

## Success Story 1

Stepping Stone received an early morning call from Amanda. It was clear that Amanda was panicking not just for her own safety but for the safety of her two small children. Amanda explained to Stepping Stone that they were being released from a shelter despite her telling them that she knows that her abuser is looking for her.

She had no money in hand and her credit cards were stopped. She had no means to get an apartment of her own nor a hotel for a temporary stay. Unfortunately, she had no family in the area. Amanda had no idea how she could keep her children safe.

She was scared, confused, and unsure what to do. She turned to Stepping Stone as an attempt to avoid returning home. She feared if Stepping Stone was unable to help her that her abuser would be waiting for her when she returned yet she had nowhere else to go.

After speaking with Amanda, I quickly realized we had to do something immediately because her situation was severe. She and her children's safety would be at risk if she returned home. Stepping Stone immediately offered her a hotel for temporary housing, as well as, a gas card so she could get there.

When we met with Amanda we learned that she is an intelligent lady that was subject to an ill environment. We offered further assisted by providing Amanda with food, diapers, and other hygiene products to care for her children and herself. We knew what we offered her was to serve her immediate need. Amanda was still in danger in by staying in the area so we began discussing how it would be beneficial for their safety if she moved out of town.

In the next few days, God began opening many doors for her. The first door that opened came from a wonderful person who contacted Stepping Stone to let us know they had a rental home several hours away that could be used for a client. We knew immediately that this would be ideal for Amanda and praised God for His perfect timing. However, Amanda was reluctant to move away from her church and friends. With an open mind, and for the benefit of her children, she took look at the home. While she was there a second door opened. A Stepping Stone representative located a job fair just down the street from her potential new home. Amanda went to the fair, had an interviewed and was offered the job on the spot.

Amanda took the course of events as a sign that she was supposed to make the move out of town to build a safe home for herself and her children. Stepping Stone was also able to provide a bed, sheets, comforters, and blankets for her and her children for a warm place for them to sleep at night.

Then God blessed Amanda with one more positive sign. Someone donated a car to Stepping Stone which we passed on to her so she had the necessary means of transportation to get to her new job. To ease her mind, we assisted her by finding babysitters and a nanny who could care for her children while she is at work.

After several months of support Amanda has turned her tragic journey around. She has been working, budgeting, and making a beautiful home. May God continue to bless Amanda and her children as they continue paving their path in life.

\*\*Names changed to protect client's privacy. Documentary written by Diane Jankowski.