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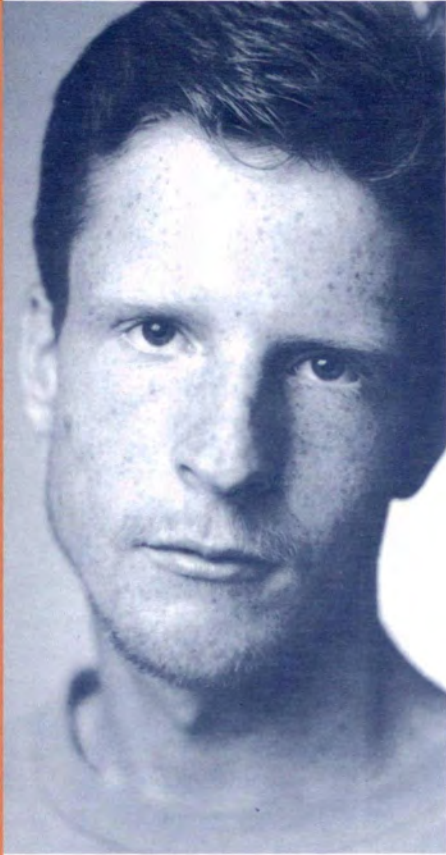
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1995

ANNUAL REPORT

File



COVENANT HOUSE CALIFORNIA



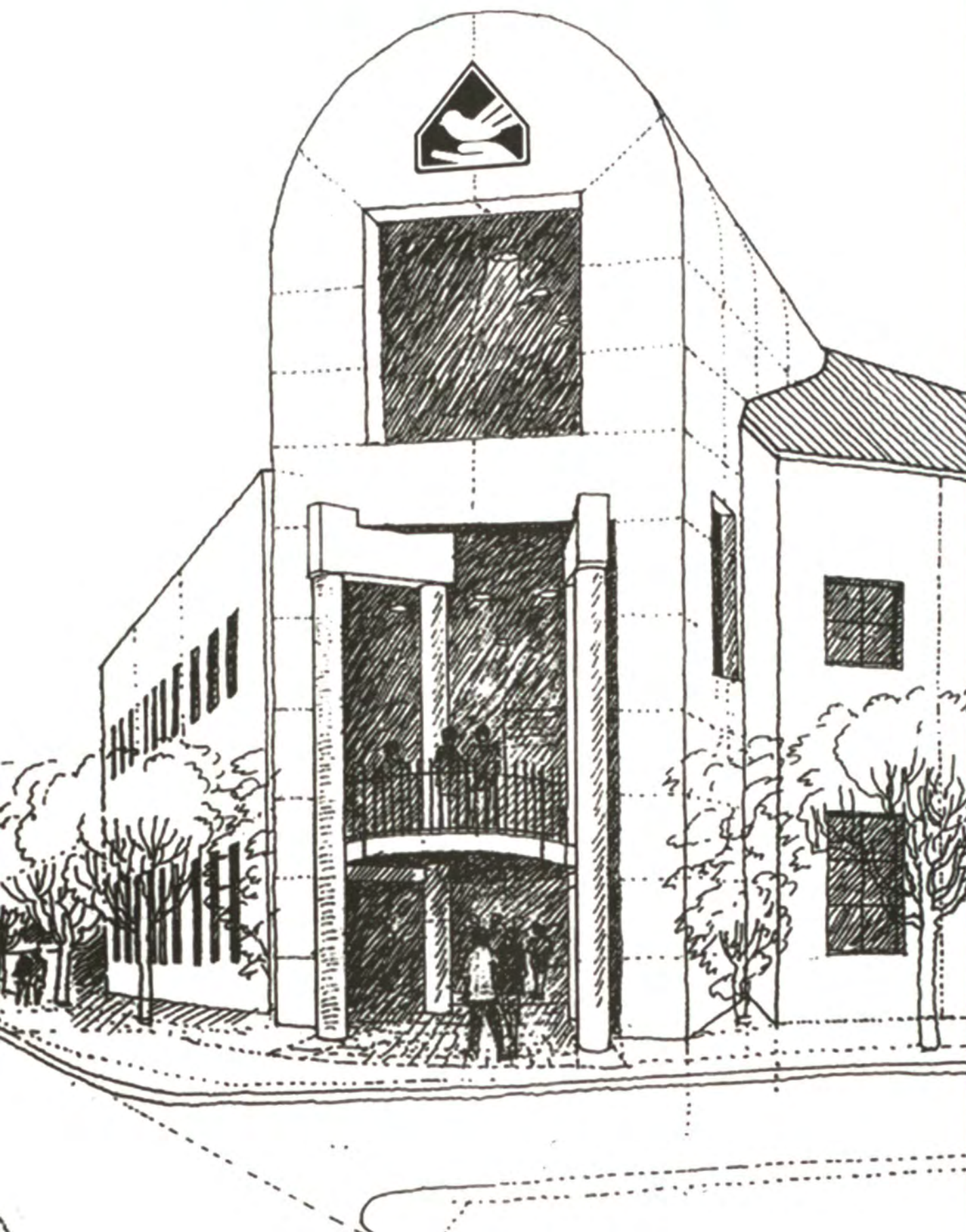
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COVENANT HOUSE CALIFORNIA



