



825 NW Santiam Blvd. Mill City, Or. 97360

March 1, 2023

ODSVS Funds are really one of the most valuable funds available for survivors and their families or individual survivors. Since it is not as strict as to how those funds are used to help make the biggest difference in a survivor's life. The impact is not just that one time, that one minute they realize someone really cares and they are going to be helped not judged for how they are struggling to survive. They are not just a survivor of abuse and violence they are also a survivor of life. Many do not have family, friends or community to help support them. When they come into the Canyon Crisis and Resource Center they are beaten down, depressed, sad, without hope and many are ill because of the life of violence they have been living. Once they walk through our doors or we go to meet them wherever they are they begin to have hope, they can't believe someone believes their story, that someone will willingly show them they care about their life, that they matter and should be able to live a life of freedom from the pain of a lifetime of abuse and victimization. They begin to believe in themselves again and that they have value to themselves, their children, and their communities. There is a light at the end of a very long tunnel for the survivors we so happily and passionately serve. ODSVS funds are all of that and more, it is so rewarding to know that these funds have made such a huge difference in someone's life and because of that, they now have hope, a future, a new beginning and are truly a hero - a survivor. None of this would happen without these funds. Living in a small area of the Santiam Canyon our staff and advocates are able to keep up with most of our survivors and it is so rewarding to see how they are thriving because someone cared just enough to give them a chance for a hand up in life, not a handout.

With the help of ODSVS Funds we were able to support a survivor whose husband had attempted suicide as a way of coping with her decision to leave and seek a divorce.

The survivor had not worked in many years and was left with several expenses to figure out on her own. We were able to support her with ODSVS Funds to bridge that gap so she could start putting her life back together, care for her own healing and know her housing and utilities would be secure.

On behalf of the CCRC community and the survivors whose lives are better because of ODSVS Funds, we thank you and urge you to continue to support this critical resource!

Respectfully,
Cherie Girod
Executive Director