eNEWSLETTER // COMMUNITY

Your generous support helps people just like Hailey

Thanks to the Irving Cares' rental assistance program, those impacted by COVID-19 can get the support they need—and Hailey is just one of them.

In June, Hailey's oldest son tested positive for COVID-19. "Shortly after my son got sick, my father-in-law got sick. So, he was out of work," says Hailey. Before she knew it, three members of her family were sick, and a two-income household was suddenly down to one. Though she never contracted the virus herself, Hailey was forced to quarantine for 14 days without pay and was worried how she was going to make ends meet.

Hailey approached Irving Cares for rental assistance merely five days before August rent was due. "I was running out of money," she says, and was facing eviction. The 25-year old takes care of her 3-year old son, 1-year old son and her 15-year old nephew. Her husband, who was visiting from Mexico, was also quarantined. Irving Cares case manager, Beverly Wilborn, was able to assist Hailey's family with their August rent in the full amount. "Beverly really helped me out," Hailey says with excitement. The Irving Cares rental assistance program not only allowed Hailey and her family to keep their home, but also the opportunity to get caught up on other bills. Hailey was able to go back to work full-time on August 3. She works as an online grocery dispatcher for the local Walmart in Irving and has been with them for 3 years.

But Hailey says she didn't always have it easy. Hailey grew up in Irving with her single mom and two younger siblings since she was 12 years old. At 15, her mother was admitted into a mental institution and Hailey was left to take care of her younger brother and sister. Two months before her senior year at Irving High School, Hailey had no choice but to drop out to start working to keep a roof over their heads. But thanks to Irving Cares, she feels inspired to go back and earn her GED through Walmart's 'Live Better U' program, and eventually a college degree. The program allows Walmart associates to gain their high school diploma or GED for free and even go back to college for just $1-a-day. "[You] can't let [your situation] get you down because you got to stand back up," Hailey explains, and she's "trying the best I can do to get [my kids] to where they can be."

"Irving Cares helps a lot," says Hailey. And without the donors, none of this would have been possible. "How I think of it is—you make your own future, [but it also] depends on how you grew up and your situation. Just because you came from bad doesn't mean you're bad. But it doesn't mean it's not harder than somebody that had everything given to them. If I create the right path for my kids to take, they shouldn't have any problem going down it. I know the sacrifices I make will be worth it."

HOW YOU CAN HELP

The growing COVID-19 crisis threatens to disproportionately affect low income households not only in the short-term, but as a devastating social and economic crisis for the upcoming months and years to come. Irving Cares CEO, Kyle Taylor, says, "Irving Cares has worked tirelessly to provide essential services to those in need in a safe and efficient manner since the pandemic first emerged mid-March." He notes that Irving Cares is "working not just for today,

but for tomorrow's needs" and positioning themselves to be at the "forefront of economic empowerment and financial security for families who call Irving home," with the help of our generous donors.

The need for help is growing, and the difficulty in providing essential services increases at the same pace. Support from you, our community, is necessary for us to succeed. Here are the many ways you can give to help Irving residents:

DONATE FUNDS

Right now, your monetary donation will stretch the furthest to support our relief efforts. Financial contributions allow us to quickly respond to changing needs, as well as support the local economy through the purchase of goods. Every dollar gives hope to those living in poverty during this pandemic. Your donations to Irving Cares help us serve the most vulnerable members of this community and our bulk purchasing power allows us to stretch every dollar further in providing food to families.

The CARES Act donation-regulation changes focus on driving support for U.S.-based nonprofits. Now, cash gifts are deductible up to 100% of adjusted gross income when granted to operating charities. For example, if it is within your means to make a $300 tax-deductible donation to take advantage of the charitable giving benefit offered through the CARES Act, you will be helping provide a week's worth of food for 40 families.

Online
Click here to donate using your Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express card.

Venmo
We are now accepting donations through Venmo. You can send donations to @IrvingCares in the Venmo mobile app or at www.venmo.com.

Checks
Checks should be made out to "Irving Cares" and mailed to P.O. Box 177425, Irving, TX 75017-7425.

Have you experienced a loss of income as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and are unable to pay rent? Irving Cares may be able to help. To start the pre-qualification process, call (972) 721-9181 and ask to speak with a case manager. Applications are now being accepted every Wednesday and qualified applicants will be eligible for up to the fair market rate in Dallas County ($989 for a one-bedroom apartment).