

# Amy is Thankful for Safety

## And you helped make that possible.

Amy, 32, has been working with Staci (HOPE Coalition Outreach and Legal Advocate) for the past few months on obtaining an Order for Protection and creating a safety plan for herself and her family. Staci worked with Amy on November 16 during Give to the Max Day, and shared this story about how thankful she is for the support she has received at HOPE Coalition.

*One of the things I am very thankful for this Thanksgiving is Staci. More than just on Thanksgiving, I am thankful for what she did - but especially on Thanksgiving, I will always be thankful for everything she has done.*

*The things that she told me are probably minor to her, but they changed my life. I think about the things she has said to me on a daily basis, and it has made me strong enough to do what's best for my family.*

*She helped me understand that what was happening in my home wasn't my fault and that it wasn't normal. Growing up in an abusive household I knew what physical violence was and that it wasn't ok when my dad to beat my mom to a pulp, but my husband didn't hit me so I didn't know that the things he was doing were still considered abuse. I didn't understand that it wasn't normal for your husband to force you in a corner and not let you leave. I didn't know that it was considered abuse when he left bruises on my arms while forcing me to face him while he yelled at me. He said I must be anemic and blamed it all on me. He blamed everything on me - and I blamed everything on me, too.*

*The things she said to me the day we had court helped me make it through. She probably doesn't even remember what she said because it was so minor, but it meant the world to me. Thank you, Staci.*

*I am thankful for many things this Thanksgiving, but most of all I am thankful that I know you.*

*Amy*