

ALL-STAR FOSTER PARENTS

Hosanna Herald

A publication of Hosanna

It's not easy parenting an infant: they can't tell nighttime from daytime, they care nothing for tidiness, and they leak from both ends. But it's a lot more difficult to parent an infant that's not your own. Twice though, all-star Hosanna foster parents Jason and Janelle Holbrook have made the sacrifice of pouring out parental love on babies they knew they would not be raising.

This couple "truly exemplifies ministry," says Hosanna Social Work Director Rhonda Hawley. Jason, who works for General Electric, and Janelle, who teaches in a private school, are still in their twenties and have only been married for two years, but their hearts show a profound care for others. While most young couples pour their energy into building a home and a future for themselves, Jason and Janelle demonstrate the Christian awareness that it's not all about them. They've got everything going for them, yet they give so much away, which is exactly what it takes to be an all-star. Their little foster girl entered into their home at only four months old; their little



foster boy they picked up straight from the hospital. Immediately lavishing on these children tremendous parental love, like all parents, they filled their

camera with pictures taken from every possible angle in every imaginable pose. Nurturing and welcoming, Jason and Janelle's own parents got involved and fit right in to the grandparent role. Their social worker, Rhonda, simply calls them a "phenomenal family."

The real test of a foster family that cares for infants, however, comes in the delicate

balance between functioning like caring biological parents, and the reality that the foster child is not their own. In fact, as is always true in foster care, the parenting is temporary; the plan is always to reunite the biological family. This may be where this San Jose couple shine the brightest. While the departure of a foster child is always tremendously emotional for the foster parent, the Holbrooks have never been covetous or clingy. Their hopes and prayers are always for reunification. Regularly, the Holbrooks have gone the extra mile (literally and figuratively) to



facilitate birth family visitations, and this love has shown in a surprising way. The birth parents love the Holbrooks so much, that the mother of the baby girl has asked Jason and Janelle to be her godparents! Nothing could be greater evidence of foster care done well. Hosanna celebrates the true ministry heart of Jason and Janelle Holbrook, true all-star foster parents.

It is, nevertheless, a glaring reality that Hosanna needs more than one all-star to make up an all-star team. This article doesn't feature the other all-star Hosanna parents, but the team still needs to grow, and we are confident there are more all-stars waiting to be discovered. Could it be you? Give our scouts a call to find out what it takes to join the team of all-star foster parents: 1-800-DEAR-KID.

Inside This Issue	Page
All-Star Foster Parents	1
Change is Certain	2
House Dedication	2
Meet Your Hosanna Staff	3
News from the Barn	3
On-Going Needs	4

CHANGE IS CERTAIN!

By Verne Teyler, Executive Director

Hosanna continues to adjust to the needs of the foster care system. Federal and State officials are very concerned about the excessive movement of foster children from home to home. Historically, children have experienced an average of three moves per year. My wife, Judy, and I have provided care to some foster children who have been in more than 50 different foster homes during their childhood! Talk about adding to a child's feeling of being unwanted and a life with no stability! How could this experience not result in feelings of worthlessness leading to poor self-esteem and depression? No wonder these children often feel anger toward a world that doesn't consider their basic needs and feelings. All the more tragic, this occurs to impressionable children during their critical, formative years.


Realizing the reality of a typical foster child's experience, Hosanna makes a very special effort to provide, by selection, training and support, foster homes where the foster families are prepared, not only by their ability and willingness to share their home, but also, and equally critical, by a ministry commitment to the child (ren). In other words, we realize in caring for these traumatized children that we must love them without condition. Giving up on these children only further complicates, or compromises, their lives as well as ours. Many of us can relate to having someone love us without reservation and we realize how critical that was in

our life. Thank God that He doesn't give up on us no matter our bad attitude or our disobedience toward Him.


With the intent and desire to not move children but to provide them with a stable foster home, Hosanna's Board of Directors has committed to building our own foster homes. This frees families that want to minister to foster children but don't have adequate facilities, to receive children and minister to them in the comfort of an adequate home. Two spacious houses on Crow Canyon Road in Castro Valley are being completed and should be ready for occupancy in April 2007. This helps add significant stability to both foster children and foster families who desire to minister full-time to six foster children. Due to construction costs and real property values, this is an extremely expensive model, but it is an investment that will provide invaluable stability for children and families for many years into the future. Thank you to those who have graciously supported Hosanna with investment funds to acquire or build these homes. We are confident that our investment will continue to bear fruit and will long outlive our short journey on this earth.




JOIN IN DEDICATING OUR NEW HOMES!



