

MARYWOOD messenger

July 1996



H I S T O R Y

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To raise money, the Ladies gave a garden party at the military encampment at Camp Mabry. And, because many sick soldiers were being cared for at Seton, Sister Rose recruited a military band to play for the Ladies of Charity fundraiser and to entertain the young veterans. The event was well attended and provided the \$800 down payment for a house on Salado Street. The balance due was \$3,000.

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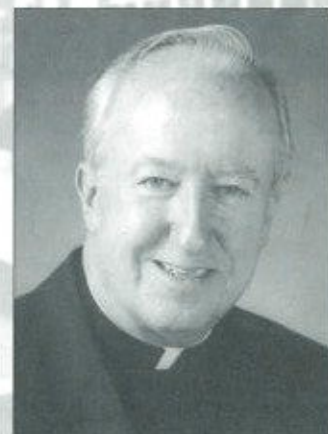
Choosing a name

We only know there was "much discussion" among the Ladies of Charity about a real name for the baby home. Mrs. Jud James, noted in records as "a convert", insisted on something reminiscent of Holy Childhood, and she must have been persuasive. Home of the Holy Infancy was born and continued to serve Austin's abandoned and neglected children. ♡



Fundraising in the 40's

Letter from the Bishop



Congratulations to Marywood for 75 years of service. As we begin the Diocesan Year of Service and look forward to the Diocese of Austin's 50th Anniversary, we join with Marywood in recognizing our commitment to the theme of the Diocesan Year of Service, "Communities of Salt and Light".

Now, more than ever, we all need to be a source of effective social action. During this Year of Service it is my greatest prayer that we can truly put our faith into action and be the "salt of the earth" and "light of the world."

Since 1921, Marywood has put faith into action and has helped generations of families find help, guidance and support and has, indeed, facilitated over "10,000 Miracles on 26th Street".

The Most Reverend John E. McCarthy, D.D.



Celebration in the 80's

Mark Your Calendars!!

To the Marywood Family:

Indeed it is a large and extended one!!! One which we are very proud and as we celebrate this 75th Anniversary, we welcome your "remembrances of things past". Please call, write or fax the details. We will be publishing a program for the weekend of festivities on September 7th and 8th.

This year's picnic, instead of being held in June, will be on September 7th at Marywood; it will combine our traditional Picnic activities along with a birthday celebration. There will be food, games, surprises and special commemorative T-shirts.

We will also have a special reception hosted by our 75th Anniversary Committee at Bishop McCarthy's home on September 8th. Maurice Quigley and Kathy Vermillion are co-chairs of this committee and members include: Monsignor William Broussard, Joe Kunec, Rod Coffin, and Julie Pastor.

As we said, mark your calendars! You will be hearing more as the event nears and we commemorate "75 Years of Miracles".

Jean Keas, Executive Director 


On the Road Again

Ray Kurtz, MSW, LMSW-ACP joined the staff in March 1996, as the agency therapist for our contract with the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services (DPRS) to provide counseling services in Lee, Bastrop and Fayette Counties.

Ray moved here from Houston in late 1995. He has experience as a psychotherapist with a wide range of client groups, including children and families in private practice. He has also worked in a community therapy center utilizing the expressive arts, counseled young cancer patients, and worked with persons with chronic mental illness in a psychosocial rehabilitation center.

The DPRS Counseling Contract began in September, 1995 when Marywood was awarded a contract to provide counseling and psychotherapy services to children in foster care. Ray will also counsel families experiencing emotional and psychological difficulties necessitating DPRS involvement, with a goal of in-home family preservation. He is presently seeing 35 clients.

Goals for the program include the continued provision of counseling and psychotherapy services for clients needing foster care, maternity care, adoption services, or post-adoption counseling.

A long-range goal for Marywood is to provide a full-range family counseling service center for this region as well as offering parenting education classes, educational outreach and consultation to community leaders, schools and churches. 



