Thanksgiving Miracles

Tiffany has two little miracles to be thankful for this year - twins Ethan and Faith, born premature at 24 weeks. When Tiffany arrived at the Family Shelter she was 3 months pregnant and alone. She had recently lost her job due to complications in her pregnancy. She tells us it was hard her first night here, unable to sleep, being in a different environment. But she was put at ease the first morning once she met with her case manager. She learned about all the programs available to her, enrolled in parenting classes, and learned that she was eligible for disability.

The complications of her pregnancy worsened over the next three months. At six months, on October 4th, she gave birth to daughter, Faith (1 lb, 7 oz) and son, Ethan (1 lb, 10 oz). Tiffany’s babies are doing well and she takes the bus every day to stay with them in ICU at San Joaquin County Hospital. They are expected to be out of the hospital some time in January.

Tiffany says being at the Shelter has helped her a lot and taught her to be independent. “Linda, Katie, Susan and all the staff are wonderful people. They have helped me so much, and my children.” She is grateful and thankful for the shelter where she was “welcomed with open and loving arms” when she desperately needed a place to stay.

“Knock and the door will be opened to you”

This Thanksgiving I want to give my thanks and deepest respect to all those who cross our threshold seeking shelter. Because of you I feel blessed, fortunate, rewarded, and much more informed and aware of the “workings” of the world.

I am witness to mothers and fathers caring so deeply for their children that the present circumstances become “strengthening circumstances.” Single women and men hitting rock bottom and bouncing back unbroken and undeterred. Migrant workers who get up at three in the morning to start their long trek out to the fields and orchards, put in the hardest day I can imagine, and return at dusk with big smiles on their faces. Knowing how little money they are paid you might question their sanity. But the reality is they take huge pride in their agricultural abilities and consider it an honor to be in the U.S. making a little bit of money to keep their families from starving south of the border.

It is because of you my friends, that I am more thoughtful of others, more giving, more caring and loving. I am a better person for seeing the good in you. I am stronger for witnessing your strength and resolve. I am more informed because I have seen the results of welfare-to-work when the work component doesn’t pay a livable wage; when disability insurance and social security is far too little to pay the bills; when the mentally ill, the severely ill and elderly are shoved aside. You have all shown appreciation to staff and me so many times. Through you, I have seen “Guardian Angels” and Divine intervention. It is because of you, the temporary homeless, that staff and I shall continue to fight the good fight.

John R. Reynolds, C.E.O.
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Tiffany holds a photo of Faith and Ethan close to her heart. She visits them daily in the ICU at San Joaquin General Hospital.
What are you most thankful

**Phillip (6)**
My Mom and Dad and sister and also Stockton Shelter for the Homeless.

**Teresa (4)**
The toys, my mom, and everyone!

**Ka’mesha (7)**
My family.

**Roxie (4)**
COLORS!

**Traysean (5)**
Houses and grass.

**Olivia (4)**
Brother and sister, Mommy and Daddy, weather, trees, and waking up every morning!
for this Thanksgiving?

**Annalyse (7)**
My family and the shelter.

**Athina (9)**
My Mom and Dad and Gram

**Antonio (5)**
My school and this shelter.

**Treveon (2)**
My family and also for the family shelter.

**Reyna (2)**
My new baby sister Alexis!

**Alexis (1 week)**
My big sister Reyna...that’s our guess!
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KEEPING FAMILIES SAFE

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Shelter Wish List

FOR THE THRIFT STORES
Formal and Prom Dresses
Jewelry, Purses and Shoes
Women’s Clothing
Men’s Clothing
Children’s Clothing
Home Décor
Kitchen Utensils
Furniture
Books, CDs, and DVDs

MAJOR PROJECTS & COSTS
Room Remodeling (adopt-a-room) - $2,000 ea.
Computer, Monitor & Printer - $800
Linoleum flooring for the Drop-In Center
Paint and Volunteers to paint the Family Shelter

FOR THE FAMILY SHELTER
Back packs
New Sleeping Bags
Pillows and Blankets
Reading Glasses
Diapers & Baby Wipes
Bars of Soap
Financial Assistance