



# SHELTER SHARING

by Gary Ann Brown

Our Residential Shelter witnessed many successes as we closed out 2018. Those included serving more than 300 families, 289 of we were able to aide in securing permanent housing.

Additionally, we responded to more than 9,000 crisis calls, averaging 25 calls per day from victims in search of solutions to their domestic violence situations.

Among those successes this year was the overwhelming support from the community as it relates to shelter improvements, our partners demonstrated that “it takes more than a village...it takes a community.”

Due to those efforts, we were able to accomplish the following:

- All Residential Rooms Theme Painted
- Front Entryway and Grounds Makeover
- Residential Floors Tiled
- Client Refrigerator Donations
- Kitchen Microwaves Replacement
- Gas Ranges Replaced
- Washer/Dryer Replacements
- New Dining Room Tables & Chairs
- Holiday Gift Cards Donations



On a final note, we're often asked how we are able to continue to show up each day and continue to perform despite the challenges we face daily. Our response to that question is always the same, the work is gratifying– take a read of one of our most recent success stories...

***"My name is Azure Belcarris, I was once a victim of domestic violence. My abuser pursued me across state, so I had to leave me home with my two children in order to provide a safe home for them. I arrived at the Advocates for domestic violence shelter on June 12. I had nothing but what could fit in my truck. I drove across country from DC to California. My boys and I had barely anything. When we arrived, we were surprised at the facility. It was different than what I had imagined; it looked and felt like a real home! The staff were friendly and helpful, and the residents were open and helped explain the rules. We had our own room and beds for myself and my children. They even gave us food and care packages. While we were there, we were given support through counseling, getting set up with emergency services and within a month I was approved for section 8. I couldn't believe how much we were given (school clothes for my children, furniture for my new home, even Christmas presents!) The staff went above and beyond to assist us, and I couldn't be more grateful. They helped me to get on my feet after a terrible situation and their support helped me never to regret the decision to leave. I am now in a stable household and my children are excelling in school and I'm graduating from massage school in July. I am truly grateful for the ADV shelter and all they did for myself and my children."***

- Azure Belcarris

While on many days, challenges seem overwhelming and unsolvable, *there are always small successes along the way*, a client finds housing, stands up to an abuser, gains self-sufficiency, acquires personal transportation. And in their successes, there is always gratitude

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