



Jeremiah's Promise Quarterly Newsletter

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A New Season Ushers in a New Start

Our girls are committed to succeeding in school. With community colleges incredibly overcrowded this year, some of our girls have left the JP house at dawn to line up outside of classrooms, so they might move from "wait listed" to "enrolled" status. They are eager to begin working toward their degrees and their futures.

The girls are also combing the meager want ads and braving rejection at shopping centers and local businesses to find part-time jobs in order to contribute to their savings program and to other basic needs not met by JP. (More and more, we are having to meet those needs.)

All the while, the girls remain willing to take a deep breath and plunge into their past hurts and childhood pain, determined to grow into the women they were born to be. They have a destiny to fulfill, and this house is brimming with young, former foster women who show tremendous courage and resolve as they rise to the challenge.

This is a brief snapshot of recent happenings as we move into Fall 2009. Read on and be inspired!

→ The Legacy our Girls Will Leave

After a lifetime of suffering injustices that would cripple or destroy most of us, the young women of JP want to use their suffering to guide and



Find out how you can share a special talent, skill or words of wisdom at our Life Skills Class! [Click here to find out how!](#)



transform the lives of others. Aracely, for instance, attends Heald College with plans to complete her Associate's Degree and proceed to a Bachelor's Degree. "I want to be a social worker or a detective," she said. "I've had social workers since I was five, and I want to help other children like they helped me." She says she wants to be remembered as someone "who was a strong person, and achieved my goals and helped other people along the way."

Laura, a freshman at DeAnza College, has embarked on her journey to achieve a political science degree. She reads *The Wall Street Journal* nearly every day, informs us passionately of the latest legislation being considered and follows the news voraciously. She intends to reshape the political landscape and fight for justice for those who can't--or don't know how to--fight for themselves.

Berenice, also a freshman at DeAnza College, is focused on a nursing degree. "I like helping people such as children or older people," she stated. She would like for her legacy to be described as "friendly, passionate and strong."

Anastasia, now completing GED, says she wants to be an artist or an art teacher for preschool, kindergarten or first grade. "I was given a coloring book when I was little and ever since then I couldn't get enough of it (drawing)." When asked what her hope for the future was, she responded, "I want to be known as strong, open-minded and confident."

Kristen, a strong yet tender-hearted DeAnza College freshman, says she wants to help others by being an ultrasound technician. Leslie says she also wants to be in a helping profession. She is presently completing her final course in Adult Education with plans to proceed to a certificate program. Leslie says she would like to leave her mark on the world by being "caring, big-hearted, sweet and strong."

Strong. Is it any coincidence that they all stated that characteristic as one for which they would like to be most remembered? We believe they already have achieved this milestone, along with being resilient, humorous, caring, motivated and inspirational.

[Jeremiah's Promise](#)

[→ A Woman of Song Is Born](#)



A very special bundle arrived on Thursday, September 17. Aralyn Leigh Van der Merwe was delivered 11 days early after 26 hours of labor. Rian and Jessica, our Outreach and Admissions Coordinator, welcomed their firstborn child whose name means "Woman of Song." Since both parents are musically gifted, Aralyn's name is a perfect fit. She weighed in at 7 lbs 2 oz and was 19 inches long at birth. We are

very happy for you Jessica and Rian!

→ Barbecue Honors Donors, Volunteers

While we are blessed to have an experienced, dedicated and hardworking staff, there is no way we could offer adequate help to the young women of JP without our donors and volunteers. The girls and staff had the opportunity to thank those who give so freely of themselves at a barbecue at the house on September 26. The girls were thrilled to meet our behind-the-scenes supporters and to chat with those they had met previously through life skills sessions, mentoring, tutoring, and so on...



→ Challenge Creates Opportunity!

The uncertain economy has had a huge impact on our nonprofit organization. It has meant harder-to-find jobs for our young residents; more of our resources being applied toward their growing needs; lowered grant payouts; and delayed expansion of our program.

At the same time, we have seen donors step up in amazing and poignant ways. Though many have suffered greatly in the stock market and some are unsure whether their paychecks will remain stable, they continue to give on the faith that their tithing and stretch giving will be rewarded. Most give because they believe in the cause and in our girls.

Despite our good stewardship, we continue to face a serious budget deficit. **Now we need your help to keep our program running for the long term.** We hope to transform many more lives in the years ahead, but it takes funding to accomplish permanent and effective change in the lives of youth who lag far behind their peers academically, socially, emotionally and professionally. The grants and donations continue to arrive, though many are at reduced levels. We want to express our gratitude to those of you

who have stretched your contributions to help us meet our basic needs and to those of you who dared to show faith during this tumultuous year.

We would like to pose a challenge to those of you who are contemplating your year-end giving. Would you consider a monthly pledge of any amount that would help us overcome this shortfall? If we all pitch in together, we will be able to continue to serve these young women as they continue remarkable transformations under our care and guidance. [Click here to learn more about our needs and online contributions.](#) Many hearty thanks!

→ Love, Challenge and Equip for a Brighter Future!

A foundational component of our program is the relationship between our residents and their mentors. Research shows that the caring support of just *one* adult in the life of a youth makes a significant impact on the youth's future success and self esteem. We



need women to step up for this important role! Please consider becoming part of a girl's life here at Jeremiah's Promise and reap the benefits of a fulfilling mentor relationship.

We have launched Mentor/Volunteer Training for anyone interested in becoming a part of the Jeremiah's Promise community. Two-hour sessions meet in the evenings once a month. Contact Bonnie @ 408.962.0630 or bonniev@jeremiahspromise.org for more information.

Thank you for taking the time from your busy schedule to stay up to date on the amazing happenings at Jeremiah's Promise. You have made a difference already... please don't stop now!

Sincerely,

The Jeremiah's Promise Team
Jeremiah's Promise, Inc.

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