



Uma's Success Story

Uma*, a young woman, and her husband, and their 3 children came from East Africa to the U.S. as refugees. While living with her husband in the U.S., Uma was abused **physically, emotionally, and financially** by her spouse and had no one to turn to. Her friends were afraid to help her; her community was unable to understand what she was going through and asked her to be more understanding of her spouse to keep the family together. Because of her community, **Uma never called the police**, but instead decided to move out of the state she was living in to be far away from her husband. For her and her children's safety, she was determined to flee her domestic violence situation and find help. When she arrived in Texas, Uma was referred to TMWF by a refugee and resettlement agency in Dallas. Uma arrived to Peaceful Oasis Emergency Shelter in heightened distress, fearing that her spouse would find her, take her children away from her, or do more harm to her and her children.

Within 24 hours of arriving at Peaceful Oasis, Uma met with her case manager for services assessment. Uma and her children were referred to the counseling department and legal services. Uma had a hard time adjusting to her situation and to open up to services staff because of her culture and beliefs. However, fortunately, Uma's case manager came from the same cultural background and spoke Uma's native language, which helped Uma cope with her reality and open up to her counselor so she could take full advantage of the services that she so desperately needed. While staying at Peaceful Oasis, Uma went to school to take **ESL classes, found a job, and applied for housing**. For the first time since having arrived in the U.S., Uma was able to hold her pay check in her hand without fearing someone would take it away from her, or accuse her of not making enough money, or demand that she work more hours to make more money.

After staying at the shelter for about 4 months, Uma moved to her apartment through the Dallas Housing voucher program. She was able to reduce her work hours to spend more time with her children and go to school. Uma is now working toward her GED, and filing for divorce through TMWF's legal services.

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