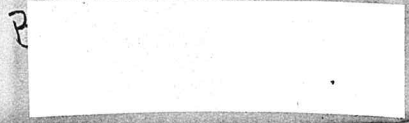


Living by FAITH



My Journey began at Operation Care
when me and my babies had no where
to go i came to Shelby Co. to start
a new life with my family to make
all my goals come true to start
over. I stayed with my mom
till she put us out on the streets
then god had answered our
prayers and sent us to operation
care im so blessed that they had
open arms for me and my family
because to have a change of life
we experienced life as homeless now
we can say that we have a blessed
home with lots of love thanks
to those who have made our blessings
come true.

Sometimes you find yourself in a situation you can't find a way out of easily.

Sometimes you have to trust others even when you're too proud to except help from others.

We live in a time when although you may feel certain that you have everything under control, ~~best~~ life has a way of throwing surprises at you, and not always pleasant.

Operation Care is the answer when you may not have another

It means Hope to me.

For some it may mean a fresh start or a chance they didn't have.

For me it has been the best way to get through a most difficult time in my life.

OPERATION CARE HAS BEEN AN AMAZING BLESSING TO MY SON AND I. WE MOVED IN DEC 1, 2016 AND THE VOLUNTEERS AND EMPLOYEES HELPED MAKE OUR HOLIDAYS SO MEMORABLE. ANGELICA HAS BECOME A TRUE ROLE MODEL FOR ME, AND I DONT KNOW WHERE MY SON AND I WOULD BE WITHOUT THE PROGRAM. THEY HAVE GREATLY HELPED MYSELF AND MY SON TO BE ~~GRATEFUL~~ MORE INVOLVED IN EACH OTHERS LIVES, AS WELL BROUGHT OUR RELATIONSHIP CLOSER WITH CHRIST.

SINCERELY,

Operation Care has given me and my two kids the jump start we needed to get back on our feet. At the end of July 2018, we found ourselves without a place to call home. Thankfully, we found Operation Care quickly. We were greeted with love and compassion and not judgement. As a mother, I can't tell you how much that helped me. Operation Care has been a place that we have found hope, friendship, caring and support. We have gone through financial classes to help us learn to budget our money better (which really helps). Plus the structure it gives our lives is amazing.

Angelica is amazing. She is a listening ear when we need her and also that strong voice we need to push us along the way.

Thanks for all the help and support.

Operation Care was the best thing that could've happen to me! Since being in the program I have had many doors open up for me, Im attending GED Classes, Bible Study, financial classes, and many more. This program is teaching me responsibility and is helping me become a better person through Christ.

If it weren't for this program I wouldn't be who I am today! This program teaches women the things they need to know so can have a better life for themselves.



Notes from Women Who Were Sheltered at Operation Care

JM

I found [the love of Christ] in Operation Care. Emotionally shattered and physically drained, I found refuge, love, acceptance, a safe haven in the storm of my life, guidance, and in many ways, a family even.

When applying for the program I remember being asked what my dreams were for the future and I could not respond. I was emotionally devastated to admit out loud and to myself that I had completely given up on any and everything. I had lost all hope.

With the moral support of this amazing program I have been able to go from that moment in time to writing this from the quiet and comfort of a small place that is now 'my' home . . . Monday I will go back to work at a good job I never thought I would have. Next week I meet with an advisor to plan my class schedule for the L.P.N. course I have chosen.

I still have rocky days. I also know that I still have the love and support of the beautiful, wonderful ladies of Operation Care . . . Thank you Operation Care for showing me how to be a strong, courageous woman, bravely facing the world, suited in the full armor of God. I love you dearly!

Most of all, thank God for giving this mission into the hands of the people who are able of loving an absolute stranger with sacrificial love and acceptance of Christ.

Operation Care and the people in it, you are changing lives, empowering the weak, and planting the seeds of love in once barren hearts that it might be paid forward.

AS

Years ago, I made a heart wrenching decision to leave my husband after years of broken promises, lies, and physical abuse...I had to get my children to a safe place, I left in the night and sought shelter at Operation Care for myself and my children. We left with the clothes we were wearing and no money. They took us in, clothed us, and fed us.

Assistants there was so supportive, I was counseled along with my children, I soon found a job and acquired my own apartment. Leaving the safe, secure environment of the shelter and the friends I had made with the other residents was scary. My children cried and said, "Mommy we want to stay here." It was the safest they had felt in years. Operation Care put me in touch with the right people and companies to get the help I needed. They helped me start a new and better life.

