

Hope comes in small packages.

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KIDZ HARBOR

She sat at the conference table, trying to block out the noises of the evening routine in the crowded hallway and staring silently at the algebra review sheet that stood between her and the coveted “online time” on the computer she shares with twenty others.

“I can’t wait until I get to go home,” she whispered, “I can’t concentrate with all that nonsense going on.” A slight tilt of her head in the direction of the den outside the door just as, “Kaylie, shower time!” echoed in the corridor prompted her friend Charmayne to leave her math homework long enough to get up and close the door.

“God has a reason for you to be here, Donna,” Charmayne said confidently as she returned to her place at the makeshift “homework center.” “God has a plan

for us at Kidz Harbor, or else we wouldn’t be here.”

“There’s no plan for me.” The despair was evident in Donna’s voice, and her brown eyes filled with tears.

“Take me, for instance,” Charmayne continued. “I was all set to graduate from high school from my foster parents’ home. I’ve been there two years, and they wanted me to stay until I went away to college next fall. But then my foster mom’s mother, who lives in Jamaica, got sick and needed extra care. So my foster mom had to go live there...and just like that, I was back in the system. Two days later, here I was at Kidz Harbor. So I figure God must want me here.” She shrugged, “

A lot of things had to happen by surprise for me to end up someplace I never thought I’d be. I think that unless God wanted me here, He would have arranged for me to stay at my foster parents’ house for the next year or so. But He didn’t. So there must be something here He wants me to do.”

“You make it sound like a good thing,” Donna murmured, shaking her head and looking at Charmayne like she had lost her mind.

“Not a good thing for me right now—but a God thing, so it’s going to turn out good,” Charmayne reasoned. “I believe God has a plan for me, and that’s why everything is going to be all right. And even if you don’t know it now, God does have a plan for you.”



“Right now, all I want to do is learn how to solve a system of linear equations,” Donna moaned.

“I guess we could ask God about that, but since the tutor’s right here, let’s just let her help us this time,” Charmayne smiled and picked up her pencil, tackling the task at hand, but understanding that

the most important mission had already been accomplished—planting a seed of faith in the heart of one of God’s children.

Her eyes met those of her tutor in silent agreement. The seed would be watered with prayer—after homework hour, of course!



Kidz Harbor offers a temporary Shelter that provides emergency shelter to abandoned, abused and neglected children ages birth thru 18 residing in the State of Texas. We also have a Therapeutic group home that provides a permanent place to thrive for Texas children ages 12-18. We are licensed by The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.

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Cousins by birth, Angie Colbert and Sharon Beard share a bond that extends far beyond natural kinship. Since 2003, they have touched the lives of countless children, reflecting the love of a compassionate Heavenly Father by offering food, clothing, guidance and family-like companionship in a nurturing and loving environment. Their caring responses to the needs of the young people they serve is affirmed by the hugs and friendly banter with which they are greeted each day at Kidz Harbor.

What you will hear is Sharon bragging on one of her long-term “kidz” who is studying hard for final exams. Or Angie comforting an eight-year-old who misses his mother and can’t stop crying. What you will hear is excitement about the small gains the young people make each day and gratitude for the opportunity to mirror God’s love to those who may never have felt it before.



There is never a dull minute at Kidz Harbor, but because of the dedicated efforts of Angie, Sharon, and their team members, every need is met with professionalism and “TLC.” Their compassionate responses smooth the rough edges of lives wracked by the effects of unspeakable abuse, neglect and adversity. Eventually, peace replaces fear, despair fades, and



Together, Angie and Sharon manage the Harbor, an emergency and long-term shelter for children and



teens whose living conditions have become dangerous or otherwise unacceptable. They not only provide the basic needs, but also address the educational, emotional, physical and social needs of

the residents. Sleepless nights, hard-working days, and long hours in prayer for their ever-growing “family” are the norm, but you will never hear them complain.

hope begins to shine its light in the minds and hearts of the very special young people who call Kidz Harbor “home.”

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Angie and her husband of twenty-nine years, Bruce Colbert, are the parents of eight girls—three biological, three adopted and two foster daughters. For many years, Angie’s love for children—and her burden to help those who were less fortunate—was readily apparent. She has served as a Sunday School teacher and a youth leader at church, volunteered in the classrooms of Danbury Independent School District, and managed several day care centers in the greater Houston area. In 1991, Angie and Bruce became active in a foster care program known as the Arrow Project and since that time have opened their hearts and home to more than twenty-two children.



In 2002, Angie's father, Reverend Jim Green, suggested that Angie and Bruce expand their capacity for touching the lives of young people by opening an emergency shelter for CPS placement. A year later, the Jim H. Green Kidz Harbor opened its doors, and a Green family dream was realized. Today, the Harbor regularly serves more than 60-70 children each month, and plans are underway for an expansion that will allow access for 25 more.

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When Sharon Beard previewed the original plans for Kidz Harbor, shared with her by her cousin Angie Colbert, she agreed that this seemed to be an open door of opportunity—for her cousin. She had listened with great respect as Angie's father, her uncle, had voiced his dreams of opening this type of ministry, and she had supported Angie's dream to be involved from the ground level. Working in a local doctor's office, however, and a devoted wife and mother of two very active and motivated young people, she had her own life. Sharon felt strongly that support from the sidelines would be her role with respect to the Harbor. Little did she realize in those earliest stages that God had other plans for her life!

The idea of ministering full time to young people who needed not only a place to feel safe and to have their basic needs of food and shelter met, but also an introduction to a God who loved them and could make an enduring difference in their lives began to wedge itself deeply into her heart. By the time the Harbor opened, she had resigned her position with the group of physicians to become the business manager for the fledgling home for abused and neglected children. With the support of her husband Wayne and their two children, Sharon has given selflessly for seven years. She serves as the liaison with local schools, Children's Protective Services and related governmental entities, and parents of the residents of Kidz Harbor, among many other duties. She now feels that partnering with Angie to ensure professional and nurturing care for the kids they serve, was God's plan for her life from the beginning.

## Volunteer Spotlight



**Lori Saia**

It is a joy and a pleasure to work with the staff and kids at Kidz Harbor. What an amazing place! I am blessed not only to be able to volunteer there myself, but my job as Director of Communication & Outreach at First United Methodist Church, Pearland, allows me to be able to bring lots of friends with me! We have been helping at Kidz Harbor since September of 2009, and it has truly been a blessing. Our volunteers have cleared the brush from the bayou behind the Harbor to create a beautiful view, provided a Halloween party, Christmas stockings, and started the process of renovating a group home on the property. We plan to continue to volunteer at Kidz Harbor for a long time.

THANK YOU, LORI



# The Gift of Time

One of the most valuable resources for Kidz Harbor is the gift of time.

Committed volunteers are vital to making a difference in the lives of each child. Whether it is a "one-time" project or an on-going commitment, Kidz Harbor needs you. Please take a moment and see where you could provide support. Here are just a few of the many opportunities to donate your time to Kidz Harbor.

## Food Bank Collection

Kidz Harbor desperately needs volunteers to commit to picking up supplies from the Houston Food Bank. Food is collected every two weeks.

## Clerical Support

There is an on-going need for help in filing, shredding and organizing in the Kidz Harbor offices.

## Maintenance

Once again this is an on-going need. Volunteer opportunities include the following: power-washing, minor facility repairs, trash removal, painting and pool maintenance.

There are so many areas of service available at Kidz Harbor. We need your support!!

Kidz Harbor is a Non-Profit 501C 3 Organization - Contributions are Tax Deductible



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