

The Way Home



Summer 2018

Stories About Your Gifts
Transforming Lives

Sulzbacher helped Vanessa go from homeless to hopeful.

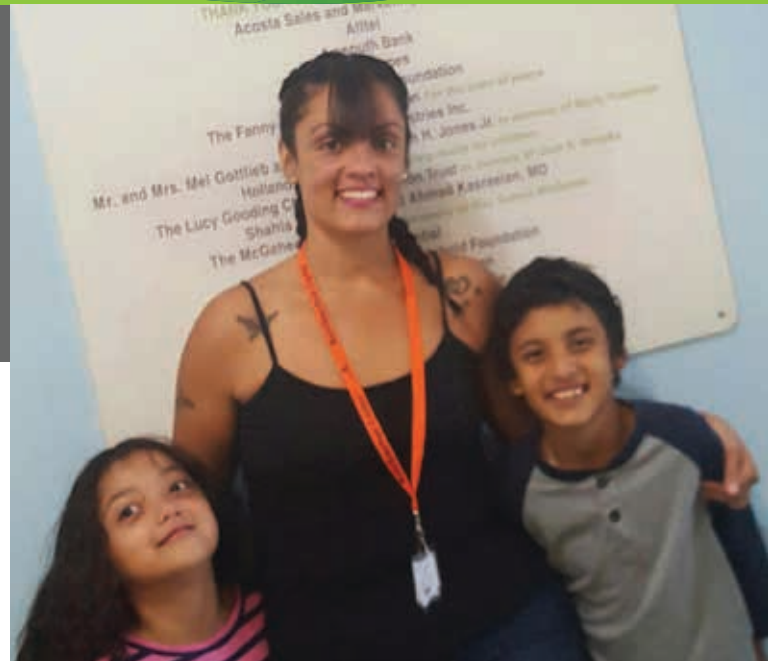
Beaten down, afraid, alone — that's how Vanessa seemed when she came to us, but now this mom is confident and empowered, thanks to your support.

Vanessa was working as a driver and substitute teacher for a day care center. Then it happened. "I got evicted from my home," Vanessa says, "because my husband was in and out of jail for domestic violence." He kept returning to Vanessa's home, and finally, the property manager evicted her and her children.

Suddenly, her family was on the street. "I had lost everything," she says. "It was the lowest point." But thankfully, she found Sulzbacher.

In a safe environment, Vanessa felt secure enough to speak up about the domestic violence she'd endured. It was a turning point. "That's when I started feeling hopeful," she says. "I started feeling empowered."

Vanessa is also empowered by the job training she receives. She's taking courses to become a medical technician and is enjoying the opportunity to learn. It's challenging and rewarding. And soon, she'll have the training she needs to start a new career.



Your support inspired Vanessa to overcome so much. Now she has a new future waiting for her.

Vanessa has already earned one certificate. She's continuing to take courses, and she's starting to look for a job in her new field. In the few months she's been at Sulzbacher, she has made incredible progress.

Vanessa and her children are grateful. It's a second chance that you made possible with your support. "This is like me being reborn," Vanessa says. "I feel safe here. I feel empowered. Now I can move forward."

***You make stories like Vanessa's possible.
We count on your continued support.***



More Good News: Sulzbacher Village to Open

How Summer Fun Turns Into Summer Fear for Vulnerable People

Summer means stifling heat and soaring temperatures that can be deadly for vulnerable people in our community. That's why your support is vital.

Because of your gifts, anyone who needs water and refuge from the heat can come to us. And the most vulnerable people can get help from our HOPE Team outreach vans, which bring people in for cool air, a good meal and medical care.

Your gifts provide shelter, food, healthcare and other help so people in need can regain control of their lives — just like Vanessa did. You can read her story in this issue. It shows the amazing impact you have in people's lives when they're hurting. There are many more "Vanessas" out there — it's true. But it's also true that there are wonderful, compassionate supporters like you.

You're making Jacksonville a more caring place for all of us. Thank you!

Cindy Funkhouser
President and CEO



Thanks to you, Sulzbacher Village is now a reality.

Sulzbacher Village will soon be completed, ready to take in women and families in need. And you were with us every step of the way through your wonderful support.

The Village is a community with housing for single women, female veterans and single- and two-parent families. There are 70 units to accommodate 310 people, and they'll benefit from:

- Job training and life skills classes.
- Medical respite unit for women coming from area hospitals.
- Pediatric health center offering medical and behavioral services.
- Early-learning center for children to prepare them for school.
- Computer lab, fine arts, homework help and mentoring for kids.
- Special programs for female veterans.

"Sulzbacher Village will be a real neighborhood for women and children," says MJ Easterling, our Board Chair.

What's more, now that the Village is opening, our existing center will expand its housing for men, along with programs for male veterans and medical care. Everyone wins! This is a milestone for Sulzbacher and our mission. We couldn't have done it without you — thank you!

Give Now to Restore Lives

Your generosity restores people struggling with hunger, homelessness, abuse, addiction and other crises. Please continue your support. Return the enclosed reply form with your gift today. Thank you!