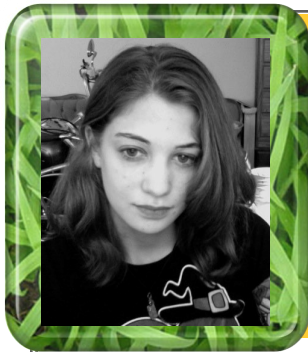


# A Big Deal



~ Vicky, 17

"There are multiple reasons that I come to Bighouse. One of them concerns my home life. Another concerns a friend.

My family has mostly abandoned me at this point. When they did, I found another family in my reach at Bighouse. They brought me in and gave me a place to be while my family criticized my every move.

My friend Janna had also been talking about Bighouse for quite some time. My step-dad had always said the owners were drugies which quickly was proved wrong. Bighouse turned out to be my savior. They help keep me out of trouble and keep me from running away from my problems. I will now finish school and go to college plus keep my faith in God because of them."

We are currently re-applying for United Way partnership. The second step of that process was for us to have the opportunity to show some of the United Way board what a day at Bighouse is all about. On the day they arrived we were allowed a 15 minute presentation and then they would get an opportunity to ask questions.

We used our 15 minutes to let the teens share why they come and how it has changed their lives. We were so moved by what they said we knew it had to be shared with you. They were all very passionate about Bighouse and its purpose and reputation. We were proud of their confidence and understanding of the purpose of what we are trying to do and ...doing as far as they are concerned.



~ Jeremy, 15

"I grew up without a mother because she wanted nothing to do with me and when I'm at Bighouse I feel like someone actually cares about me. Melissa is like a mother I never had and Jay is like a dad because

if I have a problem most always they will drop everything to help me with it. When I am at bighouse I feel safe and I know people will be there for me. When I am not at Bighouse I am home alone which is never fun."



~ Austin, 14

"I would have to say I come to Bighouse because it's a way for me to get away from the dull bore of home. I am able to hang around with my friends.

I am a pretty normal kid and I know other kids that aren't into trouble who come. I don't come so that I don't get in to trouble I come because it's just an overall fun place to be."



~ Kendra, 16

"I come to Bighouse for many reasons. I started coming here because it was where all us 'bad' kids came. Then I started to feel close and safe with Melissa, Rosie, and Jay.

It only took a few months for me to feel open and for a relationship to be created with them.

Bighouse is my safe haven. It is where I come to stay out of trouble, for wise counsel, support, but most of all love. I used to get in trouble, like stealing cars, but once I started to come here my life did a complete 180.

I've gotten closer with God because of their support and counsel. They've been like parents to me, and I'm SO thankful for that. Without Bighouse the JDC (juvenile detention) rate would definitely go up."

3. We are currently planning fundraising events and ways to communicate better with the community. Pray for good ideas, energy and help!

Today you had the opportunity to read four stories of four very different teens who come to Bighouse on a regular basis for love and support. We have 250+ other stories we haven't shared with you. But they all have different reasons for coming and needs we want to meet. Although, it is a very diverse place all of these teens would agree that Bighouse is a place they like to come because they feel wanted.

## WHERE 2 OR 3 gather...

1. We will find out in May if our United Way grant is accepted. Pray that we will be shown favor. Their donation to Bighouse is very significant to our budget.
2. Local youth ministers have been volunteering since the first of the year. The unity and friendship we have experienced has been amazing. Pray that their relationships with the teens continue to grow.

Our mission is to reach teens in their environment, to encourage them to dream big, and provide a safe place for them to come and be energized. We want to see their lives changed to give them hope and a future. Most importantly, show them the unconditional love of Christ.

**GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.**  
BIGHOUSE IS FUNDED BY INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS THAT ARE 501 C3 TAX DEDUCTIBLE.



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