

Charity provides necessities to foster kids and education about the foster system

By Rachel Gross Weinstein

In 2008, Dallas resident Michelle Armour witnessed a car accident that killed Geoff and Christy Hart, their daughter and two foster kids. Although Armour didn't know the family, the accident led her to learn more about them and the foster care system in Texas. What she saw didn't make her feel a whole lot better.

"It hurt me to witness the accident and to learn about the foster girls, who were the same age as my kids," she said. "They had such a tragic life and their lives ended tragically. After this happened, I knew I had to do something."

In response, Armour recently launched the non-profit organization, Foster Kids Charity, Inc. which has two missions: First, to improve the well being of foster children from infancy through 18 years of age by providing care packages filled with necessities such as food, clothing, toys and hygiene items. And second, is to spread awareness about foster care.

Through her organization, Armour tries to give something to children who have encountered many hardships in their lives. "It's an opportunity for children to know their self worth and realize that people care and appreciate them," Armour said. "I want to help these kids and promote fostering to get more people to open their doors."

Foster Kids Charity, Inc. is a one-woman operation right now. Armour accepts donations and prepares the packages with friends. These packages are then sent to Child Protective Services (CPS) in regions three, four and five, which serve Dallas/Fort Worth, Tyler, Beaumont and the surrounding areas. From there, the packages are dispersed to various CPS Rainbow Rooms, emergency resource centers available to CPS caseworkers. Rainbow Rooms provide clothing, shoes, underwear, baby formula, school supplies and hygiene items to children entering foster care and children that live below the poverty line.

In addition to preparing care packages, Armour is spreading information about foster care and foster children. She explained there is a misperception about foster children; that because they



Photo: Rachel Gross Weinstein

Foster Kids Charity, Inc. founder Michelle Armour assembles care packages for children in need.

were abused, they'll abuse others. "I don't believe that is true," she explained. "With love, kindness and patience, foster kids can overcome adversity."

Armour currently funds the charity by herself but hopes to partner with other non-profit organizations and business to reach more of those in need. Other long-term goals include obtaining a larger space – Foster Kids Charity, Inc. currently operates out of Armour's garage – and opening group homes in Dallas to provide foster kids with a safe environment.

Armour is glad she can do something to help foster children. Her care packages, she believes, are a step in the right direction.

"The rewarding part is knowing that they get the packages and something is good in their lives," she said. "I could never imagine my kids being taken away from me, and I want to help those in need. Assembling the care packages makes me happy because I know I am doing something to help kids and the community."

Foster Kids Charity, Inc. will host a Back-to-School Fair at



Photo: Courtesy of Michelle Armour

This Foster Kids Charity, Inc. care bag and others like it will go to a foster or underprivileged child.

Campbell Green Recreation Center from 9:30 a.m. to noon on Sunday Aug. 13. Resources available will include free haircuts, eye and hearing tests, free backpacks and school supplies and a raffle. The event will also offer entertainment, arts and crafts and a bounce house. Proceeds will benefit the Rainbow Rooms.

For more information about the organization and how to donate, visit www.fosterkidscharity.org or contact Michelle at 972-364-9074, or michelle@fosterkidscharity.org.