



Pregnant after years of being trafficked, 15-year-old Omaly didn't know if she could go on. Her abuser had taken her childhood, her freedom, her will to live. Your support showed her how to regain her future — and fight back.

Starting Life Again: Omaly Finds Her Freedom

At 15, Omaly stood at the edge of a bridge, ready to jump. She was pregnant. She was alone. And she was exhausted.

Five years prior, Omaly's mother abandoned her and her siblings in an apartment in Anchorage. Although Omaly was just a child, the responsibility fell on her to care for her little siblings.

That's when she met a man ten years her senior. He groomed her, exploited her, and began trafficking her to other men under the guise of helping her "bring income home."

The trauma piled up — sexual abuse, exploitation, abandonment, and the constant pressure to provide. When she found out she was pregnant, she broke down.

Standing on the edge of that bridge, Omaly was ready to end it all. But, praise God, before she could, the police intervened.

She was hospitalized and admitted to a mental health recovery unit for young people in crisis.

When the staff realized she was about to give birth with no family, no income, and no safe home to return to, they reached out to Covenant House Alaska.

Omaly arrived at our doors eight months pregnant, still carrying the trauma of her past. What she found was something new: unconditional love.

"There were moments I wanted to give up, but [Covenant House] never gave up on me," Omaly said. "They taught me that what I experienced wasn't love. It wasn't friendship. It was abuse. And I deserved more."

But healing is not always linear. After giving birth to her son, Omaly left Covenant House and returned to her trafficker, a man she thought of as her boyfriend. She was young, traumatized, and still trying to make sense of what love should look like.

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What does “home” mean to a young person like Omaly? A child everyone failed to protect. She was a girl whose only home

was a constant reminder of her abandonment — an apartment filled with little mouths she had to feed.

I’ve shared with you our initiative, *The Journey Home*, but you may wonder how a pathway like this could help someone like Omaly.

Our primary goal in *The Journey Home* is to provide youth who are in cycles of homelessness, trafficking, poverty, or insecurity with the resources and support needed to break out of those vicious systems.

For Omaly, that meant unconditional love and relentless support. It meant being there for her no matter what and standing with her as she sought justice. It meant providing meals, education support, and parenting classes while she worked to regain control of her life.

Today, Omaly has arrived home — at a place of strength, independence, and trust in herself. You make these success stories possible as a part of the Open Arms Society.

Thank you for supporting *The Journey Home* and our youth who are on the path to restored hope and brighter futures.

William “Bill” Bedrossian
President and CEO



Omaly is determined to make her second chance count. Today, she often travels back to Anchorage to volunteer at Covenant House, share her story, and mentor women who are rebuilding their lives after trauma.

Omaly’s story cont.

A Second Chance ... Then Another

Two months later, she was pregnant again. It was a devastating blow. But Covenant House didn’t close the door on her. Instead, we opened our arms even wider.

“Covenant House changed my life,” she said. “They were my angels. They saw me when I couldn’t even see myself.”

With Covenant House’s support, Omaly sought justice. Her traffickers were jailed for their crimes, and she could finally start over. She earned her GED, got her driver’s license, landed her first real job.

Eventually, she launched her own company, then another, and a third. Then she founded a nonprofit supporting children and single mothers.

Once, Omaly was completely controlled by her trafficker. Now, she is in control of her own life. Your support gave her that chance to regain her power. Thanks to you, she now uses her past to help others gain strength.

Meet the Jammie Luncheon Ladies

Sisters-in-law Suzy Williams and Wendy Moco have found a special way to help homeless youth feel safe and comfortable at Covenant House.

It all started nearly 17 years ago. Suzy and Wendy decided to get together with some friends and make a positive difference. First, they participated in a coat drive. Then, they decided to focus on collecting Christmas pajamas.

The idea caught on. In 2008, they began collecting new, unwrapped pajamas for young people in need. Since then, they have received nearly 15,000 pairs of pajamas, with many of them ending up at Covenant House Michigan.

“We really enjoy this partnership because I think Covenant House’s residents can sometimes be forgotten,” Suzy says. “Through the Jammie Drive Luncheon, we can shine a light for just a brief moment on these kids, and maybe it can help drive your mission and donations.”

To show our gratitude, Covenant House Michigan welcomed Suzy and Wendy to a “Pajama Jam” luncheon with pizza, a talent show, and you guessed it — pajamas!

