



Art and words by **\*Mark**,  
a Group Homes child who  
recently moved to a  
permanent placement.

\*name changed

After living at Hephzibah for four years, *Mark\** took a huge step. A lot of hard work and patience plus many triumphs – both large and small – came together for Mark to grow and heal to the point where he was ready to move to a permanent placement.

As you can see, our art therapy program not only released *Mark's* inner cartoonist but more importantly helped him overcome the serious challenges he faced upon arriving at Hephzibah. At *Mark's* farewell party, his drawing and favorite phrase were emblazoned on t-shirts worn by staff and friends, alike.

*Mark's* story represents much of the work we do at Hephzibah. Whatever time of day or night a child comes to our doors, they carry very few possessions but a lifetime of sorrow and fear. We welcome them with love and safety, a warm bed and comforting words. And that's only the beginning. Then we embark on the long and complicated process of helping children recover from traumas so profound that many need to learn basic life and interpersonal skills, while grappling with unimaginable fear and hurt.

That means hard work from a committed and compassionate staff, emotional support, educational enrichment, psychological services, and innovative programs that treat the whole child. In the end, our goal is to prepare our children for a better future including something all children deserve: to become part of a stable and loving family.

To our friends, we often come to you with the question: "Can you handle it?" Whether it is a donation or fundraising activity, helping a child with his homework; being a mentor; providing food donations for an end-of-school party or underwriting respite help for a struggling family. The list is as endless as our children's needs. There always seems to be an unending demand for more when you are dealing with complicated lives, tightened budgets.

Well, the answer is a resounding "yes!" You do "handle it" -- and so much more! We could not do our work without you!

*Finally, thank you for helping a child who learned he "can handle it" and for supporting all of the other children who are working their way to a brighter future.*

*Mary Anne Brown  
Executive Director*

\*name changed

Every person who touches Hephzibah has a remarkable story: from the children and families we serve to the staff, donors and volunteers who work to make things better for our community. The Hephzibah Blog is a place where we share these stories. Sometimes there will be posts related to child welfare and family issues as well.

## Can You Handle It?

[See story below.](#)

### Hephzibah Happenings

July 28, 2012  
11:00 AM - 5:30 PM  
[Dodgeball 2012](#)

August 09, 2012  
9:00 AM - 7:00 PM  
[Hand Painted Bird Houses to Benefit the Summer Day Care Program](#)

October 02, 2012  
9:00 AM - 7:00 PM  
[11th Annual Charity Golf Classic to Benefit Hephzibah Children's Association](#)

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