



Unlocking the Goodness Inside

"It's not a fairytale – but nothing in life is. These are real kids we're talking about and they need us to step up for them," said adoptive mom about her family's journey to adoption.

This family, featured to the right, came to Spaulding for Children in 2014 eager to adopt after working with an agency that only offered foster care. After coming to Spaulding for Children, they were given the opportunity to open their home to a sibling group of three – an opportunity they embraced whole-heartedly!

They met the siblings, two boys and one girl, during a pre-placement visit at the CPS office. Shortly after, they received a call from the children's court advocate who expressed his fear the children would never be adopted. Together, this mom and dad knew at that moment that they would open their home and hearts to these siblings.

The siblings and the biological family were very close in age at the time of the placement and all adjusted fairly quickly to each other! Though parental rights were terminated quickly after the siblings were placed into the home, there were still some road blocks to face before the adoption became finalized. After nearly two years of ups and downs, they officially became a family of eight in October 2016!



October 2016 Finalization

The siblings were thrilled to finally share their last name and officially become part of their forever family. The biological children couldn't imagine having better playmates and siblings! "They barely remember life without each other," exclaimed mom.

The adopted siblings are now ages six, five, and four. The oldest went from being almost nonverbal and withdrawn to sweet, hardworking, and generous; the middle child went from throwing tantrums to becoming a bright and well behaved young man; and the youngest has made huge strides in attaching and trusting. Mom says, "To be honest, they are almost unrecognizable!"

"We can't take credit for all of the goodness inside of them. It was there all along. We're just the lucky ones who got to see it unlocked," said adoptive mom on the progress the children made over the last two years.

INSIDE:

2 Spaulding for Children Updates

3 Family Holiday Party

4 All In for Adoption Texas Hold 'Em Tournament

5 Meet Brianna and Blaine!

6 Other Ways to Give

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Riz Amanullah, Chair
Anthony J. Nocella, Vice Chair
Angela Dunlap, Treasurer
Shanna Graves, Secretary

Julie Comiskey
Tasheaya Warren Ellison
Jason Hubbard
Shannon Kinney
Yemi Koyejo
Kristen Olson Lyons
Nicole Montgomery
Ronell Peters
Kiet Pham
Leah Shapiro
Caroline Simons
Jeff Sinda
Melissa Sawyer Skidmore
Anne Halliburton Stewart

HOUSTON ADVISORY COUNCIL

Kathy Schenck, Chair
Mary Banks
Robert Barker
Mark Dobbins
L. Paul Gerson, M.D.
Pat Kiley
Elizabeth Labanowski
Bette Branch Lehmborg
Lance Loken
Samuel Luna
Tricia Miner
Melva M. Meronek
Ramona Ortiz
Corine Prieto
Brian Romere
Lee Vela

CORPUS CHRISTI ADVISORY COUNCIL

Crissy Hinojosa
Katy Kiser
Ted Oakley
Agnes Zarcaro

PRESIDENT AND CEO

Vikki Finley



SAVE THE DATE!

Join us as we celebrate Spaulding for Children’s 40th anniversary at our Forty Years of Families Luncheon, chaired by Robin Klaes and Tany Klaes!

Tuesday, May 9, 2017

Houston Country Club

For more information visit:

spauldingforchildren.org/forty-years-of-family/

Attend an Information Meeting!

Are you or someone you know interested in adoption?
Don’t know where to start?
Attend one of our information meetings!

Spaulding for Children offers information meetings twice a month. All meetings are held at the Spaulding for Children office and start at 6:00 P.M.

2017 Information Meeting Dates:

April 19, 2017	August 16, 2017
May 3, 2017	September 6, 2017
May 17, 2017	September 20, 2017
June 7, 2017	October 4, 2017
June 21, 2017	October 18, 2017
July 5, 2017	November 1, 2017
July 19, 2017	November 15, 2017
August 2, 2017	December 6, 2017

For more information, visit www.spauldingforchildren.org/events



Welcome New Board Members!

Shannon Kinney, with ConocoPhillips and Leah Shapiro, with the Harris County Public Defender’s Office joined our Board of Directors in January. We are excited to welcome them to the Spaulding for Children family!

