

A brighter future for Noor* and her children

After tragically losing her children and several members of her extended family to a natural disaster, Noor and her husband immigrated to the United States. As they started a new life, things were initially good– they were blessed with 2 more wonderful children, owned a home, cars and had jobs – ***until her husband began using drugs and their life began to crumble.*** For this kind, loving woman - who experiences joy from helping others - life was about to change dramatically.

As Noor's husband's drug habit worsened, he stopped supporting the family and she **lost everything**. Noor tried her best to encourage her husband to get help. "I told him, I love you. Go for treatment but he was deep into the drugs." With no money for rent, and in desperation, Noor contacted a social services agency. They referred her to Texas Muslim Women's Foundation Peaceful Oasis Shelter.

When Noor arrived at Peaceful Oasis Shelter with her children, she was greeted with compassion and warmth. "I cried when I went to the shelter. Everybody was very nice to me. They hugged me and told me it would be ok." In addition to providing safety and shelter, Texas Muslim Women's Foundation has helped Noor's children cope with being away from their father. After moving to the Shelter, Noor's son had begun to act out in anger against his mother. Texas Muslim Women's Foundation provided counseling that helped him to deal with the hardships he was facing. Today, he is showing signs of improvement. Through the Shelter, Case Management and Counseling, Noor and her children are finding encouragement to hope for a better future. After staying in the Shelter for several months, Noor has recently moved into her own apartment. She also has a job to provide for her and her children.

This ordeal spanning years, has been extremely tough and tested Noor in many ways. She has had to overcome hardships, cultural barriers in a foreign country without money and family. There are times after dropping off the children at school, she still sits in her car and cries for hours at her situation, but she prays that the future will be better for her and her children.

The support Noor's family has received from Texas Muslim Women's Foundation gives her hope. Through tears Noor shares her gratitude for the services and warmth she has received from Texas Muslim Women's Foundation staff. "They helped me. I love everybody at the Shelter." One day she hopes to be in a position where she could help others who are facing hardship.

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