



FOR IMMEDIATE
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Teaching Parents Recognized By FOX 35

Enterprise, FL – Mike and Maritza Velez have parenting youth at Residing Hope for more than 22 years, helping more than 250 who were traumatized by abuse, neglect, or abandonment. FOX 35 recognized them with a Care Force award, given to those in the community that go the extra distance to make a positive impact on others.

In 2002, Maritza and her husband Mike were youth ministers looking for a change, when they happened to drive by the gate of Residing Hope, known then as the Florida United Methodist Children’s Home. Curious about the mission, they thought they might become volunteers. “After being there for a month, we totally fell in love with the mission, the kids, and the support from the staff,” Maritza Velez said.

For more on the story, visit
<https://www.fox35orlando.com/news/couple-helps-raise-more-than-250-kids-floridas-residing-hope>.



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For more information about Residing Hope, please contact Mark Cobia, Director of Marketing and Communications at 386.668.4774, mark.cobia@residinghope.org, or visit ResidingHope.org.

Residing Hope was established in 1908 in Enterprise, Florida on the banks of Lake Monroe. The Madison Youth Ranch, a second residential location, was added in 2014 in North Florida. Residing Hope provides services to families and children from childhood to adulthood, and is accredited by COA (Council on Accreditation), EAGLE (a program of the United Methodist Association of Health and Welfare Ministries), and is a member of the Alliance for Children and Families. Our Therapeutic Residential Care Program provides care and a family style home for school-aged children who have been victimized by abuse, neglect or family trauma, and provides education, counseling, as well as recreation and ministry opportunities. Residing Hope also provides Foster Care, an Independent Living Program as well as a Montessori-based early childhood program to the public. Residing Hope is supported through the generosity of churches, individuals and legacy gifts. For more information, visit www.residinghope.org.