Two new foster families are finalizing their plans to move into our new houses on Crow Canyon Road. The driveways have been paved, the finish work done, and the landscaping is ready to begin. One home, just above the existing girls' ranch, is another home for girls. On the other side of the street is an equally beautiful home for boys. Now it's time to dedicate these spacious houses to the service of God's Kingdom! Will you join us?



SUNDAY, APRIL 1: 1:00 PM
 THE DEDICATION STARTS AT 6615 CROW CANYON ROAD
 A RECEPTION FOLLOWS



MEET YOUR HOSANNA STAFF!

For the next few issues of the *Herald*, we will feature two stories introducing Hosanna staff members. There is no significant order to these introductions, but the editors hope you enjoy getting to know the unique and talented members of the staff.



**Seby Sebastian:
Case Manager**

Working with kids is not foreign to Seby who is one of nine siblings! Originally from Kerala, India, Seby finds himself in California via Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, and Toronto. Seby came to Hosanna as a perfect addition to the staff during the days of our work with trafficked children. Since some of these children came from India, Seby was a God-sent resource for them. It also helps Hosanna that he speaks seven languages. But, that's a little ahead of the story. In his native India, he earned a bachelor's degree in psychology, but chose to pursue law, earned his law degree, and went to work in the legal and administrative department of a large Indian oil company. It was this work that took him first to Saudi for three years, then to Bahrain where he worked for another ten years. Looking to settle long-term, Seby took his wife, Molly, and two daughters, born in two different countries, to Toronto, where their son was born. It was in Toronto where Seby returned to his first interest, psychology. Commuting to Chicago over the next four years while working full-time, Seby earned his master's degree in counseling psychology, and then entered into private practice. Later, hearing about the ample opportunities in the Bay Area, he struck out west and discovered Hosanna Homes, to our great delight!

Anabell Garcia: Administrative Assistant

Two years ago, Anabell arrived at Hosanna Homes as a volunteer to help out with Spanish translation. Next thing she knew, she was an assistant teacher at our school for refugee children. Now she does data entry and even helps keep the offices tidy for Hosanna. Anabell came to the US from Nicaragua at age 17 after barely making it out during the Sandinista Revolution. She is married to Rick, and they have two sons, Ricky, 14, and Emanuel, 7. She adapts to all her roles naturally with the obvious gifts of servanthood and care, which is commonly expressed through sharing her wonderful talent for cooking. The more people she gets to feed, the happier she is, which is why no Hosanna staff person is malnourished!



NEWS FROM THE BARN

By Kim Yarosh, All the King's Horses

All the King's Horses has expanded to accommodate a few more girls, and to be honest, I wish I could take on many more! Spending time with them and teaching these girls how to ride has been a wonderful experience for me over the last year; however, funding is always an issue and the program is run solely on donations from kind-hearted people. Money is needed for the cost of the horses each month, supplies for the girls, and other expenses. Being careful not to over-extend the budget and run out of money is a top priority. The last thing these kids needs is another disappointment in their young lives.

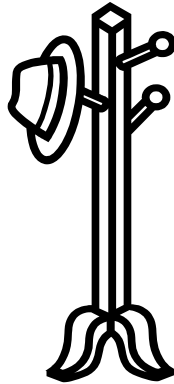
These girls are truly special and I see so much potential in each one of them. Each girl is at a different level of their riding and horse skills because of their age and experience in the program. Some are just learning how to lead the horses and basic horse care on the ground, and some are riding so well they are almost ready to start showing this year (the season starts in April). Maybe we will have some Blue Ribbons to smile about over the summer! I'm really proud of them! I am also amazed at the progress they make every week. The confidence I see in them is so uplifting. I guess when you learn to control something that outweighs you by almost a thousand pounds, with strong legs and heavy hooves, life's problems don't seem quite so big!

I feel so blessed to work with these special girls. I see much promise in them. This program is more than just a horse riding program – it teaches and encourages these girls to be confident and strong and disciplined – qualities I hope they will carry with them into their adult lives. Also, and most importantly, talking to them about God and having a strong faith to guide them through difficult times is a major part of this program. I will continue to keep you updated. God bless!

On-Going Needs

Hosanna's new houses are almost complete! As our new foster families make their plans to move in, the following donations are needed to help establish their new homes.

1. All quality household furnishings and appliances in good condition.
2. Gardening tools, supplies, and lawn furniture that are in good condition.
3. Quality 8 passenger van.



All donations to Hosanna Homes are tax-deductible according to the terms of the law.

*One hundred years from now
 It will not matter
 What kind of car I drove,
 What kind of house I lived in,
 How much money I had in my bank
 account,
 Nor what my clothes looked like.*

*But one hundred years from now
 The world may be a little better
 Because I was important
 In the life of a child.*

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