



“Disaster Averted”

Samina Hussain

Not every call that comes to Uplift is a result of extended periods of bad luck or ill-advised decisions. Sometimes a near disaster comes out of nowhere. And how it ends depends on the person's keenness to succeed coupled with their support system.

Samina, a smart and ambitious woman found Uplift at the perfect time in her life. She's a single woman, mother of 3 young children whose ex-husband left her with their kids and left the country to escape having to support the children. Samina is not bitter; she's inspired to work hard in order for her kids to never feel a void. She's encouraged to be a role model for her kids. She's strong, and she made her Uplift Charity case manager strong.

Samina's trouble was simple: she temporarily fell ill and missed several weeks of work. This was enough to cause her to miss two payments on her two-year-old car which was almost paid off. The car was repossessed. Samina resumed work by asking for rides from her neighbors and coworkers, taking public transportation such as a bus and even using Uber when necessary, just to save up to quickly reclaim her car. But the Uber rides cost more than her day's wage. She missed a few days of work when she didn't even have enough money left for public transport and her coworkers were not available to give her a ride. Then she was informed that her car was about to go to auction; she panicked and began making phone calls. She was going to lose her nearly paid-off car - her means to get to work, the only tool she had to make sure her kids were fed, sheltered and clothed.

Finally Samina was referred to Uplift Charity. Even though she was far outside of the area that Uplift covers geographically, this was a situation impossible to ignore or direct elsewhere. Time was short, assistance elsewhere was not guaranteed and the stakes were high. Samina had received a warning from work that they'd let her go if she missed even one more day. She loved her job working as a therapist for autistic children, and didn't want to lose it over something silly like lack of transportation.

That evening three Uplift team members combined efforts late into the evening to ensure that Samina would get her car back. Each team member took on a task and completed it within a tight window since there wasn't enough time for a single person to handle all the tasks. Another client-family picked up on the dire situation and insisted that his case manager come back to him the next day only after Samina's situation was resolved.

After the intense hustle, there were forty-five long minutes of waiting, holding our breath to see if the repo. company would confirm receiving funds and put a stop on sending the car for auction the next morning. Samina received the phone call of assurance. The car was hers to pick up. She called Uplift with a tone of relief, rejoice and overwhelmed with emotion and gratitude.

Early the next morning she texted again:

“As salaam alaikum. I just got my car. I am going to work now and you prevented my life from falling apart just in time and may Allah swt grant all of your du'as. Ameen. I have learnt a tough lesson to work smart and I will be starting another weekend job to save extra emergency money and to pay off this car. Alhamdulillah, and thank you once again so much.”

Each of us felt her joy that morning. We realized that going to work probably never felt better. May Allah grant Samina success, and grant success to all those who are struggling, and may He protect those of us who have never felt this kind of struggle. May He inspire us to help those in need. Ameen.