



Patience Was No Longer an Option

*Gabriella was married with four children. Her husband was extremely abusive, both verbally and physically. She was beaten often and at times dragged along the floor by her hair. On several occasions, her husband threatened her by putting a gun to her head. She had contemplated leaving, but was afraid of her husband. She thought she should try to stay and maybe things would change if she remained patient.

However, one evening, she had a feeling that her husband might actually kill her soon. She decided she had to get help, so she found the TMWF shelter hotline number and called. Unfortunately, when she called the shelter was at **full capacity**. However, when the shelter manager and coordinator heard Gabriella's story, they asked her if she was willing to sleep on a mattress on the floor for a couple of nights until beds became available. Gabriella agreed and escaped to the shelter that night with her four children.

At the shelter, Gabriella received counseling and her children received therapy. Her case manager helped her apply for part time work as a substitute teacher, and then she moved out into transitional housing. When she arrived in the transitional housing she felt an inner peace she had not felt in a very long time. She was finally able to do things on her own without an abusive husband threatening her every move.

The TMWF legal team helped her apply for and get her divorce finalized. Then Gabriella and her four children moved out of transitional housing into their own place. She is now living there and doing well. **Additionally, she is studying to attain her certification to become a teacher.** Gabriella thanks everyone at TMWF for everything that they helped her achieve, and most especially the ability to get back on her own two feet.

**Name has been changed to protect her identity.*