



GRACEWOOD
A Children At Heart Ministry

Sowing Seeds of Hope for Single Mothers and their Children

For single mothers in Houston, Gracewood is a beacon of hope. And Gracewood's light is getting even brighter.

Construction of a new residence in the Spring Branch area of Northwest Houston is nearly complete, as is expansion at the original Gracewood campus in Southwest Houston. Work begins this summer on a second Spring Branch residence.



That means Gracewood's capacity to serve motivated single mothers and their children will increase from four to eighteen, giving them an opportunity to build essential life skills, improve self esteem and promote spiritual, physical and emotional well-being.

For single mothers committed to building better lives for themselves and their children, Gracewood is a God-sent opportunity for their future.

We invite you to be part of the success stories being created at Gracewood.

Here's an easy way to help: Turning a house into a home for Gracewood moms and children means providing some of the necessities of everyday living, from toys to trash cans, from towels to utensils, and much more.

Items small, medium and large are needed. That's why we created gift registries at Target, Bed Bath & Beyond and JCPenney. Visit Gracewood's Web site www.gracewood.org and click on the GoodShop link at the top of the page to find out details.

Help Us Share the Gracewood Story

You can also help us bring the stories of Gracewood moms and children to your church, Sunday School class or Life Group, civic organizations, businesses groups and others. For more information call:

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Gracewood = Success

Since 2001, Gracewood has provided a spiritual, physical and emotional helping hand to hundreds of single mothers and their children. Their success stories are evidence of the seeds that have been planted.

Here are just a few of them.



***Veronica** is a native of the Central African Republic of Cameroon, where she attended the university for three years to study education. Her husband died not long after they moved to the U.S. and she wound up in Houston. Referred to Gracewood by a local church, Veronica has worked hard to provide for her family. With the help of a Children At Heart Foundation scholarship, the first awarded to a Gracewood mom, she will soon become a respiratory therapist.



Elizabeth was near the end of her college education and was student teaching when marital conflict caused her to move from her home to Gracewood. She finished her education and found a full-time teaching position. As Elizabeth met with Gracewood counselors, her husband also began meeting with a counselor. It wasn't long before Elizabeth reconciled her marriage and moved her family home. Today, Elizabeth has a successful teaching career and a healthy marriage and family.



Linda, a Marine, met her husband while he served in the Army. After they married, her husband became terribly controlling. When Linda and her children moved to Gracewood, because of her military training she was very motivated to be on her own supporting her family. Within two months, Linda found a wonderful job, saved money, bought a car and was able to become independent again. Today, Linda has finished her college degree in South Carolina and is a practicing radiology technician.



Mary had a good job with a company whose only customer was Enron. When Enron collapsed, she was laid off and soon exhausted her savings. At Gracewood, Mary found a new job and replenished her savings account. After only six months, she and her two boys left us to move into an apartment. Eventually, with a small short-term loan from Gracewood, she bought a condo, giving her and her two sons a permanent home. Today Mary is the one offering help. She wants to volunteer and pass on the benefits she found through Gracewood.



Deidrea was born in China, moving to the U.S. when she married an American soldier. After he abandoned her and their son in Houston, she came to Gracewood. With limited English skills, finding a job was difficult, but Gracewood connected her to a Chinese-speaking counselor and she was able to find a job with an import/export company. Today, Deidrea has improved her English, has a job in computer programming, has learned to drive and owns a car.



Helen and her three children shared a home with her mother and four nieces and nephews. A disagreement with her mother led to Helen's being asked to move out. She couldn't afford a home of her own, so she and her kids began sleeping on friends' couches. Before long, Helen was referred to Gracewood. Since she's lived at Gracewood, she has experienced spiritual renewal and was awarded her GED, and has now completed her third semester at Houston Community College.

* Client names have been changed