“Your kids are the heroes,” Suzy said to our staff at the luncheon. “Your kids that climb out of their circumstances through the support of you and your donors.”



Our youth love the colorful and cozy jammies provided by Suzy and Wendy. Just this one small gift can help a young person feel comfortable, warm, and at home at Covenant House.

An Enduring Spirit of Generosity

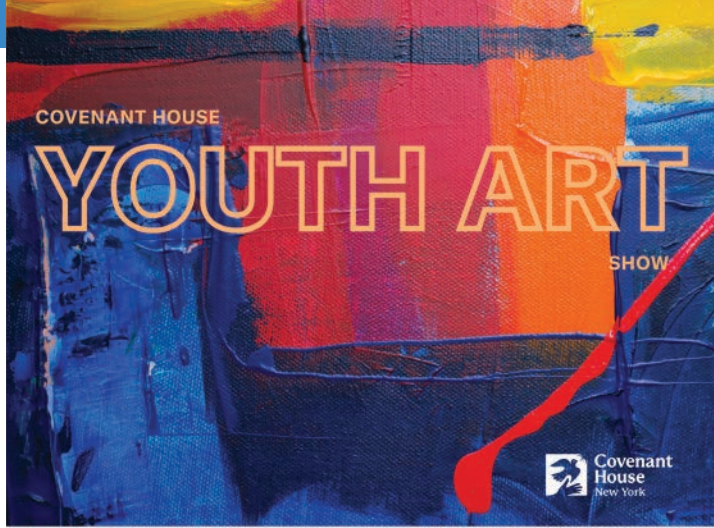


Mary and Tom O’Neill have lived their lives with a spirit of generosity and service. The couple spent many years volunteering with their church at a local homeless shelter and soup kitchen.

“Now that we’re older, we can’t physically volunteer as much as in the past,” Mary says, “but our desire to be of service to others has never diminished. We help where we can and have chosen to put our money where our feet and hands can no longer go.”

When the O’Neills received a Covenant House letter in the mail, they immediately felt moved by our mission. “I simply think of my grandchildren and am so grateful they have never experienced homelessness or human trafficking,” Mary shares. “I want to ensure that children who have faced these horrible situations have a place of peace and rest.”

Along with their annual donations, Mary and Tom decided to make a lasting impact by including Covenant House in their will, ensuring their spirit of generosity will live on in the decades to come.



A Time to Shine: Youth Artists Showcase Their Talents

Preparations are already underway for an exciting upcoming event: the fourth annual Covenant House New York Youth Art Show. Our talented youth are preparing their works, which will be showcased on September 23rd.

We are highly anticipating this night that showcases our young people's creativity, talent, and resilience!

Last year, 29 of our residents showed over 100 pieces of art in a variety of mediums. The pieces were auctioned, and all proceeds went to the youth who created them.

Whether sculptures, textile art, poetry, or paintings, our artists were proud to share their works with patrons. Many of our youth draw inspiration not only from their experiences of homelessness but from their well of talent, connections, and expectations for their futures.

One artist, Zayyona, who signs her works ZayDaPoet, showcased several acrylic paintings and a poem called "Don't Let Your Home Define You." While writing the poem, "I thought of every

youth who's ever been homeless, sex trafficked, a migrant," she says. "I write poetry not only to tell my own story but to tell the stories of many others."

By the end of the evening, the sale of art during the third annual CHNY Youth Art Show totaled more than \$14,000, all of which was distributed to the youth artists.

When asked about what she hopes the patrons experience at the show, Dillon, another one of our young artists, said, "The people around you have been through a lot of hardship. But it doesn't define us. What defines us is what you see all around you," she points to the artworks.

"Now is our time to shine. These works are something to be proud of."

Come see how our youth shine by attending this year's Youth Art Show. We hope to see you there!



View the artwork from
2025's Youth Art Show
by scanning the QR code
with your phone.

Will You Be an Angel for Homeless Youth?

**Mark your calendars for
August 22nd!**

Every year, Covenant House celebrates Be an Angel Day with our community. This year, we hope you will join us with a gift that will lift up our youth.

Help a homeless young person find their wings! Your gift will be matched on August 22nd when you give online at covenanthouse.org/be-an-angel-day.

