

SURVIVOR STORY

When Naomi* was referred to Stone House in 2024, she was in a dangerous, abusive relationship.

What began with a brief “honeymoon stage” quickly escalated into emotional and physical abuse. Naomi, already a single mother, found herself unhappy, unemployed, and entangled with the Department of Children and Families.

Naomi began meeting with Ariana Barbas, Stone House Crisis Intervention Specialist. *“She helped me see things that I didn’t.”* It became clear that Naomi felt unfulfilled and often afraid for her life.

With guidance and encouragement, Naomi decided to leave her abuser. For many survivors, this is the most dangerous time—and for Naomi and her toddler, safety planning and finding a new home were critical. Her abuser frequently stalked and physically intimidated her outside her home.

Ariana successfully advocated for Naomi to receive an emergency transfer through the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). An emergency transfer allows tenants experiencing domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking to request to move from the tenant’s current unit to a new unit in a safer location.

As Naomi prepared to move, she worked with Ariana, her child’s school, and even the Boston Police Department, to keep herself and her son safe.

Your support of Stone House allowed Naomi to create a safety plan, join support groups, get counseling, and receive financial aid.

Naomi and her son now live in their new home. She is focused on raising a healthy child, pursuing her education, and becoming more financially stable.

My goals and aspirations for the next couple of years is to continue my education in child growth and development and also to continue to focus on my job and being a healthy mommy so I could raise a healthy baby. I also want to build my credit up and save money so that I could be more financially stable and comfortable. My advice to anyone experiencing DV or an unhealthy relationship is, you will get through it. It may not be now, tomorrow or next week but you will get through it.

NAOMI

**Name changed to protect confidentiality.*