Maurice Quigley



MARYWOOD

"Miracles Happen on 26th Street"

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Margaret Baker
Anne Beeson
Tammy Broome
Rhonda Caffee
Carolyn Chamberlain
David Duffey
Beth Duke
Chris Edwards
Janet Fish
Samantha Fisher
LaVerne Flores
Ann Garrett
Don Higginbottom
Jean Keas
Elizabeth Kitowski
Ray Kurtz
Matt Limon
Sister Rose Ann McNamee
Barbara Martin
Katie Neese
Cindee Segal
Tina Toner
Dawn Wolf

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Amy Cavender
Tish Fitzgerald
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Isabel Morgan
Ellen Gutierrez
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Judge Boyd Patterson

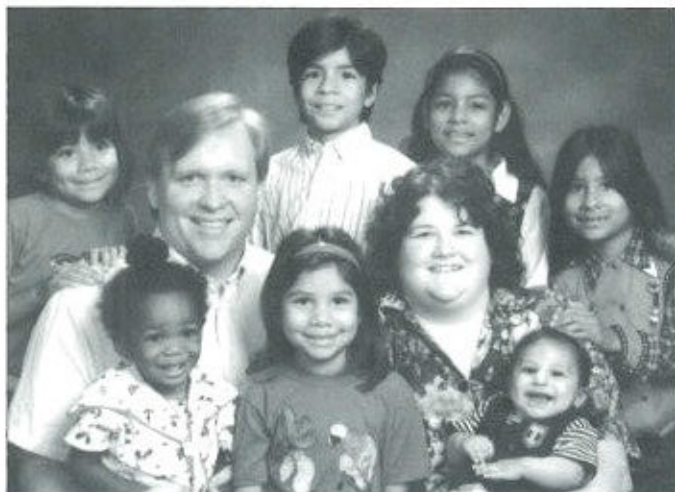
HONORARY MEMBERS:

Mr. Jerry Nugent
Most Rev. John E. McCarthy,
D.D.
Mr. Jack T. Brown
Mr. Jack Puryear
Mr. C. Lincoln Williston



"So, is seven enough?"!

Yes, they really are all ours!!



By now you have seen plenty of stories in newspapers, magazines and on television about adoptive couples who have been placed on lengthy waiting lists and have been forced to wait five to seven years to adopt a child. However, you might be encouraged to know that it doesn't always happen that way.

Our adoption story began in 1993, when we became the adoptive parents of a "ready-made" family that we had in foster care for two years; four girls and one boy, ages 9,8,7,5, and 4. Having already had the children in our home for so long, we thought we knew some of what we were getting into. And yet, each day seems to present something unexpected.

However, we realized that we had missed out on many of the early childhood memories that many parents cherish, so we decided to inquire at Marywood to see if it would be possible to add an infant to our quickly growing family. I must admit, I doubted if ANY adoption agency would take us seriously and feared that we would be placed at the bottom of any potential adoptive families' list, because of the size of our current family. We were greatly encouraged by Marywood's willingness to work with us and five months later Ashley was placed in our home.

About a year later, we were attending a placement ceremony for friends who adopted two children from Marywood's Kid Connection Program. While we were there, we mentioned we "might possibly" be interested in another child! Within six weeks of filling out the necessary paperwork Christopher Luke was placed in our home.

Both Ashley and Luke have been joyous additions to our family. The older children have become quite attached to both and we have been pleasantly surprised that there have been so few signs of sibling rivalry and jealousy.

So, is seven enough? Maybe, at least for now. We never thought we would have such a big family but so far each addition has just seemed like the "thing to do". There was a time when we were a bit self conscious about what other people might think about the number of children we have and about the racial mix. However, our friends and family have all been very supportive, which makes things much easier. So, if you should one day see us at the store or somewhere, I'll answer the question, before you even ask; "yes, they really are all ours!!"

John

"This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it."

Psalms

This verse rings true for Troy and me every day since December 21, 1995. For that was the day the Lord brought us our beautiful little angel, Brynton Matthew (Matthew meaning, "a gift from God").

In the midst of the hustle and bustle of holiday preparations, our case worker, who was completing the last portion of our home study mentioned that an "unusual situation" had come up in the past week. Marywood was looking to place a baby boy with a family that met the requirements of the birthmother. Troy and I were one of the families that could possibly meet those qualifications.

Excited, nervous, and unsure of what lay ahead, we quickly completed the finishing touches on the necessary paperwork. The next 24 hours brought very little sleep and a tremendous amount of prayer. Could this be the answer to everything we had



hoped and prayed for during the past five years? Does the birthmother see us as a loving and caring family who can provide the same for her child? Our lives could be just a phone call away from changing forever.

