



# STORIES of HOPE

You bring warmth and joy to many  
Spring 2022



## YOU BROUGHT MY FAMILY BACK TOGETHER

When Melanie (pictured above) and her husband Cary walked into the shelter they had no idea how much their lives would change. For three years they were living on the streets and they were exhausted. Their tent was flooded, they were beat up and just needed a few nights of rest inside and out of the cold. It ended up being the best decision they ever made. Within the first few weeks of being there Melanie found out she was pregnant with her daughter, and with your help they received the support they needed for their growing family.

You made sure Melanie was taken care of and given access to the care she needed to have a healthy pregnancy. Melanie and Cary were determined to enter recovery programs, and thankfully Melanie gave birth to a beautiful, healthy, baby girl.

Although their road was not easy they continued to fight for their independence and stability and eventually their family of three moved into VOA's transitional housing program. They continued to work on their sobriety, they found jobs, learned new skills and they reunited with their 4-year-old son which was the greatest victory for them. All this happened because of YOU, your prayers, your positive thoughts and meaningful support.

Today, their family is complete and living in their own apartment.

Melanie says, "I felt like I had nothing, and you helped me gain everything." Thank you for reminding Melanie and Cary that there is hope and that their community cares!

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**Give \$130 to keep a family like  
Melanie's warm and fed for a night.**

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You reminded  
me I have  
a **purpose**  
in life.

”



Xavier's life looked similar to yours: he was working, he had a home and life was going on as normal. Unfortunately, a brain cyst and subsequent surgery left him unable to keep up with his physically demanding warehouse job. He was unable to pay for his rent and ended up losing his home.

Thanks to your commitment to our programs Xavier was able to get a bed at the shelter and shortly after he was referred to VOA's employment program. Although he was excited for the opportunity, he wasn't sure he would be able to work. The surgery left him weak in his left side and he spent months working with physical, occupational, and speech therapists. After going through the interview process Xavier gain the confidence he needed to give the program a try.

Here Xavier was challenged to push himself, not only physically but mentally.

**Thanks to you, Xavier is now pushing toward his dream. He has a full-time job and spends his days encouraging others who are experiencing homelessness.** He has moved into a place of his own, with his mom living right next door. For the first time in a long time, Xavier feels like he has found his purpose.

**Thank you for helping individuals like Xavier regain their confidence. Your compassion creates a lasting change.**

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A gift of \$64 will help someone like  
Xavier attend a job training workshop.



## “I FELT LIKE I HAD SOMEONE IN MY CORNER”

After returning from the Air Force, Cliff was left struggling with the trauma of his experiences. He felt like he had no direction in life, and for nearly 40 years, was unable to find any stability for himself. Although he was working a full-time job, the skyrocketing rent prices left him without a place to call home, **but as always you helped him find his way again.**

Through your kindness Cliff received the tools he needed to understand that the trauma he experienced was not his fault. He talked and worked through years of depression and anxiety. You were there when he was in a vulnerable place and you did not judge, you simply cared.

**You helped Cliff to know he wasn't alone.**

Now, at 60 years old, Cliff is looking forward to the future. He has his own place, continues working full-time, and has access to the resources he needs to start over again. Because of you, he has a community of fellow veterans and friends that he can turn to in times of need. **Thank you for being there for veterans like Cliff.**

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**You can prevent homelessness for a veteran like  
Cliff with a gift of \$225**

# BECAUSE OF YOU, ALLISON IS PURSUING HER DREAMS



Many young adults who come out of the foster care system face a challenging time, but for students like Allison, **you provide the resources to help them succeed.**

You are so compassionate and care about students like Allison and their long term success. You not only helped her through her undergraduate degree, you are now encouraging her to keep going by supporting her through law school. She is currently in her second year of law school and Allison is looking forward to the day that she can start practicing and paying it forward for families who need extra support.

She says, **“The more I’ve learned, the more I thought I could be an advocate for youth and vulnerable people.”**

The gifts you have given her to pursue an education will be multiplied for years to come. Thanks to you, Allison looks forward to a career of helping families, elders, and youth plan for the future and create stability for future generations.

**You can help former foster youth pursue their education with a gift of \$500.**

*You are giving hope to men, women, and families every day. Thank you for caring for people like Melanie, Cliff, Xavier, and Allison.*

I want to change even more lives!

- \$64 will help someone like Xavier attend a job training workshop
- \$130 will keep another family like Melanie’s warm and fed
- \$225 will help a veteran like Cliff stay housed
- \$500 can help a student like Allison pursue their dreams
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_