



## Fund for Vulnerable Families: An Overview

**Sanctuary for Families** is New York's leading service provider and advocate for survivors of domestic violence, sex trafficking and related forms of gender violence. Every year, we empower thousands of adults and children to move from fear and abuse to safety and stability, transforming lives through a range of comprehensive services.

The **Fund for Vulnerable Families** is a vital component of Sanctuary's holistic program for survivors and their children. Sanctuary annually provides more than \$1 million in financial and material aid to clients. With the overwhelming majority of Sanctuary's clients living in poverty—including more than 60% living in deep poverty, on less than \$10,000 a year—this assistance helps clients stay on their journeys from survival and safety to long-term stability and independence.

**Emergency assistance** helps families in crisis avert disaster. Expenses include covering a month's rent to prevent eviction, paying a utility bill to prevent shutoff or changing locks when an abuser resurfaces. **Stabilization measures** are designed to help clients along the path towards stability. Expenses include covering moving costs when a survivor moves from shelter into her own apartment, a modest grant for simple furnishings, tuition assistance to facilitate professional trainings and MetroCards that allow a client to travel from home to appointments at Sanctuary.

### **Emergency Assistance:**

- Eviction prevention (rent payments)
- Utility preservation (to prevent shut off)
- Changing locks
- Emergency transportation
- Emergency food and diapers
- Emergency medication

### **Stabilization Measures:**

- Moving and storage costs
- Security deposit / first month rent
- Household furnishings
- Tuition Assistance
- School books and supplies
- MetroCards
- Legal fees

Sanctuary strives to ensure that all other available public and private resources are exhausted before drawing on our limited budget.

Small grants can make an enormous difference for a family in need. In the words of one client:

*For the past few years it has been incredibly hard for my child and myself. Everything we had at one point was taken from us. Now thanks to you, we have a dining table that we have our meals on, and get to talk about her day in kindergarten. Thanks to you we have a couch we snuggle on, and she falls asleep in my arms again. Thanks to your donation I myself finally have a place to lay down on at night, and feel peace. [T]o hear your child after so long of being so sad, look at you and smile and tell you "thank you, for my new home mommy." That makes asking for help so worth it. I felt like I failed my little girl, because I could not provide for her the way I wanted to. But, now thanks to you, furniture isn't a worry for me.*

Your support will ensure that our deeply vulnerable clients have the resources they need to avert potentially catastrophic consequences to their fragile economic situations, and make progress toward long-term stability and freedom from violence.

For more information, please contact Lisa Mueller, Director of Development & Communications, at (212) 349-600 x274 or [lmueller@sffny.org](mailto:lmueller@sffny.org).