



CASAVALENTINA

PROVIDING AT-RISK AND FORMER FOSTER CARE YOUTH WITH SAFE, AFFORDABLE HOUSING,
LIFE SKILLS, AND CONTINUED SUPPORT SO THAT THEY ACHIEVE AND MAINTAIN SELF-SUFFICIENCY.

July 15, 2022

Dear Ingrid Joli,

I want to personally thank you for your continued and generous support of Casa Valentina. Because of your dedication to our mission, we have provided over 280 youth in the past 16 years with the survival tools and support systems they need to successfully transition into independent living. We are truly grateful.

When I first began working at Casa Valentina in 2015, I knew that the concept of 'success' had to evolve to include a more complex spectrum of human exceptionality. As a former English teacher and Department Chair, my original focus was solely on education with my goal for all youth to be enrolled in an academic program. As I watched residents switch majors, fail classes, become bored with attending school, I soon realized that there was more to education than simply being in four walls – youth need to feel excited about what it is they are doing; they need experiences.

When I became Executive Director, my vision expanded. I knew it would be crucial for our youth to be exposed to various academic and professional experiences – many of which they had never considered. It is no longer just a focus on education; now it is education, employment and career planning so our youth can decide upon the career path that best suits them.

With our 2022 graduation already upon us, I want to reach out to you to share in our enthusiasm for the work we do at Casa Valentina. I am delighted to include photos of our recent graduation celebration. Over the summer, Ingrid Gonzalez, Program and Development Manager, and I will reach out to you with inspiring updates and new initiatives to engage you in the community you helped establish. During the next several months, my goal is for us to become more intimately acquainted with supporters like you.

Thank you again for your kind consideration and ongoing generosity. Please do not hesitate to contact me at jgraham@casavalentina.org or at (305) 444-0740. I would be happy to connect with you!

Kindest regards,

Janice Graham
Executive Director