Family Achieves Homeownership Through Hard Work and Dedication

Amy and her two young children moved into Public Housing in the Summer of 2011. She had steady employment with a local childcare facility at the time and worked hard to balance her life as a single mother and a wage earner. She decided to enroll in the Family Self-Sufficiency Program in October of 2016 and created goals for herself including increasing her earned income and working toward homeownership. She began saving in her escrow account soon after enrollment, as her wage and hours increased at the childcare facility. Amy was looking for other opportunities to increase her income and decided to pursue becoming a Licensed Pharmacy Technician. She tested and passed in September 2017 and quickly gained employment with a local hospital as an Infusion Therapy Pharmacy Technician. It was at this time that she began to seriously pursue homeownership. She completed Homeword’s “Get Ready for Homeownership” course and worked with her FSS coordinator to identify community funds available to assist with down payment and mortgage assistance. She was issued a Section 8 Homeownership Voucher and closed on her new home in June 2020. She saved over $10,000 throughout her participation in the FSS program and utilized a portion of those funds for closing costs. Congratulations Amy! Your hard work has paid off and we wish you all the best things life has to offer!
An Army Veteran’s Journey from Homelessness to Housing Stability

In June of 2015, Tom, an Army Veteran found himself in a rough situation. He was without a job, safe housing and struggled with chronic health issues. While staying at The Poverello Center, Tom learned about The Valor House, transitional housing program, that grew from a partnership between Missoula Housing Authority and The Office of Veterans Affairs, Grant Per Diem Program. Tom moved into his own private fully furnished apartment and enrolled in the Family Self Sufficiency Program. According to Tom, “Moving into The Valor House gave me a stable environment and a sense of hope and enrolling in the FSS program was an amazing opportunity to have a better chance in life.” During his time in FSS, Tom believes that the support from Rural Dynamics financial counseling and focusing on employment were very important to him.

Tom was able to address his health issues with the assistance of the VA. This enabled him to secure full-time employment in dining services where he could utilize skills from his time on active duty. Transportation was a barrier to getting to his new job and thankfully a vehicle was donated to The Valor House Program. After Tom completed his time in transitional housing, he moved into the private market and his own rental. Fast forward 5 years later and Tom has successfully completed the FSS Program and graduated with over $16,000 saved in his FSS account.

To sum up his experiences, Tom said, “MHA and Valor House afforded me an opportunity to obtain full-time employment and a place I could call home... without this, I wouldn’t have my wife and an awesome son and a sense of dignity and belonging.” Congratulations to Tom and his family!! Submitted by Rebecca Stancil
Community Resources Spotlight

Common Good Missoula Presents

Voices 4 Housing 2.0

Share stories, Strategies. Make change.

Have you lost your housing? Are you at risk of losing your housing?

Are you concerned about the lack of housing that people can afford?

Wednesday July 8, 2020

6:00-7:00pm

Via Zoom or Phone

Join us for a conversation and call to action concerning the state of housing in Missoula

To Register or for more information,

Text HOUSING to 406-518-1050

Or find Common Good Missoula on Facebook

Rental/Mortgage Assistance:

The state of Montana is continuing to administer CARES rental and mortgage assistance. Apply here:

https://commerce.mt.gov/Coronoavirus-Relief

(This assistance is for Montanans not receiving other types of housing assistance).

To Learn More About The Family Self Sufficiency Program: Check out MHA’s website

www.missoulahousing.org

Contact a FSS Coordinator:

Public Housing: Sierra 549-4113 ext. 112

Slowney@missoulahousing.org

Housing Voucher: Tamara 549-4113 ext. 121

tkindred@missoulahousing.org

Rebecca 549-4113 ext. 106

rstancil@missoulahousing.org