



A special edition of KindHearted to say Thank You.

# KindHEARTED

## Saying THANK YOU

COULD NEVER  
BE ENOUGH



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HumanKind

*Your gift has forever changed the life of Londyn and other children like her.*

**AGAINST ALL ODDS. Your Gift made the impossible, possible.**

Program Highlight

**EARLY HEAD  
START**

Londyn's doctors and therapists told her parents their daughter would face great challenges in life.

She would not have a healthy appetite, she would not have fine motor skills, and she may never walk. But they didn't know that Londyn, her family, and her teacher Stephanie at Early Head Start (EHS) made an incredible team. Because of you, they were able to face every obstacle together.

Londyn was just 2-years-old when she came to EHS. The week

# YOU ARE A HERO TO FAMILIES STRUGGLING THROUGH CRISIS.

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before she was to start, her teacher Stephanie met with the Family Engagement Specialist to hear more about Londyn and her needs. Here she learned that Londyn had cerebral palsy and was not very verbal, unable to walk on her own and struggling with severe separation anxiety. “I didn’t know much about cerebral palsy, so I started researching and wanted to create space for her to teach me who she is, and what she can do.”

In those first few weeks, Stephanie felt like a failure. She couldn’t understand why she could not comfort Londyn. Stephanie tried everything she knew to do when a toddler was in distress, but Londyn would cry from the moment she left her mother’s arms until she eventually fell asleep exhausted at nap time.

Weeks passed with no change in Londyn’s behavior or progress in development. Stephanie’s confidence wavered, but she refused to give up. She kept trying new ideas--and gave Londyn time, love and as much consistency as possible. Then one day as if a switch was flipped, Londyn came to school with a smile on her face. Stephanie’s eyes filled with tears of joy. Overcoming separation anxiety was just the beginning for Londyn. She overcame all the



“Somebody once asked me if I thought Londyn will ever walk. I knew she was determined and that she would walk in her own timing!” It was the very next weekend Londyn’s mother shared a video of her walking on her own at home. “I was so excited, and proud to be part of her story,” shared Stephanie pictured above with Londyn.

“She’s determined and independent. She is just WOW; mind-blowing every day.” What an amazing gift you have given. You made it possible for Londyn to get the love, care and specialized support she needed to shine.

limits that society had set for her, and proved them wrong! Stephanie excitedly shared, “And let me tell you, this girl can eat! She loves eating and will often ask for seconds! She is doing amazing with fine motor activities and keeping up with all her classmates.”

Londyn began to further thrive in her classroom, have meaningful social interactions with friends and her personality just blossomed.

Because of you, teachers like Stephanie had the resources and the training needed to love and teach children like Londyn. You provided the support she needed to overcome these obstacles, and any others that may come her way.

## Thank You

In 2023 there were a number of needs and unexpected challenges -- and yet you provided generous help to our neighbors in need again. Through your gifts YOU....

- **ENSURED** resources were available to a family struggling through economic crisis
- **MAINTAINED** a lifeline to parents in need
- **HELP FILLED** a need for childcare providing a space for children and their parents to thrive.
- **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.

## FINDING A WAY

Because of you, Kaylah had support for a healthy pregnancy



Program Highlight  
**HEALTHY FAMILIES**

Kaylah knew the impacts of a high risk pregnancy – health complications for the babies, long hospital stays, a mountain of medical bills, lost time from work and a lot of additional stress that impacted her own health. She knew she couldn’t go down that road again with this pregnancy. But your generosity made the difference. Kaylah found the help she needed from a Family Support Specialist through HumanKind’s Healthy Families program.

Her doctors insisted that she had to get her stress and overwhelm under control quickly. The child she was carrying this time needed her to be as healthy as possible -- he had a hole in his heart and so much unknown still lied ahead.

As a single mom, Kaylah was struggling to keep up with rent, utility bills, increased grocery costs, car payments and making sure there was enough to cover all the upcoming doctor appointments for her baby on the way. She knew something had to change and that she couldn’t do it alone.

Because of you, Kaylah was connected with Lindsey, a Family Support Specialist from Healthy Families. Lindsey was able to come alongside her and help ease some of her greatest worries. First, she helped Kaylah prioritize her bills and create a budget that would work for her and her family’s needs. Kaylah shared, “Finally I felt like I could take a deep breath. With Lindsey’s help I realized I could pay off my car with a tax return and officially become a vehicle owner for the first time in my life! When I got the title in the mail, I FaceTimed Lindsey right away -- me and my kids had a dance party with her right there on the phone.”

Just five days later Kaylah lost her job. “I couldn’t believe it. When Kaylah texted me about losing her job so shortly after such a big win,” her support worker Lindsey shared, “I was so afraid it was going to send her back into a spiral of stress and cause complications for the baby.”

But Kaylah didn’t panic. Thanks to the budget she had created with Lindsey, Kaylah had money saved to help get by until she could find a new job after the baby was born. Because of you, Lindsey was right there with her every step of the way.

With less stress in her life and Lindsey’s support, Kaylah gave birth to a healthy baby boy at full term. She is now a mom of three healthy children. Kaylah still works with Lindsey who continues to provide parent support and access to resources that help Kaylah make a life for her children she never dreamed possible.





would lose all of the progress he had made. Because of you and your support, the doors at Ways to Work were open and available to Tony. Here he had a program specialist to walk alongside him and help him prepare to apply for a fair interest car loan. After months of preparation and hard work, Tony's loan was approved.

In the months since having a reliable car, he has received two promotions at his job and is now a supervisor making a healthy living wage. Instead of living paycheck to paycheck, he is now able to save money and pay his bills early. His most recent promotion has even allowed him to move closer to his family where he is focused on repairing relationships and making up for lost time.

Tony's car is also a lifeline for others, providing rides to those who are experiencing some of life's obstacles and hardships.

**“That little Honda has helped save several lives so far. I have made it my life's mission to provide a hand up to those who are in need, just as the Ways to Work staff did for me,” Tony shared.**

Tony is taking college credits to become a substance abuse peer counselor and has helped open two men's recovery residences, with a third house opening soon. You are the reason Tony found help along his path of recovery. Because of you, his life is forever changed.

## You're the reason Tony is thriving

### Program Highlight

#### WAYS TO WORK

Tony's life was consumed with addiction, heartache, and prison. And then a severe overdose left him in a coma, considered brain dead, and on life support. Although the odds were against him, he woke up and made a full recovery. Having a second chance at life was no less than a miracle. Tony decided not to waste this chance and immediately enrolled in a recovery residence. There he began his life of recovery and worked hard to overcome addiction and turmoil.

Working to stabilize his life, Tony was in dire need of a reliable car so he could get to and from work. He had a vehicle, but it needed constant repair.

However, without a steady income, he could not afford to fix his car. It was a vicious cycle. He was panicked. His life was finally getting back on track and he was worried that if his car broke down, he

## KEEP THE GOOD GOING IN 2023.

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

Yes, I'll help a family who is struggling right now. Make a special gift to provide emergency help for food, household toiletries, bill payment assistance and wrap around support for the whole family.

**Please give online today: [humankind.org/helpnow](https://humankind.org/helpnow)**

