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# The Intelligencer

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## Woman recalls the day she turned around another's life



*Editor's note: We asked readers to tell us their stories. Several dozens took up the offer and shared with us a collection of joyful, wistful tales. We're presenting a selection of these stories through Jan. 4. Many of the events you'll read about happened years ago but continue to dwell in the hearts of the readers who contributed them.*

**BY GEORGE MATTAR**

**STAFF WRITER**

Denise Yun had one thing on her mind that day 20 years ago — getting to the hospital where her son was recovering from appendix surgery. On the way to Lower Bucks Hospital in Bristol Township, Yun's plans changed when she spotted a man and woman arguing. "There was a couple walking along the sidewalk and it was apparent to me that they were arguing and that the woman was quite upset and crying," said Yun, who still lives in the same Levittown house in Bristol Township where she resided two decades ago. "As I got closer, I was appalled," Yun said. "The man



Art Gentile/Staff Photographer

**Twenty years ago, Denise Yun went out of her way to stop the beating of a woman and helped change that person's life.**

was shoving and eventually beating her. I quickly pulled over and yelled out the window to him. I said if she wanted to leave, I'd take her away. She got in my car and we sped away, leaving him in the dust yelling and cursing at my car." The woman was crying hysterically, Yun said. So, even though her then 12-year-old son was waiting, Yun offered to drive the woman to the home of a family

member or friend. "She told me she had no family and nowhere to go," Yun said. "I wanted to get to my son, but had her in my car and didn't know what to do, but knew she could not be with her husband." Yun drove to her own home with the woman. She gave her a cup of coffee and lunch. "Her story was just incredible. I really felt for her that day," Yun said. "She told me her three kids were in foster care and she wanted them back. She told me both her and her husband lost their jobs. He was on drugs; they were living in some crack house and they had no car. She lost her job because she had no way to get to work. I couldn't imagine being separated from my children, and my heart went out to her." "It was obvious the woman would never get back her kids if she stayed with her druggie husband. She had to make it on her own, Yun said. "I called police and they did not want to get involved," she said. Yun called A Woman's Place in Doylestown, which is a shelter for abused women and their children. Workers there were very helpful, but they were unable to immediately come to Bristol Township to pickup the woman, so Yun drove to the hospital with the woman and waited with her until a representative from A Woman's Place arrived. Yun said the woman had only the clothes on her back,

*“If I had to do it again, I would help out because she needed help and her children certainly needed her.”*

**Denise Yun**

so she reached into her wallet and gave the desperate woman all the money she had. Yun’s son wasn’t too pleased when she finally got to see him. His mood changed, she said, when she told him the story.

“He understood someone was in need and that his mother helped her out,” Yun said. Time passed, and Yun heard from A Woman’s Place. She was told she truly had helped the woman turn her life around. She got a job and was on the road to getting her kids back. “I sometimes think of her and hope that everything worked out for her. If I had to do it again, I would help out because she needed help and her children certainly needed her. She seemed like a sweet lady that

had a bad break in life,” Yun said. “I hope my story touches others and that they, too, some day will help someone in need. Your life can be turned around in an instant and you might be the one needing the help, so reach out.”

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Gail Rubenstein (left) of A Woman’s Place accepts gift cards from Natalie Kaye, a member of the Sacred Paths Community Members of the nonprofit, nondenominational spiritual organization in Plumstead donated more than \$600 worth of gift cards for residents of A Woman’s Place, a domestic violence shelter.

**CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**