



THANK YOU

for giving

YOUR GENEROSITY
BROUGHT HER INTO THE LIGHT

CLAIRE HAD NEVER BEEN TO SCHOOL, SHE HAD BARELY HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEAVE THE APARTMENT.

Not until a truancy officer appeared at her door did the school system even know she existed in the home. The officer came looking for her older brother, and instead they found Claire; an eight year old girl with autism who was non-verbal and still wearing a diaper.



Claire, pictured left with her adopted mom and brother, is now finding support and security in her forever home with biological family members. She had lived in a sheltered world not receiving the care she needed as child with autism. After coming into foster care your gift ensured that she had a well-trained family ready to give her the time, attention and therapies to help her thrive.

This transformation for Claire is only possible because of YOU!

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Quickly all the children in the home were removed and Claire was placed with one of our longest and most experienced treatment foster care families. Here she would start to receive the help she needed to grow and develop. Without early intervention for autism, Claire was functioning on a 2-3 year old developmental level. Within one year of placement with our foster family, Claire was able to function much closer to her age level and was beginning to thrive.

"Right before she left our care, Claire looked at me and said for the first time 'Hello Kim'. It just melted my heart..."

After years of neglect and no intervention for autism, Claire wasn't able to communicate with caregivers and much like a toddler struggled with frustration and acted out with tantrums. Coming into foster care, Claire underwent assessments for how to best give her the care she needed.

It is because of you and your support that over the next several months she began receiving occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech therapy. Soon she was able to attend a specialized school for children with autism.

And because of you and your generosity, Claire

has found a forever home with biological family members in North Carolina, using words to communicate, fully potty-trained and thriving in a specialized school environment. This transformation is only possible because of YOU! Thank you for your love of children left behind like Claire.

"Right before she left our care to go live with family members outside of Virginia, Claire looked at me and said for the first time 'Hello Kim'. It just melted my heart to see her grow that much receiving the care and therapies she needed all along", Kim Thomas, HumanKind Treatment Foster Care Caseworker.



Foster parent, Julie (pictured above with Claire) and her husband Tom worked tirelessly with caseworkers and a support specialist to get Claire the help she needed to catch up on her developmental delay. You made it possible for Claire to get the love, care and support she desperately needed.

Your gift **TRANSFORMS** lives

Finding Her Voice

You helped Jennifer make a plan

Change and transition do not come easy when you are an adult with autism. For most of her life, Jennifer has survived by clinging to a routine and chose to spend a lot of time by herself. Her solitude made it challenging to connect with housemates and for support staff to help her find meaningful employment and set goals. When Jennifer was 19 she moved onto the Zuni campus and today at age 38 she lives in the Lynchburg Group Home for adults with developmental disabilities. She is one of 6 residents who receive around the clock care; each with a unique outlook on life, their own routine and a thrill for living life to the fullest.

One of the goals that Jennifer chose for herself was to find her voice and have the confidence to make her own choices. She struggled to advocate for herself and even speak up in a group making it difficult for her peers to get to know her and support her hobbies. Her housemates and staff spent a lot of time encouraging her to join them in the common living areas and engage in social activities. Slowly but surely, Jennifer began to open up and share her love of pop culture, movies and fashion.

Jennifer found a job working on a college campus where she has the opportunity to not only meet new people but also keep up with the latest fashion trends. Finding her voice she has now decided to try a new hair style (and color) and is on the hunt for a hot pink pair of the original Doc Martin combat boots. They have also been added to her Christmas list.

Jennifer is now thriving. She still has her routine, but is making more and more of her own choices.

**Because of generous donors like you,
her plan became a reality.**



Jennifer completes a karate class with her instructor Sensei Bruce. Each week she counted the days until it was 'karate day'. Your generosity makes this highlight of her week possible. This small act is more than an activity it is a voice being heard and wishes coming true.

Jennifer struggled to advocate for herself and even speak up in a group.

Recently she voiced that she wanted to take karate lessons, and because of generous donors like you, she was able to make that desire a reality. When asked about what her karate lessons has meant to her, Jennifer responded, "She believed she could, so she did it". Thank you for making Jennifer's voice matter and giving her the space to shine.