Today I am still at the same job, my children are in school and doing well. We attend church regularly. We are living a better life because of the support and guidance we received at Operation Care.

AS's Oldest Son

My experience at Operation Care was such a blessing for me, my brother and sisters. All that I could think about when I was there was how blessed we were to have a place to live. What they did inspired us to strive to be better people in life. And without them I really don't think we would be in the position we are in right now because, we have a new house and I have an amazing mom...She has taught me to be the person I am...through the help of God and the people at Operation Care.

You may look through my Eyes

All my life I have worked helping others without expecting anything back. I thought that people would feel God's presence through my actions. God has a funny way of doing things, which I glorify and thank him for everything he has done.

In late November... I found myself praying and asking God for guidance, because I found my world in pieces; my home, my marriage and my children.

After volunteering for Operation Care's Mercy Medical for approximately six years, in April of 2009 my family became the ones in need of these welcomed services. For many months I managed to as they say "rob Peter to pay Paul", until this became impossible for me to handle alone. In a matter of days, I had become a single parent with 3 kids, a grandson and homeless.

Although I work full time as a teacher's assistant and interpreter, I quickly found that the salary earned at this job was not going to be sufficient to pay our mortgage, let alone provide for utilities, food and clothing for my family.

I felt that God left me and I felt so alone. I didn't want people to know my needs. So, I prayed, I asked ... Lord, I don't know how to help myself, I couldn't stay in my house with no heat, and with the thought that our home would soon be foreclosed and the Sheriff would be coming to kick us out. Christmas was coming and my kids were very sick because of the lack of heat.

My prayer was...God, where do I go?

I know God took away my shame and pride and I asked for help from OPERATION CARE.

I went to Operation Care, with the intention of only requesting assistance for the heat or help to pay a deposit for a new apartment.

Lisa welcomed me; and after I told her my hardship, she quickly created a budget for me. As I looked at the budget, I realized I could not make it in a new apartment with what I had. I would be homeless again because my income was not enough. (My inner voice was saying, Oh God what do I do now?) I felt so desperate.

Continued

Lisa informed me that their funds had run out, but she told me to wait, she made so many calls and spoke with several people to try to find me a place I could afford. One of the phone calls was to Judy, who left a meeting and came to me. I could not believe that she would take her time to see me and help me. After hearing my situation She told me, come walk with me, I want to show you something. We crossed the street and walked to a little white house, we walked through the house which was freshly painted, in the middle of the house she told me that a group of brothers and sisters from a church were getting together to pray and work to repair this little house. You know what caught my attention was the PRAYING, I felt God's presence there, I felt peace come over me.

When she asked me, would you like to live here, I said "Yes Thank you and I knew that God prepared this little house for my family." I would like to thank the staff and all the volunteers that helped them because I see God thru your actions. I always believe that God takes care of his people. And it takes a joint effort to do God's work.

At the Operation Care's shelter and housing, the ladies are grateful, because we are safe and happy with our children At the Mercy Clinic the people come sick and worried, they leave happy because they have been taken care of with the best caring doctors. They all get VIP treatment by the Doctors, nurses, interpreters and receptionist. Shouldn't it be like that when you help your brother & sister.

I can't tell you enough that this is a worthy cause, and I know that God is there.

I have allowed you into my world, now listen to your heart and I hope you will help OPERATION CARE.

I would like to close with this old fashioned Christian Blessing,

DIOS TE BENDIGA!

Blessings unto you.

LV

Shelbyville

Mercy Medical Saved My Life

In 2003, I was on my way to success in my career of corrections. I was making \$21,990.00 per year and I was gaining a little comfort in life. I was beginning to have a lot of medical problems, but I had insurance for me and my children. Who would have guessed this was the year my life would fall apart?

The year before I was given a medicine that I was allergic to and it had put me on leave for six months. I also learned I had kidney reflux disease. I was in and out of doctor's office with one thing after the other. This year my Dad had passed away. In July I received a call that my mom in California was in ill health. There was no comp time left and I continued having medical problems.

