

# Building Hope. Restoring Lives.

The Newsletter of Vision House | Spring 2017

## KENDRA FLED HER ABUSER ONLY TO FACE NEW HEARTBREAK

Now she waits in a shelter and prays for an apartment to open up at Vision House.



Kendra and her three children moved to Washington to put the distance of multiple states between them and their domestic abuser. She was invited to live with a friend, but it was too crowded, and they were asked to leave after two months.

Kendra and her three children spent some time living in a car and then found their way to a shelter, where they live now. She has applied to live at Vision House and is just waiting for an apartment that they can call home.

Kendra's 13 year-old daughter has been diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and isn't able to function in school.

Kendra's 8 year-old son has severe disabilities. Living in a shelter is disruptive to his care. Right now, he is able to attend day care at the college where Kendra is working on her GED so she can be close to him during the day.

The shelter is a tough place for this family to live. It's crowded, noisy, cold and very stressful on the children.

At night, all the families sleep together. Each family's area is partitioned by curtains around the beds. If one person gets sick, then everyone in the shelter gets sick. Kendra dreams of washing her hands in her own sink.

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## THANK YOU

This newsletter shares the stories of the lives of local women and children in need that were changed because of your gift. Your generosity made these stories possible!

## A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM MELISSA

The stories in this newsletter showcase the variety of families we work with each month. Some are still on the streets, or waiting in shelters for space to become available at Vision House.



Some are moving into their apartments – even as I write this – after a long wait and are starting to feel safe and hopeful again.

Others have come to Vision House and have been transformed by the love and care that you make possible with every gift. Like Janine, they are now thriving in apartments of their own – their lives completely transformed!

These stories of triumph would not be possible without your generosity and compassion for people in need.

Thank you for all you do to make your community a better and safer place for all to live!

Melissa Gehrig  
Executive Director

*For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.*



When Eddie was just an infant, he lived in a car with his mom Kacie. The car was cold and not safe. Kacie felt so guilty and embarrassed to be homeless. When they moved into Vision House, they finally felt safe. Today they've made so much progress. When Eddie started first grade this past fall you would never guess this smart and well-adjusted child had such a rough start! Thank you for helping transform their lives and put them on the path to a better life.

## HEARTBREAK *Continued from page 1*

The family's belongings are stuffed in tubs, but Kendra keeps a lot of their items in her car. She regularly worries about their things being stolen.

When Kendra and her family move to Vision House, she'll have her own fridge with healthy food for her special needs child. Her family can heal and bond in a safe environment. Kendra will be able to resume the nursing care and therapy her son needs.

Living at Vision House will also allow Kendra to pursue schooling and permanent employment. She'll no longer worry about her children being taken away due to being homeless.

**Not having room for Kendra right now breaks our hearts. Your support helps struggling families like Kendra's each week.**

# Janine's Story

After Janine's beloved husband passed away, she started a relationship with a man who turned out to be violent. After fleeing his abuse, Janine and her daughters found themselves living in a dilapidated trailer on her dad's property without a bathroom or running water.

At the end of her rope, and about to lose their income benefits, Janine got an apartment at Vision House – just in time.

When she first moved in, she cried. She couldn't believe how beautiful it was. To help welcome them, one of our volunteers had lovingly displayed the bath towels on the towel rack. Janine didn't let anyone touch those towels for months! Instead, they found other towels to use.

The girls loved their room. Her daughter Dahlia was excited to find a princess doll on princess bedding!

After getting settled, Janine set goals for her family. Her first goal was to find employment. After that, she worked on getting a driver's license. Then she worked to secure permanent housing - her biggest accomplishment!



**The respite and care Janine and her family received at Vision House has made Janine feel like she can do anything!**

**Today they are happy, healthy and living independently – thanks to your generous gifts and support.**

## PRAYER REQUESTS

**Will you join us in praying for families that are struggling? Please pray...**

### Children's Healing

For resident children to heal from the trauma of homelessness, so they can learn social skills and catch up academically to classmates.

### Wisdom & Strength

For wisdom and strength for staff as they assist families in entering and exiting Vision House programs.

### Educational Impact

For the new Vision House classes to positively impact residents and community participants.

## How May We Pray for You?

We believe in the power of prayer, and we are committed to praying for your specific needs.

To send us a prayer request, please e-mail Andrea at [andreak@vision-house.org](mailto:andreak@vision-house.org).

YOUR GIFT

# Homeless Moms & Kids Need Your Help

Currently we have 375 families on our waitlist. That's approximately 1,100 moms and kids in need of safe shelter, love and care.

We're working on building more housing to provide for these families. But in the meantime, these precious families are in crucial need.

Your support helps provide a safe place for families to come to sleep, a respite from the stress of homelessness and the tools to change their lives.

**With just \$20, you can give one person a safe place to sleep for a night, and the hope for a better tomorrow.**

**So please give as generously as you can today.**

**Thank you!**



**Your online gift goes to work right away at Vision House!**

[www.vision-house.org](http://www.vision-house.org)

Vision House • PO Box 2951 • Renton, WA 98056 • 425-228-6356

Email: [info@vision-house.org](mailto:info@vision-house.org) • [Facebook.com/visionhouseusa](https://www.facebook.com/visionhouseusa)

## Transform a family's life by providing safe shelter and care!

YES, Melissa, you can count on me to help provide safe shelter and care. I want to give:

- \$20 to provide one night of shelter and care
- \$40 to provide two nights of shelter and care
- \$60 to provide shelter and care for an entire family
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ to provide as many nights of shelter and care for as many people as possible

Your gift is tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.



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