

When I came to work for Collins Home over ten years ago, I was struck by the quality of care that was provided to the children God sends our way. Coming from a corporate background, I took it for granted that I would need to 'grow' the program. It didn't take me long to realize bigger is not always better and that being smaller allowed us to truly have a family environment for our kids. While we may not serve large quantities of children compared to larger homes, I believe we serve our children exceptionally well.

You may ask how we do it. You would have to come tour our homes and talk with us for a while to get a real answer to this question. However, I started this article talking about our size. We are small enough that no child "slips through the cracks", that we know these children not just by name but by every dimple in a smile. Each child receives counseling and individual attention. Some of the children only need the normal discipleship and life-skills counseling offered by our parents yet others need more intensive therapeutic counseling provided by Holly Partin; a wonderful counselor that truly cares for our kids.

Our children are offered various age appropriate growth opportunities. They attend different schools, many of them play sports and they attend special events. Some people may look at the special events and question whether it is good for the children. Over the years, I have heard well intentioned friends question this by saying "my children do not have it that good." So, as I write about all the special opportunities provided by friends in the community, I am concerned this can be a misconception. Please understand, most people have their children for eighteen years and then help them through adulthood. Today, many children stay home well past college. This gives you ample time as a parent to grow your children. Your "special events" are spread out over time. Children stay in our care an average of two years. We have two years to help them deal with the problems from their past, in some cases, show them a love they've never known, as well as prepare them for what their future may hold. Thus, we do try to keep the children busy in order to provide varied learning experiences they may treasure the whole of their lives. How cool is it for our kids to attend an event that is fun for them and often educational without them even realizing it! For those of you who offer our kids event opportunities, we appreciate it more than I can say.