



Real Children Real Hope

My name is Robert and I just left SSES, along with my brother, Vincent. We are fourteen year old twins. My brother has Cerebral Palsy and needs extra help from time to time, but he is very smart. We have had a crazy couple of years and ended up here a month or so ago. Our mom is originally from out of the country. She met our dad on one of his business trips and they lived in her home country for a few years. After having us, they moved back to the U.S. and everything changed. Our dad became very abusive and controlling. Mom was not allowed to do anything without



asking and it was like we were living in a prison. Our dad's father became very ill, so mom moved all of us into his home to help take care of him. During that frustrating and hurtful time, dad

took off and left mom with nothing. I am working on the anger I have towards him for leaving my mom like that. She is a very loving and competent mother, but she did not have the resources to take care of us. She had quit her job when she agreed to take care of grandpa and I guess my dad hid all his money. She was left with no way to get a place to live and no transportation. We were brought into state custody and mom knew of Place of Hope through Christ Fellowship Church. She contacted them and begged for us to be placed there until she could get us back home. It finally worked out and she was able to visit us often. Place of Hope even helped our mom get furniture and made sure that we did not miss anything at school. It was tough to change homes and come to a new place, but the shelter was nothing like I thought it would be. They really cared, and I felt good there even though it was a tough time. I am glad that the people working there helped my mom to still see us since she really does care. Thanks to them, this scary situation went by quickly and now we can finally move into mom's new place and be a family again!



Dear faithful supporter,

Thank you for your generous support of the children at Place of Hope. We were very blessed to be there for Robert and Vincent during such a traumatic time in their life. We are thankful that we can work as a community when tough situations occur to help parents get back on their feet and to reunite their family. We ask for your continued prayer as we minister to hurting children and their families. Merry Christmas and God bless! You are such a blessing to the ministry at Place of Hope.

Charles L. Bender III
Founding Executive Director