



Dear Friends,

On May 7, 2008 we hosted the first annual HONORS, a celebration of individuals who devote themselves to the betterment of children. The evening helped shine a light on many incredible people, including many of our own staff at Hearts & Homes for Youth. It was an inspiring evening, filled with old friends and new supporters.

I wrote a booklet in 1968 - when this organization was still called the Boys' Home of Montgomery County - entitled *The House that People Built: The Anatomy of a Group Home in Suburbia*. At that time we were serving four young boys, and operating out of a two-bedroom attic apartment in Rockville, MD. Forty-four years later, we have 12 programs throughout the state, serving 156 kids a days. Hearts & Homes for Youth truly is 'The House that People Built'.

Our organization is here today because of the thousands of individuals who have invested financially, through goods and services, volunteer hours or words of encouragement in our mission. It is because of you that we are continually able to grow.

Some of our boys and girls come through our doors for only a few short days. Others stay for three months or even three years. It is our greatest moment to see our kids come back to us, perhaps years later to show how they've grown, and to hear them reflect on their time with Hearts & Homes.

Fundamentally, they share the same stories: it was the safety, the security and the feeling that someone really cared about their well being that gave them the will to accomplish great things for themselves. The truth is, our kids have greatness in them before they ever step through our doors. We just help them connect that greatness to their dreams.

To see the youth that we serve, simply look around you. Look in the eyes of your own children, and your grandchildren and you'll remember why we work so hard to give kids a better chance at life. You'll remember why you invest in the kids at Hearts & Homes for Youth.

Enclosed please find a recap of our May 7 HONORS event. I thank you always, for helping us care for our kids "as if they were our own."

Rex Smith
President & CEO
Hearts & Homes for Youth