



“The Lord is my shepherd; I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, leads me besides still waters and refreshes my soul.” - Psalm 23

Dear Friends,

Our Arms of Hope Family wishes you and your family a peaceful holiday season! The theme of “peace” is found throughout the 23rd Psalm as David beautifully states: “The Lord is my shepherd; I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, leads me besides still waters and refreshes my soul.” Shalissa and her children: Carlisha (12), Chasity (10) and Handsome (7) have leaned on this scripture through dark times in a horrific past. Shalissa shares, “I learned this verse from my mother as a child and it has helped me through a journey of mental misery, despair, persistent anger and loneliness caused by childhood trauma.”



The family’s new peaceful life at Arms of Hope began after an incredibly rough time of extreme poverty, living off of the benevolence of individuals and churches, emotional breakdowns and substance abuse. Shalissa wanted freedom and peace and prayed to God to help her family escape before the emotional toll became too much to physically bear. God answered that prayer when a church told her about the peace and hope that Arms of Hope provides. She remembers: “I was astonished when I received the call that they had a home for me and my babies and I realized my life would now be altered in ways I never anticipated. When I arrived at Arms of Hope, I felt so peaceful it nearly overpowered me!”



The children are so thankful to be at Arms of Hope and especially during the Christmas Season. Sweet spirited and quiet Carlisha says softly, “I really like the Christmas parties, groups that visit and my favorite presents have been a sketching kit and a glass doll.” Chasity, the fireball of the three, enthusiastically exclaims, “I LOVE all the food we get to eat at Christmas and of course whenever I get a dinosaur toy and more dinosaur toys and even more dinosaur toys!” Handsome still remembers his favorite gift he named Brownie, who is a loyal puppy that always wants to cuddle.

As much as the children enjoy the food, parties and presents that generous donors of Arms of Hope provide, they also have been taught and understand the true meaning of the season. When asked to describe what Christmas means to them, their answers show the peace that comes with now living in a stable and loving home. Carlisha confidently states, “Christmas means Hope.” Handsome joyfully exclaims, “Happy birthday Jesus!” And of course, Chasity boldly shares that she knows the real answer: “Everyone knows Christmas is about Arms of Hope and church and all the friends I have there. Everyone is my friend and loves me!”

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Shalissa and her children are not letting their future end with just the peace that Psalm 23 provides, but are working on the hope and future that it promises: “Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.” Shalissa is working hard towards a Nursing Degree and all three children make great grades in school and participate in extra-curricular activities.

Because of your generosity, Shalissa has a peaceful and stable home to raise her children while she works on that degree and changes the future for her family. They are able to work through their traumatic past with Licensed Professional Christian Counselors, case managers, a loving church home and the unconditional love of Jesus shown through the staff and volunteers.

We now humbly ask that you continue to help us in our ministry that provides Carlisha, Chasity, Handsome and the other 225 residents on the Boles and Medina Campuses with those invaluable services. Thank you for praying about making a tax-deductible Christmas donation to Arms of Hope today so that we can continue showing Christ’s love and give opportunities of change. That change is real hope to children and families that are battling the despair of extreme poverty, abuse and trafficking. Your help makes a difference!

We wish you a Merry Christmas filled with peace and although hard to imagine, a present that means as much to you as “Brownie” means to Handsome.


Troy Robertson
Chief Executive Officer



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