I received a letter from my employer to get a doctor's release or take one year medical leave. It was perhaps a blessing; I could actually retire with some benefits. I missed the ten year mark by three months. My monthly retirement went for insurance plan for my children and myself. I had to work part-time jobs to make it. In July 2005 my youngest turned 18 and insurance went up \$150 over my retirement amount. I had to drop it. Because of medical reasons my youngest was able to get medical coverage but I had none. I had applied for disability, but turned down because I worked part-time to live.

October 12, 2007 I had a heart attack on that part-time job. I was rushed to Louisville for surgery. I had no insurance at all. I did have the best of care with my seven blockages. October 29th I was released with a whole page of medications to take and a paper with an appointment for re-checks in two weeks. My church family had helped me financially with money to get my first month's medicine, and took me where I needed to go because my car had broken down.

This was all good until I went for my checkup in two weeks and they refused to see me because I had no insurance. Imagine cutting one open to fix them and then that's it! No meds, no care! I was also refused therapy after the surgery.

Thanks to Lisa at Operation Care's main office, my son found out about Mercy Clinic. I was having health issues at the time and had no heart meds for month. I called Mercy Clinic and made an appointment, I had no idea what I was walking into.

Continued

Once I got in for the appointment, I spoke of my problems. I was asked if I minded prayer, we had prayer. I was then given a Bible. With this, I knew GOD had sent me to this place. Right there, was Dr. Kinlaw, flooded with my tears and nervous breakdown of everything about my heart surgery and no meds and etc. It took most of the day with the staff but when I left I had been fixed with meds that I could afford at Wal-Mart, meds being delivered to their office and added to a program for free meds. They also re-booked me for a checkup. I finally was able to care for my heart as well as have medical treatment when needed.

The way Mercy Clinic staff handles each patient gives a security of getting treatment without worry. I know for a fact they pray for each patient before and after. They hand you a donation envelope when you sign in but whether you can give or not, you are treated kindly. They saved my life physically, mentally, and spiritually.

I would never have dreamed I would have been without insurance, but you never know what can take place with you and your loved ones. It can happen to the best of us.

Mercy Clinic gave me life to be with my family. They gave up their family time in order for me and many others to have healthy time with our families. They volunteer time without pay. They work with prayer and donations to help everyone regardless of race or color. Everyone is treated equal. Many of us walk in there and feel unworthy of such kindness and care, but they let you know you are GOD's child and they care.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart,

VFR

Operation Care's Mercy Medical Changed My Life

Hello, My name is T. L. P. I am 53 years old. I thank God every day for giving me life and the blessings that he has given me. Life was not always so good for me. I hit rock bottom. I worked many years in the manufacturing environment as a press operator. I had my own home and a steady income. I had been married twice and divorced twice. I loved my job and my money. I then found another love, drinking. I am an alcoholic but at the time I did not want to acknowledge that. I drank every day and even more when I was off from work. I loved to party and I did. I put drinking above all things, drinking was my God. My whole life centered around drinking. I didn't know at the time that I was killing myself. I would go as many as three days in a row staying up all night and not eating, just a diet of alcohol and pills.

At this time, I met my present wife. We met at a benefit dance and I guess you could say it was love at first site. We started dating and I was drinking every time we went out. She was the most caring human being that I had ever met, but I put drinking above even her.

At this time, I was injured on the job in which I had to have back surgery. I could no longer work performing my duties of that job. I returned to school in hopes of obtaining a degree, I thought a college degree would solve all my problems. I did well in college but I had completely left God out of my life. During all this time I was still drinking a lot. There was something missing in my life but as far as I was concerned I didn't need God.

I put my wife through hell on this earth. She was working two jobs to support us and my job was to drink and I did that job well. I know that you will find this hard to believe but I was drinking a gallon of vodka a day plus the beer. Something had to give and it did, I had a heart attack at 47. I went to the emergency room and the Doctor knew that I had a drinking problem. He told me that if I did not quit drinking, it would be a short matter of time that I would be dead. I had a blood alcohol level at .28, my pancreas was in bad shape and my liver was almost gone. All the years of drinking had taken its toll. Withdrawal from the alcohol was almost unbearable. I prayed to God to help me. That same God whom I ignored. Now I had no job, no health insurance of any kind. I started attending church and someone suggested that I go to the Mercy Medical Clinic. The first time I went I had no money so I sat down and wrote them a letter and told them of my situation. Going to Mercy Medical is the best thing that I ever did.

