



# Changing Lives

## **A Life-Giving Donation**

*How one woman gave sacrificially to change the lives of others*

### **THE FAMILY**

Claire Jones, a mother and widow, dealt with mental health issues in her family her entire life. She didn't have an exorbitant amount of money, but she wanted to make a significant, one-time gift to make a difference to a cause that was so close to her and the rest of her family's heart.

### **THE IDEA**

Claire and her investment advisor came to Excellence in Giving with an idea: Claire wanted to make a once-in-a-lifetime, donation of \$1 million to a behavioral mental health nonprofit in her local community.

Excellence in Giving thought about her idea and came back to her with a proposal. They would take on the project on a best-efforts basis, so she wouldn't be charged anything unless Excellence in Giving was able to find a charity and project that suited Claire's interests. Claire accepted the proposal and Excellence in Giving started their search.

### **THE SEARCH**

From the initial search, Excellence in Giving discovered a couple of things. First, many of the behavioral mental health nonprofits were primarily government funded and didn't show much interest in private donations from people like Claire. Second, many of the nonprofits had massive campaigns for tens of millions of dollars. Claire wouldn't be able to see the impact in her donation and wouldn't know where the money she donated was going specifically.

After a long and diligent search, Excellence in Giving found and researched a nonprofit called Chicanos por la Causa. Chicanos por la Causa had a unique idea to create transitional housing for recovering addicts after they finished their rehabilitation process. They could transition more smoothly and successfully into their new lives, find jobs, and permanent housing.

## THE PROJECT

Chicanos por la Causa had an idea but needed money to execute it. The initial housing would cost \$500,000 and the program would cost around \$250,000 yearly. It was a perfect opportunity for Claire.

Excellence in Giving came back to Claire and told her about the opportunity. She was stunned.

*“I know with a million dollars I won’t be able to build a building,” – Claire to her investment advisor before meeting with Excellence in Giving.*

Excellence in Giving decided that to optimize her donation, Claire should donate the initial \$500,000 to build the housing and donate \$250,000 to cover the entire cost of the first year of the program. Then over the next two years she would pay half of the program cost so they wouldn’t be reliant on only her for donations.

## THE RESOLUTION

Shortly after the donation, the new transitional housing was built, and Excellence in Giving was ready to plan a celebration for Claire. For the celebration, Claire bussed over 40 of her friends and family to see the new housing development.

Everyone on that bus came home touched and inspired by Claire and her willingness to forgo her own needs to give to others.

*“This was the most sacrificial gift I’ve seen a client make in the last 20 years,” – Al Mueller, President of Excellence in Giving*

With the help of Excellence in Giving, Claire was able to make a difference, not just a donation. Her gift will be a blessing to many others and inspire her children and friends to follow her example.

*Contact Excellence in Giving at (719) 329-1515 or visit [ExcellenceinGiving.com](http://ExcellenceinGiving.com) to learn how you can make a difference with your giving.*