

# H.I.S. House Residents and Mentors in the News!

by Lisa Pacheco

## Success Story: Herman and Tina

*“Challenge yourself every day to do better and be better. Remember growth starts with a decision to move beyond your current circumstances.”*

*Robert Tew*

Former *H.I.S. House* residents, Herman and Tina, along with their daughter, Jasmine, have been happily ensconced in their new residence in Anaheim for the last year. However, things were not always so great; they struggled four long years to make this dream a reality.

During the time they spent at *H.I.S. House*, Herman was working on completing his court ordered drug and domestic counselling, which he has now finished. Herman is now working part-time in the construction industry, and he has taken on the role of maintenance manager at their apartment complex.

Tina is also employed. She has been working for more than a year at a telemarketing firm, and she hopes to move into a management position soon. According to her *H.I.S. House* mentor, Jo-Anne, “Tina is definitely the ‘rock’ of the family and is doing a terrific job remaining a steady and stable influence for her family.”

The family credits the rigorous *H.I.S. House* program and the support of their resident mentor for giving them the advantage they needed to realize the successes they have today. Today, life is good, and they are now enjoying their well-earned place in the sun.

**Jo-Anne, Tina, Sherman and Jasmine at the La Brea Tar Pits in Los Angeles**



## Zoot Velasco Visits H.I.S. House Residents and Mentors!



On Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, Zoot Velasco, director of the Muckenthaler Cultural Center, spoke at the monthly *H.I.S. House* Dinner and a Mentor event, and he “wowed” us.

Before Zoot Velasco began a career in non-profits, he was a break dancer and dabbled in the world magic. While he didn’t break out dancing for us, he did regale us with some magic tricks, which kept us guessing and entertained us.

After his magic show, Zoot went on to speak about his career in non-profits. He spoke excitedly about the art gallery, classes offered at *The Muck*, and all of the exciting events and performances offered throughout the year, all of which he gets to be a part of. He told us that promoting art and culture and keeping the history of Fullerton alive is what *The Muck* is all about and he emphatically stated, “I have the best job in the world, and I love what I do. What could be better? I get to work at a mansion every day.”

Zoot closed his talk by strongly urging *H.I.S. House* residents to pursue a career in the field of non-profits, a career he feels they would be perfectly suited for because of the challenges they have faced. He said that they could bring compassion and understanding to the clients they serve, and that is something much needed in world we live in today.

## H.I.S. House Resident Chris Reunites with His Son

Social media is connecting people like never before, and Chris’s reunion with his son is proof positive of that.

About a month ago, Chris found his son’s, Kail’s, profile on Facebook. Over twenty years had elapsed since he last saw his son, but he never lost sight of the hope one day that he would reunite with him. Facebook made that hope a reality. When Chris found Kail on FB, he decided to message him. Kyle just happened to be on FB at the same time, and responded immediately with one word, “Dad?”

The rest is history. Since that time, Chris and his younger son—Max, have visited Kail in San Diego. Chris told me that he is communicating with his son regularly and wants to maintain a relationship with him. This is definitely a story with a happy ending. Thanks for sharing, Chris!



## H.I.S. House Summer Celebration Luncheon

Anaheim White House  
Monday, June 15th @ 11:30  
\$50.00 per Person  
Seating is Limited  
Call (714) 996-7148 for tickets

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