



Dear Diary,  
 I am so mad at mom! I can't believe that she brought me to a shelter to live. When we were staying with Aunt Karen at least I was able to be around my cousins. There are all these kids here that I don't even know! I'm still confused why we had to leave home in the first place, I really liked having a big backyard and we lived so close to school. Now I will have to take the bus and kids will laugh at me. My life is ruined! Mom says it's almost time for dinner and I'm so hungry. I hope I can eat something besides fast food here, I miss when mom cooked at home but that hasn't been for a long time, since before she started having accidents all the time. At least now she has stopped limping and the bruises are almost gone. Mom says to try to stay positive but I don't know how I can do that when everything seems so crazy...



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 HAVEN OF REST MINISTRIES

**VOICE**  
 Serving God By Serving Others

# THROUGH A CHILD'S EYES



At Haven of Rest, children from newborns to teenagers come to us with their moms. It is our prayer that kids will find peace and love while they are staying with us as they often come at some of the most confusing and scary times of their young lives. With the following fictional diary, based on experiences kids have had at Harvest Home, we hope to explain how they can feel during their stay at the Mission.

One month later...

Dear Diary,  
 Today my mom and I went to the zoo with other families at Harvest Home. The funniest thing happened while we were waiting to pet a real live stingray! I was standing next to my mom and when it was our turn we all walked up to the tank but the stingray flapped and got us all wet! I looked over at my mom and she was laughing so hard! We couldn't quit laughing until we got all the way to the jungle cats! This day was probably the best day of my whole life, I never got to do cool stuff like this before. On the way back Miss Rachel told us how God made all the animals at the beginning of the world and how he made us, too. I'm sure glad God made me look like a human and not a stingray...it would be hard for mom to fix my hair if I splashed her every time she walked up to my tank!



Two months later...

Dear Diary,  
 My mom told me tomorrow is our last day at Harvest Home. She said that we will be moving to a place that will be just for us and we will be happy there. She did agree that we could come back and visit Miss Rachel and the other kids. I asked her if we can come back for movie night on Friday. She said no but promised to watch the movie with me when we get to our new home. That will be fun. Mom cried today as we said goodbye to everyone who helped us. This crying was different, though. She was smiling and laughing and crying with our friends. This made me cry, too, even though I wasn't sad. Harvest Home turned out to be a lot different than I thought. Now we have clothes and games and furniture to take with us. I think now mom and I will be okay.





God's greatest commandment is love, as laid out in Mark 12:29-31. God calls us as Christians to love Him and to love one another. It is through your generous love and compassion that Haven of Rest is able to offer help to thousands of people each year. Your donations of time, talents, and treasures make a tremendous difference in the lives of men, women and children in need. Here are just a few words of thanks from Haven of Rest staff and employees to all of our donors and volunteers:

"We wouldn't be able to feed everyone who comes to us without what is donated to the Mission. Every day we are so blessed with food donations. People are so generous!"

"Donations help us so much; especially last year with the large salt donation in the winter time and the mulch in the summer. The generosity of the community is tremendous and we greatly appreciate all the help and support from everyone who comes to the Mission."

"We are so thankful for everyone who supports

the men, women and children through our ministry. Thank you very much for your generous donations. God bless you for all you do."

"It is so touching and encouraging to know that some people are so loving and generous that they both volunteer and donate. It is really encouraging and helps to bolster the staff to know that they have people standing beside them who believe in God's work here."

"Truly I believe God will use anyone if they desire to follow His lead for we get so many wonderful items donated as well as money to operate. God bless each and every one of you for our very existence depends on your collective generosity since we don't take any government funding and never have."

*God bless you and, again, thank you to everyone who supports Haven of Rest. Your ongoing support and donations are an invaluable part of the ministry of rescue that happens each day at the Mission.*



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