



STONE HOUSE

Safe Now. Strong Forever.



“I’m looking for a hand up, not a handout.”

That’s what Marlene* said when she called Stone House in April of 2021 from several states away ready to build a life of her own.

After more than a decade with her abusive husband, and staying “for the kids,” Marlene decided she had to escape in 2018. Ultimately, she lost custody of her children and Marlene struggled to get stable over the next several years. With little education, no experience on her own, and barely given contact with her children, she says this is when she “spiraled.” Marlene turned to drugs and was in and out of jail. After time in jail she knew she had to recover.

Marlene felt the future was in her hands, but still needed the helping hands of others. That’s when she called Stone House in 2021. Stone House found safe shelter for Marlene in a hotel. During her two-month stay, Marlene worked with Stone House to stabilize and rebuild. She started a restaurant job and Stone House aided her with clothes and shoes. She began virtual support groups where Stone House staff and peers offered her a judgement-free space to open up.

From there, Marlene moved to our emergency shelter. She continued to utilize Stone House resources, maintained her job and earned her GED. In October of 2021, Marlene moved into a new apartment at the new Stone House.

Through determination and the stability she gained through Stone House, Marlene built her new life in this new state. She regained custody of her three children, managed sobriety, bought her own vehicle, completed a job readiness program and started a new career helping adults with intellectual disabilities.

While she still has tough days, Marlene says, she’s “blessed to have the hand I do have.” Today, she aspires to go to college and one day get a new apartment, opening up her Stone House apartment for another family.

*Name changed to protect confidentiality.

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