

LEFSA Proves a Lifesaver

Sr. Dorothy Gallant co-founded and directs the Life Experience and Faith Sharing Association. LEFSA is a unique city-wide program that fills a critical void for those in city shelters by creating faith communities among the homeless. It is one of the CRT ministries that will be helped by the proceeds from the Spring Benefit. Here is one example of how LEFSA made a difference to Janet (not her real name).

Janet's story

Several years ago, I arrived at Life Experience and Faith Sharing Association, homeless and pregnant. Sr. Dorothy befriended me during that time when my life seemed to be falling apart. She encouraged me to get medical care and pregnancy counseling.

I began participating in the Life and Faith Sharing Community gatherings in the shelter and met other women who were struggling. We grew together in the knowledge that God is walking with us and loving us no matter what our situation is. We addressed goals for

futures that did not include being homeless. Gradually, my confidence and hope in a better life were restored. It was a happy day when I moved into my own apartment, which LEFSA helped me find and furnish with basics.

As a new mother, I needed help adjusting to all the new responsibilities in my life. I continued my connection with LEFSA and went to the monthly women's group meetings and leadership study days. My daughter came with me and became a part of the LEFSA family. When life became too overwhelming, I always got the encouragement to press on. I was able to raise my daughter, who is now in a Catholic HS. When she needs to talk with someone other than me about her troubles, she calls Sr. Dorothy and shares what is in her heart. She gets some counseling and assurance of her own goodness.

Today, I thank God that I am gainfully employed. I am grateful to LEFSA, which is always there with support, encouragement and care. LEFSA helped turn my life around. ■