

November 30, 2021

Dear Casa de Amparo Supporter,

It is hard to imagine the experiences youth in foster care endure before entering Casa de Amparo's doors. Many experience **homelessness, human trafficking, sexual abuse, and physical harm** that leave difficult memories to process and overcome. Casa de Amparo's mission is to support those affected by and at risk of child abuse and neglect, through a range of programs and services that promote healing, growth, and healthy relationships. Since 1978, we have aimed to **END** abuse and neglect and serve those who have been affected by the pain and suffering that abuse brings. At Casa de Amparo, New Directions is a transitional housing program that equips former foster youth, ages 18-25, with the necessary skills and resources to make a successful transition from foster care to independent living. Recently, at a Casa de Amparo event, a past New Directions resident shared how the program helped him become the man that he is today.

This is Raymond's Story:

Raymond's Journey

As a child, Raymond was raised by his grandmother due to his parents' drug addictions. She showed Raymond the love of a family that his parents could not provide. But at the age of 15, his grandmother was diagnosed with stage 3 lung and breast cancer and passed away leaving Raymond back in the care of his biological parents, where the sad truth of their addictions left him physically and emotionally neglected. With no water and no electricity, and abandoned in his home, Raymond became homeless for the first time in his life. After going to school hungry and unable to shower or wash his clothes, he was introduced to the foster care system. During this time he would attend **13 different high schools, 8 group homes, and 4 foster family homes**. He was living a life that no child should ever be forced to live.



**To see Raymond's full story on video
scan the QR code with your phone camera**



-Raymond S.

Upon emancipation at age 18 and homeless again, Raymond found Casa de Amparo. He applied to be in the New Directions Transitional Housing Program and within two weeks Raymond was placed in a fully furnished apartment. He was paired with an advocate to help him with life skills, shopping, job interviews, transportation, and access to therapy services to help him recover from the trauma he endured as a child. Raymond finally found a family with Casa de Amparo. Casa de Amparo treated him like an individual, not just a number.

“ *Casa has gone above and beyond their job description to help treat me like an individual and not just a number.* ”

Stories like Raymond's have been the driving force for Casa de Amparo since 1978 to continue treatment and prevention of child abuse and neglect. Every child that comes to Casa de Amparo has a powerful story to tell. With contributions from supporters like you, Casa de Amparo has the opportunity to provide a safe environment for these children to live, heal, and grow - changing stories of pain and anguish into stories of triumphant growth.


“ *They gave me the tools to find **JOY** in different ways.* ”

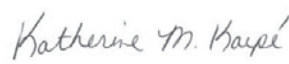


-Art therapy is one of the many ways youth at Casa de Amparo process their traumas

Please consider making a contribution to Casa de Amparo to continue helping youth in foster care find their safe home to heal. Your gift will bring much-needed comfort to a child in need.

With much gratitude,


Richard Berwick
President


Kathy Karpé, CFRE
Director of Development