

GIVING

A Special Assignment Opened a New Door



Barbara Hill understood the need for respite and has sponsored a child ever since.

Barbara went from holding a door open for a child with special needs to keeping our doors open as we provide overnight breaks to hundreds of families in our community and across the country raising these special children.

For years, Barbara Hill and her husband, Chad, served as Sunday morning greeters at McLean Bible Church. One morning, they were assigned to greet near the Sunday school classrooms for children with special needs. She watched as moms and dads helped their kids walk or wheel up the path. "They looked happy and relieved to be on their way to church," shared

Barbara. But as she held the door for them she realized that these parents would never see their kids grow up. They'd never know the joy of seeing their kids go to college or get married or work in a field they love. She said, "This reality hit me in a very personal way as I thought about my two, healthy grown-up kids."

Then she volunteered at Soaring Over Seven--the day respite program for children with special needs at McLean Bible Church. "Again I saw the reality of what these parents deal with day in and day out," said Barbara. Spending time with the kids helped her empathize with their parents. She thought, "If this was a child of mine, I'd be so grateful for an opportunity like this--an opportunity for my child to spend time with peers and an opportunity for me to get a break and broaden my world a bit. My heart went out to the families and I wanted to support."

For several years, Barbara has faithfully sponsored a child's overnight stay every month. She has given hundreds of children a weekend away from home and hundreds of parents an opportunity to rest and reconnect. She gives from the profits of her business--a company called Bridal Artistry. After a successful career at Meridian International Center, she founded Bridal Artistry and now manages a team of 14 makeup and hair professionals. "The business has just taken off," said Barbara. "I never saw myself in the beauty industry but here I am. Looking back, I can see how God guided my steps and blessed my business. I'm happy to give from what He's given me and I'll keep doing that for as long as I can."

Thank you Barbara for your consistent, faithful gift of Jill's House to the families we serve!

To sponsor a child for a night, visit jillshouse.org/sponsor or email claire.waldrop@jillshouse.org.