

# THE IMPACT OF GAP FUNDING

## IMPACT STORIES

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### VANIA RANGEL

Vania moved to Kansas three years ago from Houston and has two young daughters. Her original reasons for moving to Kansas did not pan out, but she had to make the best of a hard situation without her family and their support. She wanted to work, provide for her children, and start a new life, but she couldn't. The cost of child care was so far out of reach that it prevented her from entering the workforce. Even with a full-time job, she could not afford child care for one daughter, let alone two.

After endless searching, she eventually found a child care program her daughters could attend. The child care center informed Vania about the financial support she could apply for through The Family Conservancy's gap funding program. She immediately applied and was provided with the funding.

Gap funding has allowed Vania to start anew and achieve her goals and aspirations. The funding allowed her the time she needed to go back to school. Vania knows that more education means more career and financial opportunities, which she needs for her daughters to afford the cost of living and raising children. Gap funding has empowered Vania to pursue and achieve her goal of earning an associate's degree.

Today, her daughters are thriving and developing strong social and learning skills. They are confident and proud of what they learn. With her Associate's degree out of the way, she is further achieving her dreams and is now preparing to pursue a

Bachelor's degree in marketing or business. Vania wants to teach and relay her experience and what she has learned to others.

Without gap funding, "none of this would be possible. It is a generous gift."

## ELIZABETH

Elizabeth is an occupational therapist who works in home health. She and her husband, Ethan, who is currently in school to become a physical therapist, have a three-year-old daughter and a one-year-old son. They are a family who has struggled to be approved for Department for Children and Families (DCF) assistance despite many unsuccessful attempts at applying for financial support. No one offered any help, and they felt hopeless because Elizabeth needed to work to support the family, and Ethan was unable to work because he was a full-time student.

Ethan did not meet the minimum work requirements of DCF, which would allow the family to qualify for financial support because he could not take on a job and be successful as a full-time student. What's more, the demands of his challenging doctoral-level coursework left little additional time for him to work due to the expectations of his course of study, including his participation in mandatory clinical rotations.

After moving to Kansas City, Elizabeth and Ethan enrolled their children in a child care center, which told them about the gap funding program offered by The Family Conservancy's Start Young program. Elizabeth and Ethan felt relief when they were quickly accepted for the gap funding. The application and support they received from the Start Young team gave them great assurance. The Start Young team supported them and provided them with exceptional service that was transparent and urgent so that they could quickly get the assistance they needed. The Start Young staff even helped them with navigating their DCF application.

The gap funding they received was life-changing for Elizabeth, Ethan, and their two children. They can now provide their children with high-quality child care. Elizabeth

can work to support her family and take care of those in need, and Ethan can continue his degree program. This simply would not be their reality without gap funding.

- Elizabeth's family received a total of \$360/month to supplement their state assistance of \$1,605/month to go towards their combined monthly tuition of \$2,425/month. When state assistance was canceled, they received \$1,350/month while their reapplication was being processed through the state. When the state assistance application was denied, gap funding was awarded at a combined rate of \$900/month for the remainder of the school-year.