

Mission Moment

Feed the Hungry! Heal the Hurting! Welcome the Stranger!

You never truly know how a single act of kindness can transform a person's life, turning it around and setting them on a new path. Sometimes, offering a helping hand when it's needed most can work miracles—paving the way for success, healing, and hope. Alexandria Shearer, a resident at Sisters Haven, is a living testament to that power of transformation.

Alex, as she's known, is a remarkable mother who has overcome more than most can imagine. She lives with her two children in a cozy apartment at Sisters Haven, nestled along the picturesque Spokane River. The serene surroundings offer peace, but it's Alex's handmade crafts that give the home a truly personal and warm touch—each piece a symbol of her journey, strength, and resilience.

Her son, Preston, 11, is always eager to come home from school. As soon as he steps off the bus, he's on the lookout for his younger sister, Maddie, who greets him with a huge smile. The siblings share a moment of joy before Preston helps his mom with household chores. Afterward, he heads outside to play with the neighborhood kids, his laughter filling the air. Inside, Alex is busy cooking dinner, and the mouthwatering aromas soon fill their home. When the meal is ready, the family gathers around the table, sharing a moment of bonding and love.

This ritual of family time, of sitting down to a warm meal together, is more than just about food—it's about connection. When children feel loved and supported, their confidence soars, and their self-esteem gets a significant boost. Preston and Maddie are perfect examples of how a loving, stable environment can shape happy, well-adjusted children. Their respectful demeanor and impeccable manners reflect the nurturing care they receive at home.

But it hasn't always been this way.

Just a few years ago, Alex's life was anything but peaceful. In 2018, she was struggling to raise her 5-year-old son while grappling with the horrors of domestic abuse. Fleeing an abusive relationship, Alex found herself exhausted, traumatized, and fighting to stay afloat. She was battling not just the scars of abuse but also the strain of poor mental health and the process of detoxing from past substances. It was a time of deep uncertainty and pain.

As a survivor of domestic violence, Alex found herself searching for work, legal aid, housing, and—most urgently—a safe place to shelter her children. In the midst of it all, Alex reached out to Vanessa Bahan and explained her situation. Desperate, she needed help. She wanted nothing more than a secure home for her son. During this difficult time, she even lived in her car, and ultimately, Preston was placed in foster care.

In 2021, a turning point came. Alex moved into Sisters Haven and, with the support of the staff and the community, was reunited with her son, Preston. The wraparound services offered by Sisters Haven provided the stability, encouragement, and guidance she so desperately needed. For the first time in years, Alex felt safe. Surrounded by a caring staff, she worked relentlessly to heal from the trauma, manage her recurring anxiety, and battle through the demons of the past. Every day, she fought to rebuild her life and create a future where her children would thrive.

In 2023, Alex's journey took another beautiful turn when she gave birth to a daughter, Maddie—a joyful, angelic little girl who quickly became beloved by the entire community. Maddie's cheerful spirit has been a ray of light, while Preston, now a young boy of impeccable manners, continues to be respectful and polite to everyone he meets.

Today, Alex is living the life she once thought impossible. She has a safe, stable home where she can raise her children without fear. She has conquered her battles with addiction, maintained her mental health, and created a nurturing environment for her family. Her home radiates positivity, and her kids are happy, confident, and secure. Alex has truly rebounded, and her dreams are beginning to take shape. She plans to move to Montana one day, ready to start a new chapter in her life.

An artist at heart, Alex has a passion for making jewelry and metal crafts. One of her dreams is to open her own craft studio—a dream she's determined to make a reality. Despite the overwhelming challenges she's faced, Alex never gave up. Her story is one of resilience, strength, and hope, and she is a true inspiration to those who know her.

Alex's success is a testament to the power of support and community. The mission of CCEW —"**Feed the Hungry! Heal the Hurting! Welcome the Stranger!**"—is more than just a slogan; it is a life-changing movement that has made all the difference in Alex's life.