



Justin Shaw / The Commercial Appeal

Adasia Jackson, 3, gets help holding the balloons for the official opening of a social services building for Hope House. It was possible through three monetary gifts

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Major gifts add space for HIV/AIDS families

Third home on Idlewild will allow parents to attend class

**By David Flaum**

**May 21, 2005**

Just in time for its 10th anniversary, Hope House attracted nearly \$370,000 Friday to buy, fix up and run a third home on Idlewild.

The money will give the agency, which operates child care centers and social programs for children and families affected by HIV and AIDS, a home for its social services, GED classes and administration.

"While their children are here during the day preparing for kindergarten, their parents will be here as well," development director Andrea Dancy Auguiste said.

Specifically, Hope House will get \$198,000 from an anonymous donor to buy the house at 15 S. Idlewild, \$70,000 from the Assisi Foundation to renovate the building, and \$100,000 over five years from the Junior League to operate it.

"This is our largest community project in terms of volunteers and monetary support," said Kim MacQueen, president of the Junior League, a founder of Hope House.

During its 2004-2005 year the group gave \$30,000 to Hope House and provided 28 volunteers.

The additional space pleased one mother whose four children have all been at the infant and toddler day care center at 23 S. Idlewild and the 3-, 4- and 5-year-old preschool at 27 S. Idlewild during the past nine years.

"They love it here," said Lynn, who asked not to give her last name.

Her three older children, two boys and a girl, are in school and doing well. Her 3-year-old son is still at Hope House.

"They've helped us with everything," from family issues to household items, Lynn said.

And Lynn is in the GED class, so she's happy about having a real classroom to go to.

Hope House leaders expect the new facility to be ready this fall, executive director Elizabeth Dupont said.

The space will include more room for the six workers crammed into 600 square feet of office space in the buildings next door, Dupont said.

Also, there will be offices for the two case workers who now have to meet with parents in restrooms or the attics of the other houses, Auguiste said.

"We can expand (services)," she said. "We can make an impact on more people's lives."

-- David Flaum: 529-2330

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## HOPE HOUSE

Top person: Elizabeth Dupont, executive director

Address: 23 S. Idlewild

Mission: To raise the quality of life of children of HIV/AIDS infected parents and their families.

Annual budget: \$840,000

Employees: 19

Phone: 272-2702

Web: [hopehousedaycare.org](http://hopehousedaycare.org)