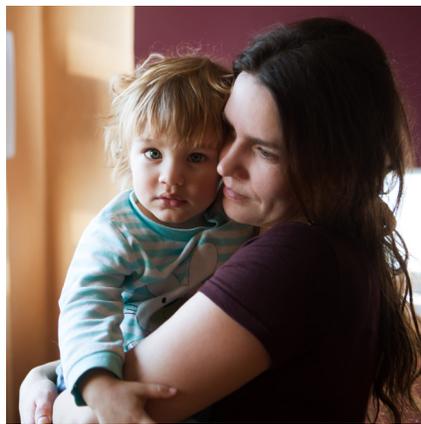
Jennifer pictured with her housemates, ready to attend Night to Shine annual prom. Your gift helped her find a true sense of belonging and friendship.

You can keep the magic of Christmas alive for a child

Be a Christmas Angel to a family in need this holiday season

Imagine losing your job unexpectedly before the holiday season even begins and not knowing how you were going to be able to put food on the table, much less a tree with presents under it? Imagine spending the holidays consumed with worry about how you were going to make ends meet until finding another job. This is real life for single mom Sabrina who is working with our Financial Support Services team on building her credit so she can find a safer home for her and her daughter.

Sabrina only has a small amount of savings and no longer has the security to provide Christmas for her daughter. But you can help! For just \$36 you can provide her with gifts to place under the tree. She needs to focus on making ends meet so she doesn't stray from all the hard work and progress she has made building her credit. While our



staff is working with Sabrina to find new employment, you can make sure this holiday season is still full of magic and joy.

For just \$36 you can provide \$200 worth of clothing, gifts and a stocking filled with personal care items! Your gift will stretch so far because it will be combined with donations and the work of volunteers.

And it's not just Sabrina. Right now we have 54 families facing a similar obstacle and worried about how they are going to provide Christmas for their children.

As you head off with your Christmas list, please consider making room to ease the worry of a mom like Sabrina and provide Christmas for her daughter.

Write a note of encouragement for a parent on the enclosed gift tag and mail back with your gift! Your message will be shared with families this Christmas giving them extra support.

You can keep the magic of Christmas alive. For just \$36 you can give her clothing, shoes, personal hygiene items and a treasured toy.

Please provide gifts for at least one child!



Yes, I'll keep the magic alive and provide Christmas for a child!

Here's my special gift to provide clothing, toys and personal hygiene items this Christmas.

- \$36 provides clothing and gifts for 1 child
- \$72 provides clothing and gifts for 2 children
- \$144 provides clothing and gifts for 4 children
- Other \$ _____

See back side of card for payment options. To give faster, please give online today: humankind.org/ChristmasAngels

**Deadline
to give is
Dec. 6th!**



Letter from the President

I am so grateful for your compassion.

With the holidays right around the corner, my thoughts are with the hundreds of children and families we serve every day and the hundreds more who will come to our doorstep when they have nowhere else to turn.

This year your generosity helped open the door for so many people allowing them to transform their lives through our services and programs. Men and women got jobs, became better parents, got the counseling they needed, gained financial stability, found a support system for themselves and their families and children are now thriving in safe environments.

None of this could have happened without you and your support. Thank you for your faithfulness to those who need it most. Thank you for letting your light shine in the darkness so others can find the light. May you and your family be blessed as you celebrate this holiday season.

Robert S. Dendy Jr.
President and CEO

Help Fill the Pantry this holiday season

Donation Drop-Offs

HumanKind Main Campus
150 Linden Avenue, Lynchburg VA 24503
Monday - Friday | 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Here's how you can help make the holidays merry and bright for those we serve.

Wish List

- Soap, body wash
- Deodorant - for both men and women
- Shampoo, conditioner
- Toothpaste, toothbrushes
- Toilet tissue and paper towels
- Dishwashing liquid
- Laundry detergent
- Cleaning supplies
- Baby diapers - All sizes
- Baby wipes
- Canned hearty soups and stews
- Fruit Loops, Honey Nut Cheerios cereal
- Crackers
- Spaghetti noodles and sauce
- Rice, pasta, macaroni
- Gravy mix, tomato sauce, diced tomatoes
- Macaroni & cheese
- Instant potatoes
- Brownie and cookie mix
- Muffin and corn bread mix
- Flour, sugar, salt, pepper
- Vegetable oil
- Ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise
- Salad dressings
- Pancake mix and syrup
- Peanut butter & jelly
- Granola bars
- Jell-O, puddings, fruit cups
- Snacks that children can take to school
- Juices, non-carbonated beverages

All donations must be new.