

Teresa and her two children, Annette (8) and Kayla (6) are survivors of domestic violence. Her husband of two years became increasingly abusive both emotionally and physically to Teresa, whose children are from a previous relationship. He controlled where she went, rarely let her take both kids with her, punched and kicked her, and blamed his abusive behaviors on her being broken and stupid. Teresa decided she needed help. She asked her friend Becky what to do; Becky told her about Community Works and gave her the number to call Dunn House (779-4357). A domestic violence victim advocate listened to what Teresa had to say, and for the first time she heard the words "It's not your fault." She would tell her advocate later that those words somehow gave her hope. A month later, Teresa planned her escape from her husband. She took the girls to Dunn House shelter and while there she looked for housing and got some emergency assistance for rent. She and the girls moved into a small house that her friend Becky helped her find. It's been almost a year since she left the abuser. She is working part time and she and the girls are in counseling. Although there are struggles, Teresa feels blessed that she is able to live on her own and is growing stronger each day. She shared with her Dunn House Advocate "I am grateful for the help I have gotten and hope be able to help other women one day." Teresa and the girls could use your help this Christmas as they have much to celebrate and Teresa has very little money. Annette likes Littlest Pet Shop, skating, wants to learn origami, and could use a snuggly blanket and some warm socks (bright colors). She is interested in learning to cook. Kayla likes arts & crafts, reading stories about animals, needs a good backpack and would like a tea set. Teresa enjoys poetry, can use new cookware and would like a gift card to take the girls to Kid Time to play. They would like gift cards to pick out some new music to have and to get some photos printed and frames to put up to make their home special.

If you can help, contact Gerry at Community Works 541-890-2937