

This is the third in an “occasional” series of articles highlighting the work being done by the charities supported by the **Stone Canyon Community Foundation**. Please take a minute to learn how your donations to the SCCF are being used by **New Beginnings for Women and Children**.

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE KIDS.....Laura's Story

No one would argue that the journey out of homelessness is a daunting one; and for a single mother with young children and no college degree, that journey probably seems impossible. Not so for Laura Lopez.

The 24-year-old mother of four has been working hard while staying at the **New Beginnings for Women and Children's 90-day Shelter**. Laura describes her attitude as having changed significantly since her arrival at the Shelter, “I didn't think I would be able to get a job because of my background and work history.”

She got pregnant at 17 and broke up with the child's father. Her more recent boyfriend went to jail, leaving her and the kids alone. After spending a week at a hotel without any money or a place to go, Laura found New Beginnings. She arrived there with her 4-year-old son, Manuel; 3-year-old daughter, Alexa; and 5-month-old son, Andres. Her oldest son, a 7-year-old, is in his grandmother's custody.



A program at the New Beginnings' Shelter called “*Jump Start*” was critical to her progress and current employment. Funded by a **2010 Stone Canyon Community Foundation Grant Award**, the Jump Start Program accelerates the process of finding a job through education about interviewing, resume-building, and goal-setting. “Being here gives you motivation to wake up and actively do something about your situation,” she said.

Laura reflected on her time with New Beginnings and said she would recommend the program to other women in similar situations. “Sometimes it seems like the world has turned its back on *just you*, but you come here and see other ladies have problems, too.” Laura's next move is to enter a housing program such as one of New Beginnings' Transitional Housing Communities.

Your donations to the Stone Canyon Community Foundation, give Laura, and others like her, the chance to start anew.



THANK YOU!
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