



NEW YEAR, NEW LIFE

By Rebecca Burkhardt
Jay Nolan Community Services

2007 marked a brand new year and a new beginning for Kimberly.

This past year, Kimberly found the strength within herself to leave a 19-year relationship that has been both physically and emotionally abusive. With the help of Jay Nolan Community Services (JNCS) Staff, Kimberly found new housing in a safer neighborhood, hired a lawyer, began divorce proceedings and made plans to move. Just prior to the holidays, JNCS Staff pitched in to provide extra physical and emotional support to get Kimberly out of her old place and into her new apartment. When she left, it was with her wheelchair, her clothes and a bed, that's all! Friends and donors from JNCS donated furniture and household items. They even sent gift cards to help cover the cost of basic supplies for the new apartment.

As part of her new life, Kimberly has begun volunteering in the JNCS administrative offices. Not only is she providing much needed help, she is also gaining great job experience and skills. Kimberly is considering going back to school and continuing her education. With her new skills, she looks forward to finding a job in the community.