

SCRIPT by Padi Selwyn

For Children's Village Donors -Remarks for April 2010 Gala by Village COO
Tonight while we are enjoying this lovely dinner in the company of friends and family, 24 children are being tucked into bed and listening to their favorite bedtime stories --instead of being curled up in a corner fearing the trauma, violence or uncontrolled anger in the next room.

Because of you, 7 sibling groups – including one group of SIX brothers and sisters are living together under one roof. This will help them maintain that crucial family bond for the rest of their lives. Without the Children's village, these children would have all been forced to live separately from each other, some forever.

Because of you, a few of our teenage boys are for the first time in their lives are experiencing academic success and pride -- instead of shame and failure. For the first time in their lives they believe in themselves and have hope for their future. One has received a full scholarship to a prestigious local private school. This would have been unimaginable 24 months ago when he first arrived at the Village, and now it's his reality.

Because of you, young five year old girls who came to us a year ago without teeth due to neglect and abuse are finally receiving proper dental and medical treatment so they no longer have to be embarrassed by their appearance and can enjoy a wholesome diet.

Because of you --last week a 16 year old girl who never owned a dress in her life will be attended her first school dance in a sky blue taffeta dress that she thought was so beautiful it could only be for a celebrity.

These are just few examples of the many ways you are helping our children. There are countless success stories that we see everyday at the Village because of you.

All of this is possible because of your contribution, in time, talent and funds. To our Children your help and concern means the world and is giving them a future filled with hope.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for what you are doing tonight and every day to support the children's village of Sonoma county.

