

KindHEARTED

2021 Thankuary Newsletter
special edition



A special edition of KindHearted to say Thank You for the lasting impact YOU have made in the lives of children and families.



“I made it through because you were there when I needed help.”

IN TIMES OF *Crisis*

Your gift helped Sabrina make it through.

Sabrina thought the worst part of the coronavirus pandemic happened when the schools closed for the remainder of the school year. This meant she would have extra expenses for childcare; but at least she could continue working as a surgical tech at a local medical center. She was wrong, weeks later she would also lose her job.

As a single mother of a two year old son, there was no other option if she wanted to continue working – she had to find a way to add in increased childcare expenses. But she knew she would not have enough money for either her rent, her car insurance or her car payment. She felt the worry and fear pressing in on her. How could she choose? Well thanks to you she didn't have to. Sabrina worked

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HumanKind

YOU ANSWERED THE CALL AND PROVIDED HELP TO FAMILIES IN NEED.

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with her HumanKind coach and created a plan to bridge the gap and keep her on course.

Because of you she received a care package of household supplies and bill payment assistance for her car insurance enabling her to pay for rent, car loan and childcare – all in turn keeping her family stable.

Then she was laid off without notice due to the pandemic. Once again her progress was in jeopardy – but she knew where to turn for help. Because of you and your support, the doors at HumanKind were open.

Your support provided a safe environment for deeper job coaching, counseling and guidance where Sabrina could be made whole. She received help applying for financial assistance and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits while also receiving assistance updating her resume and applying for several medical positions.

We are excited to say that she is back working as a surgical technician for a local hospital system – now able to once again serve with care and help our community in need.

"Every step of the way I received encouragement and consideration, especially during these hard and trying times. And in the midst of my struggles receiving gift cards for gas and food granted me the opportunity to endure with a smile and a sense of relief."

This bridge was only possible because of YOU! Thank you for your love of people like Sabrina who needed a community to walk alongside her.

Sabrina lost her job during the pandemic. But because of you she had access to resources and the support she needed that helped her bridge the gap. Today she has a new job working as a surgical technician and will emerge stronger from this crisis.



IN TIMES OF *Fear*

You answered the call and changed a life

After hospitals put restrictions in place due to the coronavirus pandemic, many pregnant women were forced to give birth without their full support systems. But you ensured that Dakota and other at-risk mothers were not alone.

Dakota got a call about a month before she gave birth saying her mother, friends and family couldn't be with her when she delivered to limit exposure to the coronavirus. Dakota shared, "**I was terrified. I had this vision of all of these people surrounding me and suddenly I realized I couldn't have that**".

But Dakota's HumanKind Healthy Families Support Worker knew there was an exception to this rule. Hospitals were allowing Certified Birth Doulas to serve as an advocate for the birthing mother, but there was a barrier that remained. How would expectant mothers like Dakota afford to have this advocate with her?

You stepped up, and you saved the day! You provided Dakota a Certified Birth Doula to stand at her side and advocate for her in the most vulnerable time of her life. Lauren Barnes, Program Manager of HumanKind's program, The Motherhood Collective, shared, "It is my strongest belief that women are innately able to care for their children and they deserve to have support from their entire community." This is what you provided.

Even after giving birth, Dakota had to self-isolate – at a time when



Dakota welcomed her new baby during the coronavirus pandemic with a doula at her side. Thank you for making sure this first time mom had the support she needed and ensuring that she is not alone at this vulnerable time.

new mothers need a support system most. Her doula and family support worker continued to be a lifeline and make sure she had someone to answer questions and offer guidance to a new mother isolated in a pandemic.

Dakota says her doula is forever a part of her family's story and made her feel more powerful as a mother. "My doula told me all of my options, she said, 'you can do this, it's your decision it's your choice.'"

Your generosity has forever changed the life of Dakota and other mothers like her. You gave her support through a doula when she feared she would give birth alone.

Thanks to you, Dakota had the support system to get the best start into motherhood. Your gift ensures other mothers like Dakota have the resources they desperately need during this time.

Thank You

In 2020 there were a number of needs and unforeseeable challenges -- and yet you provided generous help to our neighbors in need again and again. **Through your gifts YOU...**

- **ENSURED** resources were available to a family struggling with the consequences of the pandemic
- **MAINTAINED** a lifeline to new mothers who were vulnerable and isolated
- **PROTECTED** adults with developmental disabilities to stay safe and well
- **FED** hundreds of families Thanksgiving meals
- **WERE** Santa Claus for kids who weren't your own
- **PROVIDED** love and hope for kids on their first night of foster care.

YOUR GIFT HAS FOREVER **CHANGED LIVES.**



Left: Trevor pictured with his 94-year old grandmother, Ms. Kathleen Valentine. You provided the support that held him steady as he found a solution to protect them both in this crisis.

It could have been a devastating road block, but you stepped in and made sure it was only a detour.

BUILDING Resilience

With your support, Trevor is not giving up.

In the middle of a world-wide pandemic, Trevor suddenly found himself with no income. He had to find a way to weather the storm -- too many people depend on him.

Trevor shares a home with his 94-year old grandmother, providing her with care and transportation to medical appointments. He helps out with his nieces and nephews. He works with disabled veterans in crisis counseling. As a veteran himself, he knows how important this service can be.

He had come so far in gaining financial stability. **“I actually have a life now, I am able to go to work, and be there for my family.”** And now the coronavirus pandemic was threatening to take it all away.

Trevor started his journey with Ways to Work (WTW) in 2018 and was soon approved for a vehicle

loan. After years of struggling with reliable transportation and spending hundreds of dollars each month to get to work...he finally he had his own car. “Giving me transportation, gave me life.” Trevor's car meant he was able to become an Uber driver giving him flexibility to help his grandmother.

When the pandemic hit, he realized that he had to stop driving for Uber not wanting to risk being around too many people; not when his grandmother's health was at stake. Trevor called his WTW coach to let her know he may fall behind on payments. He never expected she would respond asking “How can I best help you right now?”

His most immediate needs were met the next day with grocery and gas gift cards, a toiletries care package, and bill payment assistance. His coach helped him weigh the options for unemployment and SNAP benefits to find temporary stabilization. Having the support you made possible to hold him steady – he was able to search for a job and in just a few weeks was able to secure a full-time salaried position with benefits at FedEx.

Thank you for providing the resources needed to help Trevor weather this crisis, and even emerge stronger.

Keep the good going in 2021.

Families are still struggling this winter -- and you can help.

Yes, I'll help a family struggling during the coronavirus pandemic.

Make a special gift to provide emergency help for food, supplies and bill payment assistance.

Please give online today: humankind.org/coronavirus

