



TACOMA HOUSING AUTHORITY

Some THA Success Stories and Other Stories of Need

January 3, 2017



Danielle Roberts (pictured on left) with her son and daughter

Danielle Roberts

“Since moving to Salishan less than a year ago, my Community Services caseworker, Bridgette, has made herself available to me in my time of need. I am grateful to have her in my life. I have enrolled in the Paralegal Studies Program at Tacoma Community College and continue to attend on a full-time basis while working at Popeye’s Chicken part time. I currently hold a 3.45 GPA. In addition, my son started at Popeye’s as a fry cook and currently holds a manager position; he will return back to school this winter. My daughter is in the Running Start program at TCC and has recently completed the CNA course at Clover Park Technical College. I am thankful for the opportunity to be placed here so that I can get back on my feet, and I appreciate the advice and encouragement I have received from THA staff since being here in the Families In Transition (FIT) Program.”



THA Caseworker Valorie Le (left) presents Lupe Anitema (right) with a Certificate of Achievement after Lupe completed the Families In Transition (FIT) program.

Vaelupemaua "Lupe" Anitema

“As a participant in the Families In Transition (FIT) program, I was able to build up my self-esteem, which created a new person in me and also gave me a different perspective in life at a time when I had lost sight of who I was. The FIT program helped me to create a new beginning with a firm foundation and a stable ground to build myself and my family's lifestyle. We were blessed to be assigned to Valorie Le, a THA caseworker that motivated and encouraged us in ways that built a strong bond in my family, especially to find the goodness in us through "love." Living in the Salishan community is a "blessing" to my little family and me. Salishan is a community of diversity with different beliefs and different cultures, that all bind us together, to create the beauty and uniqueness of the "Salishan Community.”



FSS graduate Lisa Miller and her son.

Lisa Miller

“When I moved to Salishan 10 years ago, I only made enough money to live in subsidized housing. Eventually though, I knew I needed to raise the bar in my life. Having rent based on my income was a good start, but I still needed to move forward more. I needed help with training, managing money and achieving my goals. Then, I heard about [THA’s] Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program that is being offered by Community Services at the Family Investment Center in Salishan. The FSS Program is a five-year program/commitment. The FSS Program

provided me with the structure and training I needed to achieve my goals — like get a career, as opposed to just another job, and actually be able to choose where I live! On top of all that, I was given cash incentives as I met my goals. The cash incentives were deposited into an account and when I moved out of Salishan and into a home we are buying, I got a bigger check than I had ever imagined!!”



Latasha Haskins

Latasha Haskins

“As I think back over the last three months while I have been in the Families in Transition (FIT) program, I am in awe of the changes and progress that my family has made. I remember seeing my THA unit for the first time, and I remember how blown away I was because it truly is the most beautiful and largest place I've ever lived in on my own. I moved into Salishan unemployed, depressed, in a broken relationship with my mother, unable to meet my regular financial needs, and struggling to connect with my teenage son who was having behavioral difficulties in school. Today, I have a full-time management position, thanks to a lead from [THA Caseworker] Bridgette. My son finished out the school year without one negative incident, and he is currently in weekly counseling. I now have sufficient income to cover my monthly expenses and even save a little! And most exciting, while I still do have emotional days, I'm definitely no longer in that

dark place, and my mother and I have reconciled after a 20-year disconnect! This all has been accomplished in roughly 90 days. No matter who we are, we ALL have a rock-bottom moment — some of us have had multiple — but with stable housing and the case management support I have received at THA, I now feel I have the skills to soar.”

Some Stories of Need

THA receives hundreds of requests for help. Many come by e-mail. THA answers each one, usually to explain we are full and to suggest others places to try. Here is a sampling:

Hello my name [REDACTED] I am looking to apply for section S asap I am a full time student and taking care of my little two sisters. I am 20 years old and I am renting a room from a friend but I am facing an eviction right now. I receive tanf at the moment so dshs gave me the choice to pay my rent here or i look for a new apartment and they will pay my deposit. So I am seeing if can get on section 8 and be able to get a place so we can have a home. If you would be able to call me my number is [REDACTED] I am up at 8 o clock but if you can call and leave a message and I will get back right away.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]
[email to THA July 16, 2014]

Greetings,

My family and I are in need of a home. We are currently living in my mom's house. I am a single mom of 3 kids. My eldest son is disabled and in wheelchair. We live in 3 bedroom house with 3 other adults. My boys share a room and my daughter and I sleep In the garage. Can you please lead me to the correct department if there is help available.

[REDACTED]
[email to THA January 27, 2015]

To whom it may concern.

My wife and I are both disabled and she is 64 and will be 65 in May 2016, I am 58 and will be 59 in March of 2016. We currently live in our own home for the passed 23 years and we have been served with Trustee sale papers. Sale is due to be in June of 2016. Our home is a 1978 mobile home which we can not get funding for due to the age of the mobile. We are needing to find affordable housing hopefully in the Pierce County area do to my wife's doctors and appointments she needs to continue going too. I guess my question is are you

- 1) Is there state or federal funding that can help us?
- 2) Is there any housing available in the [REDACTED] area close to her doctors?

Otherwise I fear we will be homeless and unable to continue her treatments. We also are raising the last one of three grandchildren after our daughter passed away in 2002.

Please advise. Thank you in advance

[REDACTED]
[email to THA February 23, 2016]

Hey my names [REDACTED] & I'm looking for help asap I don't know what to do or where to turn. I have no place to stay and have no cash for a place to rent. I've tried asking everyone I know for help and I have noone,, I'm 19 years old and I have a lil bit of mental health with anxiety attacks, being in a social group I get very closterfobic, I have PTSD I get bad flash backs, & I also have bad health ... So it don't help that I have no help at all and I'm staying in a [t]ent outside and the weather is very bad condition and I don't have very many things no clothes or stuff to clean up and shower with . I'm very in a bad state of mind with this whole homeless thing . I hope to hear from you with maybe some sort of good news.

Thank you & god bless.
[REDACTED]

[email to THA November 4, 2015]

Dear section 8, I'm reaching out to you for help. I'm a single mom of 4 wonderful kids. Also I take care of my nephew and mother. I'm strong but can't do it all alone I need help. Please get back to me as soon as you can. Thanks [REDACTED] and family

[email to THA October 22, 2014]

I am in desperate need of help. I am a single mother of 5 kids. I had problems paying my rent on the first of the month and was thrown out of the house we were renting. I believe it was because I complained about the floor being rotted away the mold growing in the closets that he did not disclose to me prior to signing the lease. We are now homeless and I have no money to pay a first, last and deposit on a new place. Is there any way you can help or send me in the right direction to get help?
[REDACTED]

[email to THA November 11, 2010]

I am an 18 yr old single expectant mom due in April – and will be homeless after December. Do you have any available resources on how I can get financial help with a place to live? I work 20-25 hours a week for minimum wage, and would like to find a better job, but have not been successful.

Thank you.
[REDACTED]

[email to THA November 7, 2009]

I need assistance with paying rent

I am. a 19 year old female who's experiencing homelessness while working a full time job, is there anything you r program can do for me?

[email to THA July 27, 2016]