Continued

First of all, its a Christian environment. I met Doctors and Nurses who really cared. The clinic bases its foundation that Jesus Christ can help you with any problem, any ailment, any addiction. That's the first time that I had ever went to a Doctor and we had prayer together. Prayer does work and trust in God and his Son Jesus Christ. This clinic did help me physically, mentally, and spiritually. I was given medication for my high blood pressure, medications to help my heart problem and mental health issues. But the best part of all, they helped me understand that God will help you. I even got to the point that I thought that there was no God, that we just died and that was it. But going to Mercy Medical for treatment for my problems offset with them suggesting that I go to church and ask God for help, has given me purpose and the love of life. I have met many individuals in my life but the ones that I have met at Mercy Medical, are Christian people who love God and his son Jesus Christ has proved to me that he will provide what we need and God can put love and happiness in your heart. I want to thank Mercy Medical from the bottom of my heart for their help and support. God bless Mercy Medical because through them he has blessed me and changed my life.

T.P.

Mt Eden

Sometimes it Takes More

I went to Operation Care with my two children, Age 10 and 2 days. I was released from the hospital after giving birth with no place to go. I was immediately placed in their Omega House and a case plan was prepared to get me back on my feet. I was divorced, no job, and living on welfare which wasn't enough to survive. I felt so safe and secure there and enrolled in all the support groups. Everyone was so nice to me and I became new friends with the other residents. We all had a lot in common, and could share our hurts and experiences with each other.

I shortly acquired an apartment through Kentucky Housing and moved into my own apartment. This should have been the end of a happy story, but it was not.

I found myself alone again, without a support group, trying to be brave and make it on my own. Bad decisions and new problems surfaced and depression set in. I again lost my housing and moved back to Operation Care's Omega House.

Accountability has taken a new meaning for me. I now realize I am responsible for my decision and actions. I am learning to give back by encouraging others with crisis in their lives. I am working full time, attending church regularly with my children.

This time I will make it, but if I do get lonely, discouraged, or scared I know where I can go for encouragement. The caring people at Operation Care will always be there for me.

May God bless everyone that helps support them

*D.G
Shelbyville*

I Had it All and Lost it

I had a good job, a nice home and a happy marriage. Then suddenly my husband age 55 died of a heart attack. I was devastated, but a few week later my only son was charged with a crime and facing prison. I did what any loving mother would do and sold my home to pay for his legal fees. After all I still had a good job and I would be fine I thought. In the end my son was convicted and sentenced to 2 years in prison. That's when things began to unravel for me, I was involved in a serious car accident, totaled my car and ended up in the hospital with major injures. I lost my job and suffered a nervous breakdown, so my family had me hospitalized and disposed of my remaining possessions.

A few months later I was released with no place to go, no money, nothing except the clothes on my back. I met Judy through a mutual friend and she moved me into Operation Care's Omega House. They provided everything I needed, food, clothes, a place to live and medical care. I volunteered in their thrift store for a few months and then was given a job working for them. I soon acquired my own place and began furnishing my apartment from Operation Care's thrift store. I am so proud to be independent again. Operation Care allowed me to get back on my feet with dignity. I have renewed my relationship with God and have ask forgiveness for being angry with him. I attend church regularly and now have a new church family.

If you think this could never happen to you, think again. I thank God every day for Operation Care, I can't imagine what would have happen to me without them providing me a place to heal, the courage to rebuild my life, and the resources to make it happen.

A.D.

Shelbyville

Where was I to go?

My name is A... S... I have four beautiful children 2 boys and 2 girls.

In 2006 I made a heart wrenching decision to leave my husband after years of broken promises, lies, and physical abuse. I just could not take it any more, and I had to get my children to a safe place. I left in the night and sought shelter at Operation Care for my self and children. We left with the clothes we were wearing and no money. They took us in, clothed us, and fed us. Assistance there was so supportive, I was counseled along with my children. I soon found a job and acquired my own apartment. Leaving the safe, secure environment of the shelter and the friends I had made with the other residents was scary, my children cried and said "mommy we want to stay here". It was the safest they had felt in years. Operation Care put me in touch with the right people and companies to get the help that I needed. They helped me to start a new and better life.

Today, five years later I am still at the same job, my children are in school and doing well. We attend church regularly. We are living a better life because of the support and guidance we received there, at Operation Care. From the time I entered their program it was all up hill. I am so glad and thankful I made the decision to seek their help.

