



**Grandma's Place**

# Children Matter



Grandma's Place, Inc. Newsletter • Volume 1 • Issue 2

## Success Spotlight!

By Louise Taggart

When Sgt. Thomas (not his real name) was sent to Iraq, he left his wife and 3 children behind. Unfortunately, all three children suffer with Autism Spectrum Disorder. The oldest, a six year old girl, Clarissa, was so severely autistic she was unable to speak or communicate in anyway. None of the children, including a son age 5 and daughter age 4, had been potty trained because of their autism. Sgt. Thomas's wife was quickly overwhelmed trying to care for the children on her own, and the courts removed the children from their home on charges of neglect.

After receiving the children, Grandma's Place worked with authorities to advocate for the mother to have visitation. She visited daily after work, helping bathe her children and serve them dinner. Grandma's Place arranged for therapy for Clarissa five days a week. After nearly a year of therapies, Clarissa began to communicate! Being able to understand, she now learned quickly to use the bathroom.

Sgt. Thomas returned from Iraq and also participated in visitation. He took his children to the park, the movies, and McDonalds. Soon, Clarissa was returned by the courts to live with her parents while her two siblings remained at Grandma's Place receiving therapies. Just recently, these two little ones were also released by the courts to live with their parents once again! Grandma's Place and the Thomas's reached their goal of family unity. ❤️

## Thank You to Our Generous Donors!

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The mission of Grandma's Place, Inc. is to provide shelter and loving care to children who have suffered abuse and/or neglect and have been removed from their own homes by the Florida Department of Children and Families.



# Volunteers Make A Difference

South Florida ADT Security Services team members rolled up their sleeves on Aug. 17 to beautify the grounds at Grandma's Place in Royal Palm Beach, spreading new topsoil and laying new sod to create a more attractive area for the children to play outdoors. They also painted the exterior of the house and painted benches. Board members, staff, and volunteers from the community pitched in to help as well.

The day of service coincided with the company's 139th birthday and the launch of its community service program, ADT Always Cares. The goal of ADT Always Cares is to positively impact charities that protect vulnerable populations.

"We are so grateful for the time and caring these volunteers give to the children", said Jackie Alvarez, COO at Grandma's Place. "Our home looks clean and beautiful thanks to their efforts."

Other recent renovations to our home include repairs to the fencing to help make the yard safer, a new drinking fountain for the children, security cameras, and a new air conditioning unit.







## Grandma's Team



Silvia Pagan has cared for each child that has come through the doors at Grandma's Place since 2005. Although she lives in Miami, she leaves her home every Saturday at 5am to arrive in Royal Palm with a smile on her face. Staying with our little ones around the clock all weekend, she doesn't leave until Sunday at 7 pm to make the long journey home. Silvia is always enthusiastic and loving – the children call her "Mamacita." She enjoys cooking for the children, sometimes making her favorite Latin dish, arroz con pollo. We are so fortunate to have Silvia Pagan on the Grandma's Place team! ❤️

### **SALLY CHESTER Joins Grandma's Place Board of Directors!**

Grandma's Place is pleased to announce that Sally Chester has joined its board of directors. Sally has a passion for the well-being of children and strives to make a positive impact in their lives. With over 35 years of experience in nursing and healthcare, Sally is a true champion of our community, its families, and children in need. Chester received her bachelor of science degree at Nursing Hartwick College in Oneonta, N.Y., and her master's degree in health education from Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale

### **Grandma's Rolls Out New Logo**



Grandma's Place is introducing its new logo! Our logo has been a constant presence since the time we started Grandma's Place. Back then, we were so busy building our home and caring for the children, that the original graphic came about on the spur of the moment. Since then, we have been asked by many visitors how the mushroom design came to be. We had to answer, in all honesty, "It just is."

Our new logo, conversely, was designed with the input of our entire board of directors, and given a great deal of thought. The idea was that this graphic representation should embody who we are and what we do at Grandmas Place. Today's logo graphic is a colorful representation of our home, the children we serve, and all the love we give – and get!

*Save the Date!*

March 14, 2013  
for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual

*Evening of Great Expectations*

Bert & Diana Firestone – Honorary  
Chairs

at the

International Polo Club Palm Beach

*See you there!*

Grandma's Place  
184 Sparrow Drive  
Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411



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