

# Community SOLUTIONS

See how you provided safety for these survivors of violence

FALL 2021

## You gave them a new home free from violence

### Teresa thanks you for keeping her kids safe

After reporting her violent partner to the police, Teresa and her kids were finally free from the abuse. But she was suddenly a single mom with no income. She couldn't even afford rent on their tiny apartment with dirt floors, a broken window, and a single clogged toilet.

Teresa worried it was just a matter of time before they ended up on the streets. "I didn't see a light at the end of the tunnel," she says "I had no idea when or what my kids' next meal would be."

But thanks to you, Teresa and her kids soon got a safe new home with plenty of room to play. The kids can even run barefoot now!

What's more, you provided Teresa with much-needed counseling and support to help her heal from years of abuse and violence.

At first, Teresa thought the



*Thanks to you, Teresa and her kids have a safe and affordable new apartment to call home. The kids are happy and Teresa is grateful!*

housing program was too good to be true. It had to be a scam or some kind of loan she could never afford to pay back. And then she was almost too embarrassed to ask for help.

But the program is real and your support ensured that help was available to secure safe and affordable housing for Teresa and her family.

Thanks to you, Teresa and her kids are safe and happy today. Teresa is less stressed, more focused, and so very grateful to have more time to spend with her children.

"Now my children and I have a nice apartment where we have more space, privacy, and carpet where we can be barefoot," says Teresa. And that is thanks to you!

**"This is the greatest thing that's happened to me after my husband went to jail. Thank you!"**

*Teresa, Survivor of domestic violence*

More stories about your generosity inside >>>

## FROM THE CEO



Erin O'Brien  
President & CEO

### **You gave the gift of safety and changed their lives!**

For Teresa, Isabel, Nicole, and so many other survivors of violence, your support provides not just physical safety but also the personal connection they need to feel emotionally safe.

When a survivor reaches out for help, your support ensures that a caring and trained advocate is ready to help. In short, you make sure they are not alone!

As you read their stories, I hope you will truly see the difference you made. You ensured these women were safe and you helped them feel joy again. What a gift!

Erin O'Brien  
President & CEO

## **Isabel tried to shut out the world** **You helped her feel safe enough to reconnect**

**25**-year old Isabel was sex-trafficked from her teen years into her early 20s. Though now free to live her life, she felt trapped by fear and lived mostly in isolation with her three young kids.

The trauma Isabel experienced while trafficked made it hard for her to connect with others. She was afraid to talk to anyone so she kept to herself. "I was fearful of everything," she says. "I tried to shut out the world."

Thanks to you, Isabel and her children found safety at our confidential shelter. While there, Isabel received much needed therapy and support services designed specifically to help survivors of human trafficking feel safe again.

As she began to feel more secure and started engaging with the shelter staff, Isabel gained more confidence. She slowly began to find her voice and use it to advocate for herself and her children. "Everyone here helped me to keep moving forward," says Isabel. "They pushed me to do things that would better my life."



*Isabel finally feels safe today and that is thanks to you!*

Thanks to you, Isabel is not afraid anymore. She now believes that she is capable of doing things on her own. That includes getting an apartment of her own, where she and her kids are happy today.

**"When I first came here, I came with nothing. I was devastated. But with services and therapy I have learned that I have a voice and I have value," says Isabel.**

## No longer alone and misunderstood

### You gave Nicole the strength to speak up

Instead of feeling safer when she reported the sexual assault, 24-year-old Nicole felt alone and misunderstood. Every law enforcement interview forced her to relive the trauma over and over again, with each retelling causing triggers and flashbacks.

Your support ensured that a caring advocate was trained and ready to help Nicole through this grueling process.

Thanks to you, Nicole was able to transform her trauma into strength, something positive she can now use to help others.

Nicole was scared at first to talk to her advocate. She didn't know what to expect or how to handle her feelings and emotions. She worried about the upcoming trial; having to testify in court and relive the trauma all over again.

Her advocate walked Nicole step-by-step through the



*You provided Nicole with a caring sexual assault advocate to support and guide her through the trial. Thank you for helping her transform her trauma into new strength!*

legal process and helped her feel safe and supported as the trial approached.

Nicole found comfort in being surrounded by people who understood sexual assault. "I always knew I could ask my advocate anything and they would respond quickly and this brought me great comfort," she says.

and powerful reading her victim impact statement and taking her confidence back from him," says her advocate.

"This experience took me down another path and showed me a world I did not know existed and helped me to find the strength to follow my dreams," says Nicole. "I

**"I just want to let everyone know how much a program like this can save someone like me."**

*Nicole, Survivor of sexual assault*

On the day of the sentencing, Nicole felt powerful, resilient, confident, and strong. "She was brave, clear, accurate

have a wonderful life now that I am proud of and have worked very hard to heal from this trauma."



## Holiday gifts needed for local children

**You can help make a child's wishes come true!**

**T**he holidays are coming up fast and children are busy making their holiday wish lists. But too many families are still struggling to make ends meet.

Parents are worried that there will be no gifts for their kids this holiday season. How do you tell your child there will be no holiday gifts this year?

Local families are still struggling due to the ongoing pandemic. Parents are working hard to put food on the table but there's nothing left for extra expenses, not even for the holidays.

**Your donation of just \$50 or more today will provide gifts and other needed resources to make a child's holiday wishes come true.**

What's more, **your donation by November 15th will be doubled** thanks to a special



*Your donation today will provide gifts and other needed resources to make a child's holiday wishes come true.*

**\$5,000 matching gift!**

In addition to gifts, your donation will provide other important resources for the holidays like groceries, blankets, heaters, and warm pajamas. The things that help a child feel cozy and safe.

**Remember, your gift doubles if received by November 15th!** Please give generously today to help make a child's holiday wishes come true!

**Matching gift expires November 15th!**

## URGENT: Holiday Gifts match donation!

☒ **Yes, Erin!** I want my gift **DOUBLED** to provide gifts and other needed resources to make a child's holiday wishes come true! Enclosed is my gift of:

- ☐ **\$50**, which **DOUBLES** to \$100 to provide holiday gifts for 2 local children
- ☐ **\$75**, which **DOUBLES** to \$150 to provide holiday gifts for 3 local children
- ☐ **\$100**, which **DOUBLES** to \$200 to provide holiday gifts for 4 local children
- ☐ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ which **DOUBLES** to provide holiday gifts for as many children as possible!

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Give online quickly, easily, and securely now by visiting [www.CommunitySolutions.org](http://www.CommunitySolutions.org)