

The refrigerator was perched on the tailgate of the truck and the couch was hanging off the end. The speedometer hovered around 6 mph, with a top speed of 8 mph. When I offered to follow her home, I was thinking if it flew off the back and hit someone, at least it would be me (now that was smart). If it did fall, what would I be able to do? Could I lift a fridge? (OK – so maybe I didn't think this one through). As the newest staff member at Trinity Outreach Center, I still had a lot to learn.

This was one of those special moments when time stood still –she had shifted in her seat and I caught a glance of her in the side mirror. My breath caught in my throat when I saw her smile. In that moment the world went silent. Her smile was so radiant, I was in awe. It no longer mattered that we were holding up traffic. My impatience melted away and my 'to do' list exited the brain when I caught a glimpse of her in the pickup in front of me. She was ecstatic, Joyful. I had never seen someone so giddy with happiness. She looked like she just hit the jackpot – and to her, she had.

Here was a single mom with 4 kids, no stove, no refrigerator, no couch, no tables or chairs, but only a twin mattress they took turns sleeping on. Valentine had been struggling to get on her feet; she finally had a new job and just moved into a house. Her roommate was a friend she had met at WPS and they were fighting to put their lives back together. Bit by bit, she was making progress. A bulletin had been posted about her on Charity Tracker, where I learned of her situation. She was willing to drop everything and come right away when I called. She has a fridge, a sleeper sofa, and groceries. This woman was on cloud nine. And I had been given a precious gift; I was privileged to share in her joy.

It amazes me how God works at the Outreach Center. We are threads in the beautiful tapestry God has woven and we may not ever realize just how many of our lives are intertwined. The picture may be unclear to us, but our God has woven the universe with divine artistry and meticulous detail. Our human limitations prevent us from appreciating the depth of His design, but every once in a while, we get a glimpse.

Valentine reminded me of this in that single moment when I saw her smile. What an awesome ministry we are a part of. How thankful I am to serve.

