



"I DON'T KNOW HOW I COULD  
HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU.  
I NEVER KNEW THERE  
WAS A PLACE TO HELP  
WOMEN LIKE ME."

—Karen



Dear Friends,

## "WHY WON'T ANYONE BELIEVE ME?"

Those are the words of Jennifer, who came to HAVEN for safety, for shelter, and to start a new life—a life without fear.

To say Jennifer was scared and alone is an understatement. She was just 14 years old. For two years she had been raped by her sister's husband. Not only did her family not believe her, but they called her a liar. While she babysat for her niece and nephew, her brother-in-law would come to the room that Jennifer was sharing with her 2-year-old niece and rape her. He told her no one would believe her if she told. But Jennifer told a classmate, who helped her find the courage to come forward. She was examined at START (HAVEN's forensic nurse examination program) and received the medical care and support she needed from the nurse and First Response advocate. When the case came to trial, HAVEN was there. The START nurse testified and the First Response advocate provided emotional support. The rapist was found guilty and is now serving time in prison.

**\$500.00**—provides 40 sweat suits for adult survivors in our START program

**\$100.00**—provides Crisis and Support Line counseling to one of HAVEN's 7,000 annual callers to our 24-hour crisis line

**\$50.00**—provides two hours of counseling and safety planning to an adult survivor of domestic and sexual violence

**\$25.00**—feeds a family of five in our emergency residential shelter

**\$10.00**—helps provide art therapy supplies and games for children in our Counseling Program

[Click here to donate](#)

I want to thank you for believing in Jennifer and in HAVEN. With your support this past year, we answered 6,293 crisis calls, sheltered 514 women and children from abuse and rape, and provided vital services to protect and heal the most vulnerable among us. In total, HAVEN touched over 30,000 lives in the past year alone. But our work is not done.

**Please consider making a gift today.** Your donation will save and change lives. In Michigan, 1 in 3 families experience domestic violence; in the U.S., 1 in 6 women and 1 in 33 men have been sexually assaulted. We can't just hope that this violence will stop, we can't just wait for someone else to believe—we need to work together and stop it now!

Jennifer is just one of the many individuals we were able to help with your support. On her behalf and ours, I thank you for your ongoing commitment.

Sincerely,

Beth L. Morrison  
President & CEO

*P.S. Please give generously before December 31 for your gift to be eligible for 2009 tax credits and deductions.*

*\*Names have been changed to protect the identity of the survivors.*

P.O. Box 431045 Pontiac, Michigan 48343-1045  
(248) 334-1284 Website: [www.haven-oakland.org](http://www.haven-oakland.org) Crisis and Support (877) 922-1274 TTY: (248) 334-1290

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