



Recently an email was sent to me from a past resident. I wanted to share it with you:

*When I was twelve my life was filled with chaos, hurt and pain, then I came to Open Arms. I never thought it would become my home for the next eight years but it was praise God! Moving to Open Arms Miriam Home was the best thing that ever happened to me. When I moved to Open Arms I was taught many things. I never really knew love until the caring staff showed me what love really meant. Don't get me wrong, there were times I didn't want to be there but I didn't always know what was best for me. It wasn't always easy to be there, it was a struggle the whole way but it was worth the struggle. The relationships you develop with staff help your journey be so much easier. I recall one staff member who got me through more than I believed I could handle. They believed in me and how much potential lay inside of me, which is exactly what I needed. The Youth Care Specialists open their arms and their hearts to girls who need it most. Girls come to Open Arms with nothing but heartache and leave with more love than they have felt in their whole life. For me personally, I can say through all the years I struggled I always had Open Arms there to fall back on and help me get through whatever situation was weighing me down. Still today I have great relationships with many of the staff from Open Arms. I guess I still feel I can fall back and count on them if a need were to arise. As a young adult with a child of my own I can do nothing but thank them. Open Arms changed my life from the destructive path I was heading down to a life with hope and a future.*

We live in a time and culture where we witness broken bodies, broken minds, broken hearts, broken lives and broken relationships. Many children and youth, like this young woman, come to Open Arms with a life filled with brokenness, chaos, hurt and pain. They are scared and confused as to what their future holds. All of this brokenness leads to more brokenness and pain unless there is an intervention that brings new hope and healing. At Open Arms we want to be the best thing that ever happened to each child that comes to us. We want to be there and hold them through whatever life is throwing at them at such a young age.

Although not all who come to us will contact us and let us know the difference this ministry has made in their lives, we are confident that whosoever darkens our doors are given the same opportunity to experience family like relationships, love, support and an offering of a potential life filled with hope. Jeremiah 29:11 says, "I know what I'm doing. I have it all planned out—plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for (The Message). God knows what He is doing. He has a plan for each child and we know that God will continue to use Open Arms as a means to His method. Thank you for your interest in this ministry and HIS kids.

Marty