A year ago we moved into our own beautiful new home! I never thought it would be possible to own my own home.

My heart now is to help and encourage other people to seek for help. Today I think about how my children and I didn't have any where to go. A shelter was the last place I wanted to go. The harder things in life are usually the right thing to do. Thank God Operation Care was there to help me in the time of need. My children and I have a stable environment and a brand new home because of the support I received. My children and I are very blessed to say Thank you Operation Care for the opportunity to stay there and to get my life back in order.

*A.S.
Shelbyville*

I am the oldest son and my experience at Operation Care was such a blessing for me, my brother and sisters, all that I could think about when I was there was how blessed we were to have a place to live. What they did inspired us to strive to be better people in life. And without them I really don't think we would be in the position we are in right now because, we have a new house and I have an amazing mom and I love her so much because without her I am nothing. She has taught me to be the person I am for the most part through the help of God and the people there at Operation Care.

Which Way to Go

My name is M.W and I would like to take a few moments of your time to share with you my thoughts and feelings of Operation Care, it's employees and what it means to me.

I grew up in Louisville and had never even been to Shelbyville and knew no one in this town. Due to a series of bad decisions, depression and financial crisis, I found myself with nowhere to live. I had lost my apartment; almost all I owned was in storage and had nowhere to go. I did have a job but I knew I needed help to get myself together. I work in Louisville and one night I left work and flipped a coin on which way to head on I64, east-bound won. I don't know why I chose the Shelbyville exit off the freeway, but I felt like something or someone was helping guide me. I drove around a little, thought it looked like a nice little town and found a room in a cheap motel and that's where I lived. Most of my money went to the weekly room fee and it wasn't even a nice room. I had very little heat and sometimes after the bills I paid, I had little for food. I was scared being alone and not knowing anyone...strange people coming to my door all hours of the night looking for their "friend" or the woman sleeping with one's husband...I was terrified, but it was all I could afford.

One day I got a local newspaper and it had a small catalog publication in it about Shelbyville. It had info about the town, businesses, police, library, restaurants, etc. I looked thru everything, trying to find something or someone who could maybe help me. That's where I found Operation Care... I called the number and spoke to an employee who listened to my story, asked questions and seemed to really be worried about my situation. I went to Operation Care, met with them, gave them all the info that they needed and waited. When the phone rang and I got the news that I had been accepted into the shelter, I literally felt the weight of my worries lift off of me. My problems didn't all go away, but I felt I could breathe easier and I had a chance. Operation Care took me in and showed me how to get myself back on my feet, to get my confidence back, and that I mattered and could do something better. They helped me with personal problems, money, and confidence; get myself on a budget and manage my money better. I also loved that I was not alone. I had others living with me that was in the same type of situation and even worse, they had children to worry about. The strength of some of those women helped me be stronger.

Continued

I made some great friends there and met some caring, loving people who made a difference in my life, whether they know it or not.

I stayed there a year and Operation Care helped me get an apartment, helped with utility deposits and other necessities to get my life going again. I've been in my apartment for 2 years now and love knowing that I have my own place to come home to. It may not be a penthouse, but it's mine and it's home. I have still made a few mistakes/decisions since I've been on my own, such as getting myself a car payment that was more than I could comfortably afford. Although I no longer lived at the shelter, I felt I could go to Operation Care for advice about this. Judy Roberts with her soothing voice and calm nature helped me through it and not only helped me decide what to do, but gave me the opportunity to get another vehicle, one that had been donated to help someone else. It was mine for a small fee of transfer cost, and I can't tell you how great it is not to have a car payment. This enabled me to have more of my paycheck for me and I can use that money for things I have put off buying for myself such as a long time and most importantly, more money to spend on my granddaughter by having more chances to travel to see her and bring her back to spend the weekend with me. Something I couldn't do as much as I wanted to.

I would just like to tell everyone involved with Operation Care, from the employees, to its founder, Theresa Hardin, and all who donate to this special place that you have truly made a difference in my life and I even think you saved my life. I had almost given up. I think I was led to them for a reason and I know that people there still care about me today and if for some reason I was in a crisis situation, they would again step up and help me. I hope the city and the community realize what a wonderful organization Operation Care truly is and just how many people they help every day.

Thank you for all you do and for all the care and love you have showed me....

