



Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority

a joint powers authority of the city & county of los angeles

City of Los Angeles Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP)

Client Stories

Darlene T.

Ms. Darlene T. came to Home At Last (HAL), LAHSA's HPRP satellite office, for intake and assessment. Darlene is an 82-year old female veteran, who served in the Air Force during the Korean War. More than two years ago, Darlene lost her housing due to a rent increase. During her assessment, the case manager reviewed Darlene's income from Social Security and from her VA pension. It became apparent that she had not received an increase in her pension benefits for at least two decades. The case manager referred Darlene to a Service Officer at the VA where she successfully advocated on Darlene's behalf to increase her VA benefits by almost 300% monthly.

HAL was able to assist Darlene with a security deposit to move into her own unit which will be subsidized by the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Veterans Affairs Supported Housing (HUD-VASH) Program. Though elderly, she is still capable of living independently. Darlene is doing well and through these programs can look forward to remaining stably housed for the rest of her life.

"I am very grateful for the program. It has given me a new start."

Jimmy and Penny Q.

Mr. Jimmy Q. and his wife, Penny, came to Home At Last (HAL) on February 28, 2011, for intake and assessment. With no children, the couple had experienced several episodes of homelessness. Jimmy was employed as his wife's caretaker through In-Home Support Services and Penny was receiving income from Social Security.

HAL helped Jimmy and Penny locate housing and provided them with their security deposit, rental assistance for nine months, and case management. They have been stably housed since April 2011, and the landlord reports that they are great tenants. The couple is doing well and very satisfied with the services they received from HAL. Jimmy relayed to staff that he sent a letter to the federal government to relate how blessed he felt that there are HPRP funds to assist individuals and families in situations similar to his. Jimmy and Penny have made tremendous progress and continue to thrive in spite of the difficulties they have had.

"I am very grateful for this program; without this help we would have continued in dire stress. I like my new apartment; it is in a perfect location and we have the convenience of stores and everything we need. We were also able to save a little bit of money to buy a new bed and a refrigerator. Thank you very much for all of your help." Jimmy Q.

Chiara W.

Chiara W. is a 22 year old female who entered into the foster care system at the age of five after her mother passed away. Staying with numerous family members, she did not have a stable living environment. This led to her being placed in a foster home.

At 18, Chiara aged out of the foster care system. Understanding the importance of an education, she enrolled in Benedict College and relocated to South Carolina. In January 2010, after completing two years at Benedict College, Chiara moved back to Los Angeles, however, she became homeless. Chiara had been living in the LA County Transitional Housing Program, an independent living program, for one year when she came to Home At Last (HAL) for intake, assessment and assistance. At the time, she was employed as an Administrative Assistant and had a second job with the Los Angeles School District as an on-call Substitute Teacher's Aide for a year.

Through HAL, Chiara received case management services, together with housing location and rental assistance. Those services allowed her to become stably housed and to continue her education at Cal State Dominguez. Chiara is scheduled to receive her Bachelor's Degree in Accounting in the spring of 2012.

"I love this program and don't know what I would have done without it."

Ms. Grim

Ms. Grim is a 54 year old single woman. Frequent hospitalizations ultimately led to her becoming homeless for approximately one year. Ms. Grim was on a fixed income and lacked the financial means and support network to become permanently housed, so she stayed in an emergency shelter.

The Special Service for Groups' HPRP program provided her with move-in and rental assistance which allowed her to become stably housed. Ms. Grim has reported that her health has improved since she has been housed.

"I am grateful to God that this program is available to people in my situation. If the HPRP program did not help me get housing I would still be in a shelter or even homeless forever or maybe even dead".

Ms. Brown

Ms. Brown is a 45 year woman. Fleeing domestic violence, she became homeless for approximately four months. The HPRP program at the Special Service for Groups was able to provide Ms. Brown with move-in and rental assistance, as well as help with her utilities to ensure she does not become homeless again.

"If the HPRP program did not help me I might have had to go back to my husband so I wouldn't end up in the streets. I just wouldn't know what to do without the program's help."