



Fall, 2010

Dear

This August, Morgan moved into the dorms at Eastern Illinois University to begin her freshman year as a Journalism major. This was the culmination of a dream realized through Morgan's hard work, the support of her mother, and the services provided by HOW.



Morgan recites an original poem during a summer program for teens at HOW.

By sending your gift today, you will support the 642 children served by HOW who, like Morgan, will be returning to classrooms this fall, while relying on HOW's crucial services to guarantee their academic success.

Morgan and her mother joined HOW's Supportive Housing Program five years ago following an extended period of time in a local shelter. Despite the upheaval in their lives, Morgan remained committed to staying in school. This required her to commute three hours to and from the shelter, sit in a subway to do her homework, and function on an average of five hours of sleep.

This story is not unusual for the kids HOW serves. Most homeless children experience developmental delays at **four times the rate of other children**. The circumstances of homelessness make it far more difficult for homeless children to attend school and perform well, further hampering their academic success.

Morgan beat the odds with HOW's help! She has been working towards her goal of going to college since she was a little girl. The stable, safe home provided by HOW enabled Morgan to earn scholarships to attend a private high school, participate in an empowerment program geared toward girls, and access assistance in college applications from HOW's youth specialists.

Since Morgan's arrival, HOW has more than **quadrupled the number of children we serve**. This requires that we increase the investment in our youth programming. Exciting new initiatives are

(over, please)

gaining momentum including mentoring and tutoring programs, cooking classes, back to school supply drives, parenting workshops, and job readiness and college prep instruction for teenagers.

“It takes a whole village to get children where they need to be – that is why HOW is crucial” said Morgan’s mom Tracy. We are honored to have been a part of Morgan’s journey in self-discovery and hope that - with your help - we can do the same for all of the children in our program.

Sincerely,

Britt

Britt Shawver
Chief Executive Officer

P.S. Your gift will immediately impact the children we serve as they return to school this fall!



Morgan and her mom, Tracy, prepare for college. See their entire story on HOW's website, www.how-inc.org.



**I want to help more children succeed by supporting
HOW with my recurring gift of \$ _____**

☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly

☐ I authorize HOW to bill my credit card on the 15th of each month or quarter (October, January, April and July), as indicated above.

Name on card _____

Signature _____

Account # _____

Exp. Date _____ Security Code _____

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover

Thank you for helping HOW break the cycle of homelessness and poverty this fall!

I've enclosed my check made payable to HOW.

☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$35 ☐ Other: _____

☐ Please charge a one-time gift to my credit card in the amount of \$ _____.
Also consider a recurring gift to HOW. See reverse for details.

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover

Card number _____ Security code _____

Exp. Date _____

Cardholder signature _____

Print your name as it appears on your card. _____

☐ I have enclosed my company's matching gift form.

☐ Please contact me about planned giving opportunities.

Email Address: _____

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