

Jessica's Testimony

When I first arrived at Hope's Garden, I felt scared and like I had nowhere else to turn. I was overwhelmed, defeated, and carrying the weight of everything life had thrown at me. I was nine months pregnant, with my one-and-a-half-year-old son by my side, and all of our belongings loaded onto the flatbed of my truck. It was one of the hardest moments of my life. But when I met Avery and Kathy, I immediately felt at ease. Their kindness made me a little nervous at first—because it had been so long since anyone had shown me that much care—but I knew in my heart that I would be okay, especially once I finally had a safe place to sleep and a chance to rest. Hope's Garden has truly changed my life.

For the first time in a long time, I feel like I'm part of a big, supportive family. Since moving here, I've felt cared for and understood in a way I never have before. I'm now able to raise my children in a safe, accepting environment where I can focus on being the kind of mom they deserve. I've gained structure, confidence, and a more positive outlook on my future. I've started doing things that bring me joy again, and I feel comfortable being myself around other women who are facing similar challenges. I feel proud to now be a mother of two, and I've been able to keep my job and even get a new car.

With the support of the amazing women at Hope's Garden, I've set goals for school, budgeting, and long-term stability. I finally have a plan—for myself and for my children's future and I'm excited about where we're headed.

My children have experienced so many positive changes, and seeing their growth fills me with joy and a deep sense of peace. My 2-year-old son is thriving—he's become more social and communicates much better than before. He now has a strong support system around him, with people who help him navigate his emotions when he's frustrated or overwhelmed. He has a structured daily routine, and he's doing really well with it.

Back when I was in an abusive relationship, it was hard to fully focus on his needs. Now, I'm able to bond with him in a way I couldn't before, and he knows he's a priority in my life. My 5-month-old is the happiest baby—he's always smiling and affectionate. He's healthy, gaining weight, and very alert. You can tell he feels safe and loved.

Watching both of my children grow, thrive, and feel secure makes me feel complete and overjoyed. It reminds me every day why I keep pushing forward.

One moment at Hope's Garden that truly changed everything for me was when Kathy and Avery sat down with me for goal setting. During our conversation, they looked me in the eye and told me how proud they were of me and that I was a good mother. Hearing those words meant more than I can explain. No one had ever said that to me before, at least not in such a genuine and heartfelt way. In that moment, I felt seen, valued, and deeply encouraged. It gave me the confidence I needed to keep going, to believe in myself as a mom, and to keep building a better life for my children.

That moment shifted everything. It reminded me that I am capable, that I am enough, and that I'm not alone.

If I had the opportunity to encourage someone to support the mission of Hope's Garden, I would tell them that this place saves lives. It's not just a shelter- it's a true community. Hope's Garden is where I found safety, healing, and a second chance at life for myself and my children. What makes Hope's Garden different from other nonprofits is the genuine care and connection you feel the moment you walk through the door. The women who work here don't just do their jobs, they build relationships, believe in you, and walk beside you every step of the way. I came here nine months pregnant, with a toddler and all of our belongings in the back of my truck. I was scared, exhausted, and unsure of what came next. But I was met with warmth, respect, and encouragement. That changed everything.

Because of Hope's Garden, my son is thriving, my baby is healthy and happy, and I finally feel proud to be their mom. I have goals, confidence, and a plan for our future. If you want to invest in something that truly transforms lives, Hope's Garden is it. Your support doesn't just provide housing it creates hope, stability, and real change.