

Kind HEARTED

your gift changed lives

Human Kind
Winter 2020



A PLACE TO CALL Home FOR THE Holidays

Because of you the Roman family found a path to reach their dream

**“EVERYTHING HAPPENS
FOR A REASON. THERE IS
A BIGGER PLAN FOR US
MAYBE NOT NOW, BUT IT
WILL COME.”**

Franklin and Ramona have instilled this sense of resiliency into their family and lived by it! They choose not to look back or dwell on the past because they still have a goal to achieve – homeownership. Not only because it's the ultimate American dream, but also because it sets the example for their children. There will be roadblocks, but you have to keep going. Even when times are hard. Even when the coronavirus pandemic

YOUR GIFT HAS THE POWER TO TRANSFORM THE LIFE OF A FAMILY.

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threatened to delay their dreams even further. “The things that happen to you can either make or break you, and in the case of my parents it has definitely made them,” shares their oldest daughter Ali. And before this year comes to a close – just in time for the holidays, this family will achieve their goal, they will have a home to call their own.

At the start of 2017, it felt like life couldn't get any worse. The Roman family faced eviction after the sale of the property where their mobile home was located. Although this home had no running water and wasn't in the best of conditions – it was all they had to keep their family of five safe and the kids in school. Having emigrated from the Dominican Republic nearly a

decade before, all their hard work just wasn't enough. The challenges and obstacles continued to surge and it seemed impossible to see how they would realize their dream to own a home.

Working with social services, the family was referred to Habitat for Humanity, but unfortunately were not able to qualify for their program. After several closed doors, because of your support the Romans found

“Not once did they make their children feel like we were in a bad situation, even though we were they made each day a good day. Each day they put one foot in front of the other and continue to move forward.” Ali shared.

a door open at HumanKind through the Financial Opportunity Center. Here they found a financial coach to walk the journey with them and create a path to their goals. One step at a time. Over two years, they worked with their HumanKind



Putting up their first wall to their new home and contributing more than 300 hours of sweat equity. You made it possible for them to get the access to resources and lay the foundation for financial stability.



Financial Coach, Yolanda Hilliard, to improve their credit score, create a budget and reduce their debt with a plan to re-apply for a Habitat home. The whole family committed to this plan and by the start of 2019 they were ready to try again. Just a few months later, they heard the magic words – “you have been approved.”

And because of your support, the Roman family had access to the resources they needed to stay focused on their plan and achieve financial stability. They are not only gaining a home of their own, but a home to share with their family for generations to come.

Although construction was supposed to start in the spring of 2020, the coronavirus pandemic caused

“To have this opportunity is a blessing within itself.”

Left: Franklin is shouting from the rooftop that his dream of homeownership is here while his wife Ramona stands below. It's been a long journey immigrating from the Dominican Republic, to living in conditions with no running water, to overcoming several obstacles – your gift made this family's dream come true.

several delays. Finally the foundation was laid in the summer. With the help of family and friends, they poured more than 300 hours of sweat equity into their home. Right now they are counting down the days as the final finishes are in process. This transformation is only possible because of YOU! Your gift ensured that the Roman family had a plan to succeed – and because of you their dream is now a reality.

“The Roman's journey was NOT an easy one – there were highs and lows along the way, but this family stayed focused and now their DREAM of home ownership is coming to fruition” - HumanKind Financial Coach, Yolanda Hilliard

This family will soon be moving into their new home – just in time for the Christmas holiday. What a sweet and special celebration to share this season.



Ramona and Franklin Roman never gave up. And because of you they had access to resources and the support they needed to create a path to homeownership. Very soon this family will be spending the holidays in their new home.

Because of generous donors like you, their life-long dream of homeownership is now a reality.



Today with your support this family is thriving: Franklin and Ramona are working and preparing for their new home while also tending to their three children – youngest daughter age 14 is in high school, daughter Ali currently a CNA is working to complete her degree as a Registered Nurse, and son age 21 serving in the United States Army (Ramona holding his photo).

Letter from the President

When you step back and see the bigger picture, Christmas is ultimately about reconciliation and the love that got us there.



Robert S. Dendy Jr., MPH
President and CEO

We are privileged to see the echoes of this precious gift played out in the lives of every man, woman, and child who walks through our doors and seeks help along their journey.

