Casa de Esperanza de los Niños – the House of Hope for Children – is a safe place for children in crisis due to abuse, neglect or the effects of HIV. Casa de Esperanza provides residential care, and coordinates medical and psychological services according to the needs of each child.

Dear Friends and SUPPORTERS,

As Casa de Esperanza celebrates 35 years of caring for children and their families in the greater Houston area, we thank each of you, our donors, volunteers and dedicated staff that help us continue this work.

The reason a child comes to Casa de Esperanza is because they are not safe. It is our responsibility to provide protection and care for each of these children until their safety can be permanently secured.

Over these 35 years, we have had the privilege to care for thousands of vulnerable, neglected and injured children. These children have endured harm, disease and hardships well beyond our worst imaginings. We have also learned the importance of trying to understand each child’s past and support the families that brought them into the world.

Through your support of Casa de Esperanza you have opened your hearts to children living in harm’s way. In this act you have willingly entered a part of our world that lacks safety, food, shelter, medical care, opportunity and hope. Do not underestimate the courage your actions represent.

All of your sacrifices of time, resources and of the heart are not to be minimized. By joining with Casa de Esperanza, you have offered to each child a world you would hope for your own children.

As we reflect on the past 35 years, we are committed to continue to serve and change the lives of the next generation of children of our community.

Thank you for being a part of the Casa de Esperanza family,

KATHY FOSTER    BILL JONES    SHELLEY STARR
is starting out as an amazing year for the Hands of Hope Internship Program. Most of our current interns are about half way finished with their year of service so we are actively looking for new interns to fill the positions in June and September. We currently have twenty-four young women living in the neighborhood working full time to provide a safe and loving environment for the children that come to Casa de Esperanza. These exceptional individuals come from all over the United States and each brings something unique and special to the lives of the children.

Each intern has the opportunity to live with three to five children full time and build a healthy attachment that these children were previously lacking. Emilie Rodriguez is one of our current Hands of Hope interns and she describes her experience; “As any first-time parent will tell you, there are days where you are past the point of exhaustion. On those days, I am so thankful for the three amazing women I get to work alongside. They shower our children with love and attention and constantly inspire me to do the same. Whenever I tell people about the work I do they all say the same thing, “how lucky are those children to have someone like you to care for them!” But really, I am the lucky one to have them in my life. They bring me such immeasurable joy.” In just a few short months Emilie has already had the privilege of caring for fourteen young children under the age of six years old. She has been such an addition to our team this year and we are so excited to see what the future holds for her.

It is always sad to see the Hands of Hope Interns complete their year and move on to their next life adventure. We are excited, however, when we have the opportunity to keep in touch with previous interns to see how the program has stayed with them through the years. Kalah Hickox was a Hands of Hope intern in 2012 and it changed the course of her entire life. “Before I interned with Casa de Esperanza I had no intentions of working with youth in my future career. But when I became a foster parent I fell in love with my kids and it changed the trajectory of my life. After caring for kids who came from backgrounds of neglect and abuse, it fostered a deep sense of calling and desire to love and care for youth such as these no matter where I was living and working. Although I am not currently a foster parent, but intend to be again in the future, I have been a Young Life leader at a local high school since I left Casa de Esperanza and I have been working for a non-profit that provides hope and stability for youth with a parent in prison. My foster children left a lasting impact on who I am, what I want to do, and what my future continues to be centered around.” We are so proud of the impact the Hands of Hope internship has had on Kalah well beyond her year of service. It is with great joy that we are able to send the Hands of Hope interns back into the world knowing they are going to continue to do remarkable things for children in need.

If you or someone you know is interested in experiencing real hands-on work before pursuing a graduate degree or further employment, please contact Jordan Wareham at jwareham@casahope.org. This is a challenging but rewarding yearlong internship in which you will get to experience working directly with the children that come to Casa de Esperanza. We accept applications all year, and currently still have a few openings for the June and September 2017 training groups.
A MOTHER’S REFLECTIONS

