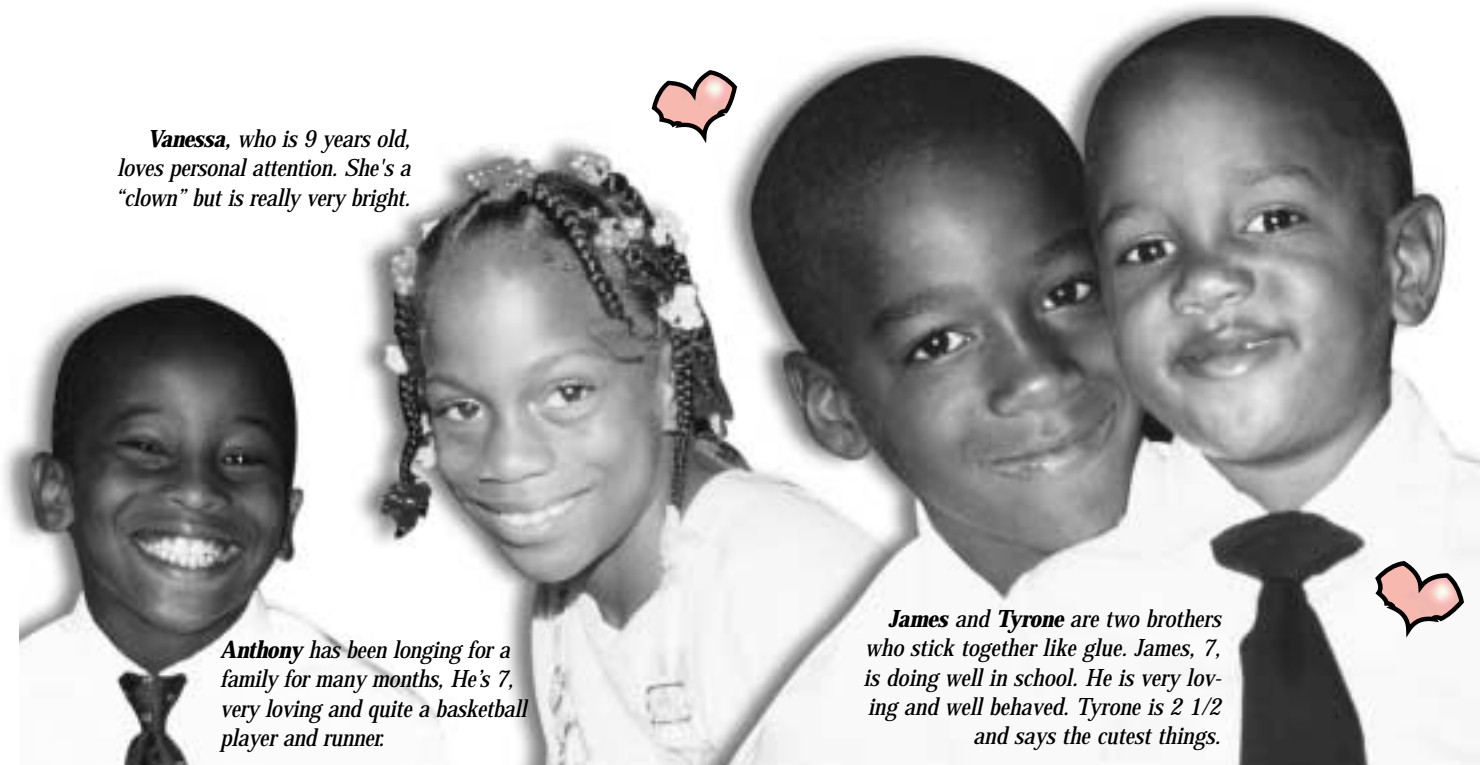
Interested families must attend an orientation meeting to receive information about the process. For the most part, the course is given in three consecutive weekends—a two-hour session on Friday evenings and a seven-hour session on Saturdays. After the successful completion of the course, the process of preparing a licensing file begins. This can often be a tedious task, given such steps as the signing of many forms, background clearances, photocopies of insurance, pet vaccination records and reference letters. However, a family that is diligent about providing paperwork and sticks to the grueling process could be licensed in as short as four months!



Elizabeth, a cute 8-year-old, has four brothers living in another foster home, an older recently married sister and an elderly grandmother who loves them all very much. They have been separated for a long time. She'd love to have a home where she could keep in touch with her biological family.

children waiting to be adopted in our district. Many of them are of minority races and some come in sibling groups but all need love in a family setting.

In our shelter alone, there are many who need homes.



Vanessa, who is 9 years old, loves personal attention. She's a "clown" but is really very bright.

Anthony has been longing for a family for many months. He's 7, very loving and quite a basketball player and runner.

James and Tyrone are two brothers who stick together like glue. James, 7, is doing well in school. He is very loving and well behaved. Tyrone is 2 1/2 and says the cutest things.