



"We are committed to our community
and its future – OUR YOUTH. "

July 8, 2008

Dear Nancy,

I want to thank you again for providing support services to many of the families in the Family Assistance Support Team (FAST) program. At least 50 percent of FAST families are experiencing some type of loss in the form of death, divorce, parent mental illness, parent incapacitation, or parent incarceration. As you know, we have limited resources to help these families and to have Lighthouse for New Hope in Mesquite is a huge blessing. Most of the families I encounter are financially strapped or low income and many are desperate for help. The youth may be struggling with behavior problems, mental health issues, anger issues, failing grades and other issues relating to the family system. Hope is all they need sometimes to keep going.

When assessing the needs of the family, I find that the losses experienced in the family are probably at the root of many of the troubling behaviors that are occurring. The Lighthouse provides a safe haven for the youth and parents to finally (I say finally because the grief seems to be unresolved for years without relief) find a bond with others that have experienced similar grief and loss.

I am assured when I refer families to Lighthouse for New Hope that they will be received with open loving arms by dedicated staff and volunteers. Helping families to adjust to death, divorce and sometimes tragic loss can be the miracle that they need to make it through the day. I often hear the gratefulness in the voice of a parent who went to Lighthouse and participated in the groups along with their children.

Thank you and God bless you for your commitment to serving youth and families.

Sincerely,

Karen Wood
Youth and Family Specialist
Mesquite Youth Services