At 4:20 p.m. the following day the phone rang and provided us with the answers that had played over and over again in our minds. Through God's grace we were to become the proud parents of Brynton. That precious phone call has changed our lives and answered our prayers. Hereafter, every day with Brynton will be a celebration of love. We praise the Lord for giving the Marywood staff the grace to see the love we can provide a child. Miracles really do happen on 26th Street.

Troy & Kimberly

African American Adoption

Hello, my name is **Jamie Allen** and I am very excited about working with Marywood and Lutheran Social Services in recruiting families for the African American Adoption Program they co-sponsor.

As an adoptive parent through Marywood in February 1993, I feel I bring a personal and enthusiastic perspective to my position. I have been in the Austin area for about 19 years; first, as a student at the University of Texas and subsequently as a teacher in the Austin Independent School District.

Currently I stay busy with my three-year old Elise and as president of Marywood's Adoptive Families' Support Group. I look forward to working with Marywood, L.S.S. and families in the Austin community wanting to extend their family through adoption.



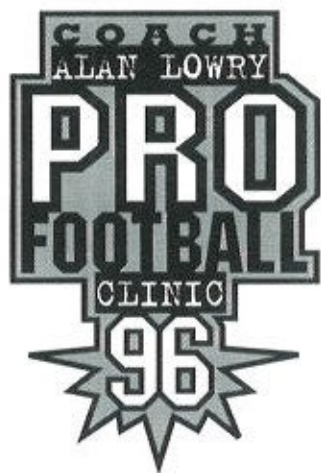
I will be recruiting families through the following methods:

- Churches
- African American Owned Businesses
- Fraternity and Sorority Alumni Groups
- Professional Organizations for African Americans
- Various Media Resources
- Placement of Informational Flyers in the Austin Area

If you have any questions or suggestions for the program, please contact me, **Jamie Allen** at 472-9251.

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FOOTBALL CLINIC by Scout Carr



More than 100 potential "pros" participated in our second annual **Coach Alan Lowry Pro Football Clinic** early Saturday, April 27. Boys – and girls – each donned colorful "big" T-shirts and made the rounds of stations for Quarter Backing, Defensive and Offensive Lines, Running and Defensive Backs, Wide Receiver/Tight-End and Kicking.

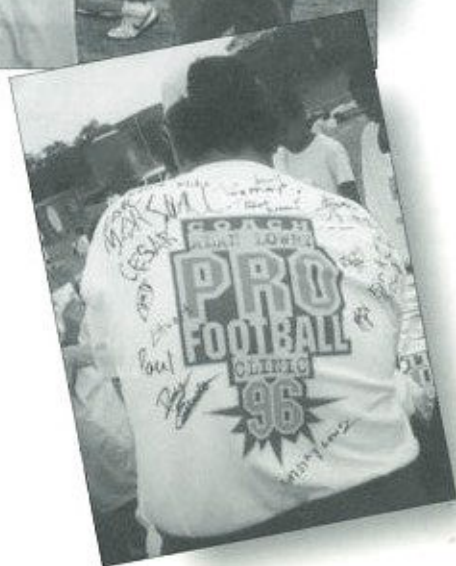
Lowry recruited an excellent coaching staff that included

Doug English, Doug Brien, who demonstrated his kicking skills during the break, **Bruce Scholtz, Ken Dabbs, Kevin Adams, Lawrence Sampleton, Leon Fuller and Jerry Seismore**. The T-shirts didn't look quite so big on them!

The cloudy, windy weather did not deter the 100-plus participants, as volunteers registered, cheered, worked the stations and served food and drink. Special thanks to **Jamie Allen, Scout Carr, Carolyn**

Chamberlain, Beth Duke, Marc English, our accomplished designer and photographer, **Janet Fish, John Gentry, Boyd Henry, Bill Largent and Joy Gamble** with a super team of **DARE** officers from the **Austin Police Department**.

Extra-special thanks to those who both provided scholarship support and worked the event: **Vern Ebert**, whose wife **Diane** could not attend, **Jalaane and Daniel Garza, Catherine and Devin Garza, Kathy and John**



THE SALT LICK

Wilczek, John Hudson and in-kind sponsor KUT's Betsy Pilkington.

