



Dear Friend,

Life can be unpredictable, but I'm not sure any of us could have imagined a year like this. The events of 2020, especially the COVID-19 pandemic, have brought uncertainty, stress, and heartache to all of us. While the terms "new normal" and "unprecedented" are commonly used now, some days we look around in utter disbelief of everything that has happened. These days we must take nothing for granted. We're more careful about our decisions, we make the best choices we can, and even then we struggle. I believe this is true for all of us, and especially for families like Maggie's.*

Maggie visited Beverly Bootstraps just a couple of months ago. As a strong, independent single mom and business owner, asking for help was not an easy task. She was used to getting things done on her own. Her business, which had been thriving pre-COVID, now faced major challenges. With the virus spreading, state regulations required her to temporarily shut down, forcing her to lay off employees. Reopening was slow because of the nature of her business and by late summer Maggie had no choice but to close her doors. Heartbroken but determined, she reached out to her former employer for work. They could bring her back, but not for several more months when a position would be available. Maggie was stuck and scared. Her rent was due and unemployment assistance was not enough to cover her expenses. At a friend's recommendation, she reached out to Beverly Bootstraps.

Maggie worked with a case manager who explained that not only could we help her with her rent, but also she could use the Food Pantry and other seasonal programs, such as tax assistance and holiday gifts for her child. Maggie was overwhelmed with gratitude! She had never needed assistance before, and found herself so relieved to learn of all the ways Beverly Bootstraps could help.

2020 has been a year like no other. Many families, like Maggie's, have found themselves in situations they never expected. Thanks to you, Beverly Bootstraps is here to help and has the resources to strengthen our community, allowing us to help families like Maggie's in a positive and immediate way. We are so appreciative of your support as we continue our mission to provide critical resources to families and individuals so they may achieve self-sufficiency. This holiday season, please consider making a gift today.

Fondly,

Sue Gabriel
Executive Director

*Your support last year truly made a difference!
Please help us again this year. Sue*

**Name changed for privacy.*