

# YOU ARE HELPING PEOPLE IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY



## Meet Tricia.

When she summoned the courage to take her children and leave her abusive relationship, Tricia reached out to La Casa de Esperanza for help. Frightened and uncertain of her future, she shared the painful details of her situation with La Casa's case workers. After considering the specifics of her circumstances, La Casa's case workers encouraged Tricia to enroll in the agency's United Way-funded Family Self-Sufficiency program.

From the beginning, Tricia excelled in the program. She worked to prepare her résumé, filled out job applications and participated in mock job interviews, career assessment surveys and other career planning activities. Using the knowledge and abilities she began developing through the program, Tricia started accomplishing major successes. For the first time in her life, she passed the necessary tests to obtain a driver's license. Afterward, she was able to purchase a vehicle and car insurance. Her most admirable achievement followed: As a single mom of four, Tricia enrolled in several classes at a local college and went on to receive a certification in Early Education.

Tricia graduated from the Family Self-Sufficiency Program in 2010. Today, she works as an office manager for a local nonprofit organization where she has been for the past two years. Following the advice given to her during her time as a Family Self-Sufficiency participant, Tricia is using her budgeting skills to improve her credit. She has been able to maintain independent housing for herself and her four children who are now aged 17, 10, and 2 (twins). Most importantly, Tricia has grown into an excellent role model and advocate for her children. By setting positive examples, she hopes to break the cycle of poverty and give her children a better future.

## Results Statement from La Casa de Esperanza's Family Self-Sufficiency Program

- 76% (62 of 82) of program participants developed basic skills needed for employment through training, education and counseling, enabling them to better their employment situation
- 82% (67 of 82) of program participants obtained or retained employment, allowing them to pay for housing and other expenses