

HACIENDA GIRLS RANCH
Spring Convention 2011
Bulletin #2



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Hacienda Girls Ranch continues to serve the neediest members of our society – teenage girls who no one wants. I have experienced first-hand the devastating effect on a beautiful young girl who had just been told by an aunt that she could not come to live with her. It is not a sight I want to see again. The superb staff of Children's Home Society deals with this type of trauma every day and should be commended for their dedication to the girls at Hacienda.

The renovation at Hacienda Campus has improved the quality of life for the residence – a computer room, newly decorated dorm rooms, a revitalized campus and staff dedicated to making it a “home” has given the girls a new sense of self worth. They are allowed to have guests in the family room area of the dorm, but no boys are allowed in the dorm rooms. They are provided with pre-paid cell phones giving them no excuse to break curfew. There is a dedicated core of volunteers who assure that the girls are exposed to teenage activities – outings to Disney World, movies, skating rinks, parks and beaches. The girls love crafts and the next planned activity is stamping lessons.

Occupancy at the ranch fluctuates daily, but the number is most often between 12 and 14 girls. Smith Cottage, the transition home for girls who have aged out of the system but continue to need the guidance of professional staff, is fully occupied (8 young ladies) and has a waiting list. These girls either work or are enrolled in Brevard Community College. They receive help in housekeeping, money management, and prioritizing schedules.

GFWC Florida provides many of the extras the girls enjoy from social activities to new bedspreads, curtains and dishes through direct contributions of goods and money.

As we look ahead, we are challenged to help build **Hacienda Home for Women**, a facility that will care for women in a professional manner and allow intergenerational interaction which is the wave of the future in care giving. Please help us with this effort by supporting our fund raising efforts.

President Ted has asked Eleanor Foisy of the Woman's Club of Stuart, Inc. to co-chair Hacienda Girls Ranch and help with the fund raising. Please feel free to phone me or Eleanor (772- 335-2994) at any time to learn how you can help.

The GFWC Viera Woman's Club, Inc. has awarded two \$750 scholarships to girls living at Hacienda. The girls graduate in May and will attend Brevard Community College beginning in the summer session.

Please keep the girls in mind when you have small scholarships to award. They are processed through Children's Home Society and funds are payable directly to the college.

