

# Isaiah 117 House provides temporary care for foster kids

## WOMEN HELPING OTHERS

Anne Marshall



WHO Vice President Maria Tolleson, gives a \$750 check to Tara Thornton, the location leader with Isaiah House 117.

The Women Helping Others were honored in May to welcome Tara Thornton, who represents Georgetown branch of nonprofit Isaiah House 117.

Isaiah 117 House provides physical and emotional support in a safe and loving home for children awaiting placement in foster care homes.

When children are removed from their homes out of concern for their welfare, they are usually brought to the child welfare services office to await placement with a foster family. This wait can be several hours to nearly a full day. Sometimes the children only have the floor or a chair to sit on during that wait time. These children often have nothing with them and are scared, lonely, hungry, dirty and in desperate need of love and support.

It is hard to imagine a child having to face an experience such as this. These homes change the way foster care begins in such a positive way.

Isaiah House 117 provides a comforting home where these children instead can be brought to wait in a place that is safe with friendly and loving volunteers who provide clean clothes, smiles, toys and snugly blankets and food. This safe place allows children to receive the comfort and care they need while child wel-

fare staff and case workers can do the necessary work to provide a safe and proper placement. In the event a child must stay overnight there are volunteers on the staff to spend the night caring for the child and stay with them until they are placed with the foster home.

The mission of Isaiah 117

House is threefold:

- reduce trauma for children awaiting placement
- lighten the load for child welfare services
- ease the transition for foster families

Currently under planning and construction, the new Isaiah House 117 in Williamson

County will serve the local population with a loving and positive environment to make them comfortable during their wait. The new house is beautiful, with two rooms, one for boys and one for girls with all the amenities. There are volunteers that spend time with the children and make sure they are comfortable during their stay.

Isaiah 117: "Learn to do right, seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless, and the case of the widow."

## Meals on Wheels Annual Fundraiser

WHO/Meals on Wheels 13th Annual Fundraiser is currently in full swing and will take donations from now to July 31. This fundraiser exclusively benefits Sun City and Georgetown Seniors served by Opportunities, Meals on Wheels of Williamson and Burnet Counties.

Help the WHO Ladies raise \$100,000 which includes an up to \$50,000 match from St. David's Foundation. To donate visit [owbc-tx.org](http://owbc-tx.org) and select "WHO Ladies fundraiser" from the menu and follow instructions. For additional information contact Dori Yeater, Director of Development, OWBC, 512763-1400 Ext. 214.