

Kind HEARTED

your gift changed lives

Human Kind
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PERSISTENCE puts dreams within *Reach*

YOUR SUPPORT GAVE THIS MOM A CHANCE
TO PLAN FOR HER FAMILY'S FUTURE.

**SHE WANTS TO
LEAVE A LEGACY
FOR HER CHILDREN.
AND BECAUSE OF
YOU, THAT DREAM IS
WITHIN REACH.**

Keyonna had a goal – but like most of us, sticking to the goal is not easy if you are walking that journey alone. She had put in countless hours working hard as a single parent to provide for her two sons with special needs. Keyonna had already overcome so much, but her ultimate dream was to be a homeowner. Originally from Queens, New York, Keyonna relocated to Virginia many years ago and has worked several types of jobs – striving to build her family's future. From working as a plus-size

YOUR GIFT HAS THE POWER TO TRANSFORM LIVES.

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model to put herself through college, to now working as a home health aide as she prepares to take the state certification to become a medical assistant. She's committed to reaching her goal – and having someone to encourage, support and listen along the way – was vital to her success. Because of you the doors at HumanKind's Economic Resource Center were open and ready to go with Keyonna at her own pace one step at a time.

Over the past six years, Keyonna has worked with her HumanKind financial coach Yolanda Hilliard to create a plan, a budget, and a path to achieve her dreams. She's been a part of two HumanKind programs – Ways to Work and the Financial Opportunity Center. With her coach's guidance, Keyonna created a savings plan and stuck to it, built her credit history, and has met a major financial goal: successfully paying off not just one – but two cars.

Those vehicles provided reliable transportation for her to get to work and to doctor's appointments for her children. The loans also helped her to rebuild her credit – increasing her credit score nearly 200 points! Keyonna persisted by paying off a significant amount of debt so she could begin saving.

“Helping Keyonna have her own transportation was more than just getting her to and from work, it gave her quality of life with her children. And that's a blessing for all of them.”
– Financial coach Yolanda Hilliard

“What do I have if I was to leave this world tomorrow for my kids? What can they turn into an investment? Can they prevent homelessness for themselves? Can they have somewhere to raise their kids?” shared Keyonna. Leaving this legacy for her children means everything to her. And now because of your generosity, she is on her way to achieving that goal.

“I don't feel accomplished every day, but when I have things that I paid off, that's when I'm like, ‘I was putting in that work,’” Keyonna says. “These programs really cater to my needs. And it's not just me, it's three lives – me and my two kids. It really sets the foundation of ‘We're going to be OK because we have programs like this.’”

Still at work with her financial coach, Keyonna is working to update her resume, connect to new job opportunities, and study for the state certification. “Yolanda and HumanKind have been my support team. I didn't really have support from family and friends. Now I had it to a certain extent, but when things got real hectic you need transportation, you need a ride to work. You have to rely on other people, and that was a hassle. And I don't like asking, I like getting my own.”

Because of you, she had someone to walk this journey with her. Helping her to stick to a savings plan, pay off her debt, and build a brighter financial future for her family. Homeownership is within sight – and she has a plan that will get her there.



You are the reason Keyonna had a financial coach like Yolanda Hilliard to help create a path to reach her dream. Above pictured here together in HumanKind's training room. Because of you Keyonna's life is forever changed.



Chance to Rebuild

BECAUSE OF YOU, DAVID'S LIFE IS FOREVER CHANGED.

At age 25, David was convinced that his life would never amount to much. After a troubled childhood with obstacles he could not overcome, he committed four felonies and was in and out of jail. When David finally decided he needed to make a change, a job coach was the answer to his prayers. It wasn't an easy road, and it wasn't quick – but now just six years later David's life is better than he could have ever imagined.

The last felony conviction left him incarcerated for multiple years. After serving his time, he knew he didn't want to go back but he didn't know where to start. He started looking for a job. David had struggled with severe anxiety all of his life, and now trying to return to society it had grown even worse. Holding down a job and pursuing opportunities was overwhelming to him. That's when David met his job coach. His coach met him where he was in life and worked with him to overcome his challenges.

David received help with communication skills, job training, and eventually he even enrolled at the local community college and got a degree! The degree helped him qualify for new job trainings and eventually

“I could never have imagined that I would have achieved this degree if you had asked me six years ago,” David shared. Because of you he had a coach helping him navigate credit building and successfully pay off a car loan. What an empowering gift of support you have made possible.

landed a job that he loved. And to David it was not just a job -- but a career.

Even with all this progress, one obstacle still remained – transportation. He lived close to his job but it was still a 30-minute walk each way. His job coach introduced him to the Ways to Work program. Here he had a financial coach to walk alongside him to apply for a fair-interest car loan. After hard work and diligent prep, David was approved for a vehicle loan.

After purchasing his first car, not only could he get to and from work, but he could also go out and do more in the community instead of what he describes as “being a hermit”. David's favorite part about having a car of his own, is being able to go for a drive and enjoy the Blue Ridge Parkway. It's also opened his eyes to what is possible for his own life. After paying off the car loan, David and his coaches are now working towards the ultimate American dream – to purchase a home of his own. “I learned so much in the Ways to Work program – it's all led me to where I am today and helping me purchase a home”.

Because of you, David had the support he needed to overcome his obstacles and make his second chance in life count.

“I know there are other people out there like me who feel like they cannot make it. I want to encourage others to keep trying – don't give up! If you ‘push forward’ things will get better. Better than you can ever imagine.”

Because of your support, David's life is beyond what he ever imagined.

Help! OUR PANTRY SHELVES ARE EMPTY!

The shelves of our Emergency Household Pantry are empty and we need your help! Please donate items from the most needed list below. Our families depend on this pantry to weather short-term crises without having to take on more financial burden.

