

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

by Lisa Pacheco

## Success Story: Travis and Veronica

*“Success is falling nine times and getting up ten.”*

*Jon Bon Jovi*



Life is a journey. The road we travel can be full of twists and turns, and sometimes we can be thrown off course. Travis and Veronica know that all too well. They have faced many challenges together, but now, thanks to the help of *H.I.S. House*, the bumps in the road are smoothing out and the future is looking very good for them.

One of the greatest challenges Travis and Veronica have faced is the battle to regain custody of their daughter, Trynity. They had been fighting their case for two years and still had not been granted custody. According to Veronica, what made the difference was being accepted as residents of *H.I.S. House*. “It changed our lives. The staff trusted and believed in us. The program helped us to become more responsible parents.”

After six months at the house—on August 6<sup>th</sup>, the courts terminated their case and granted them full custody of Trynity, and they couldn’t be more grateful. Veronica states, “After two and a half years, we were finally successful. We now are a happy family completely reunited.”

The next step is moving into their own place, which they have already secured. On August 16<sup>th</sup>, they will move to their own apartment. Travis says, “This time, we got it right.” We couldn’t agree more. Congratulations on your success Travis and Veronica! We wish you all the best.

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## Dean Cassidy: She’s Mentored Everybody!



Anyone who knows Dean Cassidy knows that she is passionate about helping the homeless, and she’s not afraid to talk about it. When I asked her how many people she has mentored over the years, she laughed and answered, “Everybody!”

Dean has been a part of the *H.I.S. House* mentoring program since the beginning. The program started in 1996, and she was instrumental in getting it going. Over the years, Dean has been very active in outlining the program’s content and recruiting new mentors. When I asked her why she has stayed with it so long, she said, “I have a sense of ownership in the program. My heart goes out to all the homeless, and I really care about helping them.”

One of the reasons that Dean feels so strongly about the program is because she experienced poverty in her childhood, so she understands the difficulties that the residents are facing. In reality, she says she’s actually mentored about sixteen residents. One that stands out in her memory is Joanne Corbin. “I was very involved with that family. I took the kids to school, aided Joanne in finding work, and even helped the family settle into their new home when they left the house. We stayed in touch for many years.”

Presently, Dean serves on the *H.I.S. House* Board of Directors; however, at the end of this year she is stepping down due to health issues. She told me, “It’s time I retire.”

Dean, we know your heart will always be with *H.I.S. House* and its mission, and we thank you for your many years of service.

**STOP WAITING FOR  
THINGS TO HAPPEN  
GO OUT & MAKE  
THEM HAPPEN**

## Kathy Gary: New Mentor!

Kathy Gary likes helping people, which makes her a perfect woman for the job!

Kathy is a member of the Placentia Women’s Round Table. She says, “I have only been part of the club for a year, and I am still learning about how it works, but I want to become a lot more involved as time goes on.”

Kathy also volunteers at the Placentia Police Department. She told me, “The police department is trying to go paperless, so I have spent hours and hours scanning records for them.” Recently, Placentia honored her with the Presidential Service Award for her commitment to the project.

She is also a member of CERT (Community Emergency Response Team), an organization that responds to emergency disasters and accidents in the area.

We’re happy to have you on board, Kathy!



*Have a H.I.S. House success story to share? Contact Lisa Pacheco at [dbhspacheco@yahoo.com](mailto:dbhspacheco@yahoo.com).*