

## **GENEROUS LIVING: REIDSVILLE NATIVE DONATES HOME TO FREEDOM HOUSE FOR MOTHERS AND CHILDREN**

**Reidsville, NC:** On Friday, December 18, 2015, a widely-respected and popular Greensboro nonprofit organization, Freedom House, will expand its residential treatment program into Reidsville and open a newly renovated home for mothers and their children recovering from alcoholism and drug addiction.

Mrs. Cindy Chandler Martinez, Reidsville native and Ball Corporation retiree, gave her mother's three-bedroom, 1,200 +/- square foot house to Freedom House. Mrs. Martinez donated this home because she came to understand the joy of generous living at an early age. Her mother taught her that God blesses us with everything that we have and to generously give to others in return.

"I chose to donate my rental property to Freedom House in memory of my mother, Ruth Trent Chandler because she exemplified obedience to God. She taught me that He blesses us with everything that we have and she gave generously throughout her lifetime. The house was a small thing to give for God's glory through Freedom House and to our community," says Martinez.

Martinez expresses, "It is not about what you have, but what you are willing to give. I want to leave a legacy of generosity and love for my children and my grandchildren. I want them to understand that our lives have purpose and that we need to look beyond ourselves and our own comforts."

"I was so honored that after not seeing Cindy for many years after Freedom House opened that she thought of us when deciding to donate her mother's home," tells Ann Thomsson, Founder, President and Program Director of Freedom House.

Thomsson says, "Cindy had no idea we had been praying for years for the ability to give our graduates an opportunity to live in safe neighborhoods with their children when they left our program instead of often putting them right back in the same environment they started using in." She states, "We are so grateful to her and this chance she is giving others and the dedication she has to the Lord and to her mother's memory."

Coming to understand the joy of generous living is exemplified this Christmas season by Martinez. Because of her generosity, others joined in giving to Freedom House and this Reidsville home, too.

Coe Strother, Division President for America's Home Place, tells "When I first went with Freedom House to evaluate the Reidsville house it was easy to see the improvements that were needed, but the potential of the home is what stood out. The more Freedom House and I talked about their vision for an Aftercare facility we could sense God's Spirit leading us to take a step of faith."

"The Lord has rewarded that faith by opening so many doors, and bringing over 30 volunteers that have given over 400 hours of service from America's Home Place, Daystar Church and Freedom House, along with several national vendors who have contributed over \$5,000 worth of materials," states Strother.

The result of this collaboration is a blessed home that can expand Freedom House service opportunities, and provide a normal living environment for families in need. The Freedom House Aftercare Home will help decrease the shattering statistics of relapse from the terrible disease of alcoholism and drug addiction.

Since 2006, Freedom House has been able to help more than 100 mothers and children find hope in the darkness of an increasing epidemic of alcoholism and drug addiction. Freedom House helps families recover from addiction and reach a brighter tomorrow. Nearly 90% of Freedom House residents are clean and sober after one year. Many of them are living in their own homes, working full-time, and attending church and 12-step recovery meetings regularly. The restored lives and home environments make a huge difference in each child's behavior, school performance and relationship with God.

By generously living and giving her mother's home away to Freedom House, Mrs. Martinez will affect generations to come. The supportive, aftercare home will allow a mother and her children to live in safe, affordable house for up to a year while they transition from Freedom House's residential program to economic and personal independence.

For more information about Freedom House, please view their website at: [www.helpfreedomhouse.org](http://www.helpfreedomhouse.org). To support the Freedom House program, visit their two Thrift Stores located at 3724-G Battleground Avenue and 1312 Bridford Parkway. All donations of furniture, clothing and other household items, except TVs and mattresses, are accepted.

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