



THE ROAD TO CHANGE



*We call it **HOME**, Others call it **HOPE***

Volume 16 Issue 4 Winter 2018

My Fight Song

This amazing mother of three has conquered so much within a short period of time!

Despite coming from a life of childhood abuse and drug addiction, Rosemary has defied the odds. Growing up in a family of six, Rosemary witnessed abuse first hand at a very early age when her father was taken to jail for beating and raping her oldest sister. Lacking support and unable to cope, she turned to marijuana at the age of eight. After her dad went to jail, her uncle moved into their home. Instead of providing a safe, loving home, Rosemary and her sisters were subjugated to sexual abuse. After 5 years, Rosemary gained the courage to tell someone about her uncle's abuse, and she and her siblings were finally free.

Although abuse was no longer an issue, Rosemary still had no support. Without a solid family foundation, or a glimpse of hope, Rosemary started using meth and lived where she could for fourteen years. During that time, she had three children and did what she could to survive. Her addiction led her to greater despair until one day she lost everything, including her kids. With no other options, Rosemary began calling around for help. She knew she had to make a better life for herself in order to get her children back. When it almost seemed like there was no hope, Rosemary found **Time for Change Foundation (TFCF)**.

In May 2018 Rosemary entered TFCF's Mt. View shelter for single women. As soon as she stepped foot inside, she knew she was home. Through TFCF's evidence-based programs and services, Rosemary received the treatment she needed to recover and heal from her childhood trauma. She was given a different outlook on who she is and who she can become, and most of all she has stayed clean and sober!

After only 4 months at TFCF, Rosemary gained employment at a local restaurant. Utilizing the skills developed at TFCF she became Assistant Manager one month later!

In September 2018, she recalls the feelings of love, happiness, and joy when she was reunited with her youngest son, Romeo. Reuniting with him was one of the greatest accomplishments of her life! Despite all the hurdles that she had to jump through, Rosemary was able to, once again, hold her two-year-old son in her arms and smother him with kisses.

Rosemary continues to thank TFCF for making this dream a reality through their continued love and support. Today, Rosemary demonstrates strength and character as she remains resilient through it all, chanting "**I'm not gone ever stop fighting**". She is dedicated to being a better person than she was yesterday, which motivates her to never lose hope as she continues to fight for the reunification of her other two children.



MISSION

To empower disenfranchised low income individuals and families by building leadership through evidence-based programs and housing to create self-sufficiency and thriving communities.

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With God, ALL Things are Possible!

Lisa and her daughter Mya are preparing to enjoy the holidays at Sweet Dreams, sharing laughter and good times with the other Moms and children. This doesn't seem out of the ordinary for a mother and daughter but for Lisa and Mya, it's nothing short of a miracle. Mya was removed from her mother's care 3 years ago because of Lisa's drug use. Throughout that time, Lisa wanted nothing more than to reunite with her baby but the cycle of drug abuse and mental health issues hindered this from happening. In May of this year, Lisa began a drug treatment program, completed 90 days and even began getting visits with her daughter. Sadly, despite having overcome her drug dependency problem, Lisa was told that she had exhausted all options and that she would not get custody of Mya. This was devastating because her heart's biggest desire was to have her baby back. Although she was told she'd exhausted all resources Lisa knew that with God, we are never out of resources!



After only three weeks at TFCF it was time for her next court date and what she thought might be a loss turned out to be victory. That very day the judge granted Lisa fully time custody of Mya! "Without Time for Change Foundation, I would be lost," Lisa says, "They made a difference in my life by supporting me, being on my side, and having the best interest for me. I never had that kind of support before."

The day Lisa got her daughter back was a day she thought would never come, a day when she would hold her daughter in her arms and not have to say goodbye.

Now, Lisa and Mya have forever to be together. She says that now she is looking forward to finding employment and permanent housing. In the meantime, she is thankful for the ability to be a better person, mother and friend.



Triumph Over Adversity

What does it really mean to have strength in the face of adversity? Elvera's story is told her in own words and is an inspiration to all of us to keep faith during life's most difficult moments:

It all began when my grandma was diagnosed Pancreatic Cancer. My family and I were not able to cope and accept her illness and losing her was even more devastating. She was the backbone of our family and she was my Super Woman, someone who was there whenever I needed her. My grandmother was like a mother to me because she raised me and my brothers when our parents couldn't, due to their drug addiction and being in and out of prison. Being abandoned by my parents made me grow up sooner than most, I felt like I had to take care of myself, so there was not much time to be a kid. Not wanting to feel or knowing how to cope with the loss of my grandma I began to use drugs so that I could numb the pain. Because of the choices I made and because of my shortcomings as a mother, I was in for a rude awakening; Children and Family Services took my children away. Desperate to get them back, I was given a case plan, outpatient substance abuse classes and therapy. I was doing what was required but it wasn't enough because my social worker told me that she did not see any growth. I felt defeated and I felt like giving up but something in me didn't let me. I chose to fight the good fight of faith and give everything to GOD!

In December 2017 I went into a faith-based home for women called The Way World Outreach and God began putting the pieces of my life that I destroyed back together again. After 10 months I needed to transition to a place where I could reunify with my children and that's when God opened the doors for Time for Change Foundation.

After only 1 week of being at Time for Change Foundation I was reunited with my son!

One day at time, God is giving me back what I lost and more! I am the happiest I've been in a long time and I am working full-time. Time for Change Foundation made a difference in my life because they are giving me a safe place to call home, teaching me the tools to succeed in life and to become self-sufficient. I am so thankful for this program!



2018 Legislative Victories!

Through Advocacy and Leadership Development we train our women to be the change they want to see! We know that when a woman is empowered to use her voice we WILL see change in our communities. We are proud to share that this year our women helped pass 8 criminal justice bills into law!

- **SB 1393:** 5 Year Sentence Reform
- **SB 10:** Pretrial release or detention: pretrial services
- **SB 1025:** Probation eligibility for crimes relating to substance
- **SB 923:** Criminal investigations - eyewitness identification
- **SB 1437:** Accomplice liability for felony murder
- **SB 1421:** Peace officers: release of records
- **AB 2413:** Tenancy: law enforcement and emergency assistance
- **AB 2138:** Licensing boards: denial of application: revocation or suspension of licensure: criminal conviction



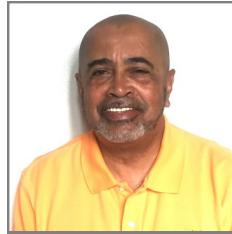
Welcome our New Team Members!



Stephana Carter
Case Manager



Aimee Durante
Data Entry Specialist
Resource Coordinator



Michael Dolphin
Employment Developer

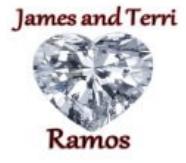


Shiniqua Green
Case Manager



Francis Kasold
Case Specialist

Thank you to our Supporters!



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To date we've helped over **1,200** homeless women and children reach self-sufficiency AND have reunited **282** children out of foster care back with their mothers!

Make Your Year-end Donation Today!

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