M.W

Love & Hope was found

I am 38 years old. I have 3 children and 1 granddaughter. One is a freshman at Eastern Kentucky University, and the others live with me. My husband began to be abusive and I could no longer stay in that relationship. Escaping the abuse left me broke, broken hearted and I felt worthless. My children and I did not deserve that. I retained an Emergency Protection Order on him. I lived on unemployment and until it ran out. My self esteem was very low and depression set in. I felt that I had crawled into a hole and could not get out. I lost my apartment and stayed here and there till finally I had no where for my family and myself to stay.

We started staying at the Greenvew Motel. People would help us pay the weekly motel bill. Then an angel, Rachel Paige called and told me about Operation Care's Women's Shelter. Rachel talked to Lisa with Operation Care to see what we needed to do in order to get in the shelter. After the application process and we were approved we moved into the Shelter. They offered us hope and a place to live. For a person like me hope has never been a word I could use to describe my life. Everyone has made my journey a whole lot easier. I am so grateful for the chance they gave me and my children.

Operation Care has worked with me to get signed up for JCTCS. I have always dreamed of becoming a nurse. I am now in the Work to Learn Program and will begin college in January. Once I start college I will go from the Work to Learn program to the Ready to Work Program. I will put 20 hours in at the Thrift Store and through the Ready to work Program I will be paid. This will allow me to start feeling like I am able to provide for my family again. I already volunteer at the Thrift Store as a way to pay back for the generosity that Operation Care has given to me. I am a lot stronger now than I was. I have more support in my life then I have had in a long time. I feel more love by people that I have known for less than a year.

Operation Care is full of loving and caring people and has already given us the greatest gift of all, a place to call home!

My story is not finished but the ending will now be a happier one for I have made changes for the better, made new friends that care and feel I have a whole new family.

*Thank you and God bless you
SW*

Blessed Many Times

I will start by saying how blessed Shelby County is to have Operation Care! I know my family and I are very thankful for what they have done for us. Not once but several times they have been there for me and my children. We were residents at the shelter, later I fell on hard times again and they helped me find a place. Not only did they help me with their funding but when I needed an ear or shoulder they were always there. I love what they do for low income families and believe me when you walk in, you know that GOD is on their side. If they could help every needy family here in Shelby County, I know they would. All I can say is; they have truly come through for us when I really had nowhere else to turn. I love each and every one of them and I pray that GOD continues to bless them in every way possible.

CB

Shelbyville

Things Happen for a Reason

I come from a good family, I feel that I am well educated and even have my degree in accounting. I have been the executive director for a non-profit agency here in Shelby County several years ago and helped others in need. On November 1, 2010 I found myself needing the help. I had lived away from Kentucky for a few years but decided to come back to Shelby Co where I was born and raised. I wanted to be close to my son and grandson. I did not know how hard it was going to be to find work when I decided to come back. I was not picky where I applied for a job. I just needed work so that I could get my own place to live. I stayed with a few friends but could not stay with them for long as they had no room and could not afford to support their family and myself. I had signed up to go back to college and would be ok once school started and I received my financial aide. I just didn't know what I would do before that happened. I finally decided that I was down to no choice but to sleep in my van. I did that one night and knew I could not do that with the cold weather. Just that one night was so cold and I thought "How does the homeless to this night after night and not being so lucky to have the vehicle to sleep in. I thought "Homeless?, oh my gosh that is me!!!"

All of the stress was getting the best of me and making me feel down and depressed. I needed to get back on my blood pressure pills and I did not have any health insurance and had very little money. A friend told me to go make an appointment at Mercy Clinic. At this point I drove to the Clinic to make an appointment and on the application I left off my address since I didn't really have one. The receptionist asked me for my address. Embarrassed that I did not have one I just said "101 anywhere I park it." She looked at me strange and I said "Well I slept in my van last night so I guess my address is where ever I park." She smiled at me and said "are you homeless?" I said that I was and for the first time I admitted that to myself. She then gave me the name and address for Operation Care to call or stop by there to see if they had any openings in the Women's shelter. I drove around for a little while before going in to Operation Care to ask for help. I have always thought a shelter was just a room full of cots. I picture everyone on their cots holding tight to all their belongings just like I have seen on TV and in the movies. How could I have let this happen to me?

I finally went in and asked for an application. After filling out the application I was interviewed by Lisa. She stated she would review application and she would get back to me later in the day. It was just a matter of an hour or so that

Lisa called my cell phone, I was approved. I was still nervous not knowing what to expect.

