

# A HUGS Story

by Steven Wilson, Ed.D.

This is an except from a note of thanks from one of our staff members to a HUGS donor. Our partners truly make a world of difference and they change lives every day.

Thanks to the generous community of Greater Cincinnati, passionate volunteers, partner organizations and individual donors, we have hundreds of HUGS stories to share.

Here is one of them:

I wanted to start by telling you just a bit about the family you sponsored. I have two clients in this family, sisters, age 17 & 14. We went to the local shopping plaza to window shop-smelling a million things in Bath and Body Works and spending way too long in the massage chairs at another store. Their favorite part of our trip out; however, was the weighted blankets I introduced them to. They were both IN LOVE. Unfortunately, as you know, weighted blankets are expensive.

I have been working with both of my girls on “self-care” and maintaining their mental health through the basics like cleaning your room, washing your clothes, taking a shower, and fun stuff like bath bombs or sitting in the massage chairs.

I wrote “weighted blanket” as a request, not expecting it to happen. So, when I dropped off the presents and snooped through them with their mom, I was absolutely floored. Bath bombs? Lotions? Clothes? WEIGHTED BLANKETS??

Mom was absolutely over the moon with the gifts for all her kids. I was too, because you gave them gifts that were above and beyond what was expected and lined up exactly with what I have been working on with the girls.

The sisters were just as excited. They well remembered trying out the weighted blankets and I am sure they felt a sting of disappointment when they saw the price tag. To open them on Christmas was completely unexpected.

My older girl actually called me after she opened her bag, overfilled with excitement and just needing to tell me what she got.

In her words, it was “the best Christmas ever.”

I can't begin to express my gratitude for your generosity this Christmas. I was truly so moved by the gifts you gave this family, words can't accurately describe it.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you.

