



Eva and her son Eli came to LifeHaven because her family was experiencing a housing crisis. After months of couch-hopping with friends, and occasionally sleeping on the train, Eva needed help re-enrolling in high school, getting connected to health care and daycare, and managing the stress of experiencing homelessness while being a new parent.

Over her 11-month stay, Eva worked on setting goals, building a support network, and saw volunteers from the community who came in and showed unconditional love. She graduated from high school, and was even chosen as “Student of the Month” that spring!

Equally important, Eva was able to be part of a community of her peers—to have fun and enjoy being a teenager, eat healthy food and learn about nutrition. She grew a garden and even perfected her lasagna recipe! At LifeHaven, she learned parenting and life skills like how to develop a bedtime routine with her son, how to balance a checkbook and advocate for herself. With financial counseling from LSS’ Eastside Financial Center, she participated in a Matched Savings Program and left LifeHaven with over \$1,900 in savings.

Eva transitioned into her own apartment through a Supportive Housing Program in the community. There, she has experienced more independent living than at LifeHaven, but still gets to meet with a case manager, engage in Life Skills classes and receive additional support. She’s both working and going to college part-time, and keeps in touch with us. She still cleans her refrigerator every Saturday morning, a weekly ritual at LifeHaven she is continuing in her life!

Eva is so grateful for the support she and her young family received through LifeHaven. “The support system is great; it’s like having a second family! They love us all for who we are, not what we came from. I feel like I belong, no matter who I’m around.”

## Celebrating 15 Years

### LifeHaven and Incarnation Partnership Changes Lives!



Fifteen years ago, Incarnation formed a group to identify and support a local mission project where they could devote significant financial and volunteer resources. Incarnation Lutheran Church teamed up with LSS to provide short-term housing and support to minor mothers experiencing homelessness — an unmet need in the Twin Cities. LifeHaven was born!

Incarnation volunteers drew up renovation plans for a duplex that was purchased in East Saint Paul. Construction crews worked for months and Incarnation contributed thousands of dollars and volunteer labor to prepare the home for six mothers with children. Since then, Incarnation has continued its generous financial support for operations and loving care for these young families.

Volunteers chauffeured youth to their activities for Girl's Night Out. Others shared their expertise by teaching life skills or parenting classes, doing maintenance work in the house, gardening and landscaping, cleaning, organizing and hauling, mentoring young moms, celebrating milestones and cooking.

#### **Because of the generosity of your time, talent and treasure, LifeHaven has accomplished the following in the past 15 years:**

- Provided safe, stable housing for 183 teen moms and 193 children.
- Taught 720 Life and Parenting skills classes to increase knowledge, skills and abilities.
- Supported every LifeHaven mom with her education — celebrating 60 high school graduations and 22 college enrollments!
- Celebrated 75 holidays with youth, including Christmas, Mother's Day, Easter and Thanksgiving, helping them experience love and generosity.
- Provided over 210 recreational and community service activities so moms could experience fun, joy and connection.
- Welcomed new babies and supported new moms with 45 baby showers.
- Served over 8,370 meals to moms and their children; Incarnation provided over 576 of these!

Your steadfast support and loving care these many years has inspired hope and changed lives for these young families. Thank you!