All In For Adoption Texas Hold 'Em Tournament

More than 120 players stepped up to the poker tables at River Oaks Country Club on November 17 during the 10th annual All In for Adoption Texas Hold 'Em Tournament. Spaulding for Children adoptive parent, Becky Morales, took guests through her family's journey of adopting their 3 year-old son through Spaulding for Children in 2015. She also expressed the importance of supporting Spaulding for Children's work and the need for loving, adoptive families.

Throughout the evening guests had the opportunity to bid on exciting silent auction items that included sports memorabilia, golf outings, Disneyland passes, restaurant experiences and more! Master of Ceremonies, Lisa Malosky, the first female sports anchor at KPRC TV2, made almost everyone at the tournament a winner by drawing names for more than 40 door prizes made possible through the generosity of this year's sponsors.

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of co-chairs, Steve Kennedy, Scott Martin and Brian Romere, as well as the entire All In for Adoption Host Committee, the evening raised more than \$175,000 to support Spaulding for Children's mission to provide children in need of a loving home with the joy of having one through adoption.

The winners of the 2016 All In for Adoption Texas Hold 'Em Tournament were: 1st Place Shauna Clark, 2nd Place Will Richardson and 3rd Place Terry Webster. Congratulations to all players and thank you for your support.

We hope to see you at this year's All In for Adoption Texas Hold 'Em Tournament on November 16, 2017!



Tournament Winners - Terry Webster (3rd), Shauna Clark (1st) and Will Richardson (2nd)



Spaulding for Children Adoptive Parents - Becky and Antonio Morales



Event Chairs - Brian Romere, Steve Kennedy, and Scott Martin with emcee Lisa Malosky

Meet Brianna and Blaine!

Spaulding offers a unique program that offers proactive, child-focused recruitment of adoptive families for children who have been placed in long-term foster care. This unique program provides intensive social work services to find the best adoptive family for a child by exploring all facets of the child's family, school, and friendship circles, as well as recruiting families from the broader community.

For more information about these children and to find out how you can become a forever family, please contact Chelsey Castro at 713.681.6991 or ccastro@spauldingforchildren.org.



First Names:
Brianna and
Blaine

Ages: 12 & 14

Blaine is very kind and loving; he has good manners and he strives to do well. He is a Houston Texans fan and loves watching them play! Blaine also likes to play video games, go to the park, and watch television, especially the Weather Channel. He is interested in becoming a meteorologist when he grows up.

Brianna is shy at first but once she starts to warm up she can carry the conversation! She likes to watch the Disney Channel, listen to Taylor Swift and enjoys drawing. She also enjoys spending time with her brother! Brianna wants to be a lawyer when she grows up.

Blaine and Brianna are looking for a family who will be very supportive and committed, especially during the transition from their foster home to an adoptive home.

Surprise Holiday Party



On December 21, Houston radio station, 97.9 The Box hosted a surprise Christmas party for some of Spaulding for Children's foster children. The kids were able to tour the radio station and meet some of the disc jockeys.

Promotions Director, Jonathan Cook, and Program Director, Terri Thomas, paired each staff member with a child. Each staff member gave personalized gifts to the children according to their age, favorite colors, and Christmas wishes.

During the party the children played games, won prizes, and spent time singing and dancing with the radio personalities. We are very grateful to 97.9 The Box for making this Christmas a holiday these kids will never forget!



Anjel and Neya at the party!

2016 Family Holiday Party

On Saturday, December 10, 2016, Spaulding for Children hosted our annual family holiday party at Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church. Our families had the opportunity to see Santa, play games, and have their hair done. Thank you to everyone who made this event possible!



Forever Families

Meet a few of our newest forever families below.



The Garza Family



The Mendoza Family



The Garcia Family



The Saulter/Staid Family



The Burton Family



6925 PORTWEST DRIVE, SUITE 110
HOUSTON, TX 77024
PHONE: 713.681.6991 | FAX: 713.681.9089 | TOLL-FREE: 1.800.460.6298

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #1709
HOUSTON, TX

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, and earn donations 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.