

Words from Pam Jones

Hello Friends,

At gatherings where we have been together, you may remember my talking about Crittenton's "secret sauce" – the combination of factors that set Crittenton apart from other organizations working with teen girls. What goes into the sauce? (1) The intensive evaluation process which informs our programs, (2) the length of time the girls spend with Crittenton, and (3) our invaluable team of trained, credentialed professionals on staff. I would like to use this month's newsletter to acquaint you with one of those outstanding program facilitators, Jessica Moore-Solorzano.



Jessie, as we know her, has been with Crittenton for 9 years, bringing an incredible kindness and warmth to everything she does. The girls she facilitates have let me know why every one of them love her. Why? They tell me that, above all, Jessie is a person who listens and imbues Crittenton girls with the idea that they each have a voice that needs to be heard.

Crittenton is the better for the initiatives Jessie has brought to the organization. To mention just a few, Jessie delivers programs in both English and Spanish to our PEARLS and SNEAKERS groups. She developed the Crittenton College and Career Connection program, which we call 4'ing the Future, inspiring hundreds of first-generation college families to start planning their daughter's pathway to college in the 8th grade. She has always had the girls pay it forward in girl-led community service projects, like the Teddy Bear Drive, comforting children exposed to domestic violence. Jessie has served the dual role of leader and role model - not only for Crittenton girls, but for her three little girls at home, her husband, and her extended family.

Jessie has left her imprint on Crittenton, and is moving on to bigger and better things. She has accepted a position at the University of Maryland's School of Public Health, as a Program Advisor within the Office of the Dean. She's coupling this with an impressive academic step – entering the University's Ph. D program in Public Health.

Of course, all of us at Crittenton, and, most importantly, the girls, feel a sense of loss with Jessie's departure. But that sense of loss is more than offset by the knowledge that she will always be a part of the Crittenton family, and that she will use her experience at Crittenton to empower even greater numbers of young girls to embrace their full potential. Buena suerte en tu nueva jornada Jessie!

Warm Regards,
Pam Jones