March 23, 2017

TO: MY CASEWORKERS AND MY CHILDREN’S FOSTER PARENTS

I’m not quite sure there is a way to thank you and Casa de Esperanza for the hard work you put into my case and family. When my CPS case first started and I had to place the girls at Casa in July 2016, my heart was broken for them. Who would they be with? Would they wonder if they weren’t wanted? Would they be loved, safe, happy? It did not take long for me to find peace of mind and comfort that the answer to all of my questions was “yes.” I saw them thriving and growing and laughing at each visit. As a mom making major life changes, it was all I could ask for. I thank you all for the late nights, early mornings, baths, kissing boo-boos, peekaboo games, Shopkins and My Little Ponys. Thank you for protecting them and their innocent hearts, ensuring their happiness and giving them security, love, hope and happiness while I could not. Thank you for allowing me the chance to reclaim my life and to become the clean, sober mom they deserve. I was able to rebuild knowing they were safe. To a mother, there is nothing more important. I often feel like I’ve missed so much that I will never get back, but I’m quick to realize I have the rest of their lives to watch so many “firsts.” Thank you all from the deepest part of my heart for being a part of my little girls’ lives and for being there for us.

LOVE, A CASA DE ESPERANZA MOM

Thank you for protecting them and their innocent hearts, ensuring their happiness and giving them security, love, hope and happiness while I could not.
A NOTE FROM THE DAILY, MCGEE, AND UPTON FAMILIES

We want to thank you for supporting this important cause. The proceeds from this event will allow Casa de Esperanza to continue to provide critically needed program services to their children. A special thanks to our friends and families who always say “yes” and “how can I help?” and show us love and support every day. Also, a last thank you to the staff at Casa de Esperanza and the Cordúa family for helping to make this event such a success.
WE ARE EXCITED TO CELEBRATE OUR 2017 HONORÉES

SPIRIT OF HOPE AWARD
MEG AND KIRK GENTLE

GROUP OF THE YEAR
HOMEAID HOUSTON

CORPORATE VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR
THE DINERSTEIN COMPANIES

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR
KATIE HWU

GROUP OF THE YEAR
GREATER HOUSTON BUILDERS ASSOCIATION

YOUNG PROFESSIONAL VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR
JORDAN & DUNCAN BALCOM

YOUNG PROFESSIONAL VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR
KATIE & MITCHELL CURRIE

SPECIAL PEOPLE GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND IN THEIR SUPPORT OF CASA DE ESPERANZA
Christine and Martin Nguyen both came to the United States as young children with their families. They were not familiar with the language or the culture, but what could have been a scary transition into a new country was eased by the kindness of several benevolent individuals who went out of their way to help them. With the support of these people, Christine and Martin began a new life and came to love their new home. Now they are adults and are married with four beautiful children and a lovely home in Sugar Land. Successful business owners, together they run The Sweet Boutique Bakery in the Sugar Land Town Square. When they reflect on their childhoods and the many forces that helped them be successful, Christine and Martin never forget the help they received from those who asked for nothing in return. Now, Christine and Martin have decided to extend the same hospitality and generosity to foster children that was provided to them so many years ago. They are grateful for the many blessings in their lives and eager to share their abundance with the children of Casa de Esperanza.

As a licensed foster family in Casa de Esperanza’s community foster care program, the Nguyens have welcomed four foster children into their home. Christine and Martin are volunteer foster parents and thus are not reimbursed for the care they provide. Although each foster child’s story is different, they were all unsafe before coming into Casa de Esperanza’s care. Because the Nguyens have older biological children, they choose to foster infants. In their home, their foster children experience the love and joy of being a part of a family. The babies learn what it feels like to be safe during a time in their lives that is crucial for their brain development. They learn healthy attachment and begin to develop an internal sense of their own value. With consistent care and lots of cuddles from all of the Nguyen children, these babies begin to understand that they are worthy of love and protection.

Friends tell the Nguyens what an incredible gift they are giving to these foster children. While there is certainly no denying the positive impact their family has on these children’s lives, Christine and Martin state that their own lives have changed in ways that neither of them could have ever anticipated. “Foster care can be hard,” Christine says. “But I would never go back and change any of it. Our foster babies have brought us so much love. It’s just the ability to care for other people… it changes you.”

Since experiencing the incredible benefits to their foster children as well as to their own family, the Nguyens have become involved in the foster care community and are now determined to empower others to care for these children, as well. Martin even started a ministry at their local church to help support foster families in their community. The couple wants to help people understand how meaningful it can be to care for a child in need. Christine says: “I told Martin that I have never been happier than I am now. There is something about these foster babies that just makes me more gentle and my heart softer. We are so much more connected with other people and our community since caring for them.”

