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**"He left me there with no furniture, no money, nothing. I could not pay rent and the bills..."**

**Assalaamu Alaikum (Peace be on You) Dear Friends,**

Read this story of an amazing survivor of Domestic Violence!

She has gone through many many ordeals and the assistance that TMWF has given her could not have occurred without your SUPPORT!

#### **'Faith' finds hope through TMWF**

"Faith" joined her husband in the United States after he moved from her home country for employment. After moving, she later discovered that he owed large sums of money in child support debt from previous marriages that she knew nothing of. Faith did all she could to support her husband, spending all of her savings to help him pay his debts as well as their daily bills and expenses. Faith's husband, soon began to demand more control over her finances and became physically abusive. Finally, when Faith ran out of money, he abandoned her, taking the few remaining possessions they owned. **"He left me there with no furniture, no money, nothing. I could not pay rent and the bills..." Alone in the United States, with no money, Faith was left with nothing, and ashamed to ask her family for help.**



Faith spent a period of time living in various shelters and homes and was eventually taken in by a woman from her church. She began working odd jobs - cooking and cleaning to provide income so that she could help pay bills at her new home. Without work authorization in the United States, Faith found herself more vulnerable to people who would try to take advantage of her and not pay her fair wages for her work. Recalling one employer, "He would seek out women like me and take advantage of us paying next to nothing for a full day's work. I had to learn how not to get taken advantage of."

In 2012, Faith was introduced to Texas Muslim Women's Foundation (TMWF) by a friend and though she is not Muslim, she found compassion and support. TMWF provided Faith with Counseling and Legal Support. TMWF helped her obtain her United States Work Authorization. Faith beamed with joy as she showed her newly received work authorization card, "I was upset because I haven't been able to work much lately because of the bad weather. Today I came in for counseling and I find out about this (showing her work authorization card). I guess God had something better for me this week!"

**In spite of her years of dealing with the hardships from her abuse, Faith beams with joy as she talks about TMWF.**

*"They really support you here. They celebrate with me when good things happen and help me when I need it. To have somewhere to go especially when you are from another country with no money and family, give you courage and strength to go on. Domestic Violence has no respect of culture, status or place in society and it has a stigma. It is something where it takes time to realize because you love the person who is abusing you. It breaks you. TMWF builds you up and makes you whole again when you are broken from abuse."*

**Please help us continue to give hope to clients like Faith by making your gift to TMWF today!**

*NOTE: Because we protect our clients' identities, we cannot provide their true names.*

## WAYS TO SUPPORT TMWF

**Together, we can build strong, peaceful communities where all women are empowered and families are strengthened. We appreciate your gifts!**

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