

## Colleen's Contemplations – April 2011

This month I wanted to share a brief story with you - a good reminder of why we do what we do. I helped a new client recently, a single mother of two boys. (The youngest turned 1 the week before their visit.) They, like far too many others, left an abusive situation with just what they could get into the car. She was looking for clothing, dishes, and bedding. She was excited to find a mattress topper to make the couch cushions she is currently sleeping on more comfortable. Currently, her older son is sharing a bed with his Grandmother. We even had a high chair with no padding. (We weren't sure we should have kept this - good that we did!) You would have thought it was Christmas for the family! Our new client had much shopping to do and was busy for more than an hour.

The older boy tried to entertain the younger one by playing music in the car. When the mother went to turn on the car, it wouldn't start. She was unsure if it was out of gas or if the battery was dead. She was in tears as she had no one to call and had no money. By now the 1 year old needed a diaper change, wasn't feeling well, and was crying. I think we all know what it's like when our kids are beyond comfort and we are among strangers. My heart ached as I listened to the mother and older boy quietly singing to the youngest child, trying to comfort him. I called my husband who came with jumper cables and a can of gas. Thankfully, the car started right up. Happy and relieved, we assembled an emergency bag (shampoo, soap, cleaning supplies, diaper rash cream, etc.) to add to the other items. We also gave her a birthday gift for the baby, along with a cake mix. (They had left on the child's birthday, so there had been no celebration.) Our new client left feeling blessed, befriended, and a bit more in control.

Tonight, when you add this young mom to your prayers, remember that everything we do is possible because YOU support us! Thank you!

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