The Nguyens have a message for other families who might be considering providing foster care: “Don’t be afraid! Just try it. These infants and young children need adults to protect them and keep them safe. The benefits that you get in return are so great.” If you are interested in learning more about becoming a licensed foster/adoptive family through Casa de Esperanza, please call Chrystal Hamilton-Dorelien at (713) 529-0639.
The Young Professionals of Casa de Esperanza de los Niños hosted its Seventh Annual Chili Cook-Off Saturday, February 25th at Kirby Ice House, raising a record breaking $70,000 to support children in crisis. This year’s event was chaired by Katie and Patrick Morris and Lauren and Trent Sims.

Over 500 guests joined in for a beautiful afternoon to help raise awareness for the organization and 40 teams competed for the coveted title of Best Chili. Eight judges: Mike Cortez, Food & Drink Writer, Cathy Hernandez, KPRC Channel 2 Reporter, Marcy de Luna, Freelance Writer for CultureMap and BravoTV.com, Brian Doherty, General Manager for Cordúa Restaurants, Jailyn Marcel, Assistant Digital Editor at PaperCity Magazine, Paul Miller, Owner of Gr8 Plate Hospitality, Felice “Swanky Girl” Sloan, Co-Founder of Urban Swank and Kevin Strickland, Former Owner of Gratifi Kitchen + Bar judged the recipes for taste and presentation. And, the winner of Best Chili was awarded to “Other Mothers Brothers”. Winning team members were Cody Cole, Jason Kirker, Kyle Morrison, Roger Rule, Sasa Hadzic and Scott Rule. Cheering on the event were past chairs – Katie and Mitchell Currie, Brad Dinerstein, Jaclyn Martin, and Host Committee Members including Blake Aston, Melanie Chin, Mary Katherine and Chris George, Ally Hatz, Bruce and Minette Kish, Christina Mullin, Kim and Derek Myers, Lindsey and Richard Strattan, & Nealy Stuckey.

The crowd enjoyed burgers from The Burger Joint and an out-of-this-world raffle which included 2 Roundtrip Domestic Airline Tickets, a weekend in Fredericksburg, a complete Rodeo Houston package and much more! Casa de Esperanza is very grateful for the many sponsors, including major underwriter Tekell, Book, Allen & Morris, LLP. Thanks to everyone who came out and supported our Young Professionals, what a perfect afternoon!
Our weekly volunteers are like our extended family; they know what we need and they do what we can’t when we need it most. Our group volunteers provide the valuable energy and support, while also demonstrating to our children that there are positive role models in the world.

If you would like more information on how you can help as a volunteer, please contact Taelor Powell at tpowell@casahope.org or (713) 529-0639.
THE CAVATORE FAMILY AND FRIENDS CELEBRATE VALENTINE’S DAY LOVE WITH CRAFTS, GIFTS, AND A FUN-FILLED MORNING ON THE PLAYGROUND

THE U.S. COAST GUARD BRING BUBBLES AND COLORING BOOKS FOR OUR CHILDREN TO ENJOY DURING A DAY OUT ON THE PLAYGROUND

HOMEMADE HOPE PROVIDES MONTHLY COOKING CLASSES TO THE CHILDREN AND HANDS OF HOPE INTERNS

FRUIT OF THE VINE CHURCH HOSTS SOME WEEKEND FUN WITH ACTIVITIES, GIFTS, AND DELICIOUS PIZZA

THIS IS THE SECOND YEAR THAT THE DINERSTEIN COMPANIES HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO ASSIST WITH PLANTING AND MAINTENANCE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD FOR OUR FALL LANDSCAPING. AFTER ALL THEIR HARD WORK, THEY FIND TIME TO PLAY WITH OUR CHILDREN AND HAVE LUNCH

MIDWAY AND COLLEEN & TED MCLAUGHLIN CREATE A MAGICAL WINTER WONDERLAND BY BRINGING SNOW TO THE CASA DE ESPERANZA NEIGHBORHOOD AND SHOW THE CHILDREN HOW TO MAKE SNOW BALLS, SNOWMEN, AND SNOW ANGELS
We invite YOU to join TEAM CASA DE ESPERANZA for Run Houston’s Race at the University of Houston! Have you ever wanted to do a 5K, 10K or other distance event?

Well, now’s your chance to make your goal a reality. We are excited that Team Casa de Esperanza will be participating in the 9/24/17 Run Houston 10K, 5K & Kids 1K at the University of Houston Campus. We are looking for people to join our team, and we invite you to be a part of the fun! 3 Simple Steps to Join Team Casa de Esperanza: 1) Register for the event at: https://www.athletepath.com/run-houston-university-of-houston/2017-09-24 2) Create a FREE fundraising campaign through Reason2Race 3) Share your campaign with family and friends! Let’s all have the children of Casa de Esperanza be our motivation and support us in making our finish line goals happen! GO TEAM!

