



Real Children Real Hope

My name is Marcus. I came to SSES four months ago after being Baker Acted (taken to a mental hospital) multiple times for threatening suicide. I was taken away from my mother, who everyone said was "crazy!" When I arrived at the shelter, I did not want to stay. I felt so scared. My mom kept telling me that if I acted out and made sure that everyone there thought I was bad, they would send me back home to be with my mom. I threw tantrums and told everyone I was going to kill myself again, hoping my mom was right. She was not- I was Baker Acted two more times.

When I came back to the shelter, I realized that it was not an awful place. The people there seemed to really care about me and I began to think that maybe my mom was not telling me the truth. Mr. Derrick and the other guys at the shelter told me every day that I could get better and that I did not need to be afraid. Slowly, I started to trust this place and I began to feel safe. I

actually started enjoying time at school, playing with friends at Place of Hope and even talking with the staff. Even though I miss my mom, this is the happiest I have been in a very long time.



Casa del Padre is home to our Seven Stars Emergency Shelter at our Paxson Campus

Dear mission partner,



Marcus is a great example of how your generous support is changing local lives in radical and meaningful ways. Marcus and the other children who walk through our doors are

often lost, confused, beaten down, and at their breaking point or beyond. They have been subjected to a state of survival rather than that of childhood. These children are exhausted, battered little souls who need a place to rest, heal, and grow. Thankfully, with your support, our Seven Stars Emergency Shelter is providing safety, hope, and healing for the children that come to Place of Hope. Last year alone, the shelter provided short-term care and support for thirty-two young boys. We sincerely appreciate your continued partnership with this critical program at Place of Hope. Thank you!

Blessings,

Charles L. Bender III
Founding Executive Director



A Faith-Based Family-Style Shelter Caring for Children



Placing Hope In A Child's Future™

www.placeofhope.com