



Community SOLUTIONS

See how your generosity provided safety, filled tummies, and more! Winter 2023

Laura isn't afraid to go home anymore

Thank you for giving her safe shelter and a path forward free of violence

Laura was scared and anxious when she walked into our office on a Friday afternoon. She was too afraid to go back home and had nowhere else to turn.

Thanks to you, Laura was able to get immediate safe shelter and the support that she needed – both legal and emotional – to permanently escape from her abuser.

Laura sat down that day with a trained and caring advocate. Together, they created a safety plan for Laura, which included safe shelter so she would not have to risk returning home to the abuser.

The court process for securing the restraining order was nerve-wracking for Laura. But when the judge granted her restraining order, she glowed with relief.

At the age of 43 and after 20



Your support provided Laura with immediate safe shelter and the legal and emotional support she needed to permanently escape her abusive husband. Thank you!

years of being secluded and controlled in her marriage, Laura is finally able to enjoy some freedom.

Laura now walks with her head tall and feels proud. She says, "I am more confident. I can dress how I want, go out when I want and be social. I have friends now and I can openly speak to them."

"It was hard for me to seek help, since in my culture, women need to abide by men," says Laura. "I will never go back to that lifestyle and I am happy with my new life."

Thank you for helping Laura and so many other women like her escape domestic violence safely!

"One shouldn't feel ashamed to seek help. There are people out there that care."

Laura, age 43

FROM THE CEO



Erin O'Brien
President & CEO

Your generosity helped families in so many ways

It's hard to describe all the different ways your generosity has helped local families in crisis.

For instance, you've given emergency shelter *and* legal support. You've given mental health care *and* mentorship. You've given families food to fill tummies *and* gifts to add joy to their holidays.

You've both saved lives *and* helped families and individuals achieve lasting safety and wellness. And to all this, you've added joy.

What a gift! *You* are a gift!

Thank you!

Thank You Holiday Givers!

A note from A., age 7

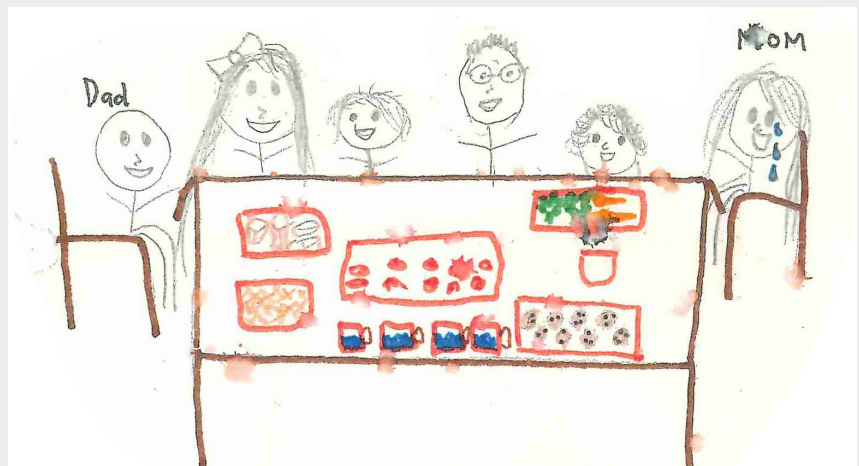
"We want to say thank you to everyone that helped us have a Christmas this year. This is the first year we have a Christmas tree and presents for everyone.



My mom cried. I saw her and we asked why? She said because we were able to have presents and food on our dinner table. We cried too. Our wishes of having presents came true! The gift card for food helped us a lot. My mom cooked my favorite pozole.

Thank you to everyone who took their time for my family and your lucky to have money not like us but you helped us. That made us very happy.

I saw my dad and mom and my brothers and baby sister smile and have fun. Our tummys had food."



Your generosity provided holiday gifts, food and joy to so many families like A.'s this holiday season. Thank you!

Mateo was facing felony charges for theft

Thank you for giving a local teen the support and guidance he needed to "do better in life"

"I was not paying attention to what my friends were really up to and it made me start behaving badly and being disrespectful to family and school adults," says 16-year-old Mateo.

Mateo hadn't found many positive adults to provide support in his young life.

Thanks to you and your generosity, he finally received the support and guidance he'd been missing.

Through our THRIVE youth program, he found constructive opportunities for success and consistent support from a positive adult who believed in him.

Mateo didn't trust offers for help at first. Maybe he just didn't believe change was possible. But through humor and personal testimony, his case manager sparked Mateo's curiosity and broke through his



Your support provided Mateo with a positive role model, new opportunities for success, and the steady encouragement he needed to be able to make healthier life choices. Thank you!

reluctance to participate.

As they developed a rapport, Mateo felt comfortable enough to share about challenges he was facing and issues with

person listen and not judge me. They understood me and were good at sharing stories that helped me understand I could do better."

"I learned I could do better in life and I have the power to change things that don't work for me."

Mateo, age 16

his family. He also started to reassess his life, finding healthier friendships and hobbies along the way.

"I learned I could do better in life and I have the power to change things that don't work for me," says Mateo.

"I got the chance to have a

Today, Mateo is on his way to graduating high school and is discussing college.

Thank you for giving Mateo a positive role model and the opportunities, support, and constant encouragement he needed to see and choose a new lifestyle!

Help urgently needed for local families

Your gift of urgent care can help a local family in crisis today

As you read this, our domestic violence hotline is ringing with pleas for safe shelter. Parents are desperately searching for help as children and teens report depression, anxiety and thoughts of suicide at increasing rates.

On top of this, continued high prices and rent are causing parents to have to choose between paying rent or buying groceries to feed their kids. Local families and children are facing homelessness and hunger.

But you can help!

Your donation today of just \$43.54 can provide one day of urgent care for a local family who is hurting right now.

Your gift will provide things like groceries, rent, emergency shelter, life-saving mental health care, and more -- all the things a struggling family needs to survive today.



Your gift will provide a local family in crisis with life-saving support, such as emergency groceries, safe shelter and more.

That's an incredible gift you can give to a local family who is struggling right now.

Please help today by sending 1, 2 or even 3 days of urgent care to help a local family in crisis.

Your gift of just \$43.54 can provide 1 day of urgent care for a local family in crisis!

My special donation to help a local family in crisis!

☒ Yes, Erin! I want to help a local family in crisis and support all the essential work of Community Solutions. Enclosed is my gift of:

- ☐ **\$43.54** to provide 1 day of urgent care for a local family in crisis
- ☐ **\$87.08** to provide 2 days of urgent care for a local family in crisis
- ☐ **\$130.62** to provide 3 days of urgent care for a local family in crisis
- ☐ \$ _____ to provide as many days of care as possible for a local family in crisis



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Give securely online at www.CommunitySolutions.org