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I want to tell you about how Compassion in Action gave me back my peace of mind. My ex-husband suffers from seizure disorder and takes multiple medications. In addition, he has been diagnosed with schizophrenia and paranoia. After many years of violent outbursts and increasingly inappropriate behavior, he lost his ability to cope with everyday life. We have three children and his inability to deal with them made every day a struggle. His mental health deteriorated day after day until he became unable to cope with family life or day-to-day living. He became violent and had to be removed to a mental health facility. Because of his mental deterioration, our home was no longer a safe place for me or my children.

When released from the mental health facility, he could not return home. I found myself trying to support two households to keep my husband in a safe environment and keep my family safe from the effects of his illness. Finances were out of control and expensive medical care and housing were draining everything we had. Obtaining a divorce is a slow process and although I understood his illness, I was no longer able to accept abusive behavior from him toward myself or my children. For all of us, a change had to be made. But I needed help with support and care for my husband. He was unable to be an advocate for himself so I did not know where to turn. We were unable to obtain Social Security disability for him as my husband had not worked in over 9 years. I was at my wits end and then I met Barbara from Compassion In Action - USA.

Immediately, I felt that she understood what I was going through and would do her best to help us. Barbara was a gentle voice of calming reason in my very turbulent life. She helped me to navigate a system which is not designed for the average person to understand. The paperwork alone was intimidating. The entire process was confusing. I just knew that we would never have been able to do this alone. What a relief to have someone who could help. Someone who was understanding. Someone to talk with who understood what to do.

With her help, we were able to apply for SSI disability for my husband and obtained assistance within a few short months once the paperwork was filed. She also was able to obtain Medi-Cal for him to assist with his very expensive medical and medication needs.

I cannot express the gratitude that I have for Barbara and Compassion In Action - USA. They literally saved my family from financial ruin and gave us the ability to meet the needs of my husband and get our lives back on track.

My husband now has safe and comfortable housing and his medical needs and medication costs have been handled. He is able to cope with a simpler life; without the stress of bills and finances. He will most likely not ever be fully functioning, but is doing better on his own. I now see a better future for my husband, my children and myself that is healthy and safe for all of us.

Many, many thanks to Barbara and Compassion in Action - USA!

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