Lisa had made an appointment for me to meet with the Caseworker. I still was not sure this is what I wanted to do. My pride was getting in the way. I put it off and took till right up till the time of my appointment to go back. I finally decided that I had to put my pride aside and do what I had to do to have a roof over my head and a warm place to live for awhile. After going through the paperwork the caseworker took me to the shelter and showed me around. I was so relieved when I saw the inside of the shelter. It was like a big apartment. We had our own private bedroom. We shared a kitchen, living-room and bathroom. Just knowing I would have my own bedroom and could lock it made me feel so much better. The caseworker also took me down to Operation Cares food pantry and fixed me up a food box. She kept asking me If I needed this or that and I would just say if I had some fruit, peanut butter and crackers I would be ok. I didn't want any more then I had to have because of my pride again. I knew that I wouldn't really eat much because of my nerves and depression.

Everyone at Operation Care was great. They would come and check on me and see if I was doing ok or if I needed anything. From the first day I moved into the shelter they all made me feel like family. They made sure that I had a place to go for Thanksgiving dinner. Christmas time rolled around and my depression was much better but I didn't feel much liking being around a lot of people and being so "festive". Operation Care employees made sure I had something to open for Christmas. This was the only Christmas gifts I had received. I sat on my bed and opened the bags and started to cry. I thought to myself "How could someone be so nice to me and not even know me."

I said many prayers at night asking GOD why he was putting me through all of this. I really didn't understand how someone with my background could end up homeless. Over time I started to see what GOD's plans for me were. After being in the shelter for a couple of months Judy, the Executive Director of Operation Care asked me if I would be willing to be the shelters House Mom since we were getting new families in.

I became very close to a new family that came into the shelter in February and started to see what GOD's plan was for me. Over time this family and I became very close. The mother and I are like sisters to this day. I took her under my wings and have been there to listen to her, help her when I can. Just offer her a shoulder to cry on when she needs one. She came in just like I did, depressed

and feeling like she was worthless. I was able to share my experience and how I felt. Having someone to talk to that was in the same situation seemed to help her. How would I have ever met this family had me becoming homeless not been part of GOD's plan.

I started my college classes in January and by March I was approached by Judy Roberts, the Executive Director about my accounting background. She asked what type of work I was looking for. After talking to her and explaining to her with school I wanted something part-time. Working part-time would allow me days off to go to my classes and do my studying. The first of March I was hired by Operation Care as Judy's, Administrative Assistant.

As of June 16th I have now moved into my own apartment and still work for Operation Care. I love my job and everyone that I work with. I was told they would help me set up apartment with things I needed from the Thrift Store. I am the type of person that if I can do it on my own I will. Since staying in the shelter as House mom I was able to save up the money to set up my apartment. With the prices for things in the Thrift Store I was able to furnish my whole apartment from furniture and household items I need for around 500.00. Being able to afford to buy my own things was possible because of Operation Care's Thrift Store. The money the Thrift Store makes helps people like me. By buying my own things from the Thrift Store was one way of making me feel I was paying forward for all of the help they gave to me over the time I lived in the shelter.

I am where I am in life now thanks to GOD and Operation Care, and the community that supports Operation Care. If anyone ever has clothes, household items, furniture, even money please do not hesitate to donate to Operation Care. Anything you do does help someone that does greatly appreciate it! Never give up no matter what life brings your way or how hard things get, it will work out I am proof of that! I feel I am a much better person now that I had to go through this path GOD made for me.

*GOD Bless!
T D S
Shelbyville*

For all that you
and your whole group
have done, not just
for me, but every
single woman before
and after me, May
our sweet Lord repay
you all justly, seven
fold, heaped up,
pressed down, and
running over. ^{Love} ~~always~~.

The women transitional program at operation care has done so much to help me and the community. I came to Operation care in 2016. I had lost my job and my apartment. After searching for a place to stay and sleeping in my car for two days I found a place here at Operation Care.

Operation Care opened the hands and heart to help. While staying here at Operation care they have supported me through searching for employment and taking classes to further my education. They also have given me employment opportunity while saving money to purchase a car and for deposit for an apartment.

Operation Care have provided spiritual enrichment in and through Jesus Christ.

I am so Thankful for the help Operation Care has provided. Without thier help I don't know

where I would go or how I could have gotten to where I am today.

Thank you Operation
Care for helping