



SACRED HEART CENTER
INDIAN MISSION
121 Landmark Avenue
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605-234-3206

Protecting Women and Children

Dear Caring Friend,

How fast can a woman run for her life, holding the hand of a small, sobbing child? That's how fast Sasha ran to save herself and six-year-old Chrissy from her husband's violence.

Her husband was off somewhere drinking after splitting Sasha's lip with a hard smack and yanking Chrissy around by her little ponytail. With him gone, mother and child had a good head start to the Sacred Heart Center, the sanctuary that your generous heart helps to support.

Little Chrissy still wore pajamas as she stumbled along. All Sasha had was the clothes on her back and a Sacred Heart Center information flyer stuffed in her pocket that she had picked up weeks before in a reservation laundromat.

Your dollars help pay for Sacred Heart flyers describing our services, which we leave where Native American women will see them on the reservation. So Sasha and Chrissy have you to thank for showing them the way to safety.

Sasha prayed as she ran that someone would give them a lift before her husband or one of his buddies spotted them. A beat-up old car rumbled past, slowed down, and backed up. Her prayer was answered — a stranger with a friendly face waved them into the back seat.

At the Center, we welcomed them to safety with a room of their own, toothbrushes, towels, and clean clothing from our thrift store. Chrissy cried because she had to leave behind her new pink backpack for kindergarten. Her mom helped her find one in our thrift store that was almost as nice. A stuffed bunny helped dry her tears.

Then came the weeks of counseling services to help heal the emotional wounds, medical attention to patch up Sasha's split lip and make sure that mother and child had no internal injuries from years of abuse. A legal advocate explained Sasha's rights and options to her, and helped her fill out papers for a protection order. We drove her to and from court, gave her a mailbox at the Center to receive legal

over, please ...

documents, and were there by her side to support her during the trial. Meanwhile, day care counselors kept Chrissy busy in our playroom and secured outdoor play area.

Sasha's husband never did come around to threaten her at our shelter as many husbands do. But if he had, we would have provided transportation to another shelter in our rescue network.

All this, as you can imagine, takes money, especially with gas costing what it does today. That's why I am asking for whatever help you can give again. Loyal friends like you are so important to us.

Your dollars will help pay for food, modest salaries, utility bills, the cost of transportation and they will also help us continue to spread the word about our shelter.

Sasha learned about us through a flyer. But we also:

- Alert emergency rooms to contact us when battered women are treated.
- Run ads in the local newspaper.
- Speak in high schools, educating young people about their rights, about anger management, and much more.
- Work closely with police officers and social service workers who refer battered women to us.
- Inform judges and lawyers to direct battered women our way who would be lost and alone without our help.

Today, Sasha and Chrissy are miles away from their abusive past – both emotionally and physically. Sasha takes care of an elderly aunt who is glad to have them live with her in her comfortable little home. It feels like family. The way family is supposed to feel.

Thank you for this happy ending, and so many others.

With gratitude,



Frank McDaniel
Executive Director

P.S. Tribal customs often bar victims of domestic abuse from seeking outside help. As in a bad dream, many battered Native American women find their exits to freedom blocked at every turn ... except for the open door waiting at the Sacred Heart Center. The light of your compassion shines through that door. Thank you for caring.