



## The Rodriguez Family: A Success Story

Miriam and Rosbel Rodriguez came to Spaulding for Children in 2011, via a friend's recommendation, looking to provide a loving and supportive home for children. Miriam tried multiple methods, but was unable to get pregnant and thus came to Spaulding for Children looking to adopt.

Evelyn, now age 7, was placed in their home when she was just 3 years old, Adrian, now 3, was placed in their home when he was 1 month old. Evelyn and Adrian were placed with the Rodriguez family at the same time. Several months later their birth mother found out she was pregnant again and Ebony, now 2, was also placed in the Rodriguez home when she was just 14 days old. **Once these siblings arrived in the Rodriguez's home, the family was very interested in adopting all three children so Evelyn, Adrian and Ebony could grow up together.**



Finalization Day

Over the next several years, the Rodriguezes walked the journey of going from foster parents to adoptive parents. The ups and downs. The struggles and victories. The rollercoaster of emotions that comes along with the process. **Although many unpredictable obstacles stood in their way throughout their journey to adoption, the Rodriguezes persevered and officially became a family in March.** The week before the adoption finalization, Miriam and Rosbel purchased a book to read to the children about adoption. They wanted them to feel comfortable and help them understand what their finalization would be like, so they would not be scared or confused.

The Rodriguezes are very excited to be a family now and cannot wait to plan a trip to take Evelyn, Adrian and Ebony to Mexico this year to meet the rest of their family!

### INSIDE:

2 Spaulding for Children Updates

3 The George Foundation

4 Home Is Where the Heart Is Recap

5 Our Wonderful Kids

6 Other Ways to Give

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**ALL IN** *for*  
**ADOPTION**  
TEXAS HOLD 'EM TOURNAMENT  
benefitting Spaulding for Children

## SAVE THE DATE!

Put on your best poker face and join us at our  
All in for Adoption Texas Hold 'Em Tournament  
**November 19, 2015**  
**River Oaks Country Club**

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**After 10 years in our current location,  
Spaulding for Children's Houston  
Office will be moving at the  
end of July!**

Our New Address:  
6925 Portwest Dr. Suite 110  
Houston, TX 77024

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## We are very excited to announce the launch of our new website!

Over the past few months we have been working  
on a complete overhaul to make our site easier  
to navigate and more user-friendly. Please take a  
look around and learn more about our Adoption,  
Foster Care and Post Adoption Programs.

Check back for more information as we continue  
to update it with news, photos and upcoming  
events!

[www.spauldingforchildren.org](http://www.spauldingforchildren.org)

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## Share Your Stories

Have a story to share with us?

Email Shannon Barilleau at  
[sbarilleau@spauldingforchildren.org](mailto:sbarilleau@spauldingforchildren.org)

# Post Adoption in Fort Bend:

Each year, Spaulding for Children continues building community resources for adoptive families through our Post Adoption Program. Post adoptive support services allow our experienced staff to work with families on a personal level to help them connect as a family, provide learning opportunities and even coordinate support groups that allow members of adoptive families to talk about the joys and hardships that come with raising a child a that has experienced trauma as a result of past abuse or neglect.

Over the past several years, our Post Adoption Program staff noticed an increase in calls coming in from adoptive families in Fort Bend County requesting access to our post adoption support services. **After additional research, we discovered that the number of adoptive families in Fort Bend County have increased more than 25% since 2009; however, the services for these families have not increased at the same rate.**

**At the end of 2014, Spaulding for Children received generous funding from The George Foundation to expand our post adoption services in Fort Bend County.** Thanks to The George Foundation grant, we were able to hire Kristina Wyatt, who serves as our Post Adoption Resource Development Specialist in Fort Bend County. In this role, Kristina will identify and develop adoptive support services in Fort Bend County, connect post adoptive families to those services and serve families in donated space in the United Way Fort Bend Service Center. Spaulding for Children will also offer general client intake and case management services through this exciting program expansion in Fort Bend County.

We are immensely grateful to The George Foundation for their commitment to ensuring that adoptive families in Fort Bend County have access to high-quality adoption support services and look forward to expanding our work with adoptive children and families within Fort Bend County!

The  
George  
Foundation  
Est. 1945

## Forever Families

In 2015, Spaulding for Children placed its 2,000th child in an adoptive home! Meet a few of our newest forever families below.



The Williams Family with Judge Millard



The Rendon Family



The Rodriguez Family with case worker Jessica



# Home Is Where the Heart Is Luncheon:

Spaulding for Children hosted their inaugural Home is Where the Heart is Luncheon on May 6 at Houston Country Club. KPRC's Chief Meteorologist, Frank Billingsley, served as Master of Ceremonies for the afternoon. Billingsley, who is adopted, added a personal touch by sharing a few memories of his own adoption and his recent experience in finding his biological family.

