



Tia, a struggling single parent with six young children has a dream! Tia's dream is to open a daycare center in her home that will enable her to become self-sufficient and provide for the future of herself and her children.

Yet, in spite of the Tulare woman's remarkable determination to realize her dream of self-sufficiency for her family, a number of seemingly insurmountable obstacles stood between Tia and achieving her goal. Tia's home needed a variety of costly repairs and upgrades in order to bring it into compliance with the city's rigorous requirements for a daycare operating license. Repairs seemingly far beyond the means of her meager resources.

Tia, through her church's pastor, reached out to Hands in the Community (HNC) for help in realizing her dream. Lester Moon, founder and executive director of HNC, met with Tia and a group from her church in August to assess her needs and determine how HNC could help Tia to achieve her goal.

Tia's list of needs for her home was extensive and included plumbing repairs, major repairs to her home's heating and air conditioning system and safety hazards in her backyard that must be removed. In addition, asthma-related medical issues with two of her young children had forced Tia to remove the carpeting in her home leaving approximately 500 feet of bare concrete in her living room, hallway and kitchen needing to be tiled.

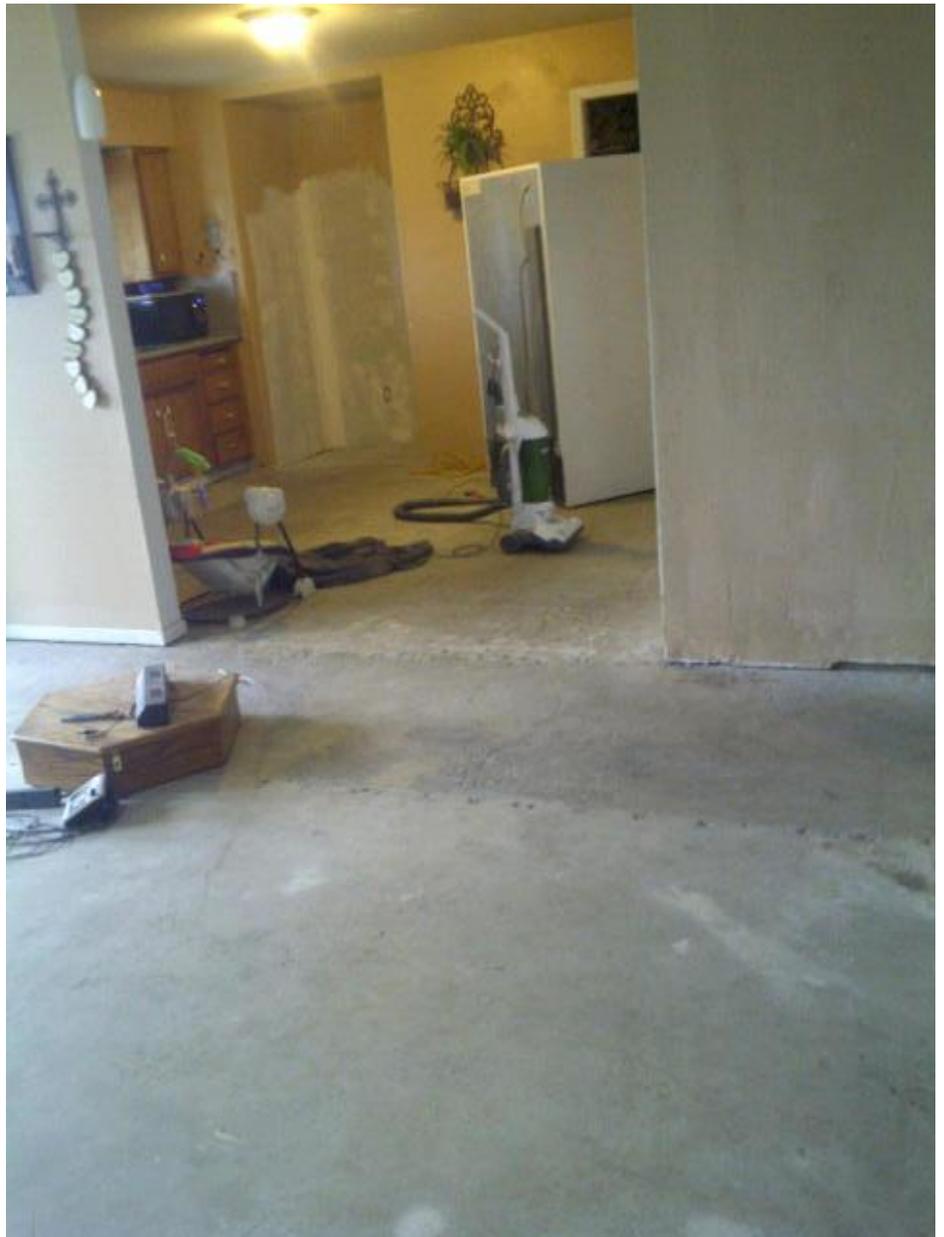
What to Tia were seemingly insurmountable barriers placing her dream perhaps out of reach, are to HNC at the very core of the ministry that is Hands in the Community.

