

# OUR HOUSE IN FOCUS



## LITTLE LEARNERS

Meet Donna and  
Jordan

The Adopt-a-Family  
Program

Partying with For  
Goodness Cakes!



# HUMANS OF OUR HOUSE

Donna and Jordan



[Click here to view Donna's episode of our documentary series, Project Voice!](#)

Ms. Donna is one of the many grandparents who provides full-time care for her grandchildren. Her daughter suffered from addiction and was unable to properly care for her children Jordan (3yrs), Zahara (7 yrs), and Anias (12yrs). She was working on her recovery and trying to repair their relationships when she passed away. Since her passing, Ms. Donna has been the sole guardian of Jordan, Zahara, and Anias for the past two years. Ms. Donna and her family have benefitted from Our House's services and are enrolled in multiple programs including CAFSI, Our Club, and Little Learners. *"Without the help of Our House, I would not have been able to maintain employment".* Her life has become more manageable because she knows *"Our House is my family and everybody is always looking out for us"*.

# OUR TEAM

## Glendaliz Torres

*Toddler 2 Teacher*

Team Member Since: 2012  
Hometown: Sacramento, CA



Glendaliz has worked for Our House for four years, first as an Americorps member, and now as the Toddler 2 teacher in Little Learners. She says she chose to serve and work at Our House because "*I am that single mother that needed assistance. I am a part of the demographic that we serve*". During her time as a teacher, she has balanced her roles as an educator, an advocate, and a partner with the parents. Glendaliz and Ms. Donna have developed a relationship through caring for Jordan. The two of them have an on-going dialogue about Jordan and his needs both at home and in pre-school. They've established a weekly system in which Ms. Donna washes Jordan's hair at home and Glendaliz combs and fixes his hair at school. "*She just does not know how this helps me. Something as simple as doing his hair is something I can't get to. It takes one thing off of my plate.*", said Ms. Donna. Glendaliz has known a lot of parents of her students, but she especially admires Ms. Donna.

*"I just don't know if I could do what she does. She works so hard and her love for Jordan is so obvious. Anytime Jordan is working on a project he asks me to take a picture and send it to his grandma. Every single time she responds and says 'tell Jordan I am so proud of him'. Jordan is constantly talking about her and their bond. And he has inherited a lot of her wonderful qualities. Sometimes I will take pictures of him without him knowing because I see him caring for his friend or doing something nice for someone. He has the most genuine smile and the best hugs. He is incredibly loving and thoughtful."*

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

## Adopt-a-Family

Adopt-A-Family is an annual holiday program that provides basic necessities and thoughtful gifts to families campus-wide. Over 180 homeless and near-homeless families are impacted by Adopt-A-Family every year, including those who live in the shelter, clients of our CAFSI program and families who have children enrolled in Our Club or Little Learners. Wish lists are collected from the parents and children of each family, and donors are then assigned to a family to adopt and fulfill their holiday wishes. All of the donated gifts are then distributed to parents just in time for Christmas morning. With the help of such amazing donors, we are able to bring joy and love to each family we serve. Jordan and his family have been able to have a very merry Christmas for the past three years through the Adopt-A-Family program!





# HUMANS OF OUR HOUSE

Donna and Jordan

Ms. Donna is currently employed at Kohl's Department Store full-time, on top of the full-time task of caring for Jordan, Anias, and Zahara. When asked what keeps her going she said, *"Just looking at them keeps me motivated. When my body is extremely tired just thinking of them gives me an extra burst of energy"*. Everything she does is for her three children. Every decision she makes is considerate of their happiness and well-being. Ms. Donna is constantly looking for opportunities to advance professionally and ensure Jordan and his sisters have the best life possible. As for Jordan, Ms. Donna simply says, *"He's my boy, and he takes care of me"*.





# PARTNER APPRECIATION

## For Goodness Cakes

Ginger Wortham from For Goodness Cakes is one of the many thoughtful people who volunteer their time to provide birthday cakes to children who are affected by homelessness or near-homelessness. Every single one of our children in Little Learners is celebrated on their birthday with the help of volunteers like Ginger. Jordan has celebrated all three of his birthdays here with his Our House family, and, each year, For Goodness Cakes has provided a cake for him and his classmates. For Goodness Cakes ensures that every child feels special and cared for on their birthday, and relieves some pressure from their caregivers. Little Learners is so incredibly thankful for each and every volunteer that helps us celebrate our kids on their special day! Thank you for your thoughtfulness, your time and your giving spirit!



[Click here to learn more about For Goodness Cakes](#)