# She Brews

COFFEE &
TRANSITION PROGRAM

## meet Thalia

For Thalia, the world changed on October 30, 2009. That was the day she and her two younger brothers were adopted, and given a new last name. To the outside world, it was a rescue, a fresh start, a gift. But to Thalia, it felt like being cast in a play where she didn't know any of the lines. In an all-white school, she was a puzzle piece forced into the wrong box, always trying to fit in while feeling deeply out of place. When she asked about her biological parents, her mother met her questions with a wall of silence. "I chose you," her mother would say. But for a young girl searching for her own reflection, that "choice" felt like glass in her heart. The silence bred an anger she couldn't name, leading to a middle school defined by depression and self-harm—a desperate attempt to see if her life was a dream or if she could finally release the pain she held inside.

By high school, the friction reached a breaking point. At 14, she landed in juvenile detention for assault. Two years later, a chance encounter at a skating rink changed everything: she met her biological sister. Thalia learned that her biological family had been writing to her for years, but her adoptive mother had been throwing the letters away. For the first time, Thalia felt she belonged somewhere, but that belonging came at a price. She began sneaking out to meet them, finding a home in the chaos of her biological family's world, trading her mother's strict silence for the haze of substance abuse.

In 2018, Thalia's world shifted again when her adoptive mother was diagnosed with dementia. Despite the years of tension and the secrets kept between them, Thalia stepped into the role of caregiver with a desperate, hopeful heart. She became convinced that if she just took good enough care of her mother—if she stayed close and watched over her with enough devotion—she could keep her alive through

sheer will. But the weight of the diagnosis was too much to carry alone; as she cared for her mother, she spiraled deeper into drinking to numb the constant worry.

Then, on the morning of December 26th, Thalia was shaken awake to the news that her mother had passed away. Finding her on the floor, Thalia was crushed by a physical weight of guilt. She felt she had failed her one job, and in her grief, the floor fell out from under her. What followed was a descent into the darkest corners of survival. She moved in with biological relatives and began using meth. She was lured to Texas, where she became entangled with cartels. She moved from the power of the cartel to the terror of an abusive relationship, surviving a sex-trafficking attempt by jumping out of a window and narrowly escaping gunfire. There was a flicker of light when she met Sergio, a man who loved her without judgment. They found a brief window of sobriety together, but when Sergio was tragically killed in a police shooting in 2022, Thalia's world turned black. She spiraled back into substance use, certain that everyone she loved was destined to disappear.

On August 1, 2023, Thalia was arrested again, but this time, she was tired of running. While in prison, she met Rhonda, whose presence felt different than the empty promises of the past. On the day of her release, Thalia walked up to Rhonda with nothing but the clothes on her back. "I have nowhere to go," she admitted, fearing she would end up in a homeless shelter. Rhonda knew the fear and danger that lived in those shelters and, in a moment of profound grace, she made a promise that seemed impossible: "We will give you housing, community, and we will find your brothers." Thalia's brothers had aged out of foster care and were lost to the streets, but Rhonda didn't blink.

Through the She Brews program, that promise became a reality. Within six months, the program didn't just help Thalia find her footing—it helped her find her family. Today, Thalia is no longer a girl searching for a reflection in a mirror that doesn't fit; she is a woman who has been sober for over two years. She has earned her driver's license, she is working toward her GED, and she maintains steady employment. Most importantly, she is a sister. Thalia and her brother Rigo are thriving within the She Brews community. Your support of She Brews does more than provide a cup of coffee or a job. It provides a lighthouse for women like Thalia who have spent their lives navigating the fog of trauma. It proves that no one is truly lost if there is a community willing to go look for them. Thalia's faith is restored, her prayers are answered, and for the first time in her life, she is finally home. We ask for your continued prayers and support of her family for those still stuck in cycles of trauma.

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