



"911, what is your emergency?"

"Please come quick! My mom hit my dad and now he won't wake up."

"Where are you? Are you safe?"

"I'm hiding in my room."

Like most kids, Rachelle knew how to dial 911. Like most parents, her dad taught her how in case of emergency – hoping she would never have to. **But when her dad's life was on the line, Rachelle made a life-changing call.**

For years, Rachelle witnessed her mom abusing her dad. Her dad promised Rachelle he was okay, but **Rachelle heard her mom yelling at him and saw the marks left on her dad.** Rachelle wanted the abuse to end, but didn't know how to make it stop.

But then one night, **Rachelle's mom knocked her dad unconscious.** And so, at 10 years old, hiding in her room, heart racing, Rachelle dialed 911 like her dad taught her. With the help of first responders, amidst a blur of flashing lights, Rachelle and her dad finally got out.

In the emergency room, one of Doorways' Hospital Accompaniment Response Program (HARP) advocates came to talk with Rachelle's dad about Doorways.

Yes, Doorways serves men. Yes, he and Rachelle could go to the shelter together. And yes, they could stay as long as they need. Doorways will help them find a new home, a new school, a new job, a new life.

At Doorways, special programs help children like Rachelle who have witnessed violence. Each child is given their own case manager and counselor to help them process their trauma and heal.

Today, Rachelle is thriving in the safe haven of Doorways. She's excelling at school and playing multiple sports. Rachelle and her dad are looking forward to moving into an apartment of their own, maybe even in time for the holidays. **Because of you, Rachelle and her dad will celebrate the season safe from harm, together.**



When you donate to Doorways, you give the gift of hope against harm.

At Doorways, you give kids and their parents a safe haven from abuse. You give healing to survivors of all ages and genders.

As Doorways' President and CEO, I see your gifts of safe haven, healing, and hope firsthand. Sadly, **violence happens every day in our community.** *Approximately 1 in 10 children are exposed to domestic violence each year, and 1 in 4 are exposed to at least 1 event during their childhood; 90% are direct eyewitnesses of violence.*

Thankfully, because of you, Doorways is here to respond, 24 hours/day, 7 days/week.


Right now, your support is critical: **Doorways' Safehouse is on track to serve twice as many survivors this year compared to last year.** Your donation will ensure that we can continue to shelter and serve every survivor who needs us.

To help Doorways keep up with increased needs, when you donate today, **two generous donors, Kevin and Judy Moak, will match your gift \$1 for \$1 – up to \$50,000. Donate now to double the hope, haven, and healing you give!**

For a family like Rachelle and her dad,

- \$2,000 would help transition the family from shelter to Doorways' HomeStart, assisting with credit review and repair, a security deposit, and the first month's rent.
- \$1,000 would outfit their new home with the essentials: two beds, basic kitchenware, and their first week of groceries.
- \$250 would provide one week of Doorways' Revive counseling to help them heal.
- \$125 would provide a night of shelter at Doorways' Family Home.

Donate online at www.doorwaysva.org/hope or mail your gift with the card and return envelope provided. Watch your gift grow with our year-end match, and know that your generosity changes lives. **Thank you for giving hope against harm.**

Many thanks,  Diana Ortiz, M.Ed., LPC, President and CEO, Doorways

How your support gives safe harbor, healing, and hope:



Doorways is a community-based nonprofit serving survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in Arlington and the City of Falls Church, as well as youth and families experiencing homelessness in Arlington.

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To protect the family in this story, their names and identifying information have been changed. Images used are stock photos, featuring models, for illustrative purposes only.

A man with a beard and a grey t-shirt is carrying a young girl with long brown hair on his shoulders. The girl is wearing a light blue denim jacket and jeans. They are both smiling and holding hands. The background is a brick house with a white door and a window, and the scene is bathed in warm, golden light, suggesting a sunset or sunrise.

*Because of you,
they are
safe
from abuse.*