



## A 17 Year Old Goes Home

One of many miracles of Spaulding for Children is finding forever families for older children. Children who turn 18 without being adopted will “age out” of the foster care system without ever having a family to call their own. Selena Nicole was one of those children until she met Yasmin and Roy Casas in 2014.

Yasmin and Roy came to Spaulding fo Children after seeing an ad about the agency in their local church bulletin. The Casas family did not have any children of their own and wanted to give a child a home and a family to call their own.



Initially Yasmin and Roy were looking to adopt a younger child, but as Roy says “God had a different plan for us.” They went to a meeting with their caseworker, Michelle Lopez, and the Department of Family and Protective Services, where they met Selena. At the time, Selena was 16 years old and much older than they were looking to adopt. “We bonded with her. It was almost like she picked us,” Yasmin describes of their first meeting with Selena.

Although they were looking to adopt a young child, they feel as if Selena has been a part of their family since the beginning. “The real work starts now,” says Roy about becoming a family in August. “Now is the time to be supportive, to explain the way things are and what the expectations are in our family.” Yasmin describes their adoption process as lengthy, but worth the wait. She says, “The more you think about the process and the paperwork, the harder the wait will be. The bottom line is, that in the end you are going to have a child to call your own!”

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For her 18th birthday, Yasmin says, “Selena wanted to wear a big ball gown and have a party at a beautiful venue where she and her family and friends could dance.” For the last several months, the Casas family has been planning a beautiful celebration for Selena’s 18th birthday at the end of October. They are looking forward to celebrating Selena’s 18th birthday and many more birthdays to come!

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## SAVE THE DATE!

Put on your best poker face and join us at our  
All In for Adoption Texas Hold 'Em Tournament

**Thursday, November 19, 2015**

**River Oaks Country Club**

**For more information visit:**

**[spauldingforchildren.org/all-adoption-texas-hold-em-tournament/](http://spauldingforchildren.org/all-adoption-texas-hold-em-tournament/)**

## Fort Bend Cares - Mother's Support Group

The Post Adoption program at Spaulding for Children is excited to offer a fall Mother's Group that is uniquely designed to provide support, address parenting issues, and help mothers understand the impact of trauma on their children's current functioning.

The Mother's Group is led by Susan Denton, LPC, who is herself an adoptive parent. She has been providing this service for over 15 years and mothers who have attended have given positive feedback regarding the support and information they have received.

The group meets **weekly through December 3, 2015 on Thursdays from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM** with lunch provided at **Sugar Grove Church of Christ in the Meadows Place.**

If you are interested in learning more about the group, contact Donna Waller, Post Adoption Supervisor, at **713-613-5200 ext. 159** or **[dwaller@spauldingforchildren.org](mailto:dwaller@spauldingforchildren.org)**.



## Welcome New Board Members!

Kristen Olson Lyons and Nicole Montgomery joined our Board of Directors this year. We are excited to welcome them to the Spaulding for Children family and look forward to working with them for years to come!



## Share Your Stories

**Have a story to share with us?**

**Email Shannon Barilleau at**

**[sbarilleau@spauldingforchildren.org](mailto:sbarilleau@spauldingforchildren.org)**

# *Spaulding for Children's* **Blizzard of Giving** *Gift Card Drive*

Each holiday season, Spaulding for Children conducts a gift card drive. Gift cards collected during Blizzard of Giving are used as holiday gifts for older children. Any additional gift cards left over after holiday presents are distributed are given to families in crisis throughout the year to help with emergency expenses.

Gift cards from Target, Walmart and Amazon tend to be the most versatile and useful for Spaulding for Children's families. American Express/Visa gift cards are wonderful and incredibly versatile, too. Any denomination of gift cards would be much appreciated by our children and families!

Please mail or deliver donations and gift cards to:

Spaulding for Children  
Attn: Blizzard of Giving  
6925 Portwest Drive, Suite 110  
Houston, TX 77024

To ensure we provide gifts in time for the holidays, the deadline for contributions is **December 20, 2015.**

## **Forever Families**

In 2015, Spaulding for Children placed its 2,000th child in an adoptive home! Meet a few of our newest forever families below.



The Nelson Family with caseworker Rod Martin



The Tidwell Family

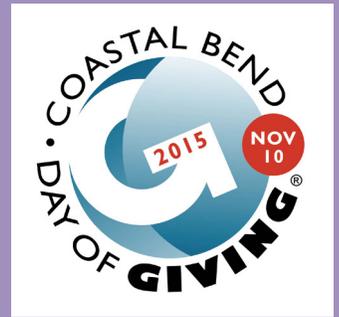


The Fontenot Family



The Cruz/Gonzalez Family

# 2015 Coastal Bend Day of Giving



Spaulding for Children is proud to participate in Coastal Bend Day of Giving - a 24 hour charitable challenge. Thanks to the generosity of many South Texas foundations, this year's agency fundraising goal is \$16,250. There are 40 organizations that serve the Coastal Bend area eligible to receive matching funds.

