[redacted]

Dec 2019

My Story

My name is Emily [redacted] just to give you a little bit of my background- I grew up with a very abusive father. I ended up being removed by child services in Florida after he broke my ribs and then pointed his gun at me which my older sister jumped in front of me and he shot next to her. I ended up moving in with my biological mother in New Jersey where I went and finished my last year of high school (I spent 4 years in foster care/group homes in Florida). I then went to college and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Arts and a certificate to teach elementary education. All I really knew was dysfunction and I wound up thinking I was in love with someone that started off being very nice and caring and then began being mentally abusive. It happened so gradually that I really can't even pinpoint when it really began. We had a child and things got even worse. He began hitting me until this past year he put me in the hospital for 3 weeks which is the point in which I knew I had to leave with the kids or next time I wouldn't be alive to tell anyone about it. My kids and I left with nothing. He had everything

from birth certificates to IDs/clothes/everything. I am now working at a daycare and building back up my life. It is a slow progression but life is better by far than it was.

My social worker let me know about your program so I could reach out. Having a computer makes my oldest daughter who is 9 able to complete her homework/research and it allows me to look up better jobs and possibly finish my masters degree in special education that I wasn't "allowed" to do with my ex.

Thank you for listening and I hope you are able to reach out to as many people in need as this is truly a blessing and lifesaver in so many ways!

Sincerely,

[redacted]