Brave

Stories of young ladies YOU have helped to bravely choose life

Birth & Beyond
WOMEN’S CARE
Juan Diego Society

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Vanessa was a young woman who was in a terrible cycle of heartbreak and found herself homeless. At her lowest and most desperate point, she was battling a drug addiction and had no idea what was in store for her.

She lived in an encampment often referred to as “The Jungle”, a makeshift city of tents for the poor and destitute who cannot afford the cost of living in Silicon Valley, CA. Spreading out over 65 acres in downtown San Jose, it is an absolute desperate fight for daily survival for almost 400 homeless, including children. A prematurely born infant lost its life within moments of being born in 2016, and three young women were violently murdered in 2017. Vanessa lives in the middle of this battleground.

She reached out to Birth & Beyond with a text: “I am ashamed, can you help me?”

She was ashamed and embarrassed of the life she was living. She had declined back into habitual drug use and homelessness. She bravely came to our Center, started counseling and goal setting. She even applied for an in-house rehabilitation program.

And, guess what?! She received the amazing news of just being accepted into long-term housing! Now she is working diligently to obtain permanent custody of her infant baby boy.

“Life was hitting me hard, emotionally and mentally, but I am determined to be with my baby. Thank you to the Birth & Beyond Center for their affirmations, and perfect timing. You have helped me so much.”

Thanks to you, our donor, Vanessa and her new family have life. She is connected to support systems, she is in permanent housing and she is surrounded with love, support, and human kindness.

YOUR donations saved her life. She enters a new chapter of her life because of YOU. Her story continues with YOUR help.

She and her baby almost died.

The hospital moved with lightning speed, immediate surgery, a C-Section. Praise be to God for a safe delivery of a BABY BOY!

Vanessa and her child had a high possibility of losing their lives in The Jungle that wet morning if it weren’t for the quick intervention of everyone.

Since she was unable to cope with the dependency of drugs and homelessness, she temporarily left her child with a relative. Longing to be with her baby, she was desperate to get out of The Jungle, find stable and safe housing, and live without the worry of being attacked or murdered.

Vanessa was living with her boyfriend, the father of her unborn child, in The Jungle when the counselors from our Outreach Program found her. She was already 8 months pregnant. Despite living in a tent, she and her unborn child were clinging to survival day-by-day.

She was found by a sister Outreach Team one early morning, while they were serving coffee, breakfast and distributing dry, warm blankets in the freezing rain of a Northern California winter. Shivering, wet and freezing.

Because of her condition, we knew we had to do something. She at first was very hesitant, being homeless she thought she could lose custody of her child once he or she was born. They texted and called our Director at home, and Birth & Beyond sprung into action.

She finally accepted transportation from our Counselor to a hospital and once there, received immediate news that she had a life-threatening health issue, pre-eclampsia. She and the baby’s lives were both at risk!

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Results over the first 9 months

1,700 Hours of Services Provided include onsite, at shelters, and homeless encampments

660 Client Visits and 300 hours attendance at "Moms & Tots" class

18 Women were placed into shelters and permanent housing

165 Pounds of Formula given to clients

250 Boxes of Diapers given to clients

17 Births! 12 boys and 5 girls

Birth & Beyond

YOUR DONATIONS help provide ALL these services to young women in our community:

THROUGH THE BIRTH OF HER BABY:

- Pregnancy Testing
- Enrollment in Medi-Cal
- Weekly 1:1 Personal Counseling and Goal-Setting
- Clothing & Transportation
- Homeless Outreach
- Priority Placement in Shelters
- Baby Showers, Carseats, Strollers, Bassinets And Diapers

AND BEYOND, INTO MOTHERHOOD:

- Continued Weekly 1:1 Personal Counseling and Goal-Setting
- Relocation from Homeless to Shelter to Permanent Housing
- Tutoring for High School Diploma / GED
- Applications for College, Jobs and Driver’s Licenses
- Moms and Tots Weekly Support and Bonding Group
- Supplemental Groceries, Diapers, Formula
Because of You!

We are the ONLY Pregnancy Center in San Jose that is working directly with Shelters, Homeless Advocacy Groups, the City of San Jose, and we are REDUCING THE HOMELESS & PREGNANT VULNERABLE POPULATION IN SAN JOSE.

BECAUSE OF YOUR DONATIONS;

EVERY 15 Days

• A BABY IS BORN alive and thriving

• A pregnant woman and her children are successfully placed into housing, NO LONGER HOMELESS