

EVERYDAY GRACE

Winter 2014



Baby Alice has
a bright future
because of YOU!

You Made a
Difference in 2013!

You Gave Rocky the Gift
of Possibility!

Thank You For Giving a
Senior Confidence!



Baby Alice has a bright future because of YOU!

You Gave a Young Mother a Chance!

Baby Alice is a healthy, curious, happy 5-month old. Her mother, Christina, is determined to give Alice what she never had growing up. Born into a family where drug abuse is the norm, she spent her teens skipping school and hanging out with the “wrong kids.” By her senior year, she was a full-blown addict and pregnant.

Being pregnant with Alice gave Christina the drive to change her life. She started a 12-step program and looked for a safe, positive environment. Her baby girl, Alice, arrived healthy and drug-free. Christina vowed to raise her daughter with the values her childhood lacked.

Unfortunately, making it on

her own proved harder than she imagined; she worked long hours, but it simply was not enough, and soon they were on the street.

“When I found Volunteers of America,” Christina remembers, “I just felt a wave of relief. I was not going to have to be on the streets with my baby. I’m just so thankful to you for keeping my baby girl safe.”

Christina remains committed to her sobriety, attending several 12-step meetings a week. She is also working with Robin, her case manager, to find a job and resources to help her build a life for Alice. Your support ensures that women like Christina have a safe place to make a new start.

\$45 Provides Safe Shelter for a Homeless Family!

You Made a Difference in 2013!

109

Mothers received substance abuse counseling and parenting classes.

130

Formerly homeless foster youth received mentorship.

477

Veterans were saved from homelessness.

810

Children were saved from homelessness.

14,754

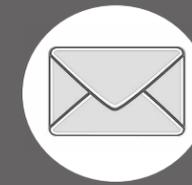
Volunteer hours performed at 40 programs.



GIVE
\$15 helps a foster youth build a future



VOLUNTEER
Sign up today!
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You Gave Rocky the Gift of Possibility!

Rocky was raised by his grandmother, until his adolescent trouble-making grew too much for her. He spent his teen years in foster care, bouncing from one group home to the next, surrounded by kids making poor choices. After high school, Rocky got by on temp-jobs. His nights were spent sleeping in his car. He ran with the same rough crowd he grew up with, watching as his friends' choices landed them in jail.

Not wanting to suffer a similar fate, Rocky left his old friends and entered a homeless shelter. He started going to church where a deacon introduced him to Volunteers of America.

A few days later, Rocky had entered the VOA program and



“Thank you for showing me what's possible!”

dove right into changing his life. “Rocky had all the motivation in the world, but he needed help finding direction, and now he’s unstoppable,” says youth advocate, Eli.

Rocky is pretty busy these days. He attends classes, learning new life-skills and how to be self-sufficient. He recently got hired at a plumbing company. Rocky

is thrilled to be learning new skills and is constantly awed by the overwhelming support he feels at Volunteers of America. “Growing up, I didn’t know what a good life looked like. I didn’t know what possibilities are out there. Now, I wake up happy, excited by opportunities. And I’m just so grateful!” Thank you for giving Rocky the opportunity to build a new future for himself.

You Can Help a Foster Youth Find a New Path for \$25!

Thank You for Giving a Senior Confidence!

After two tours of duty in Vietnam and nine years serving in the Army Airborne division, rejoining civilian life was challenging for James, age 67. He had lost contact with his family, and most of his friends. Decades later, his life felt empty.

So, it seemed like a prayer had been answered when his step-daughter got in touch. After a

few months of emailing and phone calls, she invited James to come live with her. James was thrilled to reconnect with family.

However, it quickly became clear that his step-daughter had other motives for bringing James into her home. It began with asking for help with bills; eventually she demanded James give her access to his bank accounts. Before he knew it, his savings had dwindled to a mere \$100. Realizing he was in trouble, he called Veteran Affairs who referred him to Volunteers of



America. Here he is working to recover from financial exploitation and reconnecting with other family members who are happy to have him back.

“Thank you for giving me a reason to get up in the morning, and the confidence to move ahead. Being here changed my outlook on who, and what, I am.”

Your Gift of \$30 Helps a Senior Get a New Start!

Connect with VOA!



Yes! I want my donations put to work changing lives right here in my community! Enclosed is my gift of:

\$25 to provide mentorship to a foster youth

\$30 to give a senior a new start

\$45 to provide safe shelter for a homeless family

\$_____ to help in any way I can

email: _____

name: _____