



“At a younger age I was tossed from foster home to foster home and never got the chance to truly experience Christmas until I came to Arms of Hope.” - Kamille

Dear Friend,

Merry Christmas to you and thank you for all the ways you help our children here at Arms of Hope. The inspirational story I want to share with you today is a Christmas story. It might surprise you to learn that it is about a girl who once said, “At a very young age I turned away from God.”

I know it hurts to hear a child say something like this. Yet, I can understand why Kamille was having such a crisis of faith. From an early age she experienced terrible domestic violence. She was shuttled from foster home to foster home and then back to an unstable home life, where her parents fought and drank.

She was told that she was worthless and unlovable. She tried so hard to be a “mom” to her younger siblings, to care for them and protect them, while she was still just a child herself. Kamille experienced so much hurt in her life that she often cried herself to sleep. “Alone, I would pour out my tears for hours, wishing I had a different life and telling God I hated Him for putting my family through so much pain,” remembers Kamille.



Kamille arrived at Arms of Hope in 2006, at the age of twelve.



Kamille graduated from high school last Spring and is now thriving in Arms of Hope’s College & Career Program.

My heart hurts for her, having suffered so much, knowing she was denying herself God’s love when she needed it most. She had never been in a safe, loving, long-term environment to help give her the support and stability that every child needs.

Kamille rebelled a little when she first got here and it’s no wonder because needed to “test” us. After all, people had rejected her over and over and she had to find out if we were going to do the same, but we didn’t. We supported Kamille and patiently worked with her to help her learn to make good choices. We also told her she was special and that God had plans for her. Arms of Hope continues to help Kamille with emotional and financial support and she is now a thriving participant in our College & Career program. Because of generous donors like you, a young girl who came to us struggling with life and without hope or finances for the dream of a higher education, just successfully finished her first semester at Texas State University!

Now, for the Christmas story I promised. Kamille’s early memories of Christmas are far different than any Christmas one would dream of for any child. “I had never had a real Christmas before,” stated Kamille. “At a younger age I was tossed from foster home to foster home and never got the chance to truly experience Christmas until I came to Arms of Hope. I had never even had the tradition of sitting around the Christmas tree,

opening presents or having a Christmas dinner before coming here.

“That’s one reason my first Christmas at Arms of Hope was so heart-warming. I was given the opportunity to share Christmas with the people that are the dearest to my heart. People even donated gifts to help make our Christmas even more exciting. It was a memorable experience and one I’ll never forget!”



After arriving at Arms of Hope, Kamille (far left) blossomed into a social butterfly and developed many close friendships. Her sweet spirit is a joy to be around!

I am pleased to let you know that Kamille is much happier today because Arms of Hope provided a safe environment with the stability that she longed for!

We want to be able to give our kids a Merry Christmas and a real chance for a successful life by opening our doors for other children who are in pain and do not have anywhere else to go.

Won't you please make a Christmas gift right now to Arms of Hope?

“Arms of Hope helped me learn about God and I grew into a new relationship with Him that I didn’t have before. Today, Arms of Hope is helping me grow into the person God intended me to be,” says Kamille.

I hope it lifts your heart to read Kamille’s words! Every child deserves the blessings of love, faith, safety and stability. Sadly, not every child has these blessings. This Christmas there are so many children hurting and even homeless, who need our help desperately. Our ability to help them depends on the kindness of good friends like you.

As you plan for your own joyful Christmas, please also make the most generous, tax-deductible Christmas gift you can to Arms of Hope. It’s a wonderful way to share your blessings with children in need. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Kraig Stockstill, LMSW
President & CEO



Kamille appreciates all of the wonderful things you’ve done for her through your support of Arms of Hope!

P.S. Kamille wants you to know she appreciates all the wonderful things you have done for her. “Merry Christmas,” she says, “and thank you so much.” Thank you from all of us for everything you are doing to help the children in our care, like Kamille.

ArmsOfHope.org

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