



Andrea's experience as a typical sibling of Andres, 19, developed her love for the Jill's House families she serves.

IMPACT

Jill's House's Weekday Program Supervisor uses her personal experience as a typical sibling to benefit children Jill's House serves.

Jill's House's stories of impact typically surround celebrations such as a non-verbal child who said his first words--"Jill's House." Or a mom and dad who went on their first date since their child was born. Or a typical sibling who had both parents attend his basketball game for the first time, ever. Behind each of these success stories are countless donors, staff and volunteers who make these pivotal moments possible. People like Jill's House's Weekday Program Supervisor, Andrea Perdomo.

Andrea supervises the Weeknights at Jill's House school program and coordinates with local schools, parents, bus drivers, nurses and childcare specialists to ensure each child is safe and happy during his or her overnight stay. Fluent in both English and Spanish, Andrea also manages day programs during the summer and school holidays, as well as the Jill's House Fellowship Program.

"My brother Andres is the reason I want to serve this population," said Andrea. "He is 19 and has a developmental delay. I personally saw how difficult raising him was for my family, especially since Andres was non-verbal and medically fragile when he was younger. My mom couldn't go to church; my parents had an awful relationship as a result of the stress, and my sister Amanda and I were not able to receive as much attention as we wanted because my brother needed so much. So I know firsthand what it is like to live in a family raising a child with special needs. Being the typical sibling in a family like this requires you to learn a lot about patience."

Andrea first heard about Jill's House while attending Liberty University. She later saw an ad for a Jill's House childcare specialist and knew the job was meant for her. Andrea began working at Jill's House in December, 2011 and has proven her love for families raising children with special needs ever since.

"Obviously families benefit from weekday respite because they get a night of rest during the busy work week," said Andrea. "But the best part is that the Weeknights at Jill's House school program offers enrichment for the children. We reinforce what kids learn at school and what they do at home, and we create consistency each time they visit with other children and childcare specialists and group activities. We also build their stay around different themes such as team building, communication and sharing, which are reinforced each time they stay."

Andrea shares how the Lord has worked in the life of her brother. "He can now speak and, in fact, gave a speech at his high school graduation last spring! It was cute because he's so shy. He stutters and gets nervous, but he nailed it! He is now helping out at the school where he graduated by assisting teachers. He has come a long, long way. This is the kind of independence and socialization I pray for all the children we serve at Jill's House."

To learn how your school can participate in the Weeknights at Jill's House school program, contact Dana Hecht at dana.hecht@jillshouse.org or 703.639.5681.

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