

## MWOC Client Profile – Marie

Clients are generally referred to us by other local social service agencies, but on occasion, a client is directed to us by another agency outside the MetroWest area. Marie is such a client who was referred to us by the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless.

Marie and her special needs daughter called MWOC from a local motel. They were homeless and had no transportation or food. In addition, they could only pay for one night's lodging. They had been forced to leave their apartment because of failure to pay the rent. The mother was legally separated from her husband due to domestic violence. The husband/father would no longer help to pay the rent.

The day on which she called MWOC, she and her daughter had eaten only bread and water for breakfast. MWOC provided a hot meal and breakfast for the next morning. MWOC also paid for an additional week's lodging in the motel.

After delivering more non-perishable groceries and a donated microwave, MWOC volunteers called local agencies to find space in a shelter. It required 10 days to find a place for Marie and her daughter in a shelter for victims of domestic violence. South Middlesex Legal Services was responsible for locating this space and helping the family move to the shelter.

With more stable living arrangements, Marie should be able to return to work and get her daughter back into school. When she becomes more financially sound, MWOC hopes to provide Marie with funds for a security deposit for a more permanent home. One issue that limits families living in a shelter is the limited amount of money that they can save, \$2,000. They must leave the shelter system if they accumulate more than this amount and it often requires more than \$2,000 to secure housing (security deposit and first/last month's rent).