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# New Life For Adults and Youth LIFELETTER

Transforming Broken Lives Since 1971

Executive Directors  
Carlos and Rosalinda Rivera



## JOHN'S STORY: REUNITED

My name is John. I came to New Life a year ago completely broken. My life was a mess. I was strung out on pills and heroin. I had lost my wife, my kids, and most of my family because of my drug use. I was on a path of self-destruction. I got locked up for being caught with heroin until I was approved to come to New Life for Adults and Youth. It was time for a change.



My wife told me she no longer wanted to be married and said it would never work out. I begged the Lord to fix my situation with my family. For the first month of my program, I prayed for my relationships. Then God showed me I needed to give it all to Him and let Him fix *me* before He could fix the other areas of my life, including my marriage. I gave my life to God and surrendered to Him.

Before too long, my wife started talking to me again; my kids wanted me around, and my family wanted to see me again. The Lord has restored all the things I had destroyed in my addiction. If it wasn't for New life giving me the chance to know the Lord and guiding me on the right path, I wouldn't be here today, and my kids would grow up without their dad.

**After graduation this month, John, Amanda and their son will be reunited as John stays on for our Internship Program. Their family will continue to heal and strengthen through the love of God, with the support and guidance of New Life for Adults and Youth.**

**THIS is what we're all about!**



Receiving certificate with  
Director Joe Wilson



What God has joined together...



John, Amanda and Bentley!

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SCAN ME

# LEILANI'S STORY

"THE WORLD REJECTED ME, BUT GOD ACCEPTED ME."

When I was young I made vows to myself: I vowed that I would never be like my mother. I said I would never treat my kids like she did – choosing a man over my children. I said I would never drink or do drugs. I wanted better for my life. But the very things I said I would not be, I became. And the very things I said I would not do, I did. I felt rejected by my mother, step-father, and brother. **I was physically, sexually, and verbally abused by my step-father. I felt isolated, rejected, neglected, and less than human.** This went on until I ran away.

In the custody of child services for 7 years, I moved around. I was placed with family members, in shelters, foster homes, group homes and treatment centers until I was finally emancipated at age 17. **Never feeling loved or accepted, I turned to drugs, money, and men to satisfy the emptiness and heartache I felt inside. The only coping skill I had was anger.**

I was angry at my mom for not choosing me, at the system for making me feel unwanted like a stray cat, and I was angry at God because I thought He did not care about me enough to help me. Anger did not work in my favor. Not caring if I lived or died, **by 25 I had attempted suicide seven times. But God intervened. He had a different plan.**

The world rejected me but God accepted me. **No one picked me, but God chose me and called me.** Where I am weak, He is strong. He knows me and hears me and cares very much for me. He knows what I need before I do, and I trust Him with my life. My life is not my own, it belongs to Jesus Christ--He paid my ransom from death, hell, and the grave.

Since coming to The Mercy House, I have been delivered from drug addiction. I have been set free from the strongholds of my past. **I have been accepted into a new family at New Life.** I have never felt this much love, acceptance, and kindness. There's no need to sabotage or self-destruct because I am living a life of purpose and hope and newness.



The old Leilani died and I am just getting to know this new one. I love Jesus and people. **My new purpose is to be a light in the dark for others like me, to influence women in a positive way.**

I am living a life of serving God and others, because anything outside of God's plan for my life will not work. I would like to pursue an education in ministry. **I am now available to be used by God to help people who are lost and hurting like New Life did for me.**



## HOPE NOTES

FOUNDERS VICTOR  
AND CARMEN TORRES

When Carmen and I began New Life for Youth in 1971, we were bringing men and women in off the streets, sharing the love of Christ in practical ways. As our program grew, we have never turned anyone away for financial reasons. Rarely, we are unable to meet a particular health need and must offer a referral. We want these broken and hurting young people to get the help they need. When we cannot give them a home, we can share the gospel and show God's love. We received this message recently:

*"I called the men's section and explained about my nephew and what he's going through. This is not something you can help with and I totally get it. [New Life staff] did something even more amazing, though. The young man on the phone prayed with me. I'm totally in tears. No one has ever done that before. God bless you all."*

The man she spoke with was a graduate of our program. He has experienced from our staff and counselors the same kind of compassion he shared with her. This is what we do -- we are hope dealers, offering lifelong transformation through Jesus Christ.

*Victor Torres*

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