



1300 S. Fourth St, Suite 250 | Louisville, KY 40208 | (502) 636-9550 ext. 1213

December 8, 2020

Dear Friend,

My name is LeAndra Williams. I work for the Coalition for the Homeless helping Louisville families get into stable housing. I'm studying to receive my masters degree, and am the mother of a beautiful 11-month-old girl.

I've been proud to speak up for others ever since I was young, but as a child, I was heartbroken that I couldn't protect my mother from my father's bullying.

Five days before Christmas when I was just eight, my mother woke up my siblings and me, packed up a few of our things, and we left our home to escape my father. She was very upset, and so were we.



That first night, we had to sleep in her car—there were no available spaces for us anywhere. We parked in a hidden spot at Iroquois Park. I was terrified. But at 9am, after a long night full of new sounds, my mother got a call from a shelter.

They had a room for us.

It's hard to describe how relieved we felt. Once we arrived, we were immediately connected with resources for food, clothes, and school supplies. Our time in emergency shelter was short, but the impact that it had on my family was tremendous.

Each year, our team at the Coalition works with hundreds of families like mine—not just families escaping violence, but families who cannot pay their bills and who have to choose between housing and food.

This year, during the COVID-19 pandemic, **we've worked with so many parents who have lost their jobs**, and whose children are working to complete their educations virtually from a shelter or a car.

Why do we settle for this? I refuse to, and with your help, our city will not continue to settle, either.

www.louhomeless.org/donate

Will you make a donation today and help fund our work to end homelessness for families across Louisville?

When you support the Coalition, you help to empower families and bring them the stability they deserve.

One of my clients, Jameelah, is a single mother of three kids. Before we helped her to secure housing, she was couch surfing, staying in her car, or sleeping in the low-barrier shelter at Wayside. Working together, we helped Jameelah to apply for housing, and she is so thrilled to have a home now for the holidays with her children.

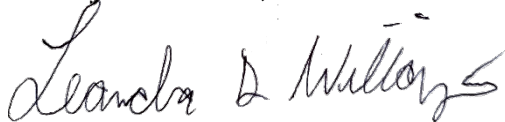
In addition to helping those in urgent need now, **we must prevent families from becoming homeless in the first place.** This year, thanks to your generous support, the Coalition successfully advocated for:

- more family shelter during the COVID-19 crisis,
- additional funding for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund,
- the recent passage of an expanded Fair Housing Ordinance, and
- \$21 million in rental assistance for Louisvillians facing eviction.

We are working to build a better city, and we need you.

Please continue to support this important work by donating to help more families find a home for the holidays.

Thank you so much,



LeAndra Williams
Prevention & Diversion Coordinator
Coalition for the Homeless

P.S. Every dollar you give before the end of the year will be doubled! We have an amazing \$15,000 matching challenge from an anonymous family foundation. Please give your most generous gift today.