Marybeth and Jeff Hubenback also contributed. Jeff's law firm of Liddell, Sapp, Zivley, Hill & LaBoon contributed, and he also was on hand to help. Other corporate sponsors were Heroes & Legacies, Norwest Banks and Celis Brewery. Additional scholarship sponsors were Delwood NE Optimist Baseball, Houston Young

Lawyers Association and Foundation, Gary McNeil, Seton Healthcare Network, Sprouse & Winn, Texas Commerce Bank and the Texas Catholic Conference. W.H. Crain, John Drolla, Jr., Paul Goertz, Dr. Ruth McCoy, Liz and Ted Scardamalia and Ken Wedemeyer also provided scholarship funding.

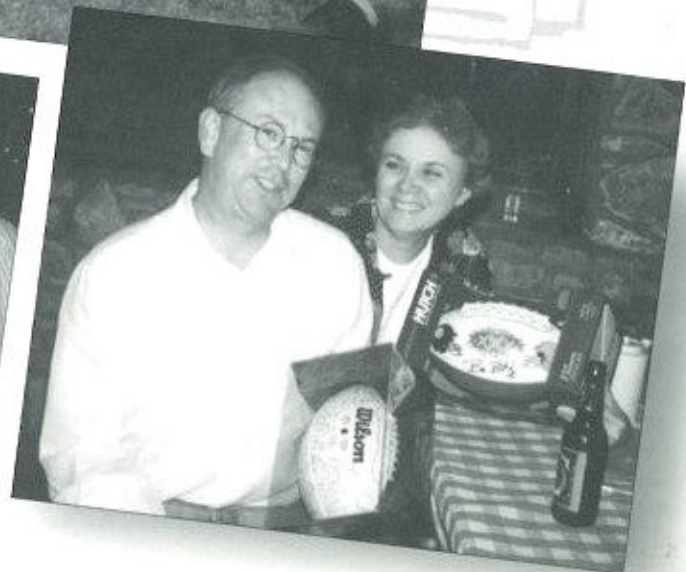
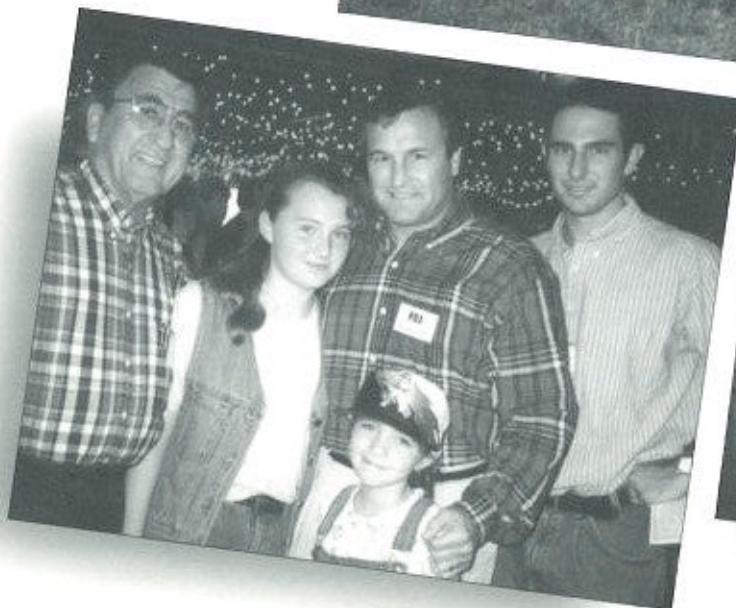
More thanks are due Capital Retro, Ginny's, Holiday Inn Town Lake and Randalls.

St. Edward's University donated the site, UT Athletic Department and Chip Robertson, the equipment, and Frosty Moore, M.D., provided his sports medicine expertise.

The Clinic benefits Marywood's Kid Connection, which matches "special needs" children with waiting families. Sponsorship also ensures each Pro Clinic participant is on scholarship. We know this positive experience makes a differ-

ence in the participants' lives.

To raise additional funds, and purely for fun, a barbecue dinner at the Salt Lick the evening before gave the coaches and friends of Marywood an opportunity to visit and "kick off" the Clinic. And, of course, donations for raffle tickets and T-shirt purchases were encouraged. Since Harvey and Pam Corn each won an autographed Super Bowl football, we're curious if they're using them as matching bookends! ♡





ISTORY OF MARYWOOD

In the beginning

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Marywood's first special event

To raise money, the Ladies gave a garden party at the military encampment at Camp Mabry. And, because many sick soldiers were being cared for at Seton, Sister Rose also recruited a military band to play for their first fundraiser, as well as the young soldiers. Attendance was exceptional and provided the \$800 down payment for a house on Salado Street. The balance due was \$3,000.

