

## Diamond Thought She Was Going to Die

**YOU HELPED HER LEARN TO LIVE AGAIN.**

Like many women in abusive relationships, Diamond, who is 22, had been surprised by her boyfriend's violent change of character. She had accepted that he was "not an easy-tempered person." But only five months in, she says, *"His random anger was just bursting. He was not able to control his temper."* A few weeks later, Diamond ended the relationship. As she was walking out, her boyfriend met her at the bottom of the stairs and shot her in the face.

The bullet went through Diamond's cheek and down her throat, landing at her esophagus. *"I didn't know I was shot right away,"* she recalls. *"When I realized the bullet went in my face, my first thought was that I was going to die. I did my best to stay calm."*

Diamond's boyfriend called the police and turned himself in. Diamond was rushed to the hospital for emergency surgery. After being in a coma for two weeks, her ordeal was just beginning. *"I fought for my life for*

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“I feel like myself again.”

**Diamond**  
LSS CHOICES Client

LSS CHOICES



## A MESSAGE FROM RACHEL LUSTIG, PRESIDENT AND CEO

Many of the things we're thankful for we sometimes take for granted, like feeling safe in our own homes. Sadly, too many people live in fear of their partners, like Diamond in this issue of FOCUS. When she left, she almost lost her life. However, thanks to your support, she found healing at LSS CHOICES. For more than four decades, it has been the sole resource for safe shelter and healing for victims and their children in Franklin County.

Your generosity for LSS ensures that we can continue providing services to anyone experiencing domestic violence. **And to recognize Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October, I hope you'll make a special gift today.**

In fact, LSS CHOICES is just one way your support touches lives. You give struggling families access to nutritious food through LSS Food Pantries. You also help care for those who are hungry and homeless through LSS Faith Mission. **Thank you for your compassion and generosity.**



Rachel Lustig  
LSS President  
and CEO



## Faithful Friends Needed

### GIVE YEAR-ROUND SUPPORT TO YOUR HURTING AND HUNGRY NEIGHBORS

Our Faithful Friends monthly giving program is an easy and convenient way to ensure men and women in need can receive help to overcome hunger, homelessness, trauma and other crises.



#### YOUR MONTHLY SUPPORT WILL PROVIDE STEADY FUNDING FOR:

- Hot Meals
- Groceries
- Shelter
- Veteran Services
- Health Care
- Case Management
- Job Readiness
- And more!

Please consider becoming a Faithful Friend today. Your commitment will bring real help and hope to your neighbors in need every day, all year round.

Scan this QR code to become a Faithful Friend today.



### THANKSGIVING IS A TIME TO GIVE THANKS AND GIVE BACK.

No one should be hungry on Thanksgiving — or any day. **Please give generously to make this holiday season special for those who are hurting.** Thank you!

#### \$4.72 PROVIDES A MEAL AND OTHER CARE







## You Helped Diamond Heal on the Inside

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*three weeks. My jaw was wired shut for two months. I had to relearn how to walk, how to talk — almost everything. It makes you feel genuinely helpless."*

Adding to her troubles, Diamond had nowhere to go. As she recovered, she worked with staff from LSS CHOICES to write the next chapter of her life. *"I came straight from rehab to CHOICES,"* Diamond tells us. *"They reassured me that I could heal and get back on my feet here. And they were right. I feel like myself again."*

Although she is completely healed physically, Diamond says, *"I'm still healing on the inside."* You gave her a safe place to restore her strength, her confidence and her future. She says, *"I'm very thankful for CHOICES. They make sure anybody who has any type of domestic situation that drastically changes their life can get back on their feet."*

**“** *He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.*

*— Psalm 147:3* **”**

## Help Break the Cycle of Domestic Violence

Your support today helps domestic violence survivors like Diamond experience healing, restoration and hope at LSS CHOICES through:

**OCTOBER IS  
DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE  
AWARENESS  
MONTH!**

- Emergency Shelter and Meals
- 24-Hour Crisis Hotline
- Case Management
- Peer Support Groups
- Counseling

Domestic violence homicides are on the rise in Central Ohio, and thousands of people reach out to us for help every year. Victims — and their children — need your help. Please partner with us, Franklin County's only domestic violence shelter, to provide life-saving services. Send a gift today or give securely online at **[lssnetworkofhope.org/FallNews](https://lssnetworkofhope.org/FallNews)**.

*If you or someone you know is a victim of domestic violence, please call our Crisis Hotline at **614-224-4663** or visit **[lssnetworkofhope.org/choices](https://lssnetworkofhope.org/choices)**.*

TEAM  
**CHOICES**  
BREAKING THE CYCLE OF  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TOGETHER

### JOIN TEAM CHOICES

Want to help break the cycle? Become a Team CHOICES volunteer fundraiser and rally your friends and family to raise critical funds for victims of domestic violence. You can create your own CHOICES fundraising page, organize a car wash, hold a garage sale or host your own creative event to inspire donations. For more information or to sign up, visit **[lssnetworkofhope.org/teamchoices](https://lssnetworkofhope.org/teamchoices)**.

# When Doran Asked for Help, You Were There for Him.

For most of his life, Doran struggled with asking other people for help. Eventually, he reached the point where he had to overcome his reluctance. After successfully fighting an unlawful eviction notice in court, Doran was glad the judge sided with him, but no longer wanted to stay in his apartment. With no other place to go, Doran came to LSS Faith Mission. It was one of the best decisions he ever made. *"They've helped me in ways I didn't think they would,"* he said. *"I don't have to do it by myself."*

Thanks to you, our neighbors who struggle with hunger and homelessness are not alone. Your support for Faith Mission provides them with many resources, including meals and shelter, as well as compassion and guidance.

During his time at Faith Mission, Doran has used many different support services. He received assistance with getting his military paperwork in order. He worked with a counselor to help address issues from his past while working on planning for the future. Through our resource

center, he has started applying to jobs and searching for apartments. He has also discovered different educational and self-help programs that have sparked his interest. *"Being here has taught me that maybe there is someone out there who can help me,"* he said.

In the short term, Doran is focused on finding long-term employment that he enjoys and that will pay him enough to be able to afford a nice apartment, this time with a fair landlord. He is very thankful to friends like you for all the support and care he has received at Faith Mission. He recognizes the important role it plays in the community.

*"To me, Faith Mission is a safe haven: a place where you can go to get help if you want it."*



## Hunger Action Month® FEEDING AMERICA

### TAKE ACTION AGAINST HUNGER IN OHIO

September is Hunger Action Month, and our hungry and hurting neighbors need your help!

Now more than ever, individuals, seniors and families struggle to put food on the table. LSS Food Pantries continue to serve hundreds of people requesting food assistance every day. These men, women and children depend on our pantries to persevere through lean times.

**Your support is even more critical now, in the wake of federal and state funding cuts. With our busiest season right around the corner, we're facing the strain of rising food costs, skyrocketing demand and dwindling resources.**

Please take action today by making a generous donation at [lssnetworkofhope.org/FallNews](https://lssnetworkofhope.org/FallNews).

**Your gift offers healing and hope to people in need across the LSS Network of Hope. That includes:**



Meals and shelter to homeless and hungry neighbors at LSS Faith Mission in both Franklin and Fairfield counties.



Nutritious food for families struggling with hunger at the LSS Food Pantries.



Safe refuge and healing for victims of domestic violence and their children at LSS CHOICES.

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### THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS



STAY CONNECTED