ITEMS MOST NEEDED RIGHT NOW

- Body Wash (Men's/Women's)
- Bar Soap
- Hand Soap
- Deodorant (Men's/Women's)
- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Toothpaste & Toothbrushes
- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- Trash Bags
- Dishwashing Liquid
- Laundry Detergent
- Household Cleaning Products
- Razors (Men's/Women's)
- Kroger or Wal-Mart Gift Cards (\$15.00-\$25.00 for basic necessities including food or gas)



DONATION DROP-OFFS

HumanKind Main Campus | 1903 HumanKind Way, Lynchburg VA 24503

Open Monday – Friday | 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

To coordinate a group drive, contact info@humankind.org.

All donations must be new.



Letter from the President



At HumanKind, we envision a compassionate society where every person is valued, families are healthy and communities prosper.

Stan Southworth
President and CEO

Poverty doesn't always look like what we see on TV. It is true there is homelessness, hunger, and loneliness but lurking in the margins are other stories – single parents working but not making enough to support their family, men who have overcome incarceration but don't know how to do life different, adults who know they need to

further their education but don't have reliable transportation to make it a reality. We see these stories on a regular basis and know these are neighbors who need someone to walk with them and help them navigate.

We have been amazed by our volunteers and donors, like you, who have risen to the occasion, time and again to meet the great needs of our community. It is truly you who makes our vision come to life as reality. You are a great testament to not just believing in a better world, but putting in the work to make it happen.

With gratitude for all that you've done, all that you do, and all that you'll continue to make possible.

THANK YOU FOR OPENING DOORS.



A Bridge to Hope

YOUR SMALL ACTS OF KINDNESS
CHANGED KIM'S LIFE.

Kim was focused on making changes in her life that would help her have better housing, a better job, and ultimately a better outlook for her family's future. But it's hard to know where to start – you can't get a better job without a resume and job training, you can't pay your rent without a steady job, and you can't get a steady job without getting to a job interview. And Kim could not get to her job interview without reliable transportation. Thanks to you, help was closer than she thought.

After putting in the time with support services to work on her resume, apply for jobs, and even apply for housing assistance – she got the first domino to fall, she had a job interview to be a Nursing Assistant. But this job opportunity was not on the bus line, and she wasn't sure how she would get there. Kim shared the opportunity with her

What a gift you have made possible for Kim – her future is brighter because you provided a bridge to help her overcome this obstacle. You gave her resources and hope for tomorrow.

HumanKind coach and together they made a plan. She had access to a car, but not enough funds to provide gas for transportation. Her coach was able to provide a gas gift card – enough to get her to the job interview and get to the housing office to follow up on a voucher application.

Just days later Kim called her financial coach in tears – she got the job as a Nursing Assistant. And soon after she also learned she would have a housing voucher after months of waiting.

Who knew opening up a door for transportation through a small gas card could do all of this? You did! Because of you, Kim had what she needed to overcome her obstacle and push forward to make things better for her family.

But Kim didn't stop there, she took classes to further her career and become a Patient Care Technician (PCT). Now she's eligible and preparing to take the board certified test. Because of your support we can make sure she has gas to get to the exam and to her first few weeks of work. Helping Kim bridge this gap is a gift beyond measure. You got her to the other side and helped her stay on the path. Because of you, she has hope for tomorrow.

“I am forever grateful to HumanKind for giving me the gas card that changed my life forever.”

Because of you, Kim had what she needed to overcome her obstacle and push forward to make things better for her family.

You Can Be a Lifeline

YOUR GIFT WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR A NEIGHBOR IN NEED.

Jennifer is just two classes away from receiving her Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) degree. Finishing the degree means a better job, a better living wage, and achieving her personal dream to earn a degree. Suddenly she was left without reliable transportation – she can't get where she needs to be for her classes.

At the start of the year, she applied for a fair-interest car loan through the Ways to Work program. But because of past due bills and a considerable number of items on her credit report, her loan application was denied. During the application interview, our team of financial coaches offered to work with her and gave guidance on budgeting, savings, and managing bills.

Now just a little over a month later -- her bills are current, she's increased her work hours, and has been able to address all the items on her credit report. Her credit score increased 27 points and just this week her loan application has now been approved!

She's made great progress – but now is when she needs your help the most! This vehicle is just the



beginning for Jennifer – as she works to complete her degree and gain long-term financial stability.

Jennifer can't do it alone – but you can help. Will you please make a gift of \$25 to

provide help she needs right now? Your gift today will provide financial counseling for the length of the loan, access to a household pantry with toiletries and food. Your gift will even go beyond this to provide other help she may need from car repair to grocery and gas cards, to bill payment assistance. **And thanks to matching funds, your gift of \$25 will be doubled to provide \$50-worth of help!**

And it's not just Jennifer. The economic impacts from inflation are leaving working individuals with low incomes still struggling. Many people walking through our doors right now are living just above the poverty line and are in desperate need of support to overcome these obstacles. Even though working they need help with rent, car insurance and repairs or even groceries. Your support is critical in meeting their needs.

Please send in a gift today to help people like Jennifer have transportation to attend classes, keep working, meet basic needs and move from surviving to thriving.

Your gift of \$25 will be doubled to provide \$50 worth of help!

Yes, I'll help equip a neighbor in need with resources and support.

Here's my special gift to provide help for one-on-one counseling, toiletries, food, any emergency assistance and support the good work of HumanKind.

- ☐ \$25, which doubles in impact to \$50
- ☐ \$50, which doubles in impact to \$100
- ☐ \$100, which doubles in impact to \$200
- ☐ \$ _____, which doubles in impact to help as many people as possible.

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

Help a neighbor in need today!