



Mustard Seed
helps make the **transition easier.**
You're not going through it alone.
It's a safe haven.
It's home.

— Veronica*, Mustard Seed guest



Mustard Seed is home.
We are **treated with love.**
There's no playground at the motel.
Now, my daughter has other
children to play with.
She is safe.

— Jessica*, Mustard Seed guest

OUR MISSION:

We water the seed of inner strength in homeless women so they can make a better life for themselves and their children.



A MOTHER'S LOVE



Spring greetings to you, dear friend!

As I sit in my bright and airy office in our expansion drafting this year's Mother's Day message, I hear a group of ladies laughing around the table in our new kitchen. Volunteers are chatting in the adjacent conference room. I hear the giggles of children playing just outside my door. One child shyly

peeks in my office window every now and then.

And one brave little friend pops in and asks me to play, sing and dance to "Baby Shark" *just one more time*.

Such welcome sounds and blessed disruptions!

In between the bursts of sound and activity, I think of Jessica*, who came to us from living in a motel with her daughter. Jessica was caught in a situation where she had been paying a daily rate that added up to almost double market rent because her income wasn't stable enough to rent an apartment. A near-tragedy brought her to us – but now that she is in our home, she is working toward obtaining safe and affordable housing.

And then there's Veronica*. She and her young son were evicted by their family. Hers is a sad and complicated story, but it's also not an isolated incident. Veronica told me that when they came to Mustard Seed, her son recognized right away that it was a *home*, one filled with love and laughter, where different families live together for a little while. Each day, he's SO excited to see what's on the menu.

These moms and their children have dreams for their lives. And because of people like you, we are able to provide a safe and stable environment where they can take a breath, develop a plan and begin the work of putting the pieces together so they can follow their dreams. **In our home, they find warmth and welcome, guidance and love.**



*Not her real name

THIS YEAR, WE CELEBRATE OUR FIRST MOTHER'S DAY WITH 35 GUESTS

In the first many years of Mustard Seed's ministry, our home was small and our fundraising efforts were simple. Today, thanks to a generous community, our recently expanded and renovated home is large enough to welcome up to seven moms and their children, as well as 10 single women – a total of 35 individuals. That's more than double our previous capacity. We now offer many opportunities and options to give and support a ministry that has grown beyond our founders' wildest dreams.

If you are already making a monthly or annual commitment as a Friend, THANK YOU. I humbly ask you to **consider an additional gift to honor a mom or other special person in your life**. You can even gift a Friends membership if you choose. You may use the enclosed envelope or make your gift online at themustardseedshelter.org/give-now, where you will find a list of many giving options.

On behalf of all of the women and children we serve, **thank you** for making it possible for Mustard Seed to provide a mother's love and a safe haven to Jessica, Veronica, and other moms and kids experiencing homelessness.

Love,

Amy Bartels Roe, Executive Director