



## LAUNCHING DREAMS INTO REALITY

At 13 years old, Aryanne came to Palmer Home, angry and scared. In the beginning, she kept her guard up. She had never been part of a family where there were two parents - much less a home with structure and a regular schedule. Even little things like sharing meals together were foreign to her.

“I was scared of fitting in with all these people I didn’t know,” Aryanne said.

It didn’t take long for her to feel safe in her cottage with her houseparents. They listened to her and gently guided her through middle school and high school. They reintroduced her to Jesus and helped her form a relationship with her church.

“I’ve always wanted a normal, dependable family,” she said. “At some point, I realized I was getting to have that, and it was one of those things I knew I needed to stop fighting.”

Aryanne graduated high school and was excited about all of the opportunities ahead. She was especially looking forward to attending Northwest Mississippi Community College. Aryanne knew she had the full support of Palmer



Home and more importantly, she knew she had a place to return home.

“I knew if I needed anything, I could still ask,” she said.

**“My houseparents encouraged me and let me know everything would be ok. It’s good to know you can depend on people when you need to.”**

Before Aryanne’s sophomore year began, Palmer Home introduced Transitional Care, a program that provides continued guidance and support for youth ages 18 - 24. These young adults move off of the Panther Creek Ranch campus into a house with their peers and houseparents dedicated to helping them through the leap from childhood to being an adult.

Aryanne said having a house that she and others are in charge of is helping her shift from being taken care of to learning to take care of herself.

“It’s very much adulting,” she said. “It kicks reality into place.”

Aryanne is working toward a business degree with the dream of opening a boutique hotel. She’s considering moving to Florida to start her own bed and breakfast eventually.

“I want to have my own business,” Aryanne said. “It’s something I’m truly passionate about. I want it to have a zing.”

Aryanne is now working on getting a job at a hotel to gain experience. She said her transitional houseparent, Michelle, provided guidance in helping her with the timing of her plans.

The freedom to grow and learn what life is like after Palmer Home is exciting for Aryanne, but she said no matter where she is, Palmer Home will always stay close to her heart.

“There’s never going to be an actual end to this chapter of my life,” she said. “Palmer is my family.”

**To learn more about Transitional Care, please visit [palmerhome.org/what-we-do](http://palmerhome.org/what-we-do).**