



“Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill His promises to her.” - Luke 1:45

Dear Friend,

Our Arms of Hope Family wishes you and yours a blessed holiday season! The word “blessed” is written throughout scripture but is unique to Mary at the beginning of the Christmas story in Luke 1:45 where it states, *“Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill His promises to her.”* Leanet and her two boys, Ezra and Eli, have clung to this verse and God’s promise not to leave her, even when faced with immense hurdles.

The story of Leanet’s new life began in the hospital before her youngest was born when she decided it was time for real change. This new life was amid a domestic violence situation that culminated on a Christmas morning in which Leanet and her boys were left alone. They didn’t have electricity, presents, and barely had any food. The abuse they endured convinced Leanet that she had to escape and provide a better life for her boys and herself.

When Leanet’s church told her about Arms of Hope, she jumped at the opportunity and fled the life of abuse that she had known with only the clothes on her back. Thankfully the boys were too young to remember that dark and lonely Christmas day, and they will forever remember their first Christmas at Arms of Hope! Leanet says, “I was completely overwhelmed at that first Christmas party; there was food lots of new people, and everyone was so nice. Then the boys got to meet Santa. They had never done that before and were so excited!”

Eli has been looking forward to Christmas all year and talks about it often. When discussing what presents he wants, he expresses his disappointment when he says, “I want superpowers, but mom said that Santa doesn’t give superpowers.” Ezra is very determined about what he wants for Christmas. He says that he wants: “A huge Lego set, so I can build a robot and then be a scientist!”

One of Leanet’s favorite parts about Christmas is making homemade thank you cards for the wonderful donors who make Christmas and year-round care possible at Arms of Hope. She is incredibly thankful for the opportunity to have her boys in a safe place where they can learn and grow.

Leanet doesn’t let her story end with the promise that is read about in Luke 1:45 but allows it to continue to Mary’s song in verses 46-48, *“My soul glorifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant.”* Leanet and her two boys rejoice to be in the care of Arms of Hope.



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Because of your generosity, Leanet has a safe place to raise her boys while she pursues a higher education. The Learning Center is a place of great fun and learning for the boys. When the campus was frozen last February and had to shut down, the boys both asked repeatedly, “When can we go see Shelby?” Shelby is their favorite teacher in the Learning Center!

While at Arms of Hope, Leanet has been able to work through her past with her Christian Licensed Counselor to create a solid foundation to be a healthy mother for her boys. Most importantly, Leanet’s time at Arms of Hope has allowed her faith to grow and for her to encourage growth in her children’s faith. Leanet states, “I love being able to live in a faith community. The promises of God have carried me through and provided for me more than I could have wanted.”

We now ask that you continue to help us in our ministry to residents like Leanet who will finish an Associate’s Degree in December and then continue pursuing her Bachelor’s Degree. Your assistance will provide a place for this family to survive and thrive with a home, food, case management, counseling, and the love of Jesus.

I humbly ask you to pray about making a tax-deductible Christmas donation to Arms of Hope today so that we can continue giving opportunities to families in desperate need.

On behalf of the 225 residents at Arms of Hope, we hope you have a Merry Christmas and wonderful New Year!


Troy Robertson
Chief Executive Officer



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