

## Client Testimonies

**Mr. and Mrs. Jones** came to the Crisis Ministry office with their three school-aged children in tow. Exhausted, tearful and desperate after spending the night in their car, they needed help finding a place to lay their heads. They had planned to stay in a homeless shelter after being evicted from their apartment in Cary, but to their surprise, the shelters were full. They were told that it would be days or weeks before space would come available. Katie, the Dorcas Case Manager, met with the family and put together an action plan for them, to help them get back on their feet. She arranged for modest hotel accommodations until transitional housing would come available. That night, the Jones family had a place to lay their heads and a plan to work their way out of a very difficult situation. They have a long road ahead of them, but they are now in transitional housing and have a plan to work through their tough times. We are thankful to all those who work so hard to make funds available for families like the Jones. Your time, effort and donations make a difference.

A few weeks ago, **an Iraq war veteran** came in for food assistance. He had been severely injured by a road-side bomb, although he told me that the psychological stress of what he'd seen and experienced was far worse than the physical pain. He can't work until he completes physical therapy and gets his PTSD under control. He had just moved to an apartment in Cary to be near his family-- and he's eligible for food stamps- although he'll probably only receive about \$50/month and his food stamp application was pending. He was hungry. And embarrassed. And he hated to ask, but a friend told him to come to Dorcas Ministries for help. He only wanted a little bag- but I gave him a full order, filled with fresh vegetables, fruit, meat and enough to hold him over until he receives his food stamps. He cried- he was so grateful. I told him, "that's what we are here for... just neighbors helping neighbors."

**Anna** called the crisis ministry every day for week- she never left a message, but her phone number showed up on caller ID over and over again, so many times that I started to look for her name on the sign in sheet each morning. Finally, after 5 days, Anna signed in and we began to hear her story. She told the receptionist that her husband had left. And he cleaned out her bank account. And he left behind his wife of 4 years and his 2-year-old son. Anna could hardly hold herself together to complete the paperwork. Her hands shook. Tears welled up in her eyes. She was scared. When Mary called her back to the office, she reassured her that we would help... we just need to sort out the best way forward. Then a long period of listening followed as Anna opened up and told her story. Her marriage had always been a difficult one. She had hoped things would improve after the birth of their son, but the arguments and abuse only worsened. Finally, her husband of 4 years walked out last week. He moved out of state and told her she'd never track him down for child support. Anna had never felt so lonely and desperate. Her church told her about Dorcas, but she was afraid to come in. She called and called, listening to the voicemail greeting day after day, until she gathered the courage to come in. When Mary, the crisis counselor, assured her that we could pay the rent for her this month and helped her come up with a plan for the future—the tears really began to flow. But, they were tears of relief and appreciation. And hugs, too! We expect to see Anna often in the coming weeks as we help her through the training center and see her through this difficult transition.