Spaulding for Children adoptive parent and Mayor of Houston, Annise Parker, spoke to the audience about her experience with Spaulding for Children and the importance of supporting the organization. She also invited her wife, Kathy Hubbard, to the stage to help tell their family's story, which included the adoption of their two daughters, Daniela and Marquitta, more than ten years ago.

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of mother-daughter duo, co-chairs Linwood Olson and Kristen Olson Lyons, as well as the entire Luncheon Host Committee, the afternoon raised more than \$75,000 to provide children in need of a loving home with the joy of having one.



Kathy Hubbard, Mayor Annise Parker and Vikki Finley



Brooke Bentley Gunst, Lisa Laux Kalavar and Ruthie Johnson Miller



Event Co-Chairs Linwood Olson and Kristen Olson Lyons



Joe Lyons, John Montgomery and Frank Billingsley

## Our Wonderful Kids

The child pictured below has been in the foster care system for 12 years and needs a loving family to call his own.

Spaulding for Children partners with organizations like the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption to find permanent adoptive homes for special needs children. These children are older than age 6, sibling groups, or children who have been available for adoption for a long period of time. For more information about these children and to find out how you can become their forever family, please contact Staci Prince at 713.681.6991 ext. 169 or [sprince@spauldingforchildren.org](mailto:sprince@spauldingforchildren.org).



First Name:

Joshua

Age: 15

Joshua may seem quiet at first, but will warm up as time passes. He gets along well with his peers and shows respect toward adult figures. Joshua is an active child and loves to play. He loves sports activities and going to professional games. Joshua also enjoys playing video games.

Joshua does well in school! He completes his work, follows directions and interacts positively during class. **Joshua is a fun loving child who wants to be a part of a loving family!**

Joshua needs a structured and organized household. The family will need to provide a stable and nurturing environment and Joshua will need a positive male role model in his life. Joshua is looking for a family who will allow him to maintain contact with his siblings, who are not part of this adoption.

## Girl Scouts Give Back!



On Friday, January 23, 2015, the Girl Scouts of Bunker Hill Elementary School danced the night away at a Father-Daughter Dance hosted by Fifth Grade Girl Scout Troops #18334 and #18877. The theme was Winter Wonderland and the Fifth Graders did an amazing job organizing, decorating, and running the event. We have no doubt these bright, capable girls will be running the world one day!

The girls looked beautiful in their party dresses and the dads went all out with tuxedos, suits and corsages. The hostesses asked that each father/daughter pair in attendance bring diapers or baby clothes to benefit the children placed in Spaulding for Children foster and adoptive homes.

**The amount of support was overwhelming as the Girl Scouts and their families donated 80+ boxes of diapers and over 60 articles of baby clothing!**

Spaulding for Children is so thankful for the support of these young ladies, their acts of service, and their families for teaching the value of helping those in need. Your generosity makes our children's lives brighter!





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Spaulding for Children is funded by private donations, the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, and the United Way of Greater Houston.



## OTHER WAYS TO GIVE



**Kroger:** When you shop at Kroger you can help Spaulding for Children raise funds! Link your Kroger Plus card at [www.kroger.com/communityrewards](http://www.kroger.com/communityrewards), and earn donation for Spaulding for Children while you shop. Sign in or quickly create an account online and search for our organization number, **80800!**

**Randalls Good Neighbor Program:** Link your Randalls Remarkable Card to Spaulding for Children, which is organization number **1470**, and Randalls will donate a percentage of your purchases to Spaulding for Children. Please fill out the Randalls Good Neighbor Form, which can be found at <http://www.randalls.com/ShopStores/Good-Neighbor.page>, and bring it with you next time you shop at Randalls.

**Corporate Matching Gift Programs:** Does your corporation have an employee matching gift program? Many corporations offer employee giving programs where they match donations to eligible nonprofits. It's an easy way double or even triple your contribution to Spaulding for Children! Check with your company today to see if we are on their list of approved nonprofits.

**Amazon:** Spaulding for Children is a participating charity of AmazonSmile. This is an easy way to designate a percentage of your purchase to go to Spaulding for Children! Once you have linked the account, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases!

Here is how it works:

- Visit <http://smile.amazon.com/>
- Sign in as you would on your regular account or create one if you don't already have one
- On your first visit to AmazonSmile, you will need to select Spaulding for Children to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. You can do that by clicking the link towards the top of the page that reads "Supporting"
- Search for Spaulding for Children (make sure you select the Houston location!)
- After you choose Spaulding for Children, AmazonSmile will remember this as your preferred charity when you shop in the future.