



STORIES of HOPE



You bring warmth and joy to many
Winter 2022

A BRIGHT SMILE AND A NEW START FOR MICHELLE

Michelle (pictured above) needed your compassion and you delivered.

After she lost her housing due to increased rent prices, Michelle and her 3 teenage children had nowhere to go. For months they lived in hotels, all 5 of them squeezing into a single room, but eventually could no longer afford the nightly cost. When there was nowhere else to go, **you met Michelle with open arms.**

You provided a warm, safe place for Michelle and her family to recover and work toward their next step of housing. Instead of spending money on hotels, Michelle can now save for a place of her own.

In the midst of a pandemic, when depression hit hard, you encouraged Michelle to keep going.

You gave her children the resources they needed for school, allowing her high schooler to graduate. You brought them joy through birthday parties and Christmas gifts. You kept Michelle going, reminding her that there is always hope.

As she looks toward their next step of finding a home, Michelle says it's only possible because of you. Thank you for being a source of encouragement for families like Michelle's every day. You put a bright smile on her face.

**\$130 will keep a family like
Michelle's warm and fed for a night.**



“
Thank you
for helping me
find a safe
home.

”

YOU GAVE WENDY A HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

You are so compassionate. You know that each person has their own story, and you are not afraid to stand with people like Wendy who are going through the worst times of their lives. When Wendy escaped an abusive marriage and found herself without a home, **you made a way where there seemed to be no way.**

You saw Wendy's generous, trusting heart and gave her a place to heal from the trauma she experienced. You helped her address her health issues and find a sustainable way forward. Within a few months, Wendy found a place of her own, where she can be herself. Now, she is happy to be cooking her own meals, and even

happier that she could have her daughter and granddaughter home for the holidays.

You recognize that people like Wendy are strong, capable, and resilient. Thanks to you, Wendy no longer has to worry about her safety. She is happy and healthy in her new home.

**Your kind donation of \$225
helps 17 individuals like Wendy
access case management and
mental health services.**



YOU SAVED MY LIFE... TWICE. THANK YOU!

After he left the military, Darryl got by with hustling, dealing drugs and random jobs, until things fell apart and his addiction became all-consuming. He found himself without a place to go, living on the streets for 3 years straight. He never wanted to go into any shelters... **until with your support he found a shoulder to lean on.**

Darryl knew he couldn't continue living the way he was. He says, "I knew I could either go to VOA or I would die." With encouragement, he gained the strength to ask for help, and at 60 days clean, he moved into VOA's transitional housing.

While he was there, he received the support he needed: anger management courses, job training, recovery classes, and more. Darryl found a great job that he loved, moved into his own place, and was doing well.

Unfortunately, a back injury left him unable to continue working, and after losing his baby granddaughter, Darryl became depressed. For the first time in years, he had cravings and was tempted to start using again. **But thanks to your commitment to our programs, he received a second chance.**

Just when he needed it the most, Darryl was offered a job at VOA, enabling him to help veterans like himself transition from homelessness to independence with dignity. Today, Darryl is 16 years clean and thanks to you he is fulfilling his purpose of helping others. **Thank you for investing in veterans like Darryl—your kindness is being multiplied each and every day!**

**You can help a veteran like
Darryl with a gift of \$64.**

THANK YOU FOR CHANGING LIVES IN 2021

You are part of a movement of kindness and compassion which is transforming our community one person and one family at a time. Thank you for showing up, for standing with people as they go through the worst times in their lives, and for caring for your neighbors. You should be proud—take a look at some of the great things you made happen in 2021:

3,903

individuals sheltered/
housed nightly



4,500+ kids went back
to school fully prepared



3,516 nutritious
meals served daily



6,000+ toys given to
families at Christmas

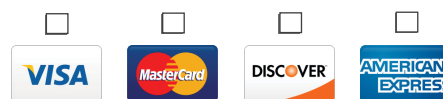
Your caring heart shines through each and every day for people like Michelle, Darryl, and Wendy. Thank you for loving your neighbor and sharing hope for a brighter future.

☐ I will make an impact in 2022!

- ☐ **\$64** will help a veteran like Darryl take one more step towards independence
- ☐ **\$130** will keep another family like Michelle's warm and fed
- ☐ **\$225** provides mental health and case management services for 17 women like Wendy
- ☐ **\$___** will change the life of a man, woman or family facing homelessness
- ☐ I want to give a gift of a stock or a QCD. Please contact me!

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY, STATE, ZIP _____
EMAIL _____
PHONE _____

I prefer to charge my gift to:



CARD # _____

EXPIRATION DATE _____

CVV _____