



NEWSLETTER

February 2023

2022 ~ A Year in Review

Words from the Founder:

Donations from friends, neighbors, and the local Leland community have allowed many accomplishments for single mothers and their children in 2022. I would like to share a brief overview.

Family #1: Cheyenne

I am Cheyenne, a single mother of an 11-year-old boy. Not too long ago, I was offered a higher-paying position in Charlotte, North Carolina, which required my son and I to move from Wilmington. However, I needed assistance with my first month's rent and security deposit within a week of the move. Despite reaching out to various nonprofit organizations and housing agencies, I was unable to find help. That's when I came across Caridad Inc., I met with Carmen, who interviewed me and reviewed all of the necessary documents to help me. Caridad Inc. quickly provided me with the security deposit and the first month's rent. They continue to offer to coach me as I work towards my goals. My son and I were overjoyed when we moved into our new home in Charlotte, and I am grateful to Caridad Inc. and Carmen for lifting a huge weight off my shoulders as a single mother. Caridad Inc. truly cares about helping single mothers improve their lives.



Cheyenne and her son

Family #2: Sarah

My name is Sarah Glass, and I am a 46-year-old mother of three - two boys (ages 21 and 15) and a daughter (age 11). I work as a waitress at New Day Cafe, where I met Carmen Schloner. I am also a student at CFCC, where I am working towards an Associate in Applied Sciences degree, which I will receive in May 2024. This degree will qualify me for job placement in a variety of fields, including medical, forensic, food, petroleum, cosmetic, water quality, pharmaceutical, and veterinary laboratories. My goal is to find employment at a local lab that will allow me to continue my education and complete a bachelor's or master's program.

I have been the sole financial provider for my children since 2012, and I have worked two jobs for most of my adult life.

Currently, I live in a dilapidated trailer that is 35 miles from my workplace and 40 miles from my school. I drive a 2002 Yukon XL with 250,000 miles, which has numerous problems, including a lack of heat, a bad catalytic converter that causes a loss of power and poor gas mileage, and an oil leak that requires me to add about a quart of oil every week. Life is very difficult for me and my family, and some days I struggle just to keep up with the constant challenges of simply surviving.

Recently, I underwent a major surgery, and was involved in a car accident that totaled my vehicle. Despite these setbacks, I returned to school four days later and scored a 96 on a lab final practical, and I returned to work a week earlier than my doctor ordered because as a server, I do not accrue paid time off.

I met Carmen at work, where she asked a fellow server if anyone on shift was a single mother. Despite the high volume of work and the need to hustle, I was able to speak with her for a few minutes and we arranged to meet later. However, on the day we were scheduled to meet, I broke my front tooth and was in a significant amount of pain, unable to eat or speak clearly. Carmen immediately took me to her dentist, as I do not currently have dental coverage. She also helped me rent a car so I could see my oldest son, Spencer, for his 21st birthday and hold him for the first time in 18 months. Those two days with my son restored my spirit and gave me a renewed sense of purpose.

Since then, Carmen has helped me secure a \$1,200 loan (to be paid back from my student loans) to secure our current home. She is also working tirelessly to find affordable, working-class housing that is close to my ex-husband and the kids' school zones, my work, and my school. Carmen also made a Christmas miracle happen for my family. I am not sure how Carmen came to guide our path, but I am grateful for her and all of the Caridad volunteers.



Pictured l to r: Spencer and Sarah and Sarah's children

**DONATE to Caridad at
www.caridadincnc.org**

Helping Single Mothers Achieve Self Sufficiency!

Family #2: Silvia

I am a single mother with two children and am experiencing homelessness. I had to use my savings to cover medical expenses, which led to the loss of my home when my landlord did not renew my lease. I have no savings, poor credit, and no money to move. I have been staying with friends and in hotels, but that has not worked out. I reached out for help online and found Carmen from Caridad, a nonprofit organization that helps single mothers. Carmen has provided me with a computer and helped me apply for jobs. I now have a job, but I still do not have a home. Carmen and I tried to apply for a two-bedroom apartment, but I was denied due to my credit. We have also tried shelters, but they are all full with long waiting lists.

I am currently living in my car until something becomes available. Caridad and Carmen have been very supportive during this difficult time, checking in on me and helping me search for housing programs. I am doing everything I can to keep my job, but until my credit is improved, I will be denied housing. Thank you to Caridad for all of their continued support.



Silvia and her new computer

Family #4 Olga

Olga was referred to Caridad by the Harrelson Center. When Carmen interviewed Olga, she learned that she was a single mother whose husband had passed away about six months prior. Olga's husband had abandoned her for another woman and had a business with some work trucks that belonged to their business. Olga had been paying all of her husband's medical bills

while he was alive, but when he passed away, she hired a lawyer to help her acquire the property that belonged to both of them. However, the lawyer charged a retainer fee and did not do anything to help Olga's case. When Carmen met Olga and reviewed all of the provided information, she went to court to find out what was needed to recover the trucks and money her husband had left.



Olga and Carmen

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The court clerk was very helpful and provided Olga with the necessary paperwork and instructions. It took three days to complete the court's request and provide the necessary backup documentation. In the end, the court approved everything Olga submitted and she was able to obtain the titles to the cars and access the money in the bank. This is just one example of how Caridad helps single mothers without charging them any money, but rather by offering them sincere support and assistance.

Family #5: Nicole

My name is Nicole, and I am a 42-year-old mother of two boys who are four years old. I met my husband when I was living in New York, where he was serving in the Marine Corps. After he finished his tour, we started dating and our relationship became serious. I put all of my trust and confidence in him and we married in 2013. A year later, I became pregnant and we decided to move to North Carolina. However, as soon as we arrived, he started abusing me and the abuse only got worse over time. It's common for abusers to isolate their victims from their families and friends, and that's exactly what happened to me. I started going to therapy, thinking there was something wrong with me, but eventually, I learned about the severity of his traumatic brain injury, manipulation, and narcissism. I couldn't take it anymore and I didn't want my children to be subjected to such a toxic environment. To make matters worse, I found out he was having an affair with his ex-wife. I filed for divorce and he moved out, taking all of our money and moving into a house with his ex/new girlfriend. He left me with nothing, including all of the credit card debt, which led me to file for bankruptcy. There is a temporary child support order in place, but he has ignored it. I am still waiting for the court to hear my case.

Desperate for help, I posted on the Next Door Neighbor app and several people suggested I reach out to Carmen, the founder of Caridad Inc. I called with little hope of finding any resolution, as I had already called many other places with no luck. But Carmen immediately called me back and spent over an hour on the phone with me. She was so warm and comforting, something I haven't felt in a long time. It finally clicked that someone really cared and I could tell she was very passionate about helping women like me. I don't know how I would have gotten through this without Carmen's help. Caridad provided Christmas gifts for my boys, which brought tears to my eyes as I was struggling to buy them gifts this year. Carmen and her organization have brought me so much joy and support. I appreciate her consistency and the fact that she always calls back, taking the time to listen fully and providing answers right away. I hope more people start supporting her charity because it would help so many other single mothers who don't have any family or other support.

Thank you, Caridad!



Nicole and her children