The original meeting had been in June; the "baby home" opened September 8, and because the Daughters of Charity were busy with their work at Seton, a matron oversaw operations of the facility. The Ladies charitably swept, dusted, washed and ironed, as well as lovingly bathed, dressed and fed the babies. Under the leadership of Mrs. Joseph F. Fischer, the many members of the O-WE-SEW Club made garments for the babies.

There is no record of numbers served, but by January the Seton Sisters installed nurses to help. The best news that month, however, came in the form of a large, official-looking envelope delivered by Sister Bernard. In it was a \$4,125 donation in memory of the Buckley family's mother. It marked the beginning of many generous donations from Seton patients and foster parents and was the impetus for the

Ladies of Charity to continue their mission.

Choosing a name

We know there was "much discussion" among the Ladies of Charity about a real name for the baby home. Mrs. Jud James, noted in records as "a convert," insisted on something reminiscent of Holy Childhood, and she must have been persuasive. Home of the Holy Infancy was born and continued to serve Austin's abandoned and neglected children.

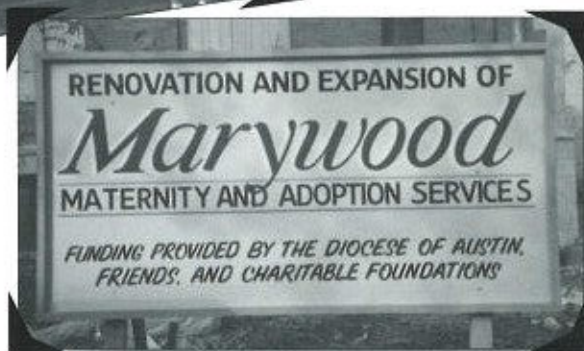
And up in flames

A nurse and neighbor prevented a fire in the summer of '23 from causing more than slight damage to the Home of the Holy Infancy. And although none of the babies was injured, the Ladies realized the need for a safer, larger – and better – facility. Edwin Kreisle drew plans that were submitted to Bishop Byrne of the Galveston Diocese, which, as of that time included Austin. The Bishop, unaware a full-time home was in operation, provided support that later included securing a \$35,000 donation from Mr. and Mrs. J.H. Phelan in Beaumont.

Ground was broken October 4, 1931, and the building was ready for occupancy May, 1932. At the dedication it was announced that the Phelans added \$5,000 to the original bequest. An eager new staff included three Daughters of Charity to assist in administering operations at the home, which was incorporated that year in September. The twenty babies in residence surely felt blessed.

Expanding and meeting needs

The home's original purpose, to provide foster care and placement



for adoption, changed throughout the years to include care for young women experiencing an unplanned pregnancy. There were times during the '50's the home also took care of mothers who were alone and ill, along with their children. And from 1958 to 1961, it served as a nursery for care of children of working mothers during the day and after school.

The earliest record of the home providing residential maternity care for a young woman was in 1927. By the '50's, this emphasis led to a greater demand for services. A new one-story brick building with a basement was added in 1956. Called St. Anne's, it accommodated 14 girls. Another nine could be housed in an apartment, called St. Elizabeth's. Within the decade, a second story was added to St. Anne's and new offices were added to the east end of the original building.

Again, a donor saved the day. Mrs. Herman Brown of Houston, who had been approached in the fall of 1963, made a bequest in her will to the Home of the Holy Infancy. When she died the following January, her \$50,000 legacy satisfied expansion debts. Now there

was a recovery room, library, kitchen, dining room and a conference room, in addition to living quarters for residents and the Sisters.

Programs also expanded as "licensed, high quality service." In 1960 there were four Sisters overseeing operations. By 1970 seven social workers joined the effort with professional salaries ranging from \$3.75 to \$4.55 per hour. Trends during the decade – legalized abortion, a revised state Family Legal Code, lower birth rates, inflation, lack of funding – caused many agencies in the state to close or to forego intake for adoptive applicants. Fort Worth lost the Volunteers of America home and agency as well as the Homestead Maternity facility. The Salvation Army in San Antonio discontinued services to unwed mothers.

