

Project Welcome Home



PROJECTS WITH CARE

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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & NEW YORK CITY

The New York City Police Department responds to approximately
230,000 domestic incidents each year.

(NYC Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence)

25 out of 10,000 NYC residents were likely to report an incident of intimate partner violence in New York City.

Women make up **52%** of the NYC population but are **72%** of reported domestic violence victims.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTERS

Domestic violence accounted for **41%** of the family population entering DHS shelters.

In one year alone, **12,541** people entered a DHS shelter due to domestic violence.

That includes more than **4,500 women** and **7,000 children**,
more than **half (56%)** were **5 years old or younger**.

Once in the system, those fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence can then apply for temporary housing vouchers.

Finding a home

The process to secure temporary housing



TEMPORARY HOUSING VOUCHERS

- Domestic violence victims are allowed to apply for vouchers, but they are not guaranteed to receive one.
- Vouchers provide up to \$2000 per month.
- The victim must pay 30% of the voucher they receive back to the city, plus cover all bills and utilities.
- Obtaining a housing voucher from NYCHA is difficult and does not guarantee housing.
- Eligibility requirements must be met for the application to be approved, including having an income below the poverty line.

FINDING HOUSING

- The victim must search for available housing that will accept a voucher as payment
- There is a lapse in housing regulations to prevent landlords from denying leasing to voucher tenants
- Landlords can deny voucher tenants who are survivors of domestic violence housing because they are deemed "risky"
- If housing isn't found within 4 months of the voucher being issued, it is void. The victim must then start the process over.

IF THEY SECURE A HOME..



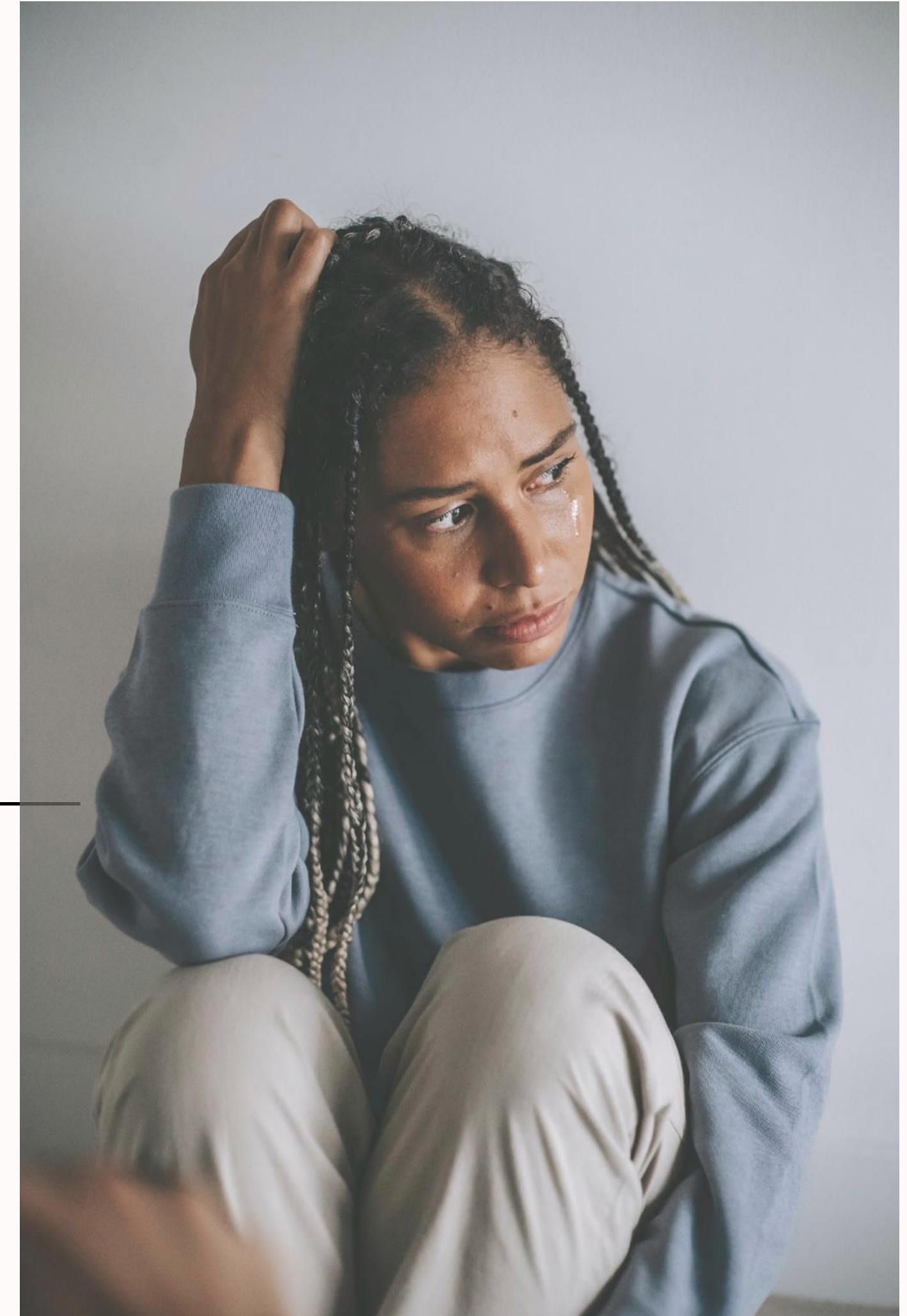
*"When I left the person who was terrorizing us we had nothing, only our clothes. We needed everything. EVERYTHING."
- domestic violence survivor*

Families have nothing. And now they have to furnish and fill a home.