The 2015 Day of Giving will take place on **Tuesday, November 10**. Donations will be accepted through the Day of Giving website for 24 hours, starting at midnight on November 10 and ending at 11:59 pm on the same day. This is a great way to make a gift to Spaulding for Children and have each dollar you give doubled!

## How can you help us?

- **Preschedule a gift!** You can preschedule a gift between November 1 and November 9. Visit [www.coastalbenddayofgiving.org/spauldingforchildren](http://www.coastalbenddayofgiving.org/spauldingforchildren) and click the "donate now" button on our page to preschedule your donation! Your credit card will not be charged until November 10.
- **Donate to us on November 10!**
- **Post about Coastal Bend Day of Giving on your social media page(s).** Let your friends and followers know how they can give and how their donations will help us meet the matching goal of \$16,250!

**Thank you for your support!**

## Special Thank You, Comcast!



A big thank you to our friends at Comcast for stopping by our office with a back to school donation. Comcast donated 42 backpacks filled with school supplies for our foster children! We are so grateful for their generosity and our children were excited for new supplies to start the school year!



## Our Wonderful Kids

The child pictured below has been in the foster care system for seven years and needs a loving family to call his own.

Spaulding for Children partners with organizations like the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption to find permanent adoptive homes for special needs children. These children are older than age 6, sibling groups, or children who have been available for adoption for a long period of time.

For more information about this child and to find out how you can become his forever family, please contact Jessica Trapani at 713.681.6991 or [jtrapani@spauldingforchildren.org](mailto:jtrapani@spauldingforchildren.org).



First Name:  
Octavius  
Age: 9

Octavius loves school and his favorite subject is science. He is very interested in the weather and space. **He also loves to go swimming, fishing and camping.**

Octavius is diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder and ADHD-Combined Type, but he is high functioning. He does well with other children!

Octavius needs a family that will provide him the love and support he needs and is looking forward to having a family to call his own.

## Take Me Out To The Ball Game!



Octavius, Jeremiah, K'Vonnta and Isiah with Miguel Cabrera.

Our Houston Astros had a very successful season this year!

A few of our foster children had the opportunity to see the Houston Astros take on the Detroit Tigers over the summer.

Not only did the Astros win, but the boys were able to meet the umpires for the game and Miguel Cabrera!

Let's continue to root for the home team and help these children find a forever family to call their own!

For more information about adoption and to find out more about the children pictured, who are all waiting for forever families, please contact Staci Prince at 713.681.6991 or [sprince@spauldingforchildren.org](mailto:sprince@spauldingforchildren.org).



Jeremiah, Octavius, Isiah and K'Vonnta with the Umpires for the game.



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Spaulding for Children is funded by private donations, the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, and the United Way of Greater Houston.



## OTHER WAYS TO GIVE



**Kroger:** When you shop at Kroger you can help Spaulding for Children raise funds! Link your Kroger Plus card at [www.kroger.com/communityrewards](http://www.kroger.com/communityrewards), and earn donation for Spaulding for Children while you shop. Sign in or quickly create an account online and search for our organization number, **80800!**

**Randalls Good Neighbor Program:** Link your Randalls Remarkable Card to Spaulding for Children, which is organization number **1470**, and Randalls will donate a percentage of your purchases to Spaulding for Children. Please fill out the Randalls Good Neighbor Form, which can be found at <http://www.randalls.com/ShopStores/Good-Neighbor.page>, and bring it with you next time you shop at Randalls.

**Corporate Matching Gift Programs:** Does your corporation have an employee matching gift program? Many corporations offer employee giving programs where they match donations to eligible nonprofits. It's an easy way double or even triple your contribution to Spaulding for Children! Check with your company today to see if we are on their list of approved nonprofits.

**Amazon:** Spaulding for Children is a participating charity of AmazonSmile. This is an easy way to designate a percentage of your purchase to go to Spaulding for Children! Once you have linked the account, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases!

Here is how it works:

- Visit <http://smile.amazon.com/>
- Sign in as you would on your regular account or create one if you don't already have one
- On your first visit to AmazonSmile, you will need to select Spaulding for Children to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. You can do that by clicking the link towards the top of the page that reads "Supporting"
- Search for Spaulding for Children (make sure you select the Houston location!)
- After you choose Spaulding for Children, AmazonSmile will remember this as your preferred charity when you shop in the future.