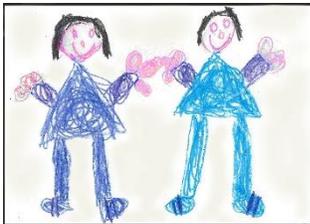


“Now I can have a friend.”

Those words from her seven year old daughter made her cry. Giving her daughter a better life was the reason that Shakira had run from abuse. Giving her daughter a better life was the reason Shakira moved beyond depression and took courses at Sanctuary for Families designed to help her enter the workplace.

Additional support from OHFF Transformation² helped Shakira get an unpaid internship at a law firm where her success turned it into a full time job. Support from OHFF helped her get the clothes she needed to look appropriate for the job. Support from OHFF helped her keep her job by thinking beyond surviving day to day and developing a plan to get care for her child when she was sick or out of school for the summer. Support from OHFF meant she had a computer of her own, to identify other resources she might need. Support from OHFF helped her get her own apartment, through supplementing city assistance with the required deposit and first month’s rent.



When Shakira shared her daughter’s words “now I can have a friend,” we delighted in her joy that all of her efforts and our support had truly changed her child’s world.

The OHFF Domestic Violence Initiative works in concert with Sanctuary for Families to help women with the determination and potential to succeed create new lives for themselves and their families. Each year OHFF accepts 10 women into the Harry and Carol Goodman Transformation² Program, offering guidance regarding education, employment, and budgeting issues as well as providing financial support. Since its inception, 19 women with 40 children have completed the program, obtaining full-time employment with benefits and living in their own apartments.

A graduate of our 2014 Transformation² Program recently sent us an email with these words:

“I just wanted to let you know how much I appreciate your time, the resources and overall kindness. I will never forget you.”

The OHFF Educational Mentoring Program is currently helping 8 students from foster care through their college experience with mentors and financial support – 1 graduated in December 2016! We expect to take on additional students for Fall of 2017.

What happens when a student from a foster home goes off to college? Or comes home from college?

For Jaslene, a promise from a nearby parent to take her to college fell through – like so many other promises. Her OHFF mentor, Carla, jumped in to move Jaslene and her things to school, meet her roommates and her roommates’ parents and help her get settled. They went to lunch and came back to

discover that Jaslene's things had been moved by a third roommate. Together, they moved her things back and started the first of many tough discussions with the third roommate, who ultimately found new lodging. Carla's backup and advice for Jaslene was critical to working through this situation and other issues.

As the year progressed, things went fairly well (except math) and Jaslene gained confidence and the ability to focus on her goals.

When it came time to move to the foster home for the summer, Carla once again stepped in to help Jaslene. But when they arrived at the planned time, the house was dark and locked. Embarrassed, Jaslene tried to reassure Carla that the foster family would be back soon. And eventually they did return. But the lack of concern, empathy or pleasure in Jaslene's successful first year was apparent. Carla's continuing weekly contact provides critical emotional support to keep Jaslene moving forward despite setbacks.

With your help, the students and mothers now have a chance to have the kind of lives they could only dream about.

One additional piece of news about OHFF itself. We are in the process of forming a volunteer Junior Board to help with fundraising and social media. Since we have no paid employees, our original board and volunteers have been the backbone of our effort to date. We are delighted to bring on these younger, talented professionals to provide added effectiveness.

Warmly,



Nancy Schulman
President . Of Home, Family and Future

P.S. Although this isn't our annual campaign, I did not want to fail to mention that donations are always welcome! You or your friends can easily contribute through our website: www.ofhome.org.