



# SUCCESS STORY-JESS

## ROAD TO INDEPENDENCE

Learn More: [www.WheelsofSuccess.org](http://www.WheelsofSuccess.org)



## Success Story Jess Road to Independence



**Jess: "My Wheels vehicle was the gateway to helping me obtain my independence. I received the title to my vehicle in March of 2017 and hope to grow into the GTE program and buy a bigger vehicle for my bigger, safe, healthy and happy family"**

ROAD TO INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM

Jess needed to escape an abusive relationship. When she and her 12 year old daughter left the girl's father, they left everything – the car that was in his name, their home and their terrible past. Jessica and her daughter turned to CASA St. Pete for help. CASA provided emergency housing, much needed support and services for her and her daughter. Jessica is very committed and hard working, employed with the same agency for over 9 years regardless of her transportation or home situation. She got up at 3:30 AM in the mornings to catch 3 buses to get to work by 6 AM. She used the bus to take her daughter to all doctor's appointments and school if she missed the bus. When her schedule was 3rd shift, Jessica often rode a scooter exposed to the elements and did not feel safe,

as public transit was often not available.

CASA referred Jessica to the Wheel's program and she was presented with a 2002 Hyundai Elantra in late 2015. Jess' vehicle from Wheel of Success was the gateway to helping her obtain her independence. Jess and her daughter are now happy in their own home; currently in a permanent safe healthy relationship and she has recently had a baby boy. Jess has been promoted from assistant manager to store manager, shortly after she received her vehicle and received a raise of \$1.50 plus bonuses. This promotion also enabled her to leave 3rd shift for day shift hours and she now is able to work a full 40 hours a week as well as 10-15 hours of overtime.

Julie Weintraub's



### Hands Across the Bay

**Road to Independence program** helps domestic violence victims escape their abuser with reliable transportation. Victims of domestic violence include men, women and children of all ages.