In most cases, they can only start from the day they get the key to their new home.

An empty home

The victim's struggle for necessities



ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES

- 80% of survivors have no resources to purchase home goods.
- In order to qualify for Public Assistance, a victim must quit any job where the salary puts them over the required poverty line.
- If they can keep their job, they must turn down promotions, raises, or any donations or crowd sourced funding.
- A few \$ over the limit, and their voucher will be rescinded causing them to lose their home.

FINANCIAL ABUSE

- Those fleeing domestic abuse have most often experienced financial control as an additional form of abuse.
- Often, abusers will not allow victims to open a bank account or acquire a job.
- Many abusers will engage in identity fraud in their victims name, and even the name of their children.
- Abusers can destroy their victims credit by taking out large loans, leasing cars/homes, opening cell phone or utility accounts, and running up thousands of dollars in unpaid bills.
- The average debt load for victims of domestic abuse is \$104,000.

WHY CAN'T HOUSING SPECIALISTS OR SHELTERS HELP?

- Housing Specialists are overwhelmed working around the clock calling banks, attorneys, NYCHA, creditors and resources to procure housing for residents.
- There are very limited resources to provide aftercare once leaving the shelter.
- There is little to no support to deliver the bare necessities to provide fundamental home goods.
- 80% of survivors have no space to store any items in the shelters where they are staying.

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Helping domestic violence victims by providing basic home necessities as they transition from shelter life to independent living.

HOW IT WORKS

- Projects With Care will provide each family member with a twin bed.
- Our “Good Neighbors” are committed to provide the required items for each room.
- Good Neighbors can help supply a single room (kitchen, bathroom, or bedroom), or the entire home.
- Most apartments are one or two bedrooms and most parents have two to three children.

GOOD NEIGHBORS

- Good Neighbors are committed to provide the required items, but are welcome to add any items to make the family's new apartment feel like "home".
- Good Neighbors will receive detailed information about the family they are supporting including first names, ages, favorite colors, etc., along with shipping/drop off information.
- Good Neighbors will also receive additional information about the family they are supporting so that they can personalize their purchases.
- For example, a child might love dinosaurs, and a Good Neighbor might purchase dinosaur themed bedding.



REQUIRED ITEMS

KITCHEN



- Pots and Pans Set
- Dishes
- Bowls
- Glasses
- Mugs
- Cutlery
- Dish Towels
- Coffee Maker
- Cooking Utensils
- Trash Bin

BEDROOM



- Bed Sheets
- Comforter
- Pillows
- Lamps

BATHROOM



- Bath Mat
- Bath Towels
- Hand Towels
- Toothbrush Holder
- Soap Dish
- Waste Basket

CASE STUDY – Trisha

A phone call was received a few days before Christmas from a shelter director about Trisha and her 3 children, ages 3, 8, and 10, asking if we knew anyone throwing out mattresses. They were leaving the domestic violence shelter and moving into their new home in 24 hours.

In the week before Christmas, it was doubtful anyone was throwing out mattresses, but a dedicated individual that leads a **Projects With Care** partner agency created an Amazon Wish List. After she shared it, four mattresses were purchased within hours and they continued adding items: bath towels, sheets/pillows/blankets, set of dishes, pots and pans, cooking and dining utensils, pantry staples, a dining table and chairs, mop/broom/garbage pail, etc.

The day she moved into the apartment, Trisha and her children had beds to sleep on. And over the next few days, the other items arrived.

Trisha's story became the inspiration for **Project Welcome Home**.



CASE STUDY – cont.

“After learning we would receive housing, I was super excited and also the kids were excited. That’s when realization hits. I started to have anxiety and insomnia, because I was only thinking of what my kids were going to sleep on. What are we gonna do? Because we were starting all over again.”

CASE STUDY – cont.

“I was so happy and so grateful because those are the things that I needed to start in my new apartment. I cannot stress this enough how grateful I am. My older daughter was like oh my God these people love us, they love us so much!”

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“If more parents knew that there’s help out there upon transitioning to that new start, it would minimize stress, and not trigger the already existing trauma.”

Thank you for your support in helping families who are escaping domestic violence build a home for their children, and in the process, rebuild their sense of security, independence, self worth, and hope.



Thank you.

For additional information, please contact:

Jeff Kozel, Executive Director

jeff@projectswithcare.org

212.600.1485

www.projectswithcare.org

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