

PRIMAVERA *profiles*

Sandra, Lonny and Lindsey

interviewed by Reneé Bibby

Every few weeks, the Furst family, Sandra, Lonny and Lindsey, will go for an afternoon of family karaoke to River's Edge to sing their favorite songs; they'll give you a preview of their music performance if asked, bursting into a melodic rendition of *Dust in the Wind* between more serious conversations about how they feel about living in a family homeless shelter. They are a family with a joie de vivre that seems impervious to circumstance.

Their joy in life comes from a genuine appreciation of each other. Many years ago Lonny went through a Primavera transitional program, Casa, and there met Sandra, who lived in the regular apartments. They spent a year just being friends, and even now after years of marriage Sandra says about Lonny, "We're salt and pepper. We're meant to be together."

In 2010 Sandra ended up in the hospital because of congestive heart failure. Lonny left his job to take over all the family duties. Rent and bills began to back-up and soon enough they were left with only a car to their name. With such a past positive experience in mind, Lonny came to Primavera. They stayed at the Emergency Motel shelter for a short time, then came to the Greyhound Family Shelter.

Sandra is out of the hospital, Lonny is working again and Lindsey is writing, selling Girl Scout cookies and taking capoeira classes. The family has a plan to move out of the shelter soon. In the meantime, they're going to laugh with each other, and, of course, sing.



**Introduce yourself to
Someone sitting alone,
Cheer them up.**

~Excerpt from *My Poem* by Lindsey Furst