May 30, 1996

Grand Opening

file

September 17, 1996

MEMORANDUM

TO: Hillary Rodham Clinton
FROM: Nicole Rabner
RE: Colorado's Covenant With Children

You had inquired about the progress of *Colorado's Covenant With Children*. As you know, the Covenant is a four-year initiative, begun this year, of the Colorado Council of Churches. Its mission is to mobilize the faith community across the state to help improve conditions for Colorado's children by the year 2000. The Covenant focuses on the moral obligations of churches, synagogues and other religious institutions to use their resources to help children reach their full potentials.

The Covenant has planned two formal launches, one which took place in July and the other scheduled for September 28, 1996. The July launch, which featured Marian Wright Edelman, brought to Denver more than 500 of Colorado's clergy, laity and community volunteers and included a "Child Watch Tour" -- visits to Church-based programs that serve children and could be used as models for replication across the state. The September 28th convening will bring together religious and community leaders in the Denver metropolitan area to hear from children and parents, devise strategies for addressing their needs, and meet with current and potential Covenant financial supporters. The Covenant says it has learned that it is more effective to hold Covenant convenings in communities around the state, rather than to invite communities to come to Denver; it has therefore planned a series of forums with clergy and community leaders in rural and poverty-ridden areas in the coming months.

Attached is a fact sheet on the Covenant and its latest newsletter which details the July 12th event.

PLEASE NOTE: We have extended invitations for two leaders of Colorado's Covenant for Children to meet you tomorrow; if they are able, they will be greeters at the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce event:

- Rev. Lucia Guzman, Executive Director, Colorado Council of Churches
- Rev. Robert Franken, Covenant Coordinator



Colorado's Covenant WITH CHILDREN

FACT SHEET

1234
Bennock Street
Denver, Colorado
80204

(303) 573-4854
FAX (303) 534-1256
1-800-588-6489

WHAT: Colorado's Covenant with Children calls upon faith communities across the state to recall, embrace, and emulate God's loving care for children. Through the Covenant with Children people of faith denounce the great injustice happening to children. We steadfastly commit to mobilize our communities to meet the physical, moral and spiritual needs of children and their families. Colorado's Covenant with Children envisions a state in which every child is held in the loving hands of community.

WHO: The Covenant is a four-year initiative of the Colorado Council of Churches created to improve the plight of children by the year 2000.

WHY: Leaders of Colorado's faith communities have issued this call in response to the unprecedented crisis facing our children. We believe all children deserve to:

- be raised in stable, nurturing families;
- have sufficient food to help grow into strong, healthy adults;
- have health care to assure healthy bodies;
- receive spiritual and moral guidance;
- receive an education that instills a love of learning and hope for the future, and;
- live lives free of violence.

HOW: The Covenant envisions a state that creates: a *spiritual community* in which people aspire to teach their children a common set of virtues based on respect for themselves and others; a *moral community* in which no child goes hungry, no child is homeless, and no child experiences the degradation of violence or neglect; and a *supportive community* which nurtures a lifelong capacity for learning and in which families and children rejoice in the hospitality of others.

