

A home where women can grow

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www.FreshStartHome.org

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December 2017

Dear Friend,

At this special time of year, we'd like to share a letter written by Keenomo, one of the women who is thriving in our community, thanks to your support. She shares:

# "Fresh Start has given me so much. I started learning, growing, and feeling confident. It taught me how to be a good citizen."

I grew up around alcoholics. It was normal to wake up, drink, and pass out by the end of the night. By age 22 I identified as an alcoholic and suffered from depression. Twenty years later, most of my children are adults and one is a ward of the state. I received my third DUI, sending me to prison. I started my recovery by attending AA meetings there. After being released from incarceration, I had nowhere to go, and I didn't know how to ask for help. I lived in a van the first month after being released.

### "I have hope again, something I lost a long time ago."

December 24, 2016, I moved what little clothes I had into Fresh Start. I couldn't believe how clean it was, how welcoming the staff made me feel. I was provided with a case manager who assisted me in developing goals; within two weeks I had a part-time job while receiving disability. (Donations to) Fresh Start provided me with a whole new wardrobe, which made me feel beautiful.

#### "I know the Lord saved me, I know Fresh Start saved me."

Now, my new life has just begun and I owe it all to Fresh Start. With the help of Fresh Start I have my own apartment. I've completed treatment and all my probation classes. I have custody of my son again. I'm going back to school in January 2018 for Human Services. I want to help people just like Fresh Start helped me. Thank you Fresh Start, for showing me the world again.

## Keenomo has hope again, because of you.

Every woman comes to Fresh Start with her own struggles and strengths, but all of them need the caring, supportive environment of Fresh Start to change their lives. And Fresh Start needs you. Here are some ways you can help:

- \$10 for 12 Program (monthly donation of \$10 for one year)
- \$25 to recognize our 25 years of service
- \$50 affords one night of shelter and support services
- \$250 supports one week of groceries & supplies for the entire shelter
- \$1,500 provides one month of services (safe shelter, food, advocacy)

Please help us continue to assist women like Keenomo. To find out more, visit www.FreshStartHome.org or call (402) 475-7777. Thank you.

Happy Holidays,

Monica Zinke, Executive Director

**Board of Directors**