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Margot spent 20 years building her career, raising her daughters, and ensuring home was always a safe haven. From play dates to scouts, slumber parties to school dances — Margot's home was the place hugs were had, tears were comforted, and milestones were celebrated. **But after Margot's youngest followed her sister off to college, Margot's empty nest became a place that protected dark secrets.**

The abuse escalated slowly. It wasn't all new — her husband often criticized her and downplayed her emotions. But after her daughters left the house, Margot's husband took over their finances, claiming his control was necessary to manage education expenses. He guilted her about spending time with her network of mom friends, now that she was no longer coordinating her girls' activities. **When he finally lashed out and physically hit her, Margot was alone and ashamed.**

Afraid of upsetting her daughters, Margot struggled to maintain the picture-perfect happiness that they were used to. **But when the bruises went from arms and legs to face and neck, she was afraid that her husband would kill her.**

Margot gathered her courage and called Doorways' hotline. When the advocate walked her through a lethality assessment, Margot shared that her husband strangled her, threatening her life. Within hours, Margot had a new safe haven of her own at Doorways.

"I was worried about my girls, my marriage, about what my friends and family would think. I was worried and fearful for everyone but myself until I literally felt my life was on the line. Doorways showed me that I could be the heroine of my own story. I'm not a victim; I am a survivor."

Margot spent six months in Doorways' safehousing, reclaiming her sense of self and safety and setting goals for her independence. **Just after Thanksgiving, Margot signed the lease and got the keys to her own apartment.** She is able to welcome her daughters home to a safe nest again during their upcoming break.

"Christmas will be special this year. I have given myself the gift of faith in my future, knowing now that I can do this on my own."

You can give the gift of hope from harm and homelessness...
Your investment in Doorways means we can be a place of safety, healing, peace, and prosperity.

As Doorways' President and CEO, I look to you — our Doorways Friends and Family — to keep our vital services going. COVID did not close our Doorways. This year's government funding cuts did not close our Doorways. And this current surge of families and individuals experiencing harm and homelessness may challenge us, but our Doorways will be here and open, because of you. **And this year, two of our kind donors, Kevin and Judy Moak and The Gupta Family Foundation, will be matching your gifts, up to \$30,000!**

- **Your gift of \$2,500** would help provide one week of safe housing to a survivor fleeing domestic violence. Although one week may not sound like a lot – it's not just one week. It's the first week of safety and freedom from fear and harm.
- **Your gift of \$1,000** would help a young person transition from homelessness and achieve a brighter future. Your support provides academic, financial, and career counseling to help youth achieve their goals and live independently.
- **\$250** would help a family graduate from our shelter to our HomeStart independent living program. Your gift could make their new apartment a home with essentials like a new bed, kitchen supplies, and food for the pantry.
- **\$100** would help us ensure our wraparound services stay nimble, relevant, and above all, available to everyone who needs them – from court advocacy, to financial counseling, to our children's counseling which ensures kids can thrive.

Thank you for your generosity.
May it return to you tenfold in the new year.

With appreciation,
Diana Ortiz, LPC