



## **PROFILES OF HOPE: Meet Velika, an IOH advocate and donor:**

My parents are immigrants. My late dad was born in Macedonia, and my mom in the UK. My Dad was determined my sister and I would have a better life than he did growing up. When he moved to this country, he found opportunity and worked very hard to take advantage of it. He also had a community of support – close family and friends that helped each other through the tough times. And there were tough times, but they could count on each other. I was born at the right place, the right time – into opportunity and security.

The families at IOH didn't have that safety net my family had. We all need it sometimes, and if it's not there, what then? They've had to fight uphill all the way. I've worked hard, but I didn't have to do that. Many things went right for me.

When you're there, you can feel that IOH is about the future. It's about the kids, their futures, their possibilities. The parents are here for the children, and for their children's children. That's something I can get behind.