

# HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

*Light snow fell over the city as the Yellow Cab came to a stop in front of SafeHouse Denver's Emergency Shelter. A young woman and small girl quickly stepped onto the sidewalk into the welcoming arms of a Domestic Violence Advocate and the promise of safety inside.*

*December 2014*

***This holiday season, SafeHouse Denver is privileged to share the traumatic past and very bright present of the small girl who came to our shelter that cold, snowy night. Now a happy, well-adjusted 4th grader, nine-year-old Sophie remembers...***

Even though I was only four, I can remember how scared I was before we left our house. My dad was so angry. He kept hitting Mom and calling her very bad names. I hid in my closet because I thought he would come after me next. Mom whispered that we had to leave. She called SafeHouse and they promised they would have two beds waiting for us.

Mom tells me that during our first week at the shelter I was quiet and afraid. I slept in her bed and held on to her all the time. But everyone at SafeHouse was kind and caring. They made sure that we had food, special treats and even Christmas presents. Mom called these nice people "Advocates" but I called them "helpers." They talked to me and helped me understand that yelling and hitting are never okay. They helped me make friends and become part of a special art group. **They helped me feel safe.**

Our SafeHouse Advocate helped Mom find a job and then an apartment. I still go to the same school where I started kindergarten and love 4th grade. Art is my favorite subject, but I like Math and Science too. I don't think about my dad or those scary times very often, but when I do, Mom, my teacher and school counselor are my helpers now.

Thank you,  
SafeHouse Denver!

Sophie



In the five years since Sophie was at our shelter, SafeHouse Denver has provided safety, basic necessities and a full range of support services to more than 500 children. **This year, Sophie is their voice, urging you to help other children heal from the abuse they've witnessed or endured.** We never charge for shelter or services, depending solely on the support of a caring community.

- Your gift of **\$1,500** will provide 20 nights of safe emergency shelter for adults and children fleeing from domestic abuse.
- Your support at **\$1,000** will provide 28 individual counseling sessions for survivors like Sophie's mom.
- A **\$500** donation will provide four nights of safe shelter and 20 crisis intervention sessions for children like Sophie, helping them begin to heal from the trauma they've experienced.
- A **\$250** contribution will support two children's participation in eight art therapy sessions, the group that Sophie so loved.
- Your **\$100** gift will allow one survivor to share her feelings and gain valuable insights through participation in 10 support group sessions.

**A gift of any amount will be sincerely appreciated and significantly impact our mission.**

Please take a moment, right now, to complete the information on our giving envelope and enclose your fully tax-deductible gift. Donations of \$100 or more are eligible for the Enterprise Zone Credit.

To increase the impact of your gift, donate online at **[www.coloradogives.org/safehouse](http://www.coloradogives.org/safehouse) on Colorado Gives Day, Tuesday, December 10th.** Donating on that day will allow SafeHouse Denver to receive a portion of a special incentive fund set up by the Community First Foundation and FirstBank. You can schedule your donation on the site right now.

On behalf of SafeHouse Denver's Board of Directors, Staff and, most especially, the domestic violence survivors we serve, **we join Sophie in wishing you a happy holiday season!!**

