



**Hearts & Homes for Youth**

## **Success Stories**



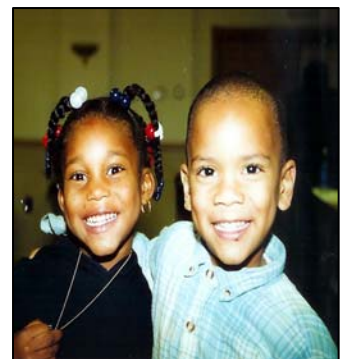
**Serving Maryland's Children**  
***"As If They Were Our Own"***  
**Since 1964**

**SANDY** – Sandy was referred to the Damamli program when she was 16 years of age because the foster home placement where she was residing was closing. Sandy was identified as being defiant, resistant to curfew and attending school, and portrayed as being a young lady that used outside relationships to circumvent the authority of her foster parent. Prior to being committed to care at the age of 15, Sandy and her son resided with her paternal grandmother after her biological mother had passed away. Because of Sandy’s failure to abide by her grandmother’s rules, she and her son were committed to Baltimore City DSS. Sandy was with the Damamli program for over four years where she had the continued support of her foster parent and case manager. She successfully met all of her identified goals, graduated from high school, and completed Damamli’s parenting life skills classes. She also completed a job readiness training program that prepared her for a career in the healthcare field. In addition, before she transitioned into her own apartment, she obtained employment in a convalescent home and saved over \$1500 in her personal savings account.



**SHANNON** – Eighteen year old Shannon was placed in a foster home after successfully completing the requirements of a related therapeutic group home for girls. She was interested in moving into a foster home that would support her three short term goals – to complete her senior year in her home school outside of the district in which the foster parent is living, to support her independent living needs, assist with the transition to young adulthood, and to support her entering in the fall of 2006. Shannon has had much success in her foster home. She is doing well in her senior year and shows signs of being successful in a college setting after graduation. She has been given the responsibility and support to develop her ability to become more self sufficient and move into young adulthood. She has maintained descent grades, works part time, has a healthy social life, and has developed a good relationship with her foster parent. She has been learning about financial planning, and has been saving money to travel to California to visit her sister. She also has recently determined that she would prefer to stay at the foster parent home while entering college. This attests to her ability to develop attachments and plan ahead as to what is best for her success. This is a success story in the making and through continued support by the foster parent and her clinical case manager, she will have many accomplishments.

**CINDIA** – 9 year old Cindia was placed in Peggy’s home, a Damamli’s foster care parent. Home after being removed from a previous home due to her behaviors of lying, stealing, fits of anger, emotional instability, and continued enuresis. At Peggy’s home she has demonstrated a decrease in her previous negative behaviors. She continues to demonstrate significant issues, but through the love and support of Peggy and her clinical case manager, she has become more secure in her interpersonal relationships. This stability has led to a decision allowing her to begin visits with her biological father after 4 years of absence.



**RANDY** – Randy was recently successfully discharged from our John C. Tracey Group home and returned home to his mother in Baltimore City, MD. Randy had a history of drug abuse, conduct disorder, and poor relationship with his guardian, his mother. While in JCT, he attended and complete a weekly drug treatment program. He also was enrolled in a GED and Job Readiness program which he attended daily.



Randy began at JCT on Level 1 but through setting consistent goals and positive behaviors, he excelled to a Level 3 status before being discharged. Randy successfully completed all of his drug treatment and family therapy classes upon reunification with his mother. Randy is scheduled to take the GED examination in the first week of February.



**ANDREW** – Andrew was another resident at our John C. Tracey Group Home. Upon entering JCT, the staff acknowledged Andrew’s high level of maturity, and he was granted special permission to work 2 part-time jobs and attend weekly classes at Montgomery College. Andrew’s main issues were lack of respect for authority and his tendency to blame others for his problems. With some work in staff, holding Andrew accountable for his actions, he was able to accept res-

ponsibility and moved up the level system quickly. He also improved his independent living skills while at JCT and within months was successfully discharged into an Independent Living Program.



**ISAIAH** – Isaiah entered our John C. Tracey Group Home with severe conduct disorder and issues of neglect by his aunt, his primary guardian at the time. Within several months Isaiah was placed on a behavior contract because he showed no sign of improving his negative behaviors. Upon being placed on the contract and staring at possibility of being discharged from the program, Isaiah was able to dramatically turn his behavior around. He made more of an effort to respect JCT staff as well as his peers. Through hard work Isaiah has now become one of the highest level residents at JCT. He attends school daily with a B average, and is currently on the JV football team at his school. His case manager

worked very hard with Isaiah’s Probation Officer, and was able to have the Judge on Isaiah’s case change his primary guardianship to a more positive, close relative. With this change, Isaiah has finally been able to go on home weekend passes which has really helped him stay on track.



**RACHEL** – Rachel is a young woman who has shown major improvement since coming to Mary’s Mount Manor in July. She had a history of skipping school and/or classes daily. Since being at Mary’s Mount she attends school daily and makes A’s and B’s in her classes. She is also currently at Level 3, which is not an easy level to achieve and maintain. She was a child that frequently got into fights, but has refrained from fighting since she has been with us. We are in the process of planning a successful discharge from MMM.

**LINDSEY** – Lindsey was discharged from MMM on Dec. 19. She was a child who rarely attended school, often ran away, and sold drugs. After being with us she completely changed her behavior. She attended school daily, received straight A’s, never attempted to AWOL, and rarely received consequences. As a result of her drastic change, the judge granted her permission to go home early.

**KELSEY** – Kelsey came to us in August from the Jackson Unit. She had severe alcoholism and was often defiant with her parents. She has also changed her behavior since coming to Mary’s Mount Manor. She has attended consistent AA meetings and does well following direction on her home passes. She will successfully discharge in the coming month.

**JENNIFER** – Jennifer entered Damamli Independent Living Program when she was pregnant with her first child. She was placed in foster care due to several disagreements with her mother. It was her senior year of high school and her grades were suffering due to absences. After giving birth to her son, she found parenting difficult. She was set to attend parenting classes in the spring; however she did not regularly attend the classes. The youth had regular AWOL’s and issues with following rules in the home. She also had an anger management problem; she would become disrespectful and rude when angry. One day she left her 4 month old child at home without supervision for approximately 1 hour. Because of her negligence, the child was taken from her care and placed with Jennifer’s mother. Jennifer was ordered to complete school, take parenting classes, and was referred for therapy. When her mother decided she was unable to care for the baby, she was returned to Jennifer with close supervision. Currently, Jennifer has been placed with new foster parents and is doing well. She has had only one AWOL and has been able to follow the rules of the home without issue. She obtained her high school diploma and began attending Tesst College for Criminal Justice. There she obtained a 4.0 average in her first semester. Jennifer continues to attend school regularly, maintains daycare, maintains her placement, and has great attendance at Damamli parenting Classes.

