

# EVERY CHILD DESERVES A HOPEFUL FUTURE.



## How far would you go to save your child?

Martha is a mother of two who works as a nursing-home cook. Joseph, Martha's husband, is a factory worker who is steadfast in his support of their family. They always work hard to provide for their children, Jennifer (15) and Kenny (10).

Since beginning high school, **Jennifer had felt isolated and struggled with finding her place.** An honor student, Jennifer began falling behind in classes and came home distressed every day.

Meanwhile, Kenny didn't always have the help he needed to complete homework assignments. And with frequent gang activity in the surrounding neighborhood, Martha feared if Kenny didn't do well in school, he could someday fall in with the wrong crowd.

**The gravity of the situation became all too clear** the day Martha learned that Jennifer contemplated ending her own life. Jennifer felt invisible. She felt nobody understood her innermost struggles. She felt alone.

That's when Martha called Friendly Center. **This serious situation required a serious response.** Friendly Center staff scheduled a suicide evaluation for that very same day.

Since Martha mentioned she would be taking time off work to care for her daughter, Friendly Center provided the family with emergency food items to help them remain stable in the weeks ahead. When Martha's workplace drastically cut her hours after this short leave, **Friendly Center's weekly community food distribution anchored their family;** insuring that food was kept on the table.

After a month of continued counseling with Friendly Center, Martha was encouraged by the dramatic shift she saw in her daughter. Though Jennifer still had a lot to work through, the feelings of hopelessness and despair were not present in the way they were just weeks before.

Friendly Center staff checked in on the family by phone every week. Despite the parents demanding work schedules, **Martha and Joseph were committed to attending Friendly Center's parenting classes.** Friendly Center is happy to report that Martha and Joseph graduated, together, from the parenting class program.

Martha was excited to register Kenny, her 10-year-old son, in Friendly Center's after-school tutoring program this past September. Kenny has since started the five day-a-week program, giving him access to tutors who help him complete daily assignments and engage in exciting S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) curriculum. As a result, he has expressed interest in becoming a scientist.

Because of supporters like you, Martha and her family received a helping hand when it was most needed – as a result, each individual family member is better equipped to build a better life, together.

**You make it possible for people like Martha, Joseph, Jennifer, and Kenny to walk through difficult circumstances** and receive the resources they need. Thank you for your support!