

Being a home for the holidays

ydney, a proud Fresh Start alumna, shared how deeply the holidays at Fresh Start shaped her journey. For Sydney, one of the most unforgettable parts of the season was gathering around the large dining room table, a table big enough for all 24 women to sit together.

"When I think back to the holidays at Fresh Start, the first thing that comes to mind is that big dining room table. It seats all of us, and during the holidays, it felt like so much more than just a place



to eat. It was where we laughed together, In addition to shelter and food, women in shared stories, and even talked about our hopes for the year ahead. Sitting there, I felt a sense of belonging I hadn't felt in a long time. For me, that table was a reminder that I wasn't alone and that I had a community of women who understood me and supported me. The holidays at Fresh Start were unforgettable because they gave me more than memories; they also gave me hope."

For Sydney, the holiday season wasn't just about decorations, special meals, or gifts. It was about connection, encouragement, and the reminder that she could dream again. At Fresh Start, a single table became a symbol of community, belonging, and the power of gathering together.

Since 1991, Fresh Start has helped almost 2,000 women experiencing homelessness.

the nonprofit's care get help from case managers, who help them identify ways to become self-sufficient.

But the holidays can be a hard time for women experiencing homelessness, as they navigate the season often without their families.

So each Christmas, Fresh Start holds its Adopt a Resident program, which allows people to purchase gifts for each resident. This year, all 24 of our residents had their wishlists fulfilled thanks to the Lincoln community.

Now all the women at Fresh Start will be able to open their presents at that large table, and hopefully be reminded that they belong, just like Sydney.

As 2025 comes to a close, Fresh Start is reflecting on the progress made possible by our donors' generosity and looking



forward to another year of empowering women to achieve independence. Together, we can continue to make a lasting impact. How will you help provide hope to women like Sydney?