

Dear (First Name),

The holidays are about coming together, and as we approach them, we want to share with you an organization that we are partnering with -- People's Emergency Center (PEC).

PEC addresses homelessness and poverty in Philadelphia with housing, services, and education resources directed towards families and youth experiencing homelessness and people living in West Philadelphia. In the past two years, PEC has pivoted to online resources in many cases, while still providing 190+ emergency and affordable apartments. Despite the pandemic and economic downturn PEC has helped 75% of families in their temporary housing find a home of their own this year. They have also connected 230 households with over \$400,000 in utilities and rent assistance and prevented 100 households from being evicted!

We are inspired to share this with you because of their impact, and a story they recently shared from Yasmine, a former resident – in her own words.

"I have a son. He's about to be six now. I got pregnant at 19. I had him at 20. Me and his dad was working out. But you know, young relationships, they don't always go like you think. Between the drug abuse, domestic violence and mental health issues, I couldn't stay. And I didn't want it to taint my son... So I went to move on my own... and I was homeless for a week, just house hopping. Then I had my son. And house hopping's not stable. So, finally, I swallowed my pride and went to a shelter. And I was in a different shelter for about a week. Then I moved to Gloria's Place, and I stayed for a year.

And now looking back on it, it was the best decision I made in my life. It helped me a lot to grow mentally and physically. At first, I was like, 'I'm too good for a shelter. I'm scared. What am I gonna do with my son in a shelter?' You think they gonna be like in the movies. Really rough. But once I really got my head out the clouds and really looked and took all the opportunities that was given to me...I just prospered so well, within the time that I was here. And I'm grateful for the experience I had, the people I met, the things I've learned, and the things I've taught myself. And then after a year, I was able to get my own house.

*People don't always wanna talk about it (homelessness) but, I do believe our voices need to be heard. I love speaking to people...I love just contributing to things so and I would love my story to be told... And I would love to explain the good and bad experiences to other women like me. You're never too old or too young to start over. **And I would just love to, if I can, help a woman like me...it will mean the world to me.**"*

We share her story today to inspire you to give to PEC today at <https://donorbox.org/pec-impact>. Let's all work together to make more stories like Yasmine's.

[Closing]