

## Save the World

When you save a girl, you save a woman  
When you save a woman, you save a family  
When you save a family, you save a community  
When you save a community, you save a nation  
When you save a nation, you save the world

- Written by a Soroptimist Women's Opportunity  
Award Winner



*Note:* To protect confidentiality, photographs in this brochure depict models, not actual program participants. *Lisa's Story* is a fictionalized account.

## OUR THANKS

It costs approximately \$7,000 annually to support one family in the Transitional Housing Program. The success of "Journey to Independence" would not have been possible without the generosity of our corporate sponsors, community groups, and numerous individuals. Our sincere appreciation to all involved for their continuing support.

### ***PARTNERS***

Crisis House  
Community HousingWorks

### ***SPONSORS***

The Allstate Foundation  
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SOROPTIMIST

**Best for Women**

Soroptimist is an international volunteer organization for business and professional women who work to improve the lives of women and girls, in local communities and throughout the world.

**Soroptimist International of  
Poway & Rancho Bernardo  
P.O. Box 223  
Poway, CA 92074  
[www.SIPoway.org](http://www.SIPoway.org)**

**Domestic Violence Hotline  
1-888-DVLINKS**

## Journey to Independence

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## Transitional Housing Program For Victims of Domestic Violence



*Moving  
moms and kids  
away from abuse*



SOROPTIMIST

**Best for Women**

## Transitional Housing Offers New Beginnings

### Who are we?

The Transitional Housing Program is a collaborative effort begun in 1997, and is run by two local Soroptimist International clubs—Poway and Rancho Bernardo. These clubs provide the overall coordination of the program, working with Crisis House to identify and manage families, and Community HousingWorks to locate units.

### What is Transitional Housing?

This program provides families escaping domestic violence with up to 18 months of support, giving them a chance to get on their feet financially, locate a job, stabilize the children in schools, and ultimately find permanent housing. Families live in a rent-subsidized unit and receive weekly case management, counseling, job training, and referrals to other resources as needed.

### Is there a need for this program?

Families escaping violence are limited to 60 days in a secured emergency shelter. Without long-term programs such as Transitional Housing, they would have limited options and many would end up returning to their abuser.

More than two domestic violence incidents are reported to law enforcement every hour of every day. In 2004, there were over 21,000 incidents reported in San Diego County. The impact is even greater when you consider the fact that many incidents go unreported.



### Lisa's Story

It wasn't long after we were married that Ted developed a temper. When he started to hit me, I thought it was my fault; that if only I were a better wife, things would go back to the way they were. I didn't know what to do. I was alone and miserable, and filled with guilt. But, when I got pregnant with Sherri, I realized that I had to make a change for her sake. I tried to leave a few times, but couldn't find the courage to actually do it. Then during a fight a few months later, I lost my balance and fell, and Ted kicked me in the stomach. I was so frightened I would lose my child that I left right then, with nothing.



*"Every time I look at her, I know  
I did the right thing when I left"*

After a few days of living in the car, a friend directed me to an emergency shelter, and I was eventually placed in a Transitional Housing unit. The apartment was fully furnished with everything I needed. I received counseling, financial assistance, and met my mentor Judy, who was by my side when Sherri was born. Sherri is the light of my life and every time I look at her, I know I did the right thing when I left Ted. I am eternally grateful for the people who helped us start over. My little girl thinks that home is a happy and loving place, and I am thankful that she is right.

### How can I help?

There are a variety of ways you can help these families:

- ◇ Become a Corporate Sponsor—\$2,500 to \$7,000  
It costs \$7,000 a year to support one family
- ◇ Become a Benefactor Sponsor—\$1,000 to \$2,500  
Provide a portion of housing subsidy for a family
- ◇ Become a Contributing Sponsor—\$100 to \$1,000  
Sponsor a variety of family services
- ◇ Check our website [www.SIPoway.org](http://www.SIPoway.org) for the latest Transitional Housing wish list
- ◇ Join our club and become a Soroptimist



### Building Independence and Financial Freedom

Since 1997, the Transitional Housing Program has helped over **37 mothers and 79 children** reclaim their lives in a safe, supportive environment.

Compared to financial status prior to the program, Transitional Housing graduates typically **double their income.**