Over a four-year period the Covenant will provide forums for congregations to come together to provide children's services to their communities. Local congregations will have assistance in identifying children's needs and gathering resources to address them. The issues include child care; parenting support/education; child advocacy; access to health care; education; violence prevention/intervention; community service; housing; coalition building; teaching respect and tolerance of cultural and religious traditions; and much more.

WHEN: Colorado's Covenant with Children will kickoff with two events in 1996. The July 12 event will include field trips to church based children's programs and a dinner featuring a national speaker. The September event will include a weekend of meetings, national and local speakers, and a large interfaith worship service. The goal of this weekend is to prepare leadership from each congregation to begin work on their four-year community based children's programs.

WHERE: The majority of events for both weekends will take place in Denver, Colorado.

For more information about how you or your congregation can get involved, call 303-573-4854 in metro Denver or 1-800-588-6489.

SPONSORED BY
COLORADO COUNCIL
OF CHURCHES

"YET I CAN NEVER FORGET YOU. SEE, I HAVE INSCRIBED YOUR NAME ON
THE PALMS OF MY HANDS." ISAIAH 49:15-16

Vol. 1 No. 3

August 14, 1996



**Colorado's Covenant
WITH CHILDREN**

FAX UPDATE

Keeping Members and Friends of Colorado's Covenant with Children Informed

COVENANT ENTERS PHASE II

*"Let the little children come unto me;
do not stop them." Mark 10:14*

Dear Friends of Faith:

Recently, Barbara McIntyre (a Covenant Messenger from the United Methodist Church) and I participated in Camp Joy. Forty children, ages 9-12, were invited to this ecumenically-sponsored camp.

The children were invited because they share a common reality: either one or both of their parents are in prison. These children are only 40 of the more than 12,000 in Colorado whose lives are challenged by alienation, anger, ridicule, and so many other things.

For some of the children, Camp Joy was their first summer camp. For some of us counselors, Camp Joy was

our first time experiencing the kinds of scars left upon the hearts and souls of children who experience alienation from parents, friends, and other supportive opportunities.

I found myself asking, "Is this child's life going to get better...can it?"

Through this experience, I also met many dedicated foster parents and loving grandparents...people who care...faithful people who believe in their children.

My prayer for Colorado's children is that each of us will faithfully commit to renew God's Covenant with us...so that we can faithfully covenant with children and families.

My prayer is that each and every congregation joins Colorado's Covenant with Children...for this is an opportunity for us to strengthen our children and families and build better communities.

In this Fax Update and in future communication, you will be hearing much more about our reflections on Phase I of the Covenant, and our new direction and future plans.

With God's Blessing,

*The Rev. Lucia Guzman
Executive Director
Colorado Council of Churches*

**NOTICE FOR DENVER
AREA COVENANT
MESSENGERS:
Organizational Meeting
Thurs., August 22
4:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Colorado Council of
Churches
1234 Bannock St.
RSVP, 573-4854
Please come!**

Covenant Celebration Attracts 500

On July 12, more than 500 clergy, laity and community people came together in Denver to celebrate Colorado's Covenant with Children.

The day's event gave those attending an opportunity to hear about the Covenant, visit church-sponsored programs for children and ask questions about their potential involvement.

An important focus of the event was on the moral obligation churches have to use their resources to help our children develop into healthy adults.

Marian Wright Edelman, author of *Guide My Feet- Prayers and Meditations on Loving and Working for Children*, urged participants attending the dinner to think about child advocacy as a form of ministry.

(Continued)

Fax Update

Colorado's Covenant with Children

Colorado Council of Churches
1234 Bannock Street
Denver, CO 80204
(303) 573-4854
(303) 534-1266 (fax)
1-900-588-6489

The Rev. Lucia Guzman
Executive Director

The Rev. Robert Franken
Covenant Coordinator

2 FAX UPDATE

August 14, 1996

(Celebration, continued)

She reflected on her life as a child of the church -- as the daughter, granddaughter and sister of Baptist ministers. She described how the church was her extended family, leadership trainer, confidence builder, religious educator and summer recreation outlet.

Edelman called on the church to be the "moral locomotive" for children and confirm the sanctity and preciousness of each child before God and the world.