People like the Roman family (cover story), who have found financial stability and the security of having a home of their own. Their lives will

never be the same and they will change the trajectory of the lives of their children and generations to come.

Because of you, we can offer that same precious gift over and over and see lives transformed forever. Thank you. There is no better way to celebrate the season than to share love and gifts with others who need them most.

This year your generosity bridged the gap for so many people – and you were a hero in the middle of a crisis. 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.

Help Fill the Pantry this Holiday Season

This time of year is crucial to keep our Emergency Household and Food Pantry stocked and ready to help the individuals, children and families we serve through the holidays and winter months. Help by donating items from the most needed list below.

WISH LIST

- Soap, body wash
- Deodorant – men & women
- Shampoo, conditioner
- Toothpaste, toothbrushes
- Toilet tissue & paper towels
- Dishwashing liquid
- Laundry detergent
- Cleaning supplies
- Baby diapers – All sizes
- Baby wipes
- Canned hearty soups & 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

DONATION MAIL-IN OR DROP-OFFS

HumanKind Main Campus | 150 Linden Avenue, Lynchburg VA 24503
Open Monday – Friday | 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
For group opportunities, contact Mitzi at: mdooley@humankind.org



THANK YOU FOR OPENING DOORS



A LIFE LIKE *Ours*
Your gifts opened doors from isolation

Maintaining a sense of normalcy and routine during a pandemic has been encouraged for people of all abilities – but it's a crucial necessity for people who have developmental disabilities like Paul and his housemates. Disruptions in routine and schedules are especially challenging for Paul. That's why Group Home Manager Donna Bright and her staff dug in to create a new, safe normal.

Because your support never wavered this year, your gifts have continued to provide a safe, caring and supportive atmosphere where individuals with disabilities can achieve their goals.

While these days might look different, because of you doors have been opened for new and creative

“God bless my staff – I’m always amazed. They have families of their own, some of them have older parents and young children. Every day they are here, they choose to make it a good day for the individuals in our home.” – Donna Bright

Paul, who is on the autism spectrum, resides in a supervised living apartment. He loves politics, is often found reading political books and is even known to recall the senator of any given year. Many things changed this year, but not Paul and Donna's tradition of going together to the polls.

ways for the residents to stay busy and engaged. Van rides have become a popular outing, and often with a destination to learn something about the community from historic sites to local parks.

The outdoor fire pit has gotten a lot of use and overall there's been a lot more time spent outdoors. Some of the residents have even found being outside helps them to calm down. Your gift was the difference during this time.

And as November approached, Paul was counting down the days. Election Day was close and he couldn't wait to make his trip to the polls to cast his vote. For twelve years, Donna and Paul have set out to exercise their right to vote, together. And this year, maintaining this tradition felt more important than ever.

“We are going to the polling place – we are going to put on our masks and go.”

On November 3, the tradition continued. They arrived early, took the necessary precautions – and because of you, Paul voted. And of course he likes to go ahead of Donna, because he wants to get his vote in first.

Although, much of life doesn't look the same right now, your gift ensures that Paul and his housemates have a quality of life that is meaningful to them – and as you already know, this has never been more important.

Because of you, adults with developmental disabilities are safe and well.

YOU CAN KEEP THE OF CHRISTMAS ALIVE FOR A CHILD

Magic

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

Imagine losing your job unexpectedly in the midst of the pandemic and picking up what work you can before the holiday season. How will you put food on the table, not only for the holidays but making sure you have enough through the winter months? Not to mention how will you have a tree with presents under it?

This is real life for single mom Zahara who is working with our Financial Support Services team on building her credit so she can find a safer home for her and her two sons.

Zahara only has a small amount of savings and no longer has the security to provide Christmas for her boys. 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 Zahara 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 Zahara. Right now we have 116 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 Zahara and provide Christmas for her two sons.

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 a family this Christmas giving them extra support.

You can keep the magic of Christmas alive. For just \$36 you can make sure a child receives 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 and support the good work of HumanKind 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
- \$ _____, to provide gifts for as many children as possible.

To give faster, please give online today: humankind.org/ChristmasAngels

**Deadline
to give is
Dec. 21st!**