Ways to GIVE

Please see below to find ways to give back... it’s easy!

When you donate your Mileage Plus miles, you give so much more than award travel – you help our children in need. To donate miles, visit https://secure.unitedmileageplus.com/CharityMilesSSO.jsp, enter the number of miles you wish to donate, and click the “Donate Now” button.

Shop for Smiles with Amazon.com

Are you an Amazon shopper?! Support Casa De Esperanza De Los Ninos by shopping through AmazonSmile! When you shop at AmazonSmile, Amazon will donate .5% to Casa De Esperanza. Plus, you can visit our Amazon.com wish list and purchase basic need items! With the simple click, the order will be purchased and delivered straight to our door. It’s as easy as that. Get started here: http://smile.amazon.com/ch/76-0105306

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR
9/24/17

 Ways to GIVE

UNIFIED

www.casahope.org
When we think of a woman who has selflessly devoted her time and continuous commitment to our mission and goal here at Casa de Esperanza, Mary Haynes comes to the minds of all. As a long-term child care staff member, Mary has spent the last 20 years providing boundless love while opening her home and her heart to more than 115 children. Over the years, Mary has consistently demonstrated her superior ability to care for our most needy children; especially those affected by HIV, prenatal drug-exposure, medically fragile, and developmentally delayed.

As Mary’s longtime weekly volunteer (and friend) Betty Key states, “Every child Mary Haynes has welcomed into her Casa de Esperanza home was fortunate indeed. She treated each child as if he/she were her own—with love, fun, safety, creativity, music, books, a healthy diet, an organized schedule, and a knowledge of just what that child needed. There are many adults in our society who had a good foundational beginning thanks to Mary. It has been a joy to volunteer in her house and I will miss her!”

Mary’s weekly volunteer (and friend) Corinne Spencer is quoted saying, I have been inspired and learned so much volunteering with Mary for the last several years. She has been a wonderful, loving foster mother to so many children, giving selflessly and tirelessly of herself and paying careful attention to their physical and emotional development. She has left a profound imprint on these children’s hearts and minds.”

Before coming to Casa de Esperanza, Mary served 13 years total as a federal firefighter; eight years in forest fire service and five years in military base structural fires. Sometime after, while searching for volunteer opportunities Mary found her calling here at Casa de Esperanza, nobly caring for our children that needed care the most. After volunteering at Casa de Esperanza for three years, in 1998 Mary moved to South Dakota to be a foster parent at a Native American boarding school for teenagers, before returning to Casa de Esperanza in 1999. In 2002, Mary’s journey of voluntarism led her to South Africa’s “Door of Hope” where she served for a year before returning to Casa de Esperanza. We were tremendously thankful for Mary’s return in 2003 and have been appreciative to have her working with us since.

Casa de Esperanza whole-heartedly agrees with Rita Wearden (weekly volunteer and friend) that, “Mary is an amazing woman; She’s someone that I look up to as a role model and I truly love her. Casa de Esperanza and Mary, have been a gift to my life.”

How does one keep themselves going after so many years filled with countless hello’s, and just as many good-bye’s? Mary humbly believes that her faith keeps her going. “I love it! It’s an amazing feeling when you have an innocent, fragile baby who you can’t help but love. It hurts to know that someone else is missing out on this beautiful child’s life; But being able to be that parent that our children need in those significant times of their life, is why I do it.” After 20+ years of service, Mary says that she will especially miss the cuddling, laughter, and smiles of the children here at Casa de Esperanza but knows that it is time that she returns to Alaska to now care for her mother.

From everyone at Casa de Esperanza, we send our gratitude and well wishes with the words of Kathy Foster, “Mary has been an incredible presence at Casa de Esperanza. Because of Mary many very involved and difficult children were able to find a home. With her quiet dedication, she inspired many volunteers and all of us, to continue giving even when it becomes very hard. Mary will be missed by all of us! Thank you, Mary, for your many, many years of caring for Casa de Esperanza’s children.”
Like us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/CasaDeEsperanzadelosNinos
www.facebook.com/CasaDeEsperanzaYoungProfessionals

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THANK YOU FOR HELPING US SERVE OUR COMMUNITY FOR 35 YEARS