

CLIENT VOICES

“
Along The Way is very much engraved in my heart

I feel like the only way I can repay everything that was done for me is to stay stable and not backtrack. I'm at the most stable place I have ever been in my whole life, and I am just so thankful so my message to donors is this,

your donations are life-changing and are an investment in a better world. If we don't have proper child care, we can't raise healthy kids and give them the confidence to look towards something better. Along The Way gave me the tools to raise children that will graduate from high school. If I wasn't as stable as I am, my kids wouldn't have a chance; my own mother worked so hard with no support & with nobody around, I just dropped out of high school in the 9th grade.

You are really providing a safe & better future for our kids, and you are helping us break cycles.

Thank you! -*Maria, a former client served for 1 year immediately following an unexpected & difficult life event*



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"I think Along The Way is helping my mom get a better education for herself and helping her work and care for us because someone is there to watch her children and she doesn't have to worry about anything."

"Along the Way means peace of mind when I go into work. Peace of mind is priceless and that's what Along the Way provides for us."



Child care support is an anti-poverty initiative



CASE STUDY 1

supporting women as a community investment



Meet Karmen
FORMER CLIENT

Having reliable child care is really important because, of course, we have to work. The fact that someone can come into your home, kids feel safe, and I can have the privilege of going to work is what is needed to get ahead.

Karmen was attending college in Atlanta, Georgia when she found out she was pregnant. She did not plan the pregnancy, and unsure what she was going to do, she moved back to PA to be close to her family. When talking with her about that time in her life, she said,

"I had decided to get an abortion...I was at Planned Parenthood and in order to determine how far along I was, they did an ultrasound. I saw the hands fluttering and right then and there, I decided to keep my child."

She was 2.5 months pregnant. That was in August of 2016. Determined to fully own her choices, she didn't want to live with her family and "put that on them" -- meaning the lifestyle changes that her living with them would require, so she focused on building her own support network. She lived in Morningstar Maternity Home throughout her pregnancy, where she found out about Along The Way. Karmen was on our waiting list for child care support for 4 months and describes that time living independently while she waited for an opening as,

"lonely and overwhelming...I was in school and never had a break."

Through a lot of hard work -- made possible by getting the child care support she needed to invest in herself, she completed her CNA program and began working. She says "having reliable child care is really important because, of course, we have to work. The fact that someone can come into your home, kids feel safe, and I can have the privilege of going to work is what is needed to get ahead."

What's Karmen doing now? A LOT!

Her and her son are thriving! She's a mother to her 4 year old son, and now owns her own business. The doors of her Telford, PA dance studio, [Dance 625](#) opened in March 2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic; while her business is growing, she works part-time as a Certified Nurse's Aide and part-time as a caregiver for Along The Way families. She says,

"Along The Way is the true definition of 'it takes a village.' This organization changed my life...me and my family's life...I will always be grateful for it and I will always give back to it."

And indeed she does in so many ways, one of which is through hosting Along The Way parent education support & community events rent-free at her studio!

When families have what they need, they become agents of positive community change!



CASE STUDY 2

supporting women as a community investment



Meet Munah
FORMER CLIENT

My kids always say, I don't know how you do it by yourself; it's tough and I try not to let them see that, but in reality, they do see the hard work you put in and it allows me to be a role model for my kids and it's so rewarding to have them see me work hard. They see where we started at and where we are now.

When we met Munah, she was working a retail job and couldn't make ends meet. Along The Way provided child care during nontraditional hours so she could establish a career for herself and invest in her three boys. She worked full-time in retail, while going to school full-time. We helped her apply for school grants to offset her tuition costs.

"I was able to accomplish a career that I never thought I'd be able to do...on my own...I went to school full-time but Along The Way was there to provide those meals after I left school to go to work, take care of my children and it was just a peace of mind because it was either go to work or go to school [without Along The Way] but I was able to do both."

Reflecting on her time in the program, she says,

"...the kids looked forward to it, they came with their own board games and activities...they'd research science projects and I would come home to volcanos or putty being made. It was great because it was outside the box and they really spent time with my kids."



What's Munah doing now? **SERVING OTHERS!**

After years of getting the child care support she needed to begin full-time nursing school at 7am, while also working full-time on evenings/weekends, she finally became a licensed nurse!

"Going to school was very important because as I got older, I wanted to have some type of stability...resources to rely on; now with my career that I have, I'm able to save. I'm able to supply myself with a better car or prepare for those repairs or unexpected expenses, that I wouldn't be able to do before."

When women are supported to the point of gaining stability, then they give back to Along The Way and to their community.



former client

"I sponsored a bag because I want to give back, to pay it forward."

LOVE IT!



➤ **And she's begun to give back!**

She even won this state-wide award!



Awardee Munah Kanu, LPN

Community Action Association of PA

100% self-sufficient single mother of 3

JUNE 2023