

Dear Generous Donor:

I am going to be blunt. I need your help.

I am certain that I'm not the first person to ask. So please allow me the opportunity to explain why you should consider my request.

Every year, more than 20,000 incidents of domestic abuse are reported in Puerto Rico. That's not a typo. That's a real number. And those are only the incidents that are reported.

It's a crime that few people understand, and even fewer want to consider. *"It couldn't happen to anyone I love," "I couldn't possibly know any victims,"* are common misconceptions. As a member of the Board at Hogar Ruth, I sadly can assure you that we see victims from all walks of life.

Another aspect that is little understood is what shelters like Hogar Ruth do. Yes, we provide a safe place for the women and their children to stay while they are in danger. In fact, we do that to over 2800 participants a year. Those are lives that we help save. And that is our first priority.

But it is our mission to transcend even that. Our goal is to make the victim a survivor on every level... to heal the internal wounds that domestic violence leaves behind and to help them find their inner strength to successfully move forward in their lives. We have five means of doing this:

1. Hogar Ruth: the shelter houses and feeds the women and children whose lives are in danger. It is their safe haven.
2. Guayacan Housing Development: the apartments provide temporary transitional housing for the mother and her children while the woman gains employment or attends school full-time.
3. Counseling programs and support groups: while bruises fade and broken bones heal, the inner wounds remain. Only with these programs can they heal, too.
4. Program of Legal Intervention: we provide legal services for the victims in the courts of Arecibo and Bayamon as they undergo the Court process.
5. Educational Services for the Community: we educate those outside of our walls so that Domestic Violence can be better understood, hopefully resulting in awareness that will prevent future incidents.

In these difficult financial times, we struggle to continue our mission. And we must. Too many lives depend on it. So my plea: I ask that you pledge your support to Hogar Ruth. The woman you see next, may be the life you save.

With hope and gratitude,

(REDACTED)

*Hogar Ruth has the federal exemption 501(c)(3). Donations are tax deductible.*