



29th March 2022
Receipt: 000009670


To Christine and everyone at Birches First School

When we launched our biggest ever matched giving campaign as part of International Women's Day, we knew the target was a big one. WOW! We are completely overwhelmed, and we want to say the BIGGEST thank you to YOU for your support. We know you held a dress in purple day during **Empurple Week** and raised an amazing £211. As you know, your donation was then DOUBLED which means your donation totalled an amazing £422. Every penny from this campaign will be helping women and children to flee safely from abuse and develop the skills and confidence to look towards a brighter future. Thank you so much to everyone at the school.

International Women's Day provides an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of women past, present, and future. For women supported by The Haven, it's also an opportunity to recognise the strength and bravery they have shown in leaving scary and often life-threatening situations. At The Haven, we put women and children at the heart of everything we do. Our wrap-around services EMPOWER women, and your donation to appeals like this one plays a HUGE part in that. For this specific project, did you know your donation could help to:

 Cover taxi costs – many women flee at a moment's notice for their safety. We have sadly received calls from women hiding in bus stops, shopping centres; even hiding in bushes. Your donation could ensure that when we receive that call, we can get transport out to women and her children right away and bring them to safety

 Cover transport costs so women can set up a bank account and get registered with a GP – this is a vital part of women regaining their independence. Many have been so heavily controlled that they have had little access to their own money or the world outside of their abuser. Simple steps like this can be vital in them feeling confident to build a new life

 Ensure women and children's new homes are safe and secure, through installing additional locks or alarms – moving back into the community can be a big and frightening step. Your donation could ease a woman's concern and help her and her children to feel a little safer so they can create happy memories together in their new home

This was the first Big Give campaign that was solely supporting projects transforming the lives of women and girls – the campaign encouraged you to help to 'match her dream' – no matter how big or small. Women who reach out to The Haven have dreams – many of which are things that we perhaps can take for granted in day-to-day life. We wanted to share with you first hand just some of the dreams that **you** will be helping to grant through your support of this project:

"I dream of getting my independence back, moving into my own place and setting up a beautiful home for me and my children."

"I dream of earning my own money and walking to work again without the fear that he is waiting for me around the corner."

Your donation will give women and children hope and help them on their journey away from abuse. On behalf of everyone at The Haven, we would like to say thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely



Hayley Powell

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