Hello Zonta of Everett,

Thank you so much for your gift to Maud’s House, our transitional shelter for unsheltered single mothers and their children. As we are nearing the anniversary of our award, I’m providing this report on its impact.

The stresses of parenting for mothers who find themselves homeless are amplified. These women are left without support systems, access to basic needs like clothing and showers, or the safety of shelter. The following is the story of one such mother.

Caroline (names have been changed) lost housing for herself and her young son due to a worsening disability. For a year and a half, she raised Michael while living and sleeping in her car, with no assistance other than food benefits. She began to lose hope. When a room opened at Maud’s House, Caroline and her son found a place to start again. She said:

We were able to sleep in a comfortable bed in a warm home again! Maud’s House feels homey, safe, and comforting. I am very grateful for all the people I’ve met in this house and all the support, comfort, and care given to me. The shelter has set a great foundation for improving our living situation.

For the first time in 18 months, she was able to cook her own meals, shower regularly, and wash their laundry. Caroline and her son made friends who understood their situation and did not judge them, and Michael’s behavior improved after his living situation was stabilized. With this foundation under her, Caroline looks forward to completing her schooling, finding a job, and moving into their own place after she completes her stay at Maud’s House.

Your gift has allowed women like Caroline to flourish and to heal.

In 2021, 21 mothers and 27 children were helped at Maud’s House. In the spring of 2022, a new Program Manager for the house was hired, Natasha Lindsay. Natasha brings a wealth of experience to the role. She has previously worked as a case managemer for a homeless youth transitional living facility for several years. She has also spent time on VOAWW’s Housing Services team connecting community members to rental and housing assistance. Here is what she said about her time at VOAWW and accepting her new role:

Helping renters keep their housing throughout the pandemic has been a great experience. I am excited to [now] be here at Maud’s House working with single parent families. My goal is to create a place of positive transformation for the families that come to Maud’s House. That they will gain the tools that they need to be independent, successful, and resilient. I hope to see this program flourish and reach many lives.

Current goals for the House, under Natasha’s leadership, are to help mothers and kids access more resources, provide more formal classes and trainings, and secure additional funding to perform long overdue repairs. Since the change in leadership, all current residents – and a new resident having been there only a month – have secured permanent housing. Resiliency classes are currently in session, a Healthy Relationships class is starting presently, and Renters’ Certification classes are set to run bimonthly. Parenting, budgeting, and other life skills classes are in the works to be implemented soon.

We look forward to a bright future for Maud’s House where we are able to serve even more families, equip them with even more skills and knowledge, and make an even bigger impact for the community. We couldn’t have achieved so much without the support from Zonta of Everett.

Thank you.

Best wishes,

Aaron Olsen (he/him/his)

Grants Manager

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