

PROFILE OF HOPE: Nadine & Family Arrive at IOH

Nadine finished work around 5. She picked up her children from after-school care, took a train and several buses, and arrived at IOH a little after 7. Her 8 year old son and 10 year old daughter were skeptical upon entering the boisterous activity room. Life skills was in full swing, with IOH children eating and playing with volunteers while their parents attended a class on combating stress. Eventually, Nadine and her children were given the keys to Apartment 206, their new safe haven. This weary and anxious family was overwhelmed by the kindness with which the apartment had been prepared. “We never expected this,” Nadine exclaimed. “You’ve thought of everything. It is more than we hoped for.” The children asked repeatedly if this was their new home, needing reassurance that it was real, that they could stay, and that it wouldn’t be taken away. Finally, with the door secure and protecting them from the outside world, the little family was left to settle in. And so their journey begins - a journey to strengthen, to heal, to stabilize.