



We have many good reasons to celebrate the residents of Jesse's House, but this past year we had a special reason to celebrate. We had 3 high school seniors graduate! In a community like ours where graduating from high school is all but expected, that may not seem like a special cause for celebration, but for youth in foster care it's an exceptional accomplishment. In the state of Georgia, only 11% of youth in foster care graduate from high school, and only 6% - 8% graduate on time. Research demonstrates that every time a child changes schools they lose up to 6 months of their education. Many children in foster care change schools 10-15 times throughout their education.

Over the past three years all of the residents who were placed with us during their senior year worked hard to make up for lost time and graduated from high school on time. In the face of a 6 – 8% on-time graduation rate from high school, Jesse's House is pleased to report a 100% graduation rate. That is a statistic we are very proud of!!



Lauren changed schools 26 times, 12 of those changes occurred during her high school years. For most of her freshman and sophomore years she was homeless. Determined to graduate on time, she took 18 classes her senior year, which included taking 4 classes after school, and 6 additional online classes. She graduated on the A/B Honor Roll and was the recipient of a special award given to one graduating senior in recognition of their efforts to rise above adversity. She is also the first person in her family to graduate from high school. When asked what she was most proud of, she said "I never thought I would make it through everything to get here."



Samantha said she was most proud that she "never gave up." Through estrangement from family, changing schools often, and frequently the target of bullying, she continued to strive for excellence. She took AP and honors classes, and was dual enrolled in college classes her senior year. She received awards for academic excellence in Business and Animation, earned a 3.74 GPA and graduated with honors.



Julia was homeless until being placed at Jesse's House the summer before her junior year of high school. Without a laptop or essential school supplies, without a place to eat a meal and sometimes without a meal to eat, without a bed to sleep in or heat to keep her warm, without a place to take a warm shower and wash her hair, she challenged herself and enrolled in all honors classes. Julia graduated as a member of 3 honor societies: The National Honor Society, The National Art Honor Society, and The National Chinese Honor Society. When asked what she was most proud of she replied "I am not one to boast about my academics, I just feel happy that people know me."

For those of you who have contributed to our mission through your time, money, thoughtful gestures and areas of expertise, your support has made it possible for us to give these girls the guidance and resources to help them reach their goals and follow their dreams.

You have helped to change their lives,
and in some cases, you have helped to save their lives. To say
"Thank you" doesn't seem big enough, but it's all we have,
so thank you.



*Names have been changed for confidentiality