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To Tiffany, the kitchen means two hot meals a day for her children. It also means her kids learn how to wash dishes and prepare a healthy meal.

“With the hot after-school meal, the kids aren’t starving,” said Tiffany. “So I don’t have to rush around to get dinner together the second I get home. It makes life a whole lot less stressful.”

Erin Cable became a single mother of five children overnight. It was a frightful evening in which Erin first learned of the ongoing abuse of one of her children by her fiancé. His violent suicide immediately followed in their bathroom. The night left the family, including four girls ages 9 to 15 and a 5-year-old boy, outside hiding in the bushes and unable to return to their home.

The Call for Help
The City of Largo Police were the first on the scene. They put the Cables up in a hotel and promptly brought in a victim advocate to counsel Erin. The evening’s terrors eventually quieted when the night left the family, including four girls ages 9 to 15 and a 5-year-old boy, outside hiding in the bushes and unable to return to their home.
family was finally alone in their hotel room. The girls held onto each other all night, while Erin’s son would not leave her side because of the monsters that could be hiding in the bathroom.

In the morning, April Lott, the President & CEO of Directions for Living, a nonprofit organization providing behavioral health and homeless services, was called in to assess the family’s needs. April needed to understand how this traumatic night impacted the family — mentally, physically, financially and concerning the children’s future welfare. Erin knew, above all, her children needed consistency and familiarity in their lives. She insisted they start school on time and attend the same schools as the previous year.

The Largo Police stepped up once more and took the kids to buy clothes, shoes and school supplies for the new school year. This kindness gave April and Erin time to figure out other needs privately. During six heart-rending hours, April listened to the events that led up to the actions of Erin’s fiancé on the previous night.

Erin felt her trauma and loss so acutely that she told April she didn’t know how she would survive. April connected Erin and her children with a wide variety of services Directions for Living provides, including trauma assessments, individual and family counseling, housing support and case management. Directions for Living wrapped the family in supportive services, so they knew they weren’t alone, and provided them with coping mechanisms, tools and resources to help them to recover.

Today
It has been almost a year since the Cables’ trauma occurred. Directions for Living reports the family, led by Erin’s strength and determination, is not just surviving but thriving.

You may not have realized it, but you help improve your neighbors’ unfortunate circumstances by donating to Pinellas Community Foundation. It is thanks to your compassion that the Cable family can continue to move forward.

A grant recipient of PCF since 1992, Directions for Living has received over $300,000 to fund the many services the Cables, and others in the community, need to heal from trauma in their lives.

Estate gifts arrive at unexpected times, but they are always important and welcomed contributions to Pinellas Community Foundation. Your donation illustrates your thoughtfulness, planning and dedication to giving humanity a hand.

Learn More About Giving Humanity a Hand
Read more stories that illustrate how you are making an impact: pinellascf.org/stories
Learn about planned giving: sruley@pinellascf.org
Donate now: Visit pinellascf.org/donate or text Donate Now to 41444

A Conversation With Sandra Diamond
It is an honor to name Sandra Diamond as the first Pinellas Community Foundation INSPIRE award recipient. Diamond is one of Florida’s most well-respected attorneys in the area of Wills, Trusts and Estates. If you’ve ever had the opportunity to meet her, you’d know why she is the first honoree.

Diamond spent her life dedicated to giving of herself. She sets a standard for future generations of attorneys, leaders and philanthropists. Her civic-minded parents introduced Diamond to community service when she was young. Her father was a U.S. Congressman for Florida, and public service became her family’s way of life.

The need for service was amplified early in her career when Diamond sat on the board of Gulfcoast Legal Services in St. Petersburg. It was an eye-opening experience. And it opened a window into the needs of the community, including the unmet legal needs of the underserved.

When assisting clients with their estate planning, Diamond helps facilitate philanthropy. She relishes hearing her clients’ ideas for what they’d like to see their favorite charity accomplish.

In a recent interview, Diamond talked about the advantages of planned giving and the importance of estate planning for anyone who owns something of value — a car, a home, an insurance policy, etc.

Learn more about estate planning and planned giving: pinellascf.org/diamondinterview
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Continued inside