



## Jeremiah's Promise Quarterly Newsletter

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### They Bet It All And Won!

It's a good thing that Las Vegas doesn't place odds on the academic success of our residents. They would lose.



Nationwide, 40 of 100 foster youth fail to graduate high school. Only 3 of 100 will earn college degrees.

One of our young women, who preferred not to be named, walked across the stage to collect her Associate Degree from San Jose City College in May. She will pursue a nursing degree in coming months.

A current JP resident, Leslie pictured left, finished course work for her high school diploma in May. Not to be outdone, Mindy, our intern, completed her Psychology degree from Stanford and was graduated last weekend.

The former resident who was mentioned above is very driven in her quest to become a nurse. She overcame enormous, frightening challenges in doing so. A beautiful, intelligent young woman, she was brought to this country from Africa (name of the nation withheld upon her request) and then was abandoned only to end up in foster care shortly thereafter. She spoke very little English when she arrived in the U.S. at age 11, but she persevered, became a citizen, and is focused on reaching her destiny in the medical profession.

We also want to celebrate Leslie, one of our current residents, who earned her diploma after months of hard work, frustration and perseverance. Someone told her she as a child that she did not have what it takes to get through school. She more than proved them wrong. Her next step is Law Enforcement. She wants to serve as a police or probation officer to guide young people past the hurdles of poverty, crime and injustice and toward greater rewards through education and mentoring.

In addition, three residents have completed their senior years of high school and will begin college in the fall. Furthermore, four of our former residents have earned honors this year in their college programs.

About 85 percent of our youth commit to the educational track -- many of them in pursuit of four-year degrees. We are proud of them and are honored to be part of their lives and their success.

And then there is Mindy, our intern who will be very hard to replace. This daughter of missionary parents has served us well administratively and has spent countless hours with our residents to encourage, guide and love them. She will start work at InterVarsity Christian Fellowship upon graduation. We will miss her greatly.

## Board Bio: Charlotte Rogers

Jeremiah's Promise is reliant upon our dedicated and talented Board of Directors to strengthen and grow our nonprofit organization. These people volunteer their time and talent to provide accountability and direction as they build a strong foundation beneath Jeremiah's Promise. We would like to take a moment over the next few months to introduce you to members of the board.



Charlotte Rogers has served on the board for the past four years in the roles of Board Chairman and now Treasurer. An avid cyclist, wife and mother of two grown daughters, Charlotte has a wealth of experience in business development, as well as, the nonprofit arena, so she brings a level of much appreciated expertise to the board. When asked what has compelled her to serve JP as a director, a volunteer, mentor and a donor, Charlotte replied, "Changing lives one at a time. It is amazing to look at the young women who come to Jeremiah's Promise and the transformation that occurs. There are many success stories. We have college graduates, women who are self-supporting, women who have been healed and are happy with themselves. We observe huge, positive changes in self-esteem. Plus many of our graduates are now working with foster and at-risk youth." Some of the challenges include fundraising, especially in today's economic climate. She is excited to see what happens next, since she believes that JP is "helping to break the vicious cycle we see with young women and the families that they will later raise."

Charlotte is ending her term with us this month. We bless her in knowing that she has been a joy and a gift to

us and to the young women we serve. All the best to you, Charlotte!

## Volunteer Snapshot: Jenny Barnett



Jenny, an LA native who has lived in the South Bay since 2006, first heard about Jeremiah's Promise from a presentation at Highway Community Church. She wanted to be part of the lives of these young women -- to offer them encouragement and guidance as they heal and grow. At the same time, JP needed someone to drive the girls to and from the grocery store, helping them make wise decisions in nutrition and assisting them in staying within their budget. Jenny, who spent seven years in the Australian Outback with her husband and sons where flexibility and endurance are important qualities, decided to combine both our needs and hers and turned the opportunity into side-by-side coaching as she drove the girls to different errands, including weekly food shopping. This sort of interaction is a nonthreatening way to speak into the lives of our residents, offering wisdom far beyond that of merely deciding between Safeway brand cereal and Special K. It is in these weekly excursions where many topics arise, are discussed and debated and Jenny has the ability to guide the girls toward positive, healthy life choices. Jenny, a physical therapist, recently began tutoring and mentoring one of the young women and has been excited to be part of her growth on a more personal level. Jenny talked about her experience with our residents.

"I want to love the girls for who they are without conditions placed on them," she emphasized. The needs of these girls are complex, and I am only just beginning to understand some of them. Spending time with them on their terms has been the most helpful in separating out what their real needs/desires are compared to what I think their needs/desires should be."

Jenny has proven her ability to listen and understand youth. She and her husband, Daniel, have used the same skills with their sons, Tim, 17, and Kevin, 14. Tim, a recent graduate of King's Academy, is putting off college for a year while he works at a children's mission in Malawi.

As our young women proceed through JP and into the world outside of our home, Jenny will have earned their trust and respect and quite likely will continue to be a listening ear and a warm heart as they navigate bigger choices on their own. This extended network of

### Exciting Updates from Jeremiah's Prom...

support is vital to their continued success.

We are so grateful for volunteers like Jenny who devote their time to really understand the girls and be an ongoing part of their lives.

## Celebration of Girls, Vols and Donors



Warm weather, longer days, laughing teens, and good eating. Does it get any better than that? We celebrated the start of summer -- well, it's almost official - - June 11 with a barbecue to

thank those who have supported us and our youth. Nearly 50 people attended, besides staff and our residents, which sent Bonnie and Kim into a tizzy as they calculated how many cans of baked beans it would take to feed this hungry crew. And where would they sit?! We were able to find enough tables and chairs. Food was plentiful as many of our volunteers, mentors, board directors and other cherished supporters provided homemade delights. Our brand-new, donated barbecue served its purpose, as well. We thank everyone who made this evening such a special event as we applauded the girls' graduations, new residents, past residents, and the staff, board, volunteers and donors who make it all possible -- and FUN!

## Hope for a Promising Future: Impact of Giving



It takes all of us working hard together to right the wrongs endured by our young residents during their childhood. You have been a blessing to us beyond words. In these

challenging times, our teens continue to rely on you and your

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sacrificial giving to help them become the young women they were born to be. We offer them housing, mentoring, academic support, career counseling, life skills, financial competency, savings programs, and the chance to give back through volunteer opportunities. Please join us in our quest to "love, challenge and equip former foster youth for a better future." We appreciate all you have done -- and continue to do for us.

If you would like to contribute to one of the following, you may donate online at [www.jeremiahspromise.org](http://www.jeremiahspromise.org), or mail a check to Jeremiah's Promise, P.O. Box 1393, Palo Alto, CA 94302.

- Feed on resident for two weeks: \$50
- Feed her for one month: \$100
- Feed all residents for one month: \$600
- Therapeutic counseling for one resident for one year: \$1,200
- Annual Cost of Continuing Education and Resident's Program Resources: \$2,000
- Feed all residents for one year: \$7,200
- Help fund a portion of overnight staff - a vital piece of our program where emotional healing and life coaching are accomplished: \$10,000
- Help fund Support Services, Volunteer and Mentor Recruitment, Safety Screening, Training and Supervision: \$15,000
- Help fund Academic/Career Counseling; Associated Support; and Weekly Goal Planning and Daily Supervision: \$25,000

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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