

A VISIT TO CASA DE ESPERANZA

Agnes Grace '59
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Agnes Grace reflects on her experience visiting Casa de Esperanza in Houston, Texas.

“It was really a delight to meet these Sisters—they love what they’re doing.”
— Agnes Grace, Alumni Council Vice Chair



Clockwise from top left: Sr. Jeannine Spenard, Elizabeth Dickinson-Wotring '59, Sr. Rita Pay '66, Sr. Rita Garneau '67, and Agnes Grace '59 visit in Houston.

Sisters of the Presentation of Mary have served as missionaries at Casa de Esperanza in Houston, Texas, since 1995. Currently, three of the sisters are dedicating their lives and time to providing hospitality, encouragement, and moral support to the caregivers of the children who reside at Casa de Esperanza de los Ninos—the House of Hope for Children. These children have been placed in Casa’s care because of neglect, abuse, or the effects of HIV/AIDS. For over 25 years, Casa has provided a home and medical and psychological care to these children and support services for their families.

Over the Thanksgiving 2007 holiday, I visited with Beth (Donadio) Dickinson-Wotring '59 and her family at their home in

Spring, Texas. We were invited to visit the Casa facility in downtown Houston and had the opportunity to see the soon-to-open Rocket Center, a community of 10 homes for the Casa children and their foster caregivers. The Center was made possible by donations from the Houston Rockets.

Sisters Rita Pay, p.m. '66, Rita Garneau, p.m. '67 and Jeannine Spenard, p.m. graciously welcomed us into their home and provided an interesting history of the development of Casa. We were warmly greeted by Allison Gagne '05, a volunteer foster parent. We met her two foster children—happy, exuberant, lovable four-year old boys who delighted in showing us their rooms. Seeing the wonderful work being done at Casa first-hand was refreshing and rewarding. ■

For more information on Casa, visit www.casahope.org.