



Assisting Women from Homelessness to Independence



**Ie'Shaei'e**

November 23, 2017

**HOME – This means a lot to you and me.** Waking up each day, feeling good and knowing you have a place to eat, sleep and shower. Knowing that no matter what happens during the day, you can return to the same place each night to refresh and start again. Could you picture, for a moment, not having a home?

**Meet Ie'Shaei'e. Thanks to you, Ie'Shaei'e now has a home.**

Ie'Shaei'e was born poor and has remained poor all her life. She spent her teenage years living in a car. At 14, she developed a drug addiction, which led to a criminal record. For 10 years, she bounced between living in shelters and in her car. Eventually, she got help to manage her depression and was able to attend a rehabilitation center. She maintained her sobriety for 3 years, **but she was still homeless.** In August 2017, at 29 years of age, Ie'Shaei'e came to Sophia's Place, our shelter program.

**During all the difficult times, she held onto her job at Burger King.** Our Day Center staff helped enroll her at Bellevue College, where she is now studying to become a pharmacy assistant. What she appreciates about the Day Center is “getting resources” – everything from meals, to clothing, bus tickets and toiletries provided by generous community members like you, that make women like Ie'Shaei'e feel valued. These life-saving resources allow them to set aside their limited income and save towards rent.

During her shelter stay, her housing case manager helped her complete **28 housing applications**, research low-income apartments, and connect to other supportive services. These included health care coverage, food stamps, mental health care, legal assistance, and substance abuse counselling.

**Ie'Shaei'e got into housing just a few days ago.** She is now part of our Rental Assistance Program (RAP) where she pays **30% of her income towards rent.** The Sophia Way pays the remaining amount and provides continuous case management to ensure her housing stability. We are able to do this because of your generosity.

And with your help, this year we've had a record breaking impact:

- ♡ **105** women have been housed – **a 300% increase from last year**
- ♡ **412** women have been served at the Day Center – a 35% increase from last year
- ♡ Day Center operation hours have increased by 85% since 2015
- ♡ **70** women have stayed at Sophia's Place – a 4% increase from last year
- ♡ For the last **6 weeks**, **65** women have had a safe, warm place at our Emergency Winter Shelter.

With your support, we have significantly increased our capacity to serve more women. Expanding the use of flexible funding, provided by donors like you, has been the key to getting more women into housing quickly. Your donation allows us to help women overcome the number one barrier of getting into housing – security deposit, and first and last month's rent. With your help, we are addressing our community's homeless crisis head-on.

**Now, more than ever, your financial gift is needed to place more women into housing. Here is what you can do:**

- \$50** Provides one night of shelter for a woman
- \$145** Funds a day of outreach services to provide lifesaving resources and support to women on the streets
- \$500** Gives one woman move-in costs to establish stable housing
- \$1,500** Can prevent one woman from being evicted into homelessness
- \$5,000** Provides housing assistance, access to hygiene supplies and other supportive services at our Day Center for a week

Please consider a gift today. Your tax-deductible investment can do so much to strengthen our mission and get a woman, like Ie'Shaei'e, off the streets, and into safe, affordable housing. Thank you for your heart commitment to your community and neighbors in need.

With deepest gratitude,



Angela Murray  
Executive Director

**P.S. You have the power to make women like Ie'Shaei'e realize that they live in a community that truly cares. During this giving season, you can alleviate the affordable housing crisis by donating today.**