

Back on Their Feet

How You Are Creating a Stable Future for a New Generation

“I was an eighteen-year-old with not much hope in myself. I knew I needed to reach out for help. While I wasn’t thrilled at the thought of being homeless, you have to do what’s best for you and your kids.”

- Jolie, former New Generation resident

Homeless, and with what seemed like little to no options available to her, Jolie checked into a local emergency shelter. The shelter didn’t allow children, so she had to be separated from her little boy, Bentley.

She recalls the dark place she was in for those three weeks. The shelter wasn’t clean. There were bed bugs. She didn’t feel the staff was supportive. And she missed Bentley. “It really hurt to be without him,” she shared.



A New Door Opens

Committed to moving her life forward with her child, Jolie contacted **New Generation**, the newest program of Catholic Charities NH, which provides a family-oriented shelter, transitional housing, aftercare services and a variety of support programs helping mothers build self-sufficient futures with stable housing and jobs.

The next day, in late February 2021, Jolie moved into New Generation with Bentley.

When they first walked in the door, there was a renewed sense of hope for Jolie. “From the first day, it was clear the staff at New Generation was so supportive,” Jolie recalls. “They were kind, more involved in the program, and more helpful. It seemed way better than any other shelter I’ve been in.”

Jolie and Bentley settled in nicely at New Generation. They had 24/7 support and access to basic necessities. Their day would usually start at 7 a.m. when they would go for a walk and play outside. Jolie then took part in a wide range of support services with the other residents, including parenting counseling, life-skills coaching and financial counseling.

She also worked with Brandy, the program’s family services manager, to develop a series of goals designed to move her life forward. “They really push you to set your own goals, and go above and beyond and be your best self, not only for you, but for your child too,” Jolie said.

Continued Inside

Back on Their Feet: Continued

“From the first moment I met her, it was clear that Jolie had a strong motivation to conquer every goal that we set,” said Brandy.” She was eager to do the hard work that it takes to become self-sufficient.”

Jolie’s first goal was getting a job. She applied for one at a local coffee shop and was hired on the spot. She worked three days a week while Bentley was being cared for. Jolie fondly recalls how the New Generation staff would always wish her a good day at work when she left in the morning. For her, “that’s when I truly knew that I was growing up and I got this.”

Then there was the Section 8 housing voucher and, for her and her son, their ticket to eventually transition into a place of their own. New Generation staff guided her through the application process and helped gather required legal documents. She was at work when she found out that it was accepted in what she calls a very emotional moment. “I wouldn’t have gotten it if it wasn’t for New Generation,” she says.

In June, Jolie completed another special goal – she finished her GED classes and graduated high school. Brandy and other New Generation staff were alongside her, helping with her hair and getting Bentley ready for the big day. “They showed up as my second family, and it was then where I recognized that, no matter what, they will always be there for me.”

“Jolie was consistently motivated and ready to go,” added Brandy. “She utilized all the resources that were available and asked for help when needed. She never got complacent. She continually strived for providing a better life for her and Bentley.”

Building a Brighter & More Stable Future

July 23, 2021 marked yet another big milestone. Six days before her 19th birthday and five months since first arriving at New Generation, Jolie and Bentley moved out of New Generation and into an apartment they can proudly call their own.

“It hit me then – I was going out into the world for the first time. Yes, it was a bit nerve-wracking and overwhelming, but I felt so proud of myself and what I accomplished to get to this point. It was such an amazing feeling,” she said.

“With New Generation, I had a shoulder to cry on, people who truly cared about me and wanted me to succeed with my son.”

Jolie is still very involved with New Generation as part of its **aftercare program**, which provides ongoing support services to prevent the recurrence of homelessness, foster education and career development connections, and further facilitate paths to self-sufficiency. Jolie checks in weekly with Brianna, the housing stability specialist. They are currently working together on her next goal to get her driver’s license.

Jolie also credits Brianna for helping her adjust from a shelter to permanent housing. “The transition from community living, where there can be a lot of people, to a calm environment is a big change,” said Jolie. “You don’t have as many people to talk to, and you aren’t with others all the time.”

While she’s able to get by for the most part, Jolie still requires assistance around items like toilet paper, cleaning supplies or paper towels – and diapers and wipes for Bentley. And New Generation is there to help. “Many people don’t have that support in their lives or others to count on,” she said. “I recognize how fortunate I am.”

If it wasn't for New Generation, Jolie admits she would probably still be homeless. "Coming in, I didn't believe in myself or have a great head on my shoulders," she said. "When you're my age, you don't really think about being independent, but when you have a baby, you need to stop relying on others."

"With New Generation, I had a shoulder to cry on, people who truly cared about me and wanted me to succeed with my son. They helped me see the bigger picture that I could be a responsible adult that others can look up to and say, 'wow, she's only 19, how did she do that?!'"

