

FAMILY STORY ONE

Despite falling on hard times, it is evident that this mother has much joy in her heart as she spoke about her family's current situation.

Her 11-year-old son has epilepsy and pulmonary hypertension. Due to this, he has been in and out of the hospital his entire life. Since this past June, he has experienced a decline in his health and has had to be hospitalized eight times. His most recent stay lasted a week, having been in a coma caused by a severe seizure. Despite these set-backs, she says her son never fails to have a smile on his face.

This mother also has two older children, whom she proudly speaks of when discussing how well they are performing in school. One of those children also has a medical condition, juvenile diabetes.

With a serving heart, this mother currently works with the developmentally disabled. Previously she was a missionary in Mexico as a child and worked in the Army as a combat medic.

Medical bills are mounting as she continuously struggles with enough money for food and utilities. She currently has to pay for Medicaid and does not qualify for any assistance. Her special gift she asks for this Christmas are cleaning supplies.

In addition to the help from Holy Family's Giving Tree, if you would like to assist with her son's medical expenses, there is a GoFundMe page set up under his Facebook page "Jeremiah's Fight".

FAMILY STORY TWO

This family consists of a recently single mother raising four children. This past spring, she, her former husband and their four children were on the receiving end of a natural disaster. Their apartment was flooded. Soon after, her husband left the family, and she and her four children were evicted due to not having the correct type of insurance for this natural disaster.

Currently this mom is trying to rebuilding her and her children's lives from the bottom up. She had to take money out of savings in order to secure a new apartment and she still doesn't have enough. Money for this family is tight while they try to get their lives back in order.

FAMILY STORY THREE

Often families fall on hard times when one family member creates a hostile or abusive environment. This next family is doing it's best to put the pieces back together after leaving such a situation.

A single mother of four children, ages 10 through 17, recently walked away from an 18-year relationship with her children's father. The father, an alcoholic, was often verbally abusive. One time, this mother was physically abused in front of her children. Immediately she left with her children, with only a bag of clothing and a backpack. Considering this an act of love, she thought it was important that her children did not see that behavior.

This mother is slowly trying to put the pieces of their lives back together. She moved near the kid's school and remarkably her children continued to achieve straight A's on their report cards. She is hopeful about a new job in which she is currently receiving training.

Upon speaking to her, she expressed how grateful she was to the community and to "the Catholics" for all of their help. She doesn't think she could have made it without it.

FAMILY STORY FOUR

Medical expenses often are the catalyst that cause a family to struggle or fall behind. This family currently has a seven year old son with spina bifida. He recently had an emergency room visit that progressed into a hospital stay. When Holy Family contacted this mother, she was currently in the emergency room for her other child, her daughter, with a problem with her wrist.

FAMILY STORY FIVE

Out of kindness, and often necessity, grandparents are asked to take on the role of the parents again, taking in their grandchildren to raise. This set of grandparents adopted their 14-year-old granddaughter, who recently moved to the Kansas City area. The grandfather suffered a stroke this past July and has been unable to return to work since. This has created a burden on the family. With the focus on taking care of their granddaughter, this family is currently struggling. They have been trying to obtain help with the utilities without much luck.