

About Bryan Bryan House & Emmanuel House



Reclaiming Hope for
War-torn Families



Breaking the Cycle of
Working-Class Poverty

How it works: Rick & Desiree Guzman founded Bryan House as a memorial to Bryan E. Guzman in order to help refugee families establish better lives through owning their first home, or saving for their children's college education. Qualified families pay rent, but have most of it invested, and along with more savings and financial aid, leave with down payments for homes or college trust funds in about 12-18 months.

Home ownership and higher education: These help families gain financial and social stability and escape the cycles of poverty which often trap them. They stay in neighborhoods four times longer. Children will be 25% more likely to graduate from high school, and 120% more likely to graduate from college. Greater opportunity contributes to better, more stable, productive communities for *everyone*. As this effort has grown, Bryan House—which will continue to focus on refugee families—will now be part of a larger organization, the

Emmanuel House Community Development Corporation...

which will now work in larger ways with whole neighborhoods and *all* of the working-class poor it can reach. *Emmanuel*—"God with us"—was Bryan's middle name.

You can help: Support Bryan House and Emmanuel House by helping build, repair, and clean, by spreading the word and supporting fund raising efforts, by tutoring, and by donating money to sponsor a day, week, or month of rent for refugee and other families of the working-class poor. **You can help change hundreds of lives.**

More info: www.EmmanuelHouse.org

Bryan Guzman died in December 2006, shortly after his 21st birthday. His passing was widely covered, taking up nearly the entire front



page of one paper with the headline "He would have been one of the greats." This referred to his enormous musical talent, but he was already a great spirit who drew so many to him with his humor, grace and gift for friendship. He played in bands with his brother Daniel, and also with his father and Daniel doing shows on Chicago and the poetry of war. He helped his father with *Black Writing from Chicago*, a book called "A work of great importance" by poet Carolyn Rodgers, and "impressive" and "fascinating" by the Chicago

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Tribune. A sociology major at North Central College, Bryan, said one of his professors,

"Always asked the right questions." He saw himself as someone who would "change the world." He was an artist with a strong sense of justice who wanted to make a difference—and did. Bryan House and Emmanuel House are

living memorials to one whose short life brought such great joy to so many. Among other

memorials was the song "Hallelujah," recorded by fellow Chicago musicians, and *Remembering Bryan*, available at his father's website www.RichardRGuzman.com. Learn more about Bryan, Bryan House, and Emmanuel House at the Emmanuel House website above. You may also contact his father at rguzman@noctrl.edu.