Marywood adapts

To indicate changes in services and to increase awareness, the name of the home was changed to Marywood in 1977. Sister Rebecca, Director at the time, told the Austin American-Statesman the "wood" symbolized "a place of reflection, quiet, deep roots and life." Armed with a new charter, articles of



incorporation and by-laws, Marywood continued to grow. Early 1979 marked the initiation of major repairs to the facility. A new 30-day temporary admission plan boosted numbers of maternity clients.

Marywood celebrated its Diamond Jubilee in 1981 with its greatest number of adoptions in 20 years. Educational programs grew significantly and a total renovation was completed in 1986. Along with support from Seton and United Way, a \$500,000 challenge grant from the Mabee Foundation added to the success of Marywood's mission. By 1988 there was a new chapel, an arts and crafts room, exercise room staff lounge and maintenance shop – and capacity for 37 residents.

We are family

Evaluations of Marywood throughout its history acknowledge a "family atmosphere." After all, Marywood has brought together more than 5,000 families and has assisted more

than 10,000 birth and adoptive families. Records also include reference to the flexibility of the institution: "... history shows that at no time did staff shrink from innovations or new methods, and were always alert to demands made upon them ..."

The expansive range of programs at Marywood has not diminished its sense of family, or its flexibility. Over and above maternity, adoption, foster care and post-adoption services, Marywood continually strives to reach the community with educational programs. FLASH, for ages nine to 15, and other school presentations teach children how to make appropriate decisions about their sexuality. Adoption Information Meetings (AIM) are offered for prospective adoptive families. There also are in-service training sessions and workshops available.

Through TARGET (Teens At Risk: Getting Essentials Together), a 30-day residential program, Marywood offers young pregnant women practical information in

making choices that will improve their self-esteem and communications with their families. A two-year follow-up ensures clients receive relevant services, whether they choose to parent or place their child for adoption.

Future miracles

We expect Marywood will be a flexible family presence 75 years from now. And it will be because of support from people like you. This brief history was gleaned from on-hand information with benefit of the Austin History Center. We hope to hear from you to add to these archives.

Several key names have been mentioned, yet there are a host more who deserve recognition, such as Domingo Castillo, the maintenance man who provided construction skills, and George Zimmerman, Marywood's first attorney. His wife was an early treasurer of the Ladies of Charity, and with Mmes. Reilly, Fischer and Maloy, plus Mrs. O.L.

Koock, Mrs. Bill James and Mrs. L. A. Wilkening, among others, made the dream a reality. The Blakeslee and Buckley families are often mentioned.

The Paulist, Holy Cross and Jesuit Fathers were always helpful, and Seton's Daughters of Charity have been the foundation Marywood was built on. After Sisters Ursula and Bernard, a succession of support came from Sisters Clara Kuhn, Marina Foley, Jane Frances Bey and Sister Margaret Mary Bruns, AnnaLee and Mary William.

They and our many more supporters, past and present, know Marywood is not just about babies. It's about finding a home for each child; a place of comfort, support, permanence and love. A family. ♡

Scout Carr graciously agreed to review past historical documents, personal anecdotes, and other information from our "archives" in order to provide this abbreviated version of Marywood's history.

Fifty Years Ago by Cindee Segal

On many mornings and many afternoons, I have sat on the front step of Marywood, absorbing the world around me. Across the street, university students with backpacks slung over one shoulder or the other find their way in and out of the weather-worn condos that seem to change residents seasonally. At one point, a creaky metal gate rose and fell across the front of this complex, allowing expensive, parent-purchased vehicles to hastily enter and depart from the depths of the building until, on one too many occasions, it remained half-way up or half-way down and was finally removed.

On the other corner, a small, modest-looking brick apartment building sits, inhabited by students, as well, although their presence is not as pronounced. Buses round the intersection at ten-minute intervals, avoiding parked cars on the narrow streets and young twenty-somethings who inadvertently congregate anywhere a good conversation is likely to erupt.

Now I look at a photo taken of this corner fifty years before the UPS

and Federal Express trucks routinely drop off and pick up their goods and Ralph the cop issues tickets to unlucky drivers whose poorly thought-out cleverness finds them taking illegal shortcuts through the 7-11 parking lot.

There is a car out front of Marywood (then still known as Home of the Holy Infancy) with a Black man in a cap which indicates that he is the driver of the fine-looking automobile parked at the curb. He has a suitcase in his right hand as his left hand rests on the top of the partially-opened back door. A Sister in winged head dress has her hand up in a salute to a group of barefoot children, most of whom are cheerfully waving back.

