



Thanks to the help of friends like you, Adalaide's daughter and granddaughter are back home with the help they need.

## Christmas Shelter: A Mother Finds Safety for her Daughter

One December afternoon, Adalaide's daughter, Cameron, came dashing down the stairs and out the door with her baby in her arms. Years later, Cameron would be diagnosed with a major mood disorder. But that night, Adalaide was shocked by her daughter's outburst.

For a few long days and nights, she waited for her daughter's return. But this loving mother couldn't sit around much longer. It was Christmas Eve, and she couldn't stand the idea of her daughter and granddaughter being out there alone.

So, Adalaide searched for hours and eventually found out where Cameron was staying.

There, Adalaide begged her daughter to come home, but Cameron wasn't ready yet. After many tears and with a heavy heart, Adalaide returned home alone.

After a few short hours had passed, Adalaide heard a knock on her door. It was Cameron. "Find us a

shelter," she said, tears running down her cheeks.

Adalaide didn't hesitate. If their house didn't feel like home to her daughter, she would find somewhere else that did. That night, she brought Cameron and her baby to our front door.

"And there, that Christmas Eve, Covenant House took them in ... no questions asked," Adalaide says. "I left for home, alone in my thoughts and fears, trusting that, at least, they would be safe that night."

Thanks to caring friends like you, we could give Cameron and her child the shelter and support they needed during a time of uncertainty. Whenever Adalaide came to visit, she felt comforted by the care her daughter was receiving.

Then one day, Adalaide got the call she had been waiting for. "Can we come home?" her daughter asked over the phone. The family was finally reunited. And, thanks to her time with us, Cameron found the help she needed for her mental health.

"Covenant House was, for my daughter, a new beginning ... one of many," Adalaide says.



### 3 Ways to Make a Difference this Holiday Season

**1. Donate During Our Match Campaign:** Multiply your impact when you give during our holiday match.

**2. Shop Our Gift Catalog:** Every item in our Holiday Gift Catalog helps our youth, at Christmas and beyond. Shop for gifts at [gifts.covenanthouse.org](https://gifts.covenanthouse.org)



**3. Volunteer:** Share in the holiday joy with our youth. See how you can get involved at your local Covenant House.



Covenant House builds a bridge to hope for young people facing homelessness and survivors of trafficking through unconditional love, absolute respect, and relentless support. Our doors are open 24/7 in 34 cities across five countries, and our high-quality programs are designed to empower young people to rise and overcome adversity, today and in the future.

[www.covenanthouse.org](https://www.covenanthouse.org)

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## Open Doors

Covenant House: News from the inside

WINTER 2025

After her mother kicked her out, Kendra had to find a way to keep herself and her son safe. When she came to our doors late at night, she wasn't expecting them to open. But they did ... and her life was about to change.

## 24/7 Safety and Hope: Love Answered the Door for Kendra

11:23 p.m. is the moment Kendra will always remember. After months of homelessness, uncertainty, and fear, she walked through our doors and was welcomed with open arms, even though it was late.

Kendra never expected to be homeless, especially as a teenager. Even more, she never expected to be homeless with a child.

When Kendra found herself pregnant, she did the only thing she could think of. She went to her mother. But Kendra had five other siblings, and her mom was already overwhelmed making ends meet.

There was no room and no money for a baby. So, Kendra's mom asked her to leave.

Alone on the streets with a baby on the way, Kendra had to find a safe place to stay — and fast. For a while, she stayed with her baby's father. Then she would move from one friend's house to another.

Having no safe, secure place to sleep is hard on any young person. It was even tougher for a mother-to-be.

Kendra's son, Finn, was born on Christmas. And still, mother and child had nowhere to stay.

For months, Kendra tried to make things work. But her son was about to turn one, and she knew she wanted Finn to spend his first birthday somewhere safe. That's when she found Covenant House. At 11:23 p.m., she came through our doors. "Me and Finn felt at home right away," she recalls.

Kendra came to Covenant House looking for stability and support, and she took advantage of every opportunity. After securing a job, she moved into our transitional housing program, where she and Finn had their own room.

Within a few months, she was promoted to a manager role because of her work ethic and punctuality. She began saving money with the

\*Kendra's and Finn's names and images have been changed to protect their identity.

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During the holidays, we all try to love more, to give more of ourselves, to celebrate joy.

With Christmas just around the corner, I want to thank you for all the love and compassion you share with our young people. Because of you, we can give them a Christmas celebration to remember.

At this place of hope you and I call Covenant House, we witness a lot of stories. The ones around the holidays always seem to touch our hearts a little deeper. In this holiday edition of *Open Doors*, you'll read about Kendra and her son, Finn, who was born on Christmas. When her son entered this world, they were homeless and had no place to go.

You'll also read about Adalaide, a brave and loving mother who found her daughter a safe place to stay on Christmas Eve.

I pray these stories inspire you this Christmas and remind you of the life-changing difference friends like you make in so many young lives. Thank you for being a part of our family at this special time of year.

William "Bill" Bedrossian  
President and CEO



For a long time, Kendra was focused on surviving. Now that she and her son are safe at Covenant House, she can start to chase after her dreams.

*Kendra's story cont.*

## A Chance to Dream

goal of finding an apartment and attending college.

"I feel very blessed," Kendra says. "I feel like I have the support now to be happy and to move on with my life."

For the first time since she left home, Kendra is feeling hopeful for her future. She even gives herself permission to dream.

And her dream? It's beautiful. One day, Kendra hopes to help other young people like her who are struggling. That's why she is saving for college, where she wants to study social work or early childhood education.

Kendra's dreams are her own, yet they are made possible because of caring friends like you. Thank you for making sure our doors are open 24/7, whether it's 11:23 at night or 6:30 in the morning. Without your generous support, we couldn't be there for the next young person like Kendra who comes knocking.

## A Guiding Light to Our Youth

Covenant House Texas is proud to honor Andrew Miu as the 2025 "Rae of Light" Volunteer of the Year! Andrew has generously shared his time, talent, and heart with the young people in our care.

As an executive at Cisco Systems, Andrew has used his professional expertise to enhance our IT infrastructure, ensuring that our systems are secure and reliable. His efforts have helped bridge the digital divide for our youth — connecting them to educational and job opportunities that are critical to rebuilding their lives.

Andrew's impact goes far beyond technology. He's gathered a team of his colleagues to participate in the annual Sleep Out: Executive Edition to help raise funds and awareness for the issues homeless youth face. He has also spread holiday joy by leading our Christmas Wishes program.

A true servant leader, Andrew's skills and deep compassion are a light of hope to our young people. His humility, dedication, and consistent support are an inspiration to us all. We're honored to recognize him with this award and grateful for the difference he continues to make.



Andrew Miu has made a big difference in the lives of our young people — helping them access educational and professional opportunities that otherwise may have been unreachable.

## Making a Difference for Decades



Mary Louise Formato can't remember when she first started giving to Covenant House. "It was a long time ago," she chuckles.

When her friend told her about Covenant House's mission to help homeless youth, Mary knew immediately that she wanted to help.

At first, she and her husband hosted a dinner to raise funds in support our young people. Then, over the years, their support continued to grow.

"I've remained a supporter of Covenant House all of these years because I like the fact that Covenant House works so hard to get young people educations and jobs and places to live," Mary says. "If I can be a small part of bringing more kids some help and some hope, that makes me feel very good."

In addition to being a regular supporter for decades, Mary has decided to leave a lasting legacy by including us in her will. When you choose to add Covenant House to your estate plans, just as Mary did, you will help keep our doors open to every young person who needs us for years to come.