

"I'm going to give you a phone number. They will help you."

In the heat of the summer, Karen paced a local park with her phone in her hand, trying to find help. Home wasn't safe for Karen or her daughter, and they had nowhere else to go.

"Where is my daughter going to sleep tonight?" she asked herself.

In that moment, Karen ran into a neighbor, who asked her what was going on. Karen told her about the abuse. "I'm going to give you a phone number," her neighbor said. "Call them. They will help you."



Karen called the Doorways Hotline and spoke with an advocate who immediately arranged for Karen and her daughter to come into shelter. That night, and every night thereafter, they would have a safe place to sleep.

"Before Doorways, I was very worried. I felt very frustrated because I had no one to lean on," Karen said. "After I was able to call Doorways, I felt their support, and I felt lighter, more relieved, calm. For my daughter, there was protection, there was friendship. She felt this place was safe."

When you donate to Doorways, you give harbor, healing, and hope.

At Doorways, Karen and her daughter found a safe place, and so much more. Her case worker introduced her to a Doorways Court Advocate, who helped her file a protective order. Doorways' Financial and Employment Specialist helped Karen create a resume and apply for jobs. Doorways' Revive therapists helped both Karen and her daughter process their trauma and begin to heal.

"Doorways has changed my life," Karen said. "They've taught me that I can be independent again. I can have goals and achieve them. I have had a lot of support, and above all, I feel confident that I can try again."



Since coming to Doorways, and living free of her abuser, Karen is building a life of her own design. She works two jobs – morning and night – and takes classes during the day. Karen's dream is to open a small business in her community.

"For me, as the word says, Doorways was my way out, my exit door, to be part of the community again, and get back to my goals."

Karen's next step is a home of her own. Last month, Karen was accepted into Doorways' HomeStart housing program.

Karen and her daughter eagerly await celebrating the New Year in their own home. "Doorways is a very good organization. They help you, support you. But [shelter] is not the same as you having your own stable place. **So, Doorways is helping me open the doors so that I can have my own safe home, with my daughter, which is what I really want.**"



When Karen and I connected, we shared stories about our children, what classes they enjoy in school, and their love for arts and crafts, glitter, and stickers. We shared how our children are our source of hope and strength. And we shared our worries about raising kids these days. Like all of us, Karen's hope for the future is lighting her way.

You can be part of a brighter future! **Right now, a generous group of donors will match your gift, dollar for dollar, up to \$75,000!** Help survivors like Karen and her daughter thrive, build new lives, and achieve their goals, free from abuse. **Donate now to double your gift of safe harbor, healing, and hope!**

Many thanks, muchas gracias,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diana Ortiz".

Diana Ortiz, M.Ed., LPC, President and CEO