The condos across the street don't exist yet, waiting for the tudor-style mansion which proceeds them to need major repair work and a developer's crafty eye to initiate its untimely demise.

The smaller apartment building across the street is still Fowler's Fine Foods, a grocery store with a metal Coca Cola sign nailed to the front of

it. One would imagine the owners of this establishment living upstairs, neighborhood chatter passing in and out of the front door and wafting through the open windows on the second floor in the evenings after their business has closed for the day.

Absent are the sleek and fast sports cars that now congest the area, driven by well-to-do high school graduates eager to enjoy the many fruits of their parents' labors during their sometimes brief college years, particularly if their intellectual pursuits fail to match their social passions.

On the back of the photo is handwritten in blue ink, "Sister Vincent departs for California," but as history will later reveal, she will return, or if she doesn't, Sister Martina will take her place and the young children, now placed in temporary foster



care, will return to their families to grow up and go on with their lives.

Once in a while, other children who were temporarily placed in foster care or placed in permanent adoptive homes, return to climb the front steps I frequently occupy and observe from, to fill in memories of weeks and months spent in the care of this agency. They will have vague unexplainable feelings of joy and curiosity associated with these memories. And, as they leave a second time, they may briefly catch a glimpse of these children from long ago, playing out front, bidding Sister Vincent goodbye, wondering what their own futures hold. ♡

P

OTPOURRI



Marywood's Therapeutic Foster Care

by Don Higginbottom

Where are we going? As I mull that question over and over again in my mind, I always come back to the clients that the program serves and the foster parents who are the key players in that program. In the next few paragraphs, I am going to attempt to tell you about the children in the program, the difficulties that we face in the future and the wonderful people that work with these children every day.

First, the children are with us because of injuries suffered at home through emotional, physical, and/or sexual abuse. Their age range is from infancy to 17 years old. They are from every ethnic and social background; abuse knows no boundary. Often, intensive counseling and medical care

are required. Their stay in foster care usually exceeds 6 months. Although each child's needs are many, we have met these challenges with a well-trained, motivated and caring staff. In addition to the staff, we have therapeutic foster parents, along with respite care providers and volunteers in the following cities: Austin, Jarrell, Bryan, College Station, Goldwaite, and Corpus Christi. The foster home provides a loving environment and the families provide encouragement and support to the children to help heal the hurt.

However, much more is needed. With the anticipated cut in federal funding to state agencies, additional volunteers and respite care providers will be needed. Our expansion into the Corpus Christi,

Bryan and College Station areas has also substantially increased the demand for these services.

Part of Marywood's expansion in foster care was made possible through generous grants from the Kathryn O'Connor Foundation and the John G. and Marie Stella Kenedy Memorial Foundation. It is our plan to add ten more foster homes this year. Contributions of time, talent and treasures are all needed to help with current and future needs. Donations of theater tickets, bowling excursions and other family oriented entertainment venues are always appreciated.

Let me end the article by providing a little personal information about the dedicated folks that provide foster care. They range in age

from 29 to 62. Each one is dedicated to making a difference in a child's life. Foster parents do this by spending long hours taking the children to doctor's appointments, school meetings, therapy sessions, and a multitude of other activities.

They spend weekend and evening hours in various training sessions. They deal with runaways, attempted suicides and devastating nightmares. They also share the joy any family faces when one of their foster children graduates, attends college, or successfully meets any challenge.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the families and you for your support, encouragement and for the commitment to help provide a brighter future for children in foster care. ♥

Annalee House Celebrates Cultural Diversity

With the blending of such a diverse population, the staff and residents have begun to celebrate and create an atmosphere of appreciation for each person's heritage. The children and their mothers have planned and prepared meals and activities to better understand important traditions in each resident's background.

The first such celebration involved attending an African musical called "African Delight", and having a dinner emphasizing a more southern tradition of cooking, which included fried chicken, corn bread, yams, and collard greens. Next came a children's Easter Egg hunt with colorful baskets and candies. Most recently

they celebrated "Cinco de Mayo" and had an Hispanic birthday party, with the children attempting to crack open a brightly colored piñata star. ♥



MARYWOOD
"Miracles Happen on 26th Street"
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