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On the March

The Salvation Army Milwaukee County ■ Fall 2009 ■ www.SAmilwaukee.org

Foreclosure Forced Her Out of Her Home How Patricia Found Help, Thanks to Your Support

Patricia and her two children were happy. They were living in a nice house that they were renting, in a neighborhood they liked.

But then the home foreclosure crisis shattered their comfortable life. The house that Patricia was renting was foreclosed. The owner couldn't keep up with the mortgage, and there were no other buyers willing to take it over. The result? Patricia and her kids were out. They were suddenly homeless.

With nowhere to go, Patricia came to The Salvation Army Emergency Lodge.

"It was a tremendous relief when we walked into the Lodge and had a roof over our heads," Patricia said. "I didn't know what I was going to do, but the Lord blessed me through The Salvation Army."

But as grateful as she was, Patricia still faced challenges. She is suffering from the trauma of physical abuse at the hand of her ex-husband as well as from other relationships over the years. It began when she was first married at 18 and continued for years.

"I'm a strong woman," Patricia said, "but abuse leaves a scar on a person."

In time, Patricia gained the courage to remove herself and her children from that environment. With no one

to confide in, she sought answers and solace in self-help books.

In addition to emotional trauma, Patricia also suffers from diabetes and high blood pressure, for which she needs consistent medical care.

That's why The Salvation Army has been a godsend. At The Salvation Army Emergency Lodge, Patricia and her children received food, shelter, clothing, safety, and security. She's receiving medical attention for her health challenges. And just as important, she's receiving emotional support and encouragement to deal with the pain of her past physical abuse.

"I meet with the Chaplain here once a week, and we pray together and read the Bible," Patricia said. "That's been tremendously helpful. And I also have an appointment to see a psychiatrist. I'm feeling very positive about that. I think it will be good for

me, and what helps me will also benefit my children."

While Patricia is working through her emotional and health issues, she's also working on an action plan created for her with goals and milestones that will ultimately lead to her and her children living independently again in their own home or apartment.

"The Salvation Army is the answer to a prayer," Patricia said. "They address the whole spectrum of needs — physical, emotional, and spiritual. I don't know any other place where I could have received the help I've gotten. I'm so grateful."

That's the hope and help you give when you support The Salvation Army. Together we are transforming lives in Milwaukee.



Patricia with her kids, Charlene and Jeremiah, grateful for the help they received from The Salvation Army and donors like you.