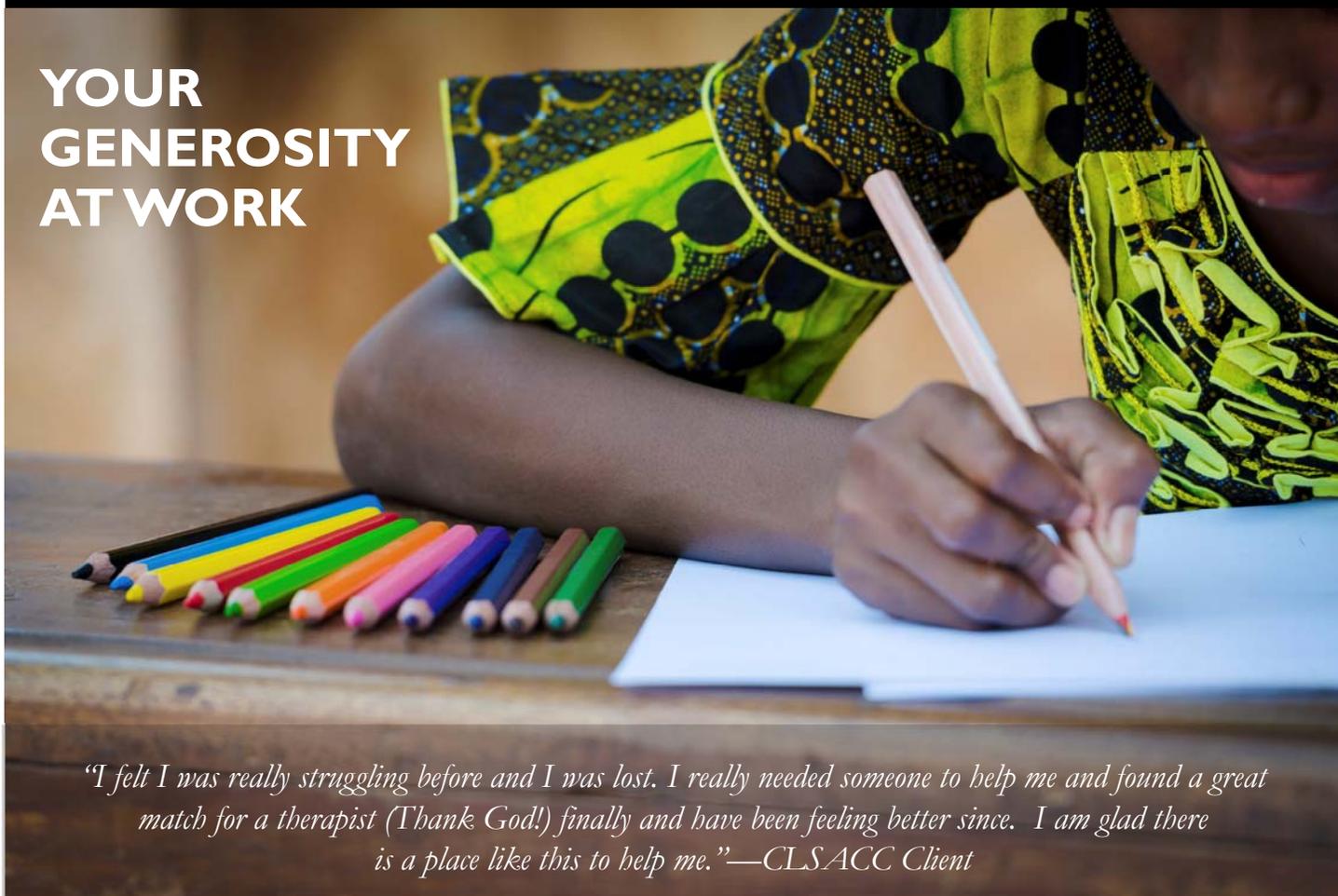


JUSTICE ■ HEALING ■ VOLUNTEERISM

YOUR GENEROSITY AT WORK



“I felt I was really struggling before and I was lost. I really needed someone to help me and found a great match for a therapist (Thank God!) finally and have been feeling better since. I am glad there is a place like this to help me.”—CLSACC Client

Often within months of an international headline detailing a violent incident, CLSACC will be contacted by a person or family seeking asylum in the U.S. after fleeing the violence in their country. In the case of the April 2014 abduction of more than 200 school girls in Northern Nigeria by the group “Boko Haram,” which has been translated to mean “western education is forbidden” in the Hausa language, Nigerians fleeing the violence contacted CLSACC’s immigration unit for legal consultations.

One case in particular required immediate assistance. A family arrived in the U.S. in urgent need of medical care in addition to needing a legal remedy. The family of five had two daughters and a young son. Their oldest daughter had been at a boarding school near the school abduction reported in the news. After quickly collecting the eldest daughter from school, the father managed to leverage a visa (pending for a conference in England) into a business visa for the entire family to enter the U.S. as “visitors.”

With CLSACC’s assistance, the family has filed for asylum and was referred to a Boston hospital for immediate medical attention. CLSACC’s social worker has housed the family through referral to an emergency family shelter. They are relying on housing through a charity while they wait the 150 day mandatory time period before they can apply for employment authorization from the U.S. immigration service. Their wait for a hearing in their asylum case could take up to two years before they could be granted more permanent refugee/ asylee status in the U.S.