

From Turmoil to Triumph: Safi's Story

Alone, with a ten-day-old son.

No job, no home.

In the wake of her marital separation, Safi was sick with worry and fear, and despair was setting in.

"I felt very worried because I knew my baby was depending on me to provide for him," she recalls, "and I had to make sure that I could give him the basic needs to grow."

At her lowest point, Safi knew of only one place to turn to for help – a place where she was already receiving pregnancy education, a place that felt like home and a place that she hoped could help her get her life back – Our Place.



"They definitely have the perfect name."

Safi was pregnant with her first child when a friend recommended that she reach out to Our Place. The Catholic Charities NH program focuses on the health and well-being of each parent and child by providing pregnancy and parenting education and other vital support through the first three years of the child's life.

"I really wanted to be a good mother for my son and I was looking to get some guidance," she remembers. "I didn't have any experience and I just wanted to know everything about how to raise my baby."

Our Place provided Safi with pregnancy and child development education, but what really struck her was the warmth of the staff.

"I felt welcomed and everybody was friendly and genuine. It surprised me a little because **it didn't feel like just an office, it felt like home.** They definitely have the perfect name."

Safi gave birth to a healthy son, Aariz, but the joyful moment quickly turned to despair as, just days later, she became separated from her husband, leaving her without a home, a driver's license or a job. She truly needed a lifeline.

Fear Turns to Hope

Safi was confident that she would continue to receive the parenting support she needed from Our Place – but could they do anything about her more immediate needs? Much to her surprise, the answer was 'yes.'

"I knew they would continue to help with diapers and formula but I didn't expect them to give me food," she remembers. "Sometimes in those early days, they did that so I wouldn't starve and there wasn't a day that went past that they weren't checking to make sure I was doing ok."

From Turmoil to Triumph: Continued

In addition to physical needs, Our Place was there to help Safi work on a life plan and supply emotional support as well. In the wake of the separation, Safi desperately needed a boost to her morale.

“My self-esteem was low, I had no confidence and I felt like nothing,” she recalls, “but the staff at Our Place opened my eyes and they said, ‘no that’s not true, you have this strength and that strength’ and **they opened my eyes to the belief that I could move forward. They were everything to me** – my social worker, my therapist and my family.”

“Our entire staff was committed to doing whatever we could to support Safi during this very difficult journey,” remembers Our Place supervisor Karen Munsell. “Watching her break free of the things that were holding her back, and rebuild her belief that she could take control of her destiny, was awe-inspiring.”



Rising Up and Giving Back

The help that Our Place provided in restoring Safi’s belief in herself was key to her seeking and securing employment, which led to further milestones: housing, transportation and childcare for Aariz, who has grown into a healthy, happy preschooler. Through it all, Our Place has continued to be a source of parenting knowledge and inspiration to Safi.

“They were there for me and watched me grow,” she marvels, “**moving from walking on the street to getting my license and a car, my own apartment and a job, growing from almost nothing to something.** They really went above and beyond and made me want to go above and beyond for others – and now I do.”

As an instructor at the Manchester Community Resource Center, **Safi goes above and beyond every day for people who are in situations like hers**, in need of help and direction.

“I can really feel almost everybody’s pain to another level, not just that I’m helping but I really feel it,” she says. “It’s not just a job. I’m so happy I can help them and I really love to see them getting their driver’s license or securing a job. I see myself in them; I was there at one time.”

From despair to joy, Safi’s transformation is a testament to her drive and willingness to seek help, and she is grateful for all of the support she’s received.

“I’m very thankful to the people who donate to Catholic Charities and make Our Place possible,” she says. “I couldn’t have done this without their help. **I’ve changed a lot and I now see the world from a different point of view and really believe that whatever you put your mind to, it can be possible.**”

Make a difference today:
cc-nh.org/news922

“Because of Pathways, Now We Can Dream Bigger”

Dreams come true for five aspiring nurses

Becoming a nurse isn't an easy road, especially when you look at the cost of school. But thanks to our generous donors, Catholic Charities NH's unique Pathways scholarship – covering full tuition, plus books and uniforms – has made it possible for five licensed nursing assistants (LNAs) at Catholic Charities NH healthcare facilities to become licensed practical nurses (LPNs) this summer.

Congratulations to this year's class! They are represented by varied age groups, family situations and backgrounds, but share a common dream that has come true.



Talyn Boardman - St. Ann, Dover

For Talyn, a single mother of four, Pathways represents opportunities to fulfill her dream of becoming a nurse, better provide for her family, and to inspire.

“The financial stability for my family is huge and my kids can see that you can do anything you set your mind to. My 16-year-old daughter now wants to work in nursing too.”



Jean Desir - Mt. Carmel, Manchester

As an LNA, Jean discovered his passion and was eager to grow – for himself, for his wife, and their small child. Pathways made it all possible.

“I'm thankful to the donors because being an LPN creates a higher standard of living for my family, giving us all peace of mind. Because of Pathways, now we can dream bigger.”



Summer Garrity - Warde Senior Living, Windham

Two years ago, Summer watched co-workers go through the Pathways program and become great nurses. So when her chance came to apply last year, there was no hesitation.

“Seeing how they toughed it out really made me want to do it. I've always wanted to be a nurse but school is so expensive. Donors paying for 100% of tuition is amazing – I'm truly thankful.”



Ashley McCann - Warde Senior Living, Windham

Ashley joined her friend and co-worker (Summer) in the LPN program. But, without the scholarship, her participation would have been impossible.

“Pathways lifted a huge weight off my shoulders – \$25,000 was the cost and I had very little money saved up. I came into this career to help people and because of Pathways, now I'm a nurse. I feel very lucky.”



