



I wanted to share with all of you, a story that has come full circle in my development that has really hit home to me, and reminded me of just why our job in the Public Housing Industry is so important and fulfilling. You know I have always felt that if we can make a difference in someone's life, we have done our job!

I have an Individual who moved to our area approximately two years ago from Florida. She was trying to obtain custody of her two grandchildren who were in foster care in a Florida group home.



Florida officials would not give her custody of the children due to the fact she was in a one bedroom apartment, and on a fixed income. She arrived in Vernon Parish with the help of a friend. She in turn ended up in my development. She worked for 6 months to become a certified foster parent, conforming to both Louisiana and Florida red-tape to get her grandchildren placed in her care. Finally after 8 months the children were allowed to come to her temporarily. Today (July 28, 2010), after almost two years, and her grandchildren being in and out of foster care for six (yes 6) years, their adoption was finalized in my office at 12:15p.m. via telephone conference. I was able to give the oath of office for the Florida judge, as I am a Louisiana Notary Public, and be a witness to this wonderful creation of a FOREVER FAMILY, to these children that have been through so much. She will be the first to acknowledge that without our Public Housing Agency and our willingness to help individuals in need, this would not have happened for her!

So many times, only negative things get reported, I just felt this was a wonderful story to share.....This is why we should be proud of our many accomplishments to help individuals in need!

Lori Lee Wilson, PHM Executive Director of the Vernon Parish Housing Authority