Visits to Church-based Programs

Earlier that afternoon, Covenant Representatives and Messengers had the opportunity to participate in Child Watch visits to church-sponsored programs serving children and families.

The theme for the day was "A Moral Community in which no child goes hungry, no child is homeless, and no child experiences the degradations of violence or neglect."

Aboard a bus, on the way to their first stop, the group was welcomed and thanked by Episcopal Bishop Jerry Winterrowd and the Rev. Lucia Guzman, executive director of the Council of Churches, the sponsor of Colorado's Covenant with Children.

Upon arrival at the Colorado Christian Home, representatives and messengers sat down to a lunch of hot dogs, chili, milk and tater tots with the kids.

Colorado Christian Home/Tennyson Center for Children and Families is recognized as a leader in providing intensive treatment and special education for children and families who have experienced physical, emotional or sexual abuse, or neglect.

Following lunch, the group toured the new facility, seeing classrooms and playing basketball with the kids. Bob Cooper, executive director, shared the stories and hopes of the center.

Next, the group visited expectant teens at Bridgeway, "a loving home, support and education program for pregnant women and teens and their babies."

Bridgeway gives young moms support while providing skills that they will need to survive life's challenges. Life skills training includes health education, employment education, self-help/improvement education and workshops on topics such as abusive relationships, anger and baby showers.

Back on the bus, Covenant Regional Representatives and Messengers were lead in a prayer for Colorado's Covenant with Children.

Special Session for Regional Representatives/Messengers

After their Child Watch visits and prior to dinner, regional representatives and messengers took part in a special session designed to brief them on Colorado's Covenant with Children.

These regional representatives and messengers are integral members of the Covenant. It is their charge to help develop and maintain a regional commitment to the Covenant's mission and vision for the children of Colorado.

As of July 12, almost 50 clergy and lay leaders had been recruited from across the state. More than 30 attended the July 12 orientation.

Covenant Unveils Phase II

With the July 12 introduction to the Covenant now behind us, we are mobilizing for the new challenges that face us in the next pivotal phase of the initiative.

Based on feedback from our committee members and others in the religious community, as well as the lessons we learned in the first phase of the initiative, we view the work of the next phase to be **informing and motivating congregations to dedicate themselves and their work productively in support of the Covenant's mission, goals and outcomes.**

To that end, the Council of Churches is holding a series of focus groups across the state to be followed by regional convocations to build support for the four-year initiative within faith-based institutions. These are in lieu of the large conference originally planned to be held in Denver in late September.

The purpose of these regional caucuses is to educate congregations about children's needs, determine their willingness to work for the Covenant, recruit volunteers and learn about existing programs serving children and families.

Working with Rev. Guzman to spearhead the Covenant's next phase will be the Rev. Robert A. Franken. Rev. Franken serves as a special consultant to the Episcopal Bishop's office. He was ordained to the Diaconate in the Episcopal church in 1984.

Look for an announcement shortly about when representatives of Colorado's Covenant with Children will be in your community.

**COLORADO'S COVENANT WITH CHILDREN
HOST COMMITTEE LIST**

Ms. Sue Anschutz Rodgers
The Anschutz Foundation

The Rev. Dr. Louise Barger
American Baptist Church of the Rocky Mtns.

Sister Marianna Bauder
St. Joseph Hospital

Bishop Allan Bjornberg
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Rocky Mtn. Synod.

Mr. Lua Blankenship
The Children's Hospital

The Rev. J. Langston Boyd
Shorter AME Church

Ms. Katie Broeren
Consultant

Ms. Merle Chambers
Axem Resources

Ms. Mary Gittings Cronin
The Piton Foundation

The Rev. William Crowl
Christian Church, Central Rocky Mtn. Region

The Rev. William Dalke
United Church of Christ, Rocky Mtn. Conference

Ms. Joan Duncan
Mayor, Cherry Hills

Mr. Michael Durkin
Mile High United Way

Ms. Lee Palmer Everding
Communicom, Inc.

Mr. Cole Finnegan
Brownstein, Hyatt, Farber & Strickland

Ms. Jean Galloway
Channel 9

Mr. Sam Gary
Gary-Williams Co.

