To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you today to request financial assistance for the attached bills. I am very grateful for your consideration, as well as the resources and encouragement I have received from Cathy and the team thus far. Thank you for taking the time to listen to and review my application.

It recently became apparent to me that the relationship which brought me to Springfield 5 years ago and 2.5 hours away from home had become undeniably abusive and I needed to leave quickly. Without any family in the area and few friends having been isolated, I spent December alone trying to find a place to live that I could afford at my income with my two cats. In that time, I was experiencing death threats, harassment, volatile name-calling and other verbal abuse, coercion, sleep deprivation, physical, sexual and financial abuse, along with infidelity, alcohol abuse and other emotionally and mentally taxing behaviors throughout the marriage. I spent Christmas alone, called the cops twice, and spent my birthday working overtime so I could afford to leave. I was then referred to Sojourn who helped me move on January 3RD of this year.

Although I waited to update my address and did not tell anyone where I was moving, two weeks later he showed up at my new home threatening and harassing again. I filed for a protective order that day. He then changed the locks on our marital home, threw some of my items on the porch in the freezing rain, and kept my vehicle and many of my “larger” belongings that I did not have the capacity to move yet. While I had been able to leave with a small financial safety net, having to replace these items (including my vehicle), moving costs and security deposit, filing for divorce, missing IDT, bills doubling on my own, and the loss of income after being approved for VESSA leave from work have subsequently depleted this, and I now worry about maintaining the ability to remain in my home beyond this next month. It has quite frankly been the most draining and dispiriting months of my life. I am grateful to have been recently placed in contact with Amber Marcum regarding my mental health.

If accepted, I am hopeful the NGAI grant would help place me on my feet temporarily. Unfortunately, the combination of these recent extenuating circumstances and the inability so far to land a better-paid position have simply caused my bills to outweigh my income. While I am struggling, I am remaining hopeful that your efforts would not go unfinished. I will be continuing to apply to jobs every week and am praying that one of these days I may catch my break. I would also like to ask that if you feel led, please say a prayer for me. Thank you, and God Bless.

Kind Regards,

Melissa Goleash