

Success Story 2

Bethany was sleeping at a friend's place for a few months until she had no choice but to live in her car; a choice she did not want to make because she has two disabled children under the age of 3. She tried to get into numerous shelters in the area which unfortunately were full and do not offer a waiting list. It is common that a woman in need must go to each shelter every morning to see if there is an opening. Bethany did this for two months with to find no availability. She has been on the "waiting list" for government housing; a LONG waiting list with an average wait time of 2 ½ YEARS! She prayed for a phone call with available housing.

Bethany was feeling hopeless, confused and alone. She was not working and receives no child support because her ex-husband is in jail. Bethany had no one to turn to for help when she decided to call Stepping Stone. We immediately got her a hotel room so she and her children were not homeless. We also provided her with diapers, wipes, toys, food, hygiene products, and filled her car up with gas.

We helped her search for a more permanent place to live. To the good graces of God, she received a phone call that after waiting 3 ½ years she was now next on the list with a townhome waiting for her from the government housing she applied for. However, before she could move in she had to pay a six-year-old debt to a previous landlord. It was \$2,000. She was devastated.

With no job and two disabled children she could not even begin to think how could she pay this debt. She called us in despair as she did not want to risk losing her chance at a home for herself and her children. Stepping Stone called the townhome complex to tell them we would assist her. Unfortunately, it was too late. They had already given the unit to the next person on the waiting list. Luckily, the rental representative assured me she could be next if we took care of the outstanding debt quickly. Time was of the essence because units typically do not open for 3-4 years.

Stepping Stone called the previous landlord and negotiated a settlement for less than quarter of the outstanding amount. We paid it for her and prayed that God opened the door for Bethany to begin a building a new home for herself and children. The very next day the rental representative called to tell me she had someone give notice that morning that they were moving out. Bethany would have a unit in a week!

Stepping Stone celebrated the work of the Lord by assisting Bethany with her move into her new home. Within a matter of a few weeks, she was settled in, found a job, created a stable environment for her children and now has them see by their doctors on a regular basis.

Bethany didn't stop there. She is starting community college this Fall to finish her degree. She is thriving, paying her bills, staying on a budget and doing well. Her children are thriving and doing better than ever; one recently had his feeding tube removed. She also registered her older child for pre-kindergarten. Additionally, Stepping Stone found her a church with a Sunday School program specific for children with autism.

Bethany has worked hard to become a successful, independent woman with just a "stepping stone" of resources along the way of her journey. At Stepping Stone, we take the time to get to know each lady and help her with her individual needs for up to a year and a half. Situations like Bethany's is why Stepping Stone helps provide the "stepping stones" along the way.