The Rev. Aaron Gray
Scott United Methodist Church

Dr. Maria Guajarda Lucero
La Rasa

The Rev. Lucia Guzman
Colorado Council of Churches

The Most Rev. Richard Hanifen
Roman Catholic Diocese of Colorado Springs

Ms. Arlene Hirschfeld
Hirschfeld Press

Mr. Bob Howey
Caring About Character

Ambassador Swanee Hunt
The Hunt Alternatives Fund

His Grace Bishop Isaiah of Denver
Greek Orthodox Diocese of Denver

Ms. Jean Jones
Girl Scouts-Mile High Council

Ms. Robin Johnston
St. John's Episcopal Cathedral Tutoring Program

Dr. Sheila Kaplan
Metro State College

Dr. Georgia E. Lesh-Laurie
University of Colorado at Denver

Mr. Gary Levine
Key Bank

The Rev. Julie Liggett
Church World Service

Dr. Herman Lujan
University of Northern Colorado

Dr. Donald Messer
Iliff School of Theology

Mr. Ron Montoya
Plasticom Industries, Inc.

The Rev. Dr. Acen Phillips
Mt. Gilead Baptist Church

The Rev. Dr. Thomas Phillips
Presbytery of Plains and Peaks

Ms. Caroline Rickenbaugh
Community Member

Mr. Daniel Ritchie
University of Denver

Mr. Tim Romani
The Pepsi Company

Governor and Mrs. Roy Romer

The Rev. Alfred Ruth
Western Colorado Presbytery

The Rev. Janet Schlenker
Presbytery of Denver

The Rev. Dr. Michael Sheeran
Regis University

The Rev. Sidney Skirvin
Presbytery of Pueblo

U.S. Attorney Henry Solano

The Most Rev. J. Francis Stafford
Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Denver

Bishop Mary Ann Swenson
United Methodist Church, Rocky Mtn. Conference

The Most Rev. Arthur Tafoya
Roman Catholic Diocese of Pueblo

The Rev. Marcellus Thomas
Cleaves Memorial CME

Mr. Kenneth Wheeler
Unitarian/Universalist Church

Mr. Ron Williams
Gary-Williams Co.

The Rt. Rev. William J. Winterrowd
Episcopal Diocese of Colorado

Dr. Albert Yates
Colorado State University



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18 DUTTON SQUARE
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10005

file Covenant House

NANCY DICKERSON WHITEHEAD
PRESIDENT

(212) 511-1040
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FAX

To Melanne

January 24, 1995

JAN 24 '95 13:54 FR COVENANT HOUSE

212 969 7590 TO 7513505

P.01/01

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Richard H. Hirsch
(212) 727-4036

FIRST LADY AND COVENANT HOUSE PRESIDENT CONFER ON CHILD WELFARE CONCERNS

On January 13th Sister Mary Rose McGeady, D.C., met at the White House with Hillary Rodham Clinton to discuss mutual concerns related to the impact of proposed Welfare Reforms upon teen mothers and their children. The meeting was arranged by Nancy Dickerson Whitehead, a member of Covenant House's Corporate Board.

The 30 minute meeting covered a wide range of childcare related subjects. Mrs. Clinton stressed her own commitment to actions aimed at keeping families together, the availability of health care for low-income young mothers and their children, and the need for real jobs at the end of any job training program. Yet the First Lady repeatedly emphasized the need for "hard heads" as well as "soft hearts" as much-needed reforms were made to the nation's Welfare System.

The two nationally recognized advocates for the good of young people agreed that the major problem in Welfare Reform discussions to date is that too many spokespersons have lost the real focus of the debate: how best to protect children and strengthen families. Sister Mary Rose added to this concern the very practical issue of the provision of affordable, quality child care so that young mothers can have the opportunity to participate in meaningful job training programs.

The meeting concluded with Sister Mary Rose urging Mrs. Clinton to continue her leadership role in child welfare advocacy. Mrs. Clinton commended Sister Mary Rose for the efforts Covenant House is making not only to take care of the nation's homeless kids but to address these child welfare issues on the national level. The two leaders each expressed a desire to work together on these issues in the future.

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