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A Horizon House Story of Redemption for International Women's Month

"They believed in me." - Shazariea Wilson

(INDIANAPOLIS) - Shazariea Wilson walks across the downtown Ivy Tech campus on a blustery winter morning. She looks like your average college student - clad in a maroon puffy jacket and chic newsboy cap, her fiery red hair and huge smile are hard to miss.

You would never know she nearly lost her life escaping a cycle of poverty, domestic violence, addiction, and homelessness.

"Audrey Cavanaugh believed in me," she says, mentioning her Horizon House caseworker fondly. "Horizon House helped me with my move and they have just been supportive."

Now sober, Wilson is working on a degree in Business Administration and Accounting with a GPA of 3.5, with an equally important goal to regain custody of her two daughters.

Wilson's story is not unique - women experiencing homelessness face additional barriers when it comes to breaking that cycle.

"Being a woman or female presenting comes with additional concerns when it comes to violence and exploitation," says Horizon House Director of Housing Lillian Herbers-Kelly.

Herbers-Kelly says Horizon House staff can connect women with necessary resources, including healthcare and childcare assistance, to build a safe path to permanent housing.

This month at Horizon House the theme is March Match-ness, individuals are encouraged to request others to “match” their donation. Ask others to match donations of much needed feminine products which can be dropped off at 1033 East Washington. Monetary donations can be matched through their website at <https://www.horizonhouse.cc/>.

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About Horizon House

Horizon House is a central Indiana non-profit committed to helping individuals experiencing homelessness. Horizon House is focused on building the foundations to end homelessness. This support includes pathways to permanent supportive housing, as well as a variety of services to help individuals in both their immediate and long-term needs. Horizon House offers a safe place for the Indianapolis homeless community, serving them with dignity and respect as they take steps towards a more stable life. Visit www.horizonhouse.cc to learn more.