"The accomplishments that Jolie made in such a short amount of time were incredible," said Elsy Cipriani, executive director of New Generation. "Here's a young woman who had a baby, was homeless just a short time ago, graduated high school, and is now on her own. She has this confidence about her that is so inspirational."

Jolie's advice for other pregnant or single mothers who face similar struggles that she did? "Even if things may seem bad, know that it's okay to ask for help, not only for yourself but for your child too." she shared. "Embrace the help you are receiving. Like I did, come into it with the mindset that you can do it and remain positive about everything because if you aren't, you aren't going to be as successful as you can be."

"You are Giving us a Safe Place to Live."

Jolie is grateful for the donors whose support made her journey possible. "Thank you so much – you have helped so many mothers and children, and we are very appreciative of what you have given us. Rather than sleeping outside or in insecure spaces, you are helping to give us a safe place to live with our babies, provide food, shelter and warmth, and create the opportunity to simply be happy. New Generation is not just a shelter – it's an amazing program that helps you become a better mother."

While she knows there is still a lot of hard work and challenges ahead, Jolie remains committed to her progress and is optimistic for the future. "They showed me that I can do anything I put my mind to."

And as for those goals, Jolie has a long-term one in mind. One day, she wants to work in case management – at New Generation.

"I want to help empower other mothers to ask for help – and guide them in the way New Generation did for me."



Make a difference for mothers like Jolie today:

cc-nh.org/jolie

Grant Recognition

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

Alice J. Reen Charitable Trust	Community Services
Claremont Savings Bank Foundation	Community Services
The Ella Anderson Trust	The CareGivers
Monogram Loves Kids Foundation	Our Place
New Hampshire Department of Safety/DHS	Healthcare Services
Nashua Citizen's Advisory Commission	The CareGivers
Speedway Children's Charities	Our Place
TC Energy Foundation	New Generation
Town of North Hampton	New Generation
Town of Rye	New Generation



QCDs and RMDs: Using your IRA to Make a Gift to Charity

Did you know that Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) may reduce your taxable income? Typically, funds that are withdrawn from a Traditional IRA are included in your taxable annual income, which may ultimately place you in a higher tax bracket. QCDs, however, work differently in that funds go directly from your IRA to your chosen charity (without withdrawal), helping you avoid higher income taxes while supporting causes that are near and dear to you. Up to \$100,000 in IRA funds can be counted as QCDs annually (\$200,000 for married couples).

QCD's also satisfy Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs). **RMDs** are amounts you *must* withdraw annually from your Traditional IRA once you reach age 72.

Your Impact: Because QCDs don't need to be recognized as income, charities receive the full amount of the transfer, tax-free. **It's a wonderful way to support you and the causes you care about!** Check with your financial adviser or contact your IRA custodian to ask for a form to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution.

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**.

Mardi Gras is Back!

It's true – the Mardi Gras Gala is back! We are planning an exciting hybrid event that will include dinner, dancing and more, as well as our virtual gamebook and online auction. We hope that you can join us as we come together to raise money for Catholic Charities' programs and services that assist New Hampshire's individuals and families facing hardship.

Mark your calendar

Saturday, February 12, 2022

DoubleTree by Hilton in Manchester, NH

Visit cc-nh.org/mardigras for more information or to register!



16TH ANNUAL

Mardi Gras

Benefiting Catholic Charities NH

A Note of Thanks

With the holidays approaching, this time of year is always a time of reflection for me. There's so much to be thankful for, and I'm especially grateful for people like you – those who make our work possible. Countless lives have been touched, moved and improved this year, all because of you. I'm so honored to have you as part of our family – a “community” of like-minded individuals caring for our brothers and sisters, who simply need someone to walk with them, someone who cares. On behalf of all those we serve, thank you for your kind and generous spirit. You inspire and remind me that around every challenging corner is someone who truly wants to make a difference.





- Karen Moynihan, senior director of development



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Meryl's Wish for The Winter Months

Winter was Meryl's happy place – she spent many years skiing the slopes of the White Mountains and sharing hot cups of tea with her beloved husband, Joseph, by the campfire. She fondly looks back, “I would never trade those moments.”

Winter is different now. Joseph passed away two years ago, and Meryl lives alone in a small apartment. Living on a fixed income, it can be tough to afford all of her basic needs. Sometimes, difficult sacrifices need to be made – like last winter, when a medical bill from her recent cancer diagnosis left her budget thin. Anxious, she spent many nights turning down her heat – just so she could afford enough food. Not even three sets of blankets were enough on the coldest of nights.

Meryl connected with Catholic Charities NH this fall shortly after having surgery that left her even more financially strapped and facing the reality she can't get around as much as she used to. She recognizes she's not out of the woods as her medical bills continue. But your support of Catholic Charities NH ensures that she will have enough food for the coming months, and for many nights, will be able to turn on the heat – and not have to worry whether three blankets will be enough.

Your support to Catholic Charities NH helps Meryl and many other seniors avoid the difficult sacrifices that all too many face.