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The retreats are typically held twice a year in the spring and fall. The fall retreats help sustain our youth throughout the school year and the spring retreats help prepare them for the summer months. The retreats are a time for our students to connect with God on a much deeper level away from the distractions, danger, and threats of their community. The staff spends time prayerfully and strategically preparing for each retreat so that our youth can truly escape and be ready to face life challenges knowing that they have a loving and all-powerful God ready to be involved in their lives when they open their hearts to Jesus.

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HELP SUPPORT INNER CITY YOUTH

CELEBRATE THE HOUSE DC’S 19TH ANNIVERSARY

SAVE THE DATE

September 28, 2018

Stay tuned for more information.
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**Cheers to Grandma!**

This past May, The House held its annual Mother’s Day Celebration. Over the years, we have seen a number of incredible grandmothers who are the sole providers for their grandchildren and Ms. Gracie* is a wonderful example.

Ms. Gracie is raising her grandson Tony*, a joyful young man who is always smiling. Although many of our youth cannot afford to buy gifts for their moms, grandmothers, aunts, or caregivers, we had a wide variety of arts & crafts that the students could make to give as a gift.

Tony’s grandfather died last August, and Tony shared that following his death, the family went without electricity for the entire 2017 - 2018 school year. Ms. Gracie never gave up her faith in God and would tell her grandson to trust God because things would work out. Although we did not know about the electricity, which has now been restarted, we did, however, know about their difficulty with food, and every night we not only fed Tony, but we sent a plate home to his grandmother, as well. Even on the days we were closed, extra plates were prepared for them to have a meal.

Tony proudly exclaim, “if any of the kids think there isn’t a God, I will show them how great He is!”

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**A Father’s Journey of Forgiveness & Understanding**

In a recent mailing, we shared a heart-wrenching story about Chante*, who had her child taken away from her by the child’s father. It was a violent situation. The child’s father was told that he would never be allowed to see his child and, in desperation, felt his only option was to confront Chante and take the child.

With her help, her child was returned and the father was extremely remorseful about his actions, which were actually driven by his intense love for his child and feelings of helplessness. Despite the stereotypes about young African-American fathers, in our 19-year history at The House, we have not encountered one young father who did not want to help or support his child. Unfortunately, even though they desire to be good fathers, many of our young men did not grow up with a father in the home, and therefore, did not learn what it means to be one. At the same time, many of our young women also didn’t grow up with a father in the home, and don’t understand and value the role that a father brings.

Co-parenting and the role of fathers are two of the main subjects we discuss in our Parenting Class. We work with our single parents to provide them with skills to effectively co-parent for the benefit of their children and themselves. We also pair them with mentors to help them navigate life as parents.

Through our intervention, Chante has not only been reunited with her son, but she and the child’s father have also reconciled as friends. The father is very embarrassed about his actions and has not felt comfortable enough to come to The House, however, he regularly talks with us on the phone to share his concerns and desires for his son. He also allows us to counsel both he and Chante on the phone. We are counseling him about the important role he has in his son’s life and his behavior.

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*Dear God I want to say thank you for getting my mom out of a bad situation when we were homeless. You were there when we needed you the most.*

*Dear God I want you to wrap your hands around my dad please. I know that no one helps.*

*Thanks for keeping me out of a difficult situation when I started going to Kramer Middle School.*

*I want to pray for my family and friends and keeping me safe and keeping food on the table.*

*I’m going to start off by saying since I have been born it’s been a disaster. Anything I ever prayed for never happened. If it isn’t time yet or what, I will never stop believing in you.*

*Making Gifts for Mother’s Day*

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The night ended with Kia’s mom in tears, thankful for being able to forget about their tough life even for just a moment. She took photos and wanted to post them online to judge her or her child. We are grateful to be able to serve Kia and her mom for the next four years of high school and to continue showering them with the love and compassion Jesus has shown us.

Long before prom night, The House had been helping Kia with food and clothing. Her mom shared how they had never had the kind of support they received from The House and because of what The House has done, Kia is looking forward to going to high school and to continue showering them with the love and compassion Jesus has shown us.

THE HOUSE DC

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NEWS FROM

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