With an ever growing network of partnering churches throughout the community, HNC is able to connect with the hearts and willing hands of so many people in local congregations throughout the area who are sensitive to the plight of people such as Tia and her family, providing precious resources which are all too often so desperately needed.

Though Tia's needs were many, so too was the outpouring of assistance and generosity that was soon to come for her.

A member of one local church, a plumber by trade, soon repaired the leaking toilets and plumbing fixtures throughout Tia's home. And very early on, Bill Turner, of Turner's Tile volunteered to donate his time and services

In addressing the issue of tiling Tia's bare concrete floor once the financing could be found for the tile.



HNC was able to direct Tia to CSET's home energy assistance program. A crew from CSET worked many hours making extensive repairs and modifications to the faulty heating and air conditioning ducts and vents

throughout her home. In addition, CSET weather stripped the entire home and installed a whole-house fan in the hallway and insulated the attic. And all at no cost to Tia!

A crew of volunteers from Tulare's Sunrise Community Church arrived to remove the dangerous tree stump protruding from the dirt in the backyard of her home, leveling the area to make Tia's yard look presentable. Once again, another obstacle was removed from the list of barriers preventing Tia from realizing her dream of a daycare in her home.

But while the list of needed repairs was growing steadily shorter, for Tia the tide of blessings that was soon to pour forth had actually only just begun.

Focusing on the need for extensive tile work in Tia's home, Lester launched a barrage of phone calls to local businesses that might be willing to help. His efforts were met with success when the Lowe's store in Tulare agreed to sell the needed tile at the store's cost, approximately \$340.00.

Now the critical question for Tia and HNC had become "Where was the money to purchase the tile to come from?"

And, as is very often the case, the answer was once again that our God provides for our needs in so many truly amazing ways!

With Christmas fast approaching, another member from a local congregation, an employee of Southern California Edison, approached HNC seeking a local needy family that the SCE employees could adopt for Christmas. After hearing from Lester the plight of Tia and her children, the SCE employees promptly wrote a check to HNC for the cost of the needed tile! In addition, a group of the employees showed up at Tia's home with presents for the children and company work trucks for the delighted children to examine and marvel over.

HNC's efforts on Tia's behalf continued without stop and soon resulted in an offer from Tulare's Home Depot store to provide the glue and grout for



the tile work in Tia's home, an additional savings of \$150.00!

And still the almost unbelievable and seemingly endless avalanche of blessings continued to pour forth! Through HNC, an employee group at Visalia's Olive Garden restaurant also selected Tia's family to adopt for Christmas.

For the children, said Tia, it was their first outing to an upscale restaurant, where they were encouraged to order anything on the menu, dessert included. In addition, the Olive Garden employees provided Tia with a

crib for her infant daughter, six months worth of diapers, a gift certificate to Lowe's and gifts for everyone in the family.

With the list of Tia's needs narrowed down to one essential item, the installation of the tile in her home, Bill Turner went to work installing the tile, thus completing an amazing transformation of Tia's home (see the before and after photos of the tile work).

With the tile now installed in her home, Tia now awaits the inspection of her home by the licensing agency, the final step in realizing her dream. Primary Residential Mortgage of Visalia has donated their services in helping Tia as she seeks to refinance her home.

How could so many amazing, timely blessings come to Tia and her family in such a short span when they so desperately needed help? Quite clearly we see the

hand of God in each and every step along the way. Through Him, ALL things are possible!

We would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to everyone in HNC's partnering network, and a special thanks to each and every one who had a hand in this inspiring series of events!