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**The Four Homes of Mercy**

**The Four Homes of Mercy  
Family Support Groups Program  
Report / February 2020**

Building on the success achieved during the first year of the Family Support Groups program implemented by the Four Homes of Mercy (FHOM), and the desire of more families to join the program, a preparatory meeting will be organized for the members of the first group with new families, where every person has the chance to share his/her experience being part of the group and the benefits each received by the building and strengthening of bonds between families and the residents and staff of the FHOM.

The engagement and involvement of new families will sustain the program and extend the support to new members who will also benefit from exchanging and sharing their concerns, needs, and dreams with each other. The program will provide the members with needed psycho-social support and enable them to be more comfortable on spreading the realities and rights of those with special needs.

During this year the project for this new group is expected to continue focusing on the following aspects:

- *Creating opportunities to socialize and building friendships* – where families are encouraged to build strong friendships and social relations to share their concerns, challenges, and experiences.
- *Providing a listening ear* – where families are encouraged to create positive environment to fully enjoy social support and the feeling being heard, understood, and accepted.
- *Providing information, advice, and emotional and social support* – where families are encouraged to create a caring environment where every member is able to question, learn and make important decisions concerning the services provided to their loved ones.
- *Providing a regular meeting place* –
- *Organizing activities such as joint excursions and family days out* – where families are encouraged to spend joyful times communicating with their loved ones and each other and thereby strengthening their relationships.



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**I am so glad my child is now safe and getting good care,**

Leila the mother of Kareem shared her hesitancy in joining the group. After a couple of sessions, she was able to share her experience with having her child served by different organizations before bringing him to the Homes. She said “just now, when Kareem is in the Homes I feel that my child is safe”. She also said “now I will surely continue to be an active member of the program”.