Susan Rindoria - Mt. Carmel, Manchester

For Susan, a mom of three, Pathways is transforming her life – as a means for both professional growth and financial stability for her family.

“I'm so grateful for the chance to have this knowledge and continue to help others. And with the higher salary for my family, you have made it possible for me to change my life.”

Upcoming Events: Save the Date!

8th Annual Veterans Day Breakfast

Join us for a very special breakfast benefiting NH veterans, with guest speaker **70th Secretary of State Mike Pompeo**.



The breakfast will be held at LaBelle Winery in Derry, NH on November 5, 2022 at 9 a.m. Space is limited and tickets will sell out quickly – get yours now! libertyhousenh.org/vdb

Inaugural Golf Tourney to Benefit Local Mothers & Children

Don't miss your chance to participate in New Generation's 1st Annual Mulligans for Moms golf tournament on October 17, 2022, at Pease Golf Course in Portsmouth!



**MULLIGANS
FOR MOMS**

To benefit New Generation
A program of Catholic Charities NH

Proceeds directly support local mothers and children facing homelessness and other difficult pasts, providing shelter and key resources to help them get back on their feet and build safe, self-sufficient futures.

Get ready to tee off for a great cause – sign up today! newgennh.org/golf

17th Annual Mardi Gras Gala

The Mardi Gras Gala will be coming to the DoubleTree by Hilton Manchester on Saturday, February 11, 2023, at 5 p.m.! We're planning a fun event, with dinner, dancing and more, as well as our virtual gamebook and online auction.



17th ANNUAL
Mardi Gras
Benefiting Catholic Charities NH

We hope that you can join us as we come together to raise money for Catholic Charities NH's programs and services that assist New Hampshire individuals and families facing hardship.

If you would like to sponsor the event or donate an auction item, contact Laura Brusseau at 603-669-3030.

Grant Recognition

Thank you to the following for awarding grants to support Catholic Charities NH's programs and services:

Bishop's Charitable Assistance Fund	Liberty House
Derry Wolverine Dream Foundation	Liberty House
New Hampshire Department of Justice	Immigration Legal Services
Nordson Corporation Foundation	Our Place
Pulte Family Charitable Foundation	Monadnock at Home
Raskob Foundation for Catholic Activities	Liberty House
The Susan A. and Donald P. Babson Charitable Foundation	Monadnock at Home

Your Legacy

Make a lasting impact by naming Catholic Charities NH in your will or estate plans. For more information contact Karen Moynihan at **603-669-3030**.

A Voice for the Voiceless

We had the recent pleasure of welcoming Laura Brusseau to the Catholic Charities New Hampshire team as the Director of Development Operations! This critical role is responsible for all direct mail fundraising, donor communications/engagement, special events (heavy emphasis on Mardi Gras!) and general development operations.

Laura not only brings a wealth of knowledge, but also a refreshingly exuberant energy that is often needed when navigating how our clients turn dire situations and heartbreak into stories of hope and inspiration.

Laura has a penchant for helping others – from her time spent in the past helping students as an educator (18 years!), and also as a volunteer and chair for various non-profit boards – all in her free time!

Speaking with Laura is a masterclass on empathy – you can feel the compassion she has for the most vulnerable. She’s determined and excited to “give a voice to the voiceless” through various CCNH programs.

When asked about the causes she most cares about, there was zero hesitation: housing the homeless, empowering our youth, helping veterans struggling with invisible wounds like PTSD, ending human trafficking, feeding the hungry, and educating people about “bully breeds” like her pit bull Calli who recently hung up her volunteer leash to enjoy her sunset years.

While she may not be on the frontlines, she’s excited to partner with like-minded people to help combat everyday struggles like food insecurity and generational poverty. “It’s very rewarding,” she says. “I’m so impressed with the organization and the lives we touch. Something most people wouldn’t know is that 94 cents of every dollar received goes directly to those in need. That’s an incredibly high number you don’t see very often.”

Like a good steward, Laura knows that it goes beyond the basics, which is why she also dedicates a lot of her off-duty time to strengthening her mind, body and spirit connections. As an avid hiker – she has the NH (48) four-thousand-footers under her belt and is already chipping away at the 52 With a View (WAV) – Laura finds a sense of gratitude and stillness in nature.

Our excitement for Laura’s arrival is an understatement – she’s not only qualified and capable, but most importantly, she’s committed to helping local NH residents find their voice.

Welcome aboard, Laura!



On June 3, a ribbon cutting for New Generation’s playground took place, all made possible by generous donors during last year’s NH Gives campaign.

Also unveiled was the beautiful fencing, made possible by a generous donor earlier this year.

Thanks to our donors, the children who reside at New Generation’s family-oriented shelter and transitional living program have a safe and fun space to play and dream big!



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“Anything for My Grandkids”

Imagine being in your 60’s, living with your three young grandchildren, and an electric shut-off notice staring you down in the middle of a heatwave.

“Peg” and her husband recently became among the approximately 4,000 grandparents here in NH raising their grandchildren, in their case two preschool-age girls and a newborn who were recently removed from their home. While Peg is happy the kids are safe with them, the added financial responsibility is eating away at their already-thin budget.

When Peg contacted Catholic Charities NH, our team was there to help in more ways than one. They were first connected to a local clothing shop, which generously donated infant clothing for the family. We then advocated with the electric company, qualifying them for hardship status and cutting the minimum-owed in half, before paying the outstanding balance through donor support.

The lights stayed on, and the popsicles in the freezer – to keep the kids cool during the intense heat – didn’t melt.

Peg knows they aren’t out of the woods, especially with colder days and rising heating costs on the horizon. But like thousands of families who turn to Catholic Charities NH facing crisis and hardship, ***your support helps them overcome